

Council Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2024

Virtual Meeting

Members Attending (alphabetical by last name): Charbonneau, Jeff; Flores, Ruben; Pal, Tathagata; Galvan Shreeve, Evangelina; Standish-Kuon, Terri; Vincent, Jeff; Wallace, Rebecca (OSPI non-voting alternate)

Staff Attending (alphabetical by last name): Anderson, Joel; Bentley, Joel; Cypriano-McAfee, Dawn; Deane, KC; Hall, Crystal; Hudson, Heather; Idohl-Corwin, Carla; Irinata, Lyle; Lodwick, Hannah; Magisos, Ami; Matull Worst, Gabriele; Meotti, Michael; Olive, Inez; Oliver, Daniel; Richardson, Brian; Rodriguez, Pablo; Sudhakara, Rathi; Tallman, Katie; Weiss, Sarah; Williams, Theresa; Winstead, Christina

Meeting called to order at 9:01 AM

Consent of the Agenda

Motion made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion made to approve the August Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Welcome from Jeff Vincent

Executive Director Update

Presenter: Michael Meotti

- Discussed the ongoing efforts to support students in completing the FAFSA, particularly those impacted by the previous year's issues, working in collaboration with College Success Foundation and the US Department of Education's beta testing for the new FAFSA cycle.
- FAFSA applications have been tracked on a weekly basis, and as it stands in the end of October 2024, the number of applications is still behind what they were in 2023.
- The extensive communication and outreach efforts to high schools and community partners, including email campaigns and in-person events were highlighted.
- Since there were issues with FAFSA last year, WSAC continued with outreach like OtterBot to better assist students.
- There has been increases in enrollment in both college universities and in community colleges.
- WSAC intends on putting together an information packet that lists all the work that is done.

Questions and Comments , Executive Director Update:

C: Ruben Flores strongly urged students to complete FASFA as soon as possible. It takes around 2 weeks for a financial aid officer to process an award package.

C: Terri Standish-Kuon reported that most campuses across the state are on the semester system, and enrollments are flattish. Teri wants to make sure no one in the state feels that post-secondary education is out of reach for them.

Q: Mari Leavitt asked: How are you engaging with the school districts across the state on the late start?

A: We have a team who keeps in contact with schools via email and in-person presentations to keep them informed of the latest information.

C: Ruben Flores added that there has been a lot of great collaboration with the K-12 partners this past year and the partners are equally concerned as WSAC in getting the students the information they need.

Credit Mobility

Presenter: Abby Chien, Amy Ellen Duke-Benfield

- The demographics of college students are changing, they are now more diverse in age, race, and income levels. Many students are working part-time or full-time, which can interfere with their educational goals.
- Today's students are more likely to change jobs frequently after graduation, making lifelong learning and continuing education the norm. Higher education has been slow to adapt its model to respond to the needs of today's students, which is one of the reasons for discussing non-degree credentials.
- Surveys have shown that many of the students today are not looking for traditional degrees, instead want shorter term education credentials like certifications.
- Non-degree credentials, such as certificates and industry certifications, have become essential in the higher education landscape, offering a streamlined pathway to good jobs and family-supporting wages. It is important to consider quality when it comes to non-degree credentials to ensure equitable outcomes and economic opportunities for residents and businesses.
- Non-degree credentials tend to be more affordable and take less time than a traditional degree which meets workers' demands.
- Equity needs to be considered when looking at non-degree credentials.
- There is an increasing investment in non-degree credentials across the US, with 32 states investing over \$5.6 billion. It is important to ensure these credentials are tied to quality jobs and family-supporting wages, and the need to allow for progression in education and employment.
- These funds are going towards supporting program development and capacity building, ensuring that colleges and universities have the necessary resources to create and maintain a diverse range of non-degree programs that meet the needs of local employers and providing grant aid to make these credentials more affordable.
- Washington state is doing an excellent job funding non-degree credentials through its Opportunity Grant Program and its wage targets.

- Ruben Flores asked about the uniqueness of Washington State's ecosystem of employment and needs, and Amy responded that while there are higher skill demands, Washington State has been cutting-edge in its approach to non-degree credentials. Evangelina Galvan Shreeve asked for recommendations on how to start making changes, and Amy suggested starting with a pilot program to test criteria and innovative funding streams.

