

CONSENT ITEM (RESOLUTION 25-12-54)

December 17, 2025

Tab 2

Honoring the life and service of Board Member Dr. Bernal Baca

Brief Description

A resolution to formally recognize and celebrate the life and service of Dr. Bernal Baca, board member of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

How does this item link to the State Board's Strategic Plan?

This resolution correlates to *Objective 4.3: Strengthen advocacy and community partnerships* in highlighting Dr. Baca's contributions towards promoting the mission and values of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to leaders across the state, including business, government, unions, the K-12 system, and four-year colleges and universities.

Background information and analysis

State Board member Dr. Bernal Baca passed away on Nov. 28, 2025, surrounded by his family. His life was spent in service of the most vulnerable communities and in pursuit of racial equity and social justice, a core value of the community and technical college system. He was appointed to the board in 2024 by Gov. Jay Inslee after over 40 years of serving the college system, including 30 years as a professor at Yakima Valley College and 10 years in government relations for the American Federation of Teachers Washington.

Dr. Baca raised the voices of Latino and Indigenous families and communities as the executive director for Mi Centro, a non-profit organization that provides social, cultural, and educational services to the greater Pierce County Latino community. He was well-respected throughout Washington state for his work in diversity, equity, and inclusion, also serving as the vice chair of the Washington State Hispanic Affairs Commission, chair of the Racial Equity Team, and co-founder and board member of the Equity in Education Coalition.

Dr. Baca never wavered in his dedication to the causes he believed in. He understood the power and importance of community and was unfailingly kind. The community and technical college system will be forever grateful for his service.

Recommendation/preferred result

Staff recommend formal commendation and recognition of the life and service of Dr. Bernal Baca to the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and the community and technical college system.

Policy Manual Change Yes No

Prepared by: Marianna Watson, executive assistant
mwatson@sbctc.edu, 360-704-4309

STATE OF WASHINGTON
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES
RESOLUTION 25-12-54

A resolution formally acknowledging and celebrating the life and service of Dr. Bernal Baca, board member for the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges.

WHEREAS, Dr. Baca was appointed as a board member in 2024 by Gov. Jay Inslee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bernal Baca served the community and technical college system for over 40 years, including 30 years as a professor at Yakima Valley College and 10 years in government relations for the American Federation of Teachers Washington; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Baca raised the voices of Latino and Indigenous families and communities as the executive director for Mi Centro, a non-profit organization that provides social, cultural, and educational services to the greater Pierce County Latino community; and

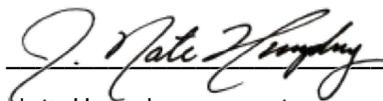
WHEREAS, Dr. Baca was well-respected in the state for his work in diversity, equity, and inclusion, also serving as the vice chair of the Washington State Hispanic Affairs Commission, chair of the Racial Equity Team, and co-founder and board member of the Equity in Education Coalition; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Baca never wavered in his dedication to the causes he believed in and understood the power and importance of community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges honors and remembers Dr. Bernal Baca for his tireless efforts in service to Washington's community and technical college system.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED on (12/17/2025)

Attest



Nate Humphrey, secretary



Martin Valadez, chair