

CONSENT ITEM (RESOLUTION 25-06-20)

June 12, 2025

Tab 6

Recognition of Robert “Bob” Tjossem’s Accomplishments and Service in Higher Education for the State of Washington

Brief Description

This item aims to formally recognize the career of Robert “Bob” Tjossem, along with his many accomplishments and years of service to higher education in the State of Washington.

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

The resolution correlates to *Objective 4.3: Strengthen advocacy and community partnerships* by showcasing a demonstrated partnership between the CTC system and Bob Tjossem over the years and all of the positive outcomes that have come from that partnership.

Background information and analysis

Bob Tjossem began working in higher education for the State in the 1960s, serving in the Education Division of the Attorney General’s Office and then being tasked by Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Louis Bruno to create a governance system for the Community Colleges of Washington. Bob came up with many different recommendations, such as the creation of new Community College Districts for each existing College and spelling out the powers and duties of the State Board and the Trustees of each college, which the state legislature adopted most of.

Bob met with the different College Presidents during this time to provide guidance on how to navigate the new SBCTC system. He also served as a support for the first Executive Director of the State Board, Dr. Alford Canfield, when it came time for him to step into his new role.

Over the years, Bob has continually provided political acumen, financial resources, and leadership to both Cascadia College and Lake Washington Institute of Technology. He has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the success of higher education in the State of Washington and played an integral part in the CTC system overall.

Recommendation/preferred result

Staff recommends approval of Resolution 25-06-20 to formally recognize Bob Tjossem for his years of service and many contributions to our community and technical colleges.

Policy Manual Change Yes ☐ No ☒

Prepared by: Marianna Watson, executive assistant

Phone: 360-704-4309, email: mwatson@sbctc.edu

STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES

RESOLUTION 25-06-20

A resolution to formally recognize the innumerable accomplishments of Robert “Bob” Tjossem over the course of career and acknowledge all the structural and financial support he has given to the CTC system during the course of his life.

WHEREAS, Bob Tjossem became a member of the Attorney General’s Office in the 1960s, serving in the Education Division, and,

WHEREAS, Bob Tjossem was tasked by then Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Louis Bruno to develop legislation creating a new governance system for the Community Colleges of Washington, and,

WHEREAS, the state legislature eventually adopted the majority of Bob Tjossem’s recommendations, including the creation of new Community College Districts for each existing College and spelling out the powers and duties of the State Board and the Trustees of each college, and,

WHEREAS, Bob Tjossem met with College Presidents at the time to provide guidance and counsel about how to adapt to the new system, and,

WHEREAS, Bob Tjossem guided the first Executive Director of the State Board, Dr. Alford Canfield, in the assumption of his role, and,

WHEREAS, Bob Tjossem demonstrated his commitment to the Community Colleges by becoming the first gubernatorially-appointed Trustee of Cascadia College which he also helped create, and,

WHEREAS, Bob Tjossem has provided political acumen, financial resources, and leadership to both Cascadia College and Lake Washington Institute of Technology,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges commends and applauds the efforts and accomplishments of Bob Tjossem and his lifelong commitment to the success of higher education in the State of Washington.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED on (06/12/2025)

Attest



Chris Bailey, interim secretary



Martin Valadez, chair