I-BEST Overview

Presenter: Nicole Daughtry

- Nicole manages the Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) at the state board. The program's structure includes contextualization, team teaching, and navigational support.
- This program serves 6,000 students annually, with a 14% higher completion rate compared to traditional models.
- 255 I-BEST programs were offered during the 2022-2023 academic year, with 46% students of color, and 39% having dependents.
- Certificate completers gain 26% increase in wages, while degree completers gain 39% in wages.
- WA has trained 29 total states and US territories. 12 states and US territories have implemented IBEST inspired models. WA currently has I-BEST programming in 31 different colleges.
- Basic Education for Adults (BEDA) administers federal and state funds for adults seeking secondary and postsecondary education.
- Students can co-enroll in both high school completion and college and qualify for FASFA and WASFA.
- All students are served in a guided pathways model and includes native speakers and English language learners.
- Works to implement and scale equity-focused comprehensive and innovative pathways.

Adult Learner Needs and Funding

Presenter: Jeff Vincent

- Jeff Vincent spoke about the importance of addressing the needs of adult learners, with focus on the I-BEST programs resulting in a certificate and are designed for professional and technical education.
- I-BEST incentives institutions by ensuring they receive a larger share of funding due to their focus on vulnerable populations.
- Nicole Daughtry recommended connecting with Dr. Michael Brown, the Director of Educational Resources and Innovation, and Marcus and Antonio Gunn, the Interim Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
- There was also a discussion on partner plans for 2025, with each partner sharing their priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

Council Debrief

Presenter: Jeff Vincent

- Key takeaways for the debrief were discussed. The successes were data, research, WCG, people working in the systems, strong programs increasing access for students, regional work, and workforce programs. Some of the barriers were affordable housing and other basic needs, communications, culture slow to change, unique needs of students, and resources.

- There is a shared desire to have an increased understanding of Council Processes and Operating Guidelines.
- There is an interest in more frequent and timely communication across partners regarding relevant issues.
- Shared agreement that the Council should embrace constructive conflict resolution among its members and recognize that all Council decisions will not all be unanimous.
- Priorities for future strategic plan work: universal digital transcript, better leverage time in high school to create a more seamless “value based” system, experienced learner, and basic needs support.
- The Council agreed that there was significant value in the Council Retreat.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Motion to adjourn.

Appendix A:

[November 12, 2024, TVW Meeting Recording](#)

Appendix B:

Meeting chat record from Zoom

Executive Office 21:21

Welcome everyone! Please use the chat to introduce yourself.

Crystal Hall, WSAC staff

Heather Hudson 22:31

Heather Hudson, WSAC

Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC 22:52

Joel Anderson (he/him), External Relations, WSAC!

Daniel Oliver 22:56

Daniel Oliver, WSAC, Research

Abbey Roth 23:01

Abbey Roth, she/her, Strategy & Partnerships, WSAC

Abby Chien she/her | WSAC 23:13

Good Morning, Abby Chien (she/her) Strategy & Partnerships (Completion cluster)

Carla Idohl-Corwin 23:16

Carla Idohl-Corwin, WSAC

Joel Bentley 23:21

Good morning, Joel Bentley, WSAC Communications.

Rathi Sudhakara 23:30

Rathi Sudhakara (she/her) Strategy & partnership WSAC

Lyle Irimata 23:37

Lyle Irimata, WSAC

Katie Tallman (she, her) | WSAC 23:47

Good morning, Katie Tallman, WSAC staff

Anton Jackson 23:47

anton Jackson, WSAC

Isaac Kwakye 23:48

Isaac Kwakye, Deputy Executive Director, WSAC

KC Deane 23:54

KC Deane (she/her), WSAC Research

Rita Chang 23:55

Rita Chang, WSAC Strategy & Partnerships

Gabriele Matull Worst 24:01

Good morning, Gabriele Matull Worst, WSAC

Sarah Weiss 24:12

Sarah Weiss, WSAC College Access Initiatives - good morning!

