



# 2025 Legislative Session Recap

*May 14, 2025*



# Zoom Instructions

- This webinar is being recorded and will be distributed afterward.
- **We won't be using the “Raise Hand” option.**
- Please use the “Q&A” option to ask questions during the webinar.
  - You may submit questions anonymously.
  - You may view all submitted questions and “upvote” them, if interested.
- Please use the “Chat” option to introduce yourself to other attendees!



# Agenda

- **WSAC background information** (*5 min.*)
- **2025 legislative session outcomes / Q&A** (*30 min.*)
  - 2025–27 operating budget: WSAC requests and postsecondary education
  - Postsecondary education legislation
- **Panel discussion / Q&A** (*20 min.*)
  - Isela Bonilla, WA Student Association
  - Bill Lyne, United Faculty of WA
- **Closing** (*5 min.*)



# About the Council



## Our Mission:

**We advance educational opportunities and attainment in Washington.** In pursuit of our mission, the **Washington Student Achievement Council:**

- Leads statewide strategic planning to improve educational coordination and transitions.
- Supports Washingtonians through the administration of financial aid, a college savings plan, and support services.
- Advocates for the economic, social, and civic benefits of postsecondary education.



# Council Members



**Jeff Vincent, Chair**  
Retired CEO & President  
Laird Norton Company



**Chris Reykdal**  
Superintendent  
Office of Superintendent of  
Public Instruction



**Tathagata Pal**  
Graduate Student  
Washington State University



**Jeff Charbonneau, Vice Chair**  
Principal  
Zillah School District



**Evangelina Shreeve**  
Chief Diversity Officer &  
Director, STEM Education  
Pacific NW Nat'l Laboratory



**Monyu Yu**  
Undergraduate Student  
