



## CONSENT ITEM (RESOLUTION 25-06-27)

June 12, 2025

Tab 6

### Washington Consortium for Undergraduate Research and Equity (WA CURE) – National Science Foundation Grant

#### Brief Description

The Washington Community and Technical College Consortium for Undergraduate Research and Equity (WA CURE) builds on a statewide foundation to expand course-based undergraduate research experiences (CUREs) across all 34 of Washington’s community and technical colleges. WA CURE aims to integrate research into existing STEM curricula and address structural barriers to undergraduate research. The project focuses on faculty recruitment, cross-institutional coordination, and designing scalable implementation strategies. Core initiatives include a professional development program, an open-access curriculum archive, the WA CURE Academy for faculty leadership, and a research support structure to foster scholarly teaching and student engagement.

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

The WA CURE project aligns closely with the strategic vision of the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) by advancing equity, student success, and institutional effectiveness across the state’s community and technical colleges. Specifically, it supports the SBCTC’s goals by:

1. **Enhancing Student Access and Success:** WA CURE integrates undergraduate research into existing curricula, expanding high-impact learning experiences that improve student engagement, retention, and completion.
2. **Promoting Equity:** In embedding course-based research opportunities within standard STEM courses at colleges, the project will research to what extent CUREs affect and potentially close equity gaps across student outcomes pertaining to academic performance, persistence, completion, and transfer
3. **Strengthening Faculty and Institutional Capacity:** Through professional development and leadership cultivation (via the WA CURE Academy), the project aims to build long-term instructional and institutional capacity, which aligns with SBCTC’s focus on sustainable, systemic improvement.
4. **Leveraging Guided Pathways:** WA CURE links to Guided Pathways by integrating research into clear, structured academic pathways that ensure students are learning.

#### Background information and analysis

WA CURE's first year of development has established the structural, strategic, and research foundations required for the successful piloting and testing of undergraduate research experiences across Washington's community and technical colleges. With strong institutional engagement, cross-sector collaboration, and a clearly articulated research agenda, WA CURE is well-positioned to advance evidence-based STEM reform.

As the project enters its second year, the focus will shift toward full implementation, including the launch of learning communities, expansion of data collection, support for faculty and institutional change efforts, and dissemination of promising practices. By embedding CUREs into the fabric of Washington's community and technical college system and aligning with broader reform initiatives, WA CURE offers a model for improving student success and deepening teaching and learning across the state.

### Recommendation/preferred result

Staff recommends approval of Resolution 25-06-27, awarding funds for fiscal year 2025.

Policy Manual Change Yes ☐ No ☒

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**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES**  
**RESOLUTION 25-06-27**

A resolution relating to allocating and awarding \$439,693 of National Science Foundation funds to the community and technical college system, including \$110,831 in grants to Edmonds College, Green River College, and Yakima Valley College.

**WHEREAS**, the State Board has the authority to allocate and award federal National Science Foundation funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the requirements of the grant align with the State Board's Strategic Plan;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges awards a total of \$439,693 for FY 2025-26.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges authorizes the Executive Director to make adjustments to this action, including any necessary changes to the State Board's Policy Manual, as necessary, for actions taken by the Governor, Legislature, data corrections, externally imposed restrictions or guidelines, uniform accounting and reporting requirements, and unanticipated changes in state or federal law.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** on June 12, 2025

**Attest**



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Chris Bailey, interim secretary



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Martin Valadez, chair