Arya Kukreja 24:18

Arya Kukreja (she/her), WSAC Research

Nesley Bravo (she/her) 24:18

Nesley Bravo (she/her) Sr. Manager of Education Strategy, Community Center for Education Results (CCER). Good morning!

Amy Roach 24:24

Amy Roach (she/her), WSAC

Christina Winstead 24:34

Good morning, Christina Winstead (she/her) WSAC College Access Initiatives

Terri Standish-Kuon 33:25

Three ICW members recognized by ED Sec. Cardona under [Raise the Bar](#) Postsecondary Success initiative: PLU, Saint Martin's U., U. of Puget Sound

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Executive Office 41:12

For anyone that has recently joined, please take a moment to introduce yourself in the chat. Thank you!

Lucas Minor 41:48

Luke Minor (he/him), WSAC.

Jeremy Willey 42:13

Jeremy Willey, ACT

Ami Magisos 42:18

Ami Magisos (she/her), WSAC

Executive Office 42:19

Meeting materials can be found here: <https://wsac.wa.gov/2024-meetings>

Sheila Steiner 42:37

Sheila Steiner, ICW

Michael Meotti 43:29

- As of mid-October, CAI has conducted 23 trainings (many in English and Spanish) to 600 individuals from 34 organizations and colleges, and 49 districts and/or schools. These are folks who have attended live.
- This is in addition to the approximately 900 school staff informed at the WA Council fall counselor workshops.
- Trainings are on-going and recordings are available.

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Mari Leavitt 47:00

Rep. Mari Leavitt, 28thLD State House

Executive Office 01:00:19

We are taking a short break, 5mins - we will reconvene at 9:45am

Terri Standish-Kuon 01:13:54

ICW campuses awarded 20% more credits in 2022-23 than the previous year, with Dantes DSST, CLEP, Portfolio review, Joint Services Transcript, other ACE, industry certifications (e.g., NCLEX) among the most common ways that students achieve these.

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Evangelina Galvan Shreeve 01:35:15

my apologies I got kicked out of the meeting

Michael Meotti 01:44:23

hey, they've got wineries in upstate NY and probably eastern LI. Tell those city folks to get with it! 😊

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Ruben Flores 01:51:16

Adding another resource to Amy Ellen's list. TX is a leader in this credential area, and they acknowledge an approach that is not wholly separate from a degree path:

<https://www.utsystem.edu/sites/default/files/sites/microcredentials/integrating-microcredentials-web.pdf>

Heather Hudson 01:56:24

Does completion rate mean completion of a single course, or could it mean multiple things (they get credit or a certificate or a job with a certain wage?)

Amy Ellen Duke-Benfield 02:00:34

Listening to Nicole, I want to underscore WA's national leadership through I-BEST and ability to benefit. These are valuable equity levers.

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Executive Office 02:03:08

<https://ibestprograms.sbctc.edu/>

Abby Chien she/her | WSAC 02:05:14

Thank you to Nicole and Amy Ellen!

Jeff Charbonneau 02:05:29

Thank you both!

Ruben Flores 02:06:00

I-BEST is a feather in WA's cap!

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Tathagata Pal 02:06:02

Thank you so much Amy Ellen and Nicole for your great presentation.

Amy Ellen Duke-Benfield 02:09:43

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to share with you today.

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Terri Standish-Kuon 02:18:59

Plus one on digital transcripts!

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Terri Standish-Kuon 02:25:23

Direct/automatic admission @ ICW: [Automatic Admission | PLU](#), [Direct Admission | Saint Martin's U](#)

[Direct Admissions | The Future of College Admissions | Niche](#): PLU, Saint Martin's. Seattle University, and Whitworth University

Heather Hudson 02:28:03

Pal- if you send over to Crystal or I the WSA priorities we can share that with the full Council.

Tathagata Pal 02:28:23

Sure. I'll do it right away. Thanks Heather.

[1 Reply](#)

Terri Standish-Kuon 02:50:30

[Basic Needs](#), curated links for resources and supports at ICW member campuses, plus [Behavioral Health](#) resources

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Michael Meotti 02:53:29

I have to step aside briefly

Executive Office 03:01:24

Also, for Sativah Jones - she served 2020-2024

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