

CONSENT ITEM (RESOLUTION 25-08-35)

August 20, 2025

Tab 1

Commendation of Earl Hale's life and career in service to the community and technical colleges system

Brief Description

A resolution to formally commend and recognize the life and service of Earl Hale, former executive director 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 the work done by Earl Hale to promote the mission and values of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to leaders across the state, including business, state government, faculty unions, the K-12 system, and four-year colleges and universities.

Background information and analysis

Earl Hale, former State Board for Community and Technical Colleges executive director, passed away on July 30 at the age of 82. For 35 years, Earl dedicated his career to the community and technical college system, including 19 years as executive director. Throughout his tenure, he focused our colleges' efforts in workforce development while nurturing lasting relationships with leaders across the state, cementing the community and technical college system's place in Washington's educational landscape. Most of all, he ensured our colleges' doors remained open to thousands of students as they achieved their goals.

It was under his leadership that the community and technical college system grew from 27 community colleges to 34 community and technical colleges with the addition of Bates, Bellingham, Cascadia, Clover Park, Lake Washington, Pierce Puallup, and Renton. He also oversaw the launch applied bachelor's degrees, opening new doors to education and careers to thousands of students.

Earl understood the power of relationships, and he believed in the community and technical college system. Even years after his retirement, he continued to advocate for our colleges, always underscoring the importance of connections. For this, we owe him a debt of gratitude.

Recommendation