Member



**Chris Bailey**  
Interim Executive Director  
State Board for Community &  
Technical Colleges



**Dr. Terri Standish-Kuon**  
CEO & President  
Independent Colleges of  
Washington



**Ruben Flores**  
Executive Director  
Council of Presidents

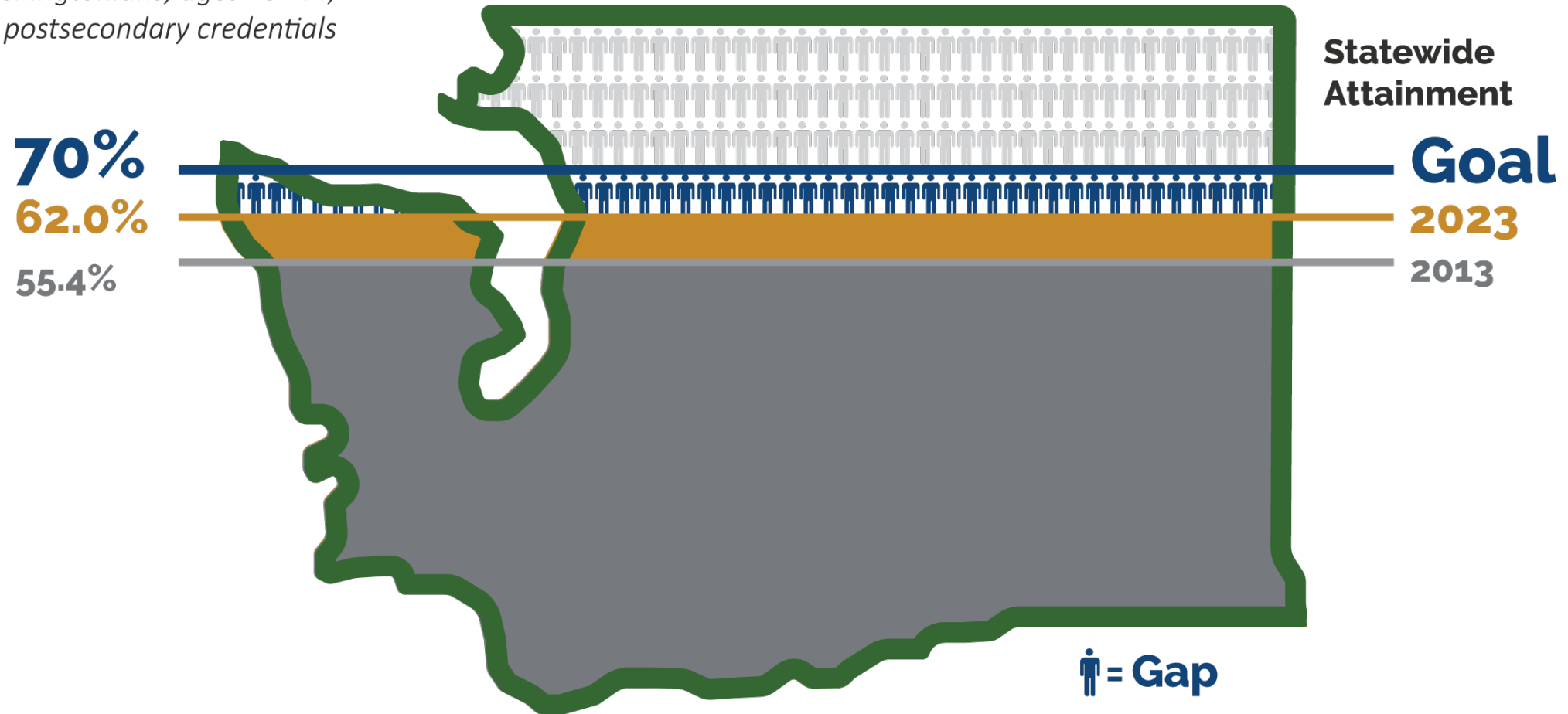


**Vacant**  
Citizen Member



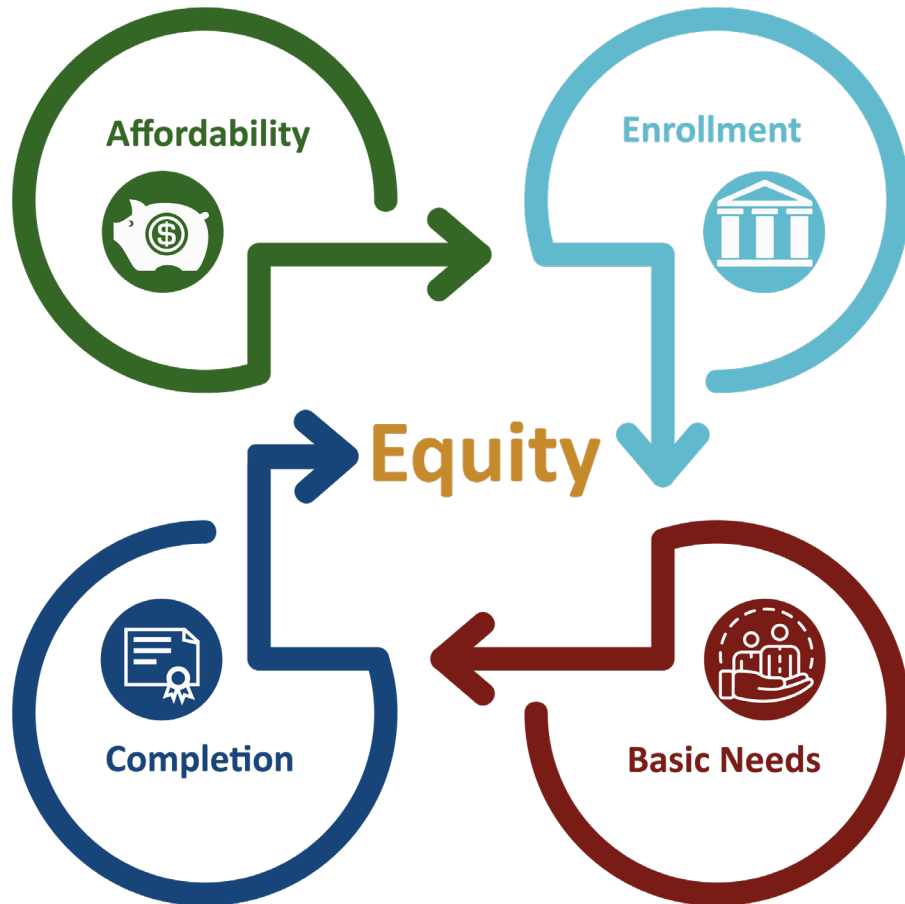
# Washington's Postsecondary Attainment Goal

*Washingtonians, ages 25–44,  
with postsecondary credentials*





# WSAC's Strategic Action Plan: Centered Around Equity



If we build an **affordable** and **supportive** educational environment, more Washingtonians will **enroll** in programs and **complete** credentials.



# Policy Development and Stakeholder Engagement Cycle

2025

2026

Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
Session ends	WSAC session debrief		WSAC partner sessions	Council approves policy and budget requests	Policy and budget requests sent to GOV	WSAC program & policy webinar		GOV budget released	WSAC session preview Session begins		Session ends WSAC session recap		

Ongoing stakeholder engagement via policy cluster work groups





## 2025–27 Operating Budget: WSAC Requests

Bill Number (if applicable)	Topic	Request	Former Gov. Inslee	Passed Legislature
<b>HB 1540</b>	NWIC & SSEH	\$826,000	\$204,000	<b>\$204,000</b>
<b>SB 5275*</b>	Passport to Careers	\$12.1 million	-	-
<b>N/A*</b>	<i>WA Grant awards (65% MFI)</i>	<i>\$38.8 million</i>	<i>\$46.1 million</i>	<b>See SB 5785</b>
	Career Connect WA	\$12.6 million	-	-
	Regional Challenge Grant	\$4 million	-	-
	Otterbot texting tool	\$1.5 million	-	-
	Academic Credit for Prior Learning	\$750,000	-	-
	WashBoard platform enhancement	\$394,000	-	-
	Student food security pilot evaluation	\$200,000	-	-

