



STATEMENT OF VALUES FROM WASHINGTON'S COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES

November 7, 2024

On Tuesday, millions of Americans exercised their fundamental right to choose the next president of the United States. As we continue to reflect on the outcomes of this election, Washington's community and technical colleges remain dedicated to providing excellent and inclusive education that leads to bright futures for our students, their loved ones, and local communities.

Since our community and technical college system was founded nearly 57 years ago, we have welcomed students from all backgrounds and held firmly to our belief that education be open, equitable, and accessible to all students who enter our doors. We are proud to be part of the fabric of our local communities, home to people from all walks of life, belief systems, origins, and identities.

We remain committed to our vision to lead with racial equity to maximize student potential and transform lives within a culture of belonging, and to break down barriers that all too often stand in the way of students of color. We will also continue to support and serve all Washingtonians, regardless of citizenship status. All students deserve the chance to achieve the dreams that brought them to our doors.

As institutions of higher learning, we will keep nurturing critical thinking, encouraging open dialogue, and creating spaces where communities can listen to and learn from one another.

As we navigate the weeks and months ahead, let's remember that our colleges are not just institutions — they are educational homes built on the compassion, grace, and kindness that we extend to each other.

Let's continue to reach out across our differences, come together and create the world in which we want to live. By pursuing knowledge and showing respect and caring for each other, we can make a true difference in the challenging issues of our times.

Martin Valadez
Chair, Washington
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