

Council Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2025

Virtual

Members Attending (alphabetical by last name):

Jeff Charbonneau, Ruben Flores, Terri Standish-Kuon, Jeff Vincent, and Monica “Monyu” Yu

Staff Attending Virtually (alphabetical by last name): Joel Anderson, Joel Bentley, Rita Chang, Abby Chien, Carlie Curlee, Crystal Hall, Amber Hay, Kimberly Hetrick, Isaac Kwakye, Shannon Ladymon, Hannah Lodwick, Ami Magisos, Michael Meotti, Lucas Minor, Grace Xu Nelson, Daniel Oliver, Cara Patrick, Shannon Peterson, Isaac Rodriguez, Abbey Roth, Kimberlee Rutter, Stacia Schienbein, Colleen Scovill, Katie Tallman, Shannon Venezia, Gabriele Matull Worst

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

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 May Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Executive Director Update

Presenter: Michael Meotti

- Michael provided an update on two agency request legislation proposals that do not involve spending money but aim to protect students. This is in response to the expectation of less student-friendly regulations.
- The first proposal sets standards for student loan servicers to better protect Washington's student borrowers.
- The second addresses school closures to ensure students can continue their education seamlessly.

Chair Report

Presenter: Jeff Vincent

- Jeff Vincent acknowledged all the changes happening at both the state and federal level. He noted the importance of the Council being as effective as it can be going into the new session.
- Jeff mentioned that the Council is working to fill two vacancies; one student member and one Governor appointed member.

2026 Legislative and Budget Proposals

Presenters: Joel Anderson

Material: [2026 Legislative Proposals](#)

- Joel explained that the Council is requesting \$1.25 million for fiscal year 2027 to partially restore funding for the Regional Challenge Grant program, which was eliminated in the last budget.
- The funding would help existing partnerships continue their work on increasing postsecondary enrollment, retention, and completion.
- He also presented a proposal to guarantee maximum WA Grant awards to former foster and unaccompanied homeless youth in the Passport to Careers program, which would have no additional cost since 99.5 percent of these students already receive the maximum award.
- Hannah Lodwick clarified that the RCG funding request would reduce the current 18 percent cut to partnerships to approximately 9 percent, allowing them to continue essential strategies while still requiring lean approaches.

Action Taken on 2026 Legislative and Budget Proposals:

No motion brought forward on the proposal to restore RCG Funding.

Motion made to approve the proposal to guarantee WA Grant for former foster and unaccompanied homeless youth.

Motion Seconded.

Motion Carried.

Questions and Comments:

No public questions/comments.

Washington Jobs Initiative

Presenters: Shannon Peterson and Shannon Ladymon

Materials: WJI Grant

- Shannon Peterson and Shannon Ladymon presented an overview of the Washington Jobs Initiative, a \$23.5 million federally funded program aiming to train 5,000 Washingtonians and place at least 3,150 in good jobs across high-demand industries.
- The initiative operates through four sub-awardees (Employment Security Department, Washington STEM, Office of Equity, and State Labor Council) and eight sectoral

partnerships focusing on industries like advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and IT. Training is delivered through various providers, including community colleges, universities, and employers, with programs like Jumpstart and SEIU's Training Fund offering sector-specific training with wraparound services to ensure participant success.

- Shannon P. discussed the progress and challenges of a grant program across various sectors. In advanced manufacturing, cleantech, construction, healthcare, and IT, the program has successfully developed new training initiatives with strong employer partnerships. They focus on underserved populations, including young adults, justice-involved youth, and English language learners.
 - Despite successes, challenges include industry-specific hiring slowdowns (Boeing strikes, tech layoffs), small training cohorts creating bottlenecks, and difficulties collecting participant outcome data.
 - The sectors are implementing strategic shifts to address these challenges by expanding recruitment efforts for underserved participants and increasing employer outreach to improve job placement rates, including hiring additional business engagement staff and exploring opportunities with smaller employers and in rural regions.
 - Shannon L. presented a cost analysis of their workforce development program, which showed they spend about \$2,700 per enrolled participant, like WIOA programs.
 - The cost per job placement varies significantly across sectors, with construction having the lowest cost (\$3,700) due to immediate apprenticeship placements, while the newer Clean Tech program has the highest cost (\$18,000) due to startup expenses and smaller scale.
 - Shannon L. emphasized two key learnings: the importance of industry alignment with employer commitments for successful job placements, and the value of wraparound services for participant retention, with most funds being spent on tuition assistance and career navigation support.
 - Mike discussed WSAC's commitment to improving data-tracking capabilities to demonstrate the impact of postsecondary pathways. He highlighted their evaluation research team and partnerships with organizations like MDRC.
 - Shannon L. mentioned they are working on sharing learnings through storytelling, conferences, and meetings with other grantees, with a focus on collecting data about wraparound services.
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Public Comment:

No public comments were made.