*\*Submitted as agency request legislation but not approved.*



# 2025–27 Operating Budget: Postsecondary Education (New Cuts)

Enrollment	Affordability	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$5.4 million</b>—financial aid outreach partnerships (SBCTC)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$89.0 million</b>—WA Student Loan Program (WSAC)</li><li>• <b>\$55.3 million</b>—bridge grants (WSAC)</li><li>• <b>\$26.7 million</b>—reduced WA Grant &amp; CBS awards (WSAC)</li><li>• <b>\$6 million</b>—Nurse Educator Loan Repayment Program (WSAC)</li><li>• <b>\$2.6 million</b>—reduced WA Health Corps awards (WSAC)</li><li>• <b>\$1.6 million</b>—reduced National Guard Grant awards (WSAC)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$23.7 million</b>—Career Connect WA programs (WSAC, SBCTC, ESD, OSPI)</li><li>• <b>\$16 million</b>—Regional Challenge Grant (WSAC)</li><li>• <b>IHE funding reductions:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$15.4 million</b>—UW</li><li>• <b>\$12.3 million</b>—SBCTC</li><li>• <b>\$9.9 million</b>—WSU</li><li>• <b>\$4.0 million</b>—TESC</li><li>• <b>\$3.6 million</b>—WWU</li><li>• <b>\$2.7 million</b>—CWU</li><li>• <b>\$2.6 million</b>—EWU</li></ul></li></ul>



# 2025–27 Operating Budget: Postsecondary Education (New Appropriations)

Enrollment	Affordability	Completion	Student Supports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$5.9 million</b>—College in the High School programs (public four-year IHEs and SBCTC)</li><li>• <b>\$340,000</b>—financial aid outreach pilot program (SBCTC)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$2.2 million</b>—Native American Student Scholarship pilot program (WSU)</li><li>• <b>\$901,000</b>—Shelton Promise (TESC)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$250,000</b>—Allen School Scholars (UW)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$50,000</b>—accessibility accommodations (TESC)</li></ul>



# 2025 Legislation: Postsecondary Education

Enrollment	Affordability	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improving access to dual credit programs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Waiving GED course fees for high school students at CTCs</li><li>Establishing local promise scholarships via WSOS</li><li>Waiving tuition and fees at CTCs for tribal elders</li><li>Allowing GED recipients to utilize College Bound Scholarship (CBS) awards</li><li><b>Modifying WA Grant and CBS awards</b> (<i>see next slide</i>)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increasing postsecondary education consumer protections</li><li>Modifying higher education accreditation standards</li><li>Supporting the implementation of competency-based education</li></ul>



## SB 5785—Modifying WA Grant and CBS Awards

- Establishes new **WA Grant income eligibility thresholds** for the 2025–26 academic year (AY) and beyond:

Median Family Income (MFI) Range	Award % (up to full public tuition and fees)	Qualifying Income for Household of Four in 2025–26 AY
0–60	100%	\$78,500
61–65	60%	\$85,000
66–70	50%	\$91,500
71–75	24.5%	\$98,500
76–100	10%	\$131,000



*Scan for full MFI chart*

- Changes **maximum WA Grant and College Bound award amounts** by institution (next slide)



## SB 5785—Modifying WA Grant and CBS Awards (cont.)

- Changes **maximum WA Grant and CBS award amounts** by institution:

Institution Type	New Maximum WA Grant Award (in 2026–27 AY and beyond)	New Maximum CBS Award (in 2027–28 AY and beyond)
Private four-year not-for-profit	50% of average UW/WSU award	50% of average UW/WSU award
Private two-year not-for-profit	Same (\$3,694)	Average CTC award
Private two- and four-year for-profit	No award	No award
WGU WA	\$4,150	\$4,650
Apprenticeship	50% of CTC award	N/A



*Scan for full list of  
participating  
institutions*

- Note: College Bound award usage limited to six-year period



## Panel Discussion: 2025 Legislative Session



**Isela Bonilla**  
*VP of Legislative Affairs*  
WA Student Association



**Bill Lyne**  
*President*  
United Faculty of WA



## Contact Us: External Affairs

- **What does External Affairs do?**
  - Review and contribute to relevant higher education legislation in collaboration with the Governor, legislators, and other state agencies.
  - Produce materials and events summarizing ongoing budget and legislative work.
  - Cultivate relationships with other federal, state, and local stakeholders to support policy development.
  - Staff the Workforce Education Investment Accountability and Oversight Board ([WEIAOB](#)).
- **Questions, feedback, or other comments?**
  - **Joel Anderson**, Assistant Director, [JoelA@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:JoelA@wsac.wa.gov)
  - **Armen Papyan**, Assistant Director, [ArmenP@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:ArmenP@wsac.wa.gov)