Motion Made to Adjourn Meeting.

Motion Seconded.

Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:34 AM

Appendix A

[Washington Student Achievement Council - TVW](#)**Appendix B**

00:20:19 Executive Office: Welcome Everyone! Please use the chat feature to introduce yourselves.

00:20:27 Executive Office: Crystal Hall, WSAC staff

00:20:40 Shannon Ladymon: Shannon Ladymon, WSAC staff - WJI

00:21:07 Shannon Peterson: Shannon Peterson, Grant Manager for WJI at WSAC

00:21:11 Hannah Lodwick: Hannah Lodwick, Associate Director WSAC Strategy & Partnerships

00:21:15 Katie Tallman (she, her) | WSAC: Good morning! Katie Tallman, WSAC communications

00:21:28 Abby Chien she/her | WSAC: Hi all, Abby Chien, Strategy & Partnerships team at WSAC

00:21:30 Sean Briggs: Sean Briggs, Faculty Counselor at Northwest Career & Technical High School (CPTC)

00:21:43 Joel Bentley: Good morning, Joel Bentley, WSAC Communications

00:21:48 Ami Magisos, WSAC Strategy & Partnerships: Ami Magisos, WSAC Strategy & Partnership

00:21:52 Rebecca Chan: Rebecca Chan, Shoreline College Trustee, WA State Association of College Trustees (ACT) Treasurer.

00:21:53 Dan Oliver | WSAC: Dan Oliver, WSAC Research

00:21:57 Abbey Roth | WSAC: Good morning, Abbey Roth with the Strategy & Partnerships team at WSAC

00:21:59 Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC: Good morning! Joel Anderson, legislative & external affairs, WSAC

00:22:15 Cesar Castaneda Guzman: Cesar Castaneda Guzman, Director of Financial Aid, Wenatchee Valley College

00:22:42 Ruben Joao: Hi everyone, I'm Ruben Joao. I am a student nursing program looking for work. I am looking for funding so I can start school.

00:22:46 Patricia Loera: Bueons dias/Good morning, Patricia Loera, senior policy advisor to Governor Bob Ferguson.

00:23:03 Shannon Venezia: Good morning! Shannon Venezia, WSAC Student Financial Assistance

- 00:23:08 Stacia Schienbein: Stacia Schienbein, Passport to Careers Program, WSAC
- 00:23:13 Carlie Curlee: Good morning! Carlie Curlee (she/her), Student Financial Assistance, WSAC
- 00:24:09 Amber Hay: Good morning all! Amber Hay - part of the Student Loan Advocate Office at WSAC
- 00:24:26 Gabriele Matull Worst: Good morning! Gabriele Matull Worst, (WSAC) Student Financial Assistance.
- 00:24:41 Luke Minor (he/him) | WSAC: Luke Minor, WSAC - Sr. Dir. for Postsecondary Affordability
- 00:26:36 Terri Standish-Kuon: Mike, can agency staff please share the specific language for those proposals?
- 00:26:42 Crystal Hall: Welcome! For those just joining, please utilize the chat feature to introduce yourself.
- 00:27:04 Sheila Steiner: Sheila Steiner, ICW
- 00:27:11 Becky Wallace: Becky Wallace - OSPI. Good morning!
- 00:36:39 Hannah Lodwick: RP Reapplication Investment Strategy
- 00:37:01 Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC: Replying to "Mike, can agency sta..."

Yes!

- 00:37:56 Terri Standish-Kuon: Reacted to "Mike, can agency sta..." with 👍
- 00:41:51 Nate Humphrey | SBCTC: Reacted to "Mike, can agency sta..." with 👍
- 00:54:03 Crystal Hall: @Ruben Joao I've sent a message, but just in case here is my email: CrystalH@wsac.wa.gov
- 00:56:38 Terri Standish-Kuon: I move that the Council publicly reiterate our support for all Washingtonians living on low income as they pursue their postsecondary paths:

In alignment with the Council's Washington Student Strategic Action Plan, we advocate for affordability policies that enable student options across all types of institutions, and enrollment policies that enable student choice across all types of institutions and programs.

We urge the Governor and Legislature to restore state student aid and higher education support to the levels that existed prior to the last session.

- 01:49:34 Jeff Charbonneau: Thank you!!
- 01:49:46 Terri Standish-Kuon: Reacted to "Thank you!!" with 👍

01:50:35 Becky Wallace - OSPI: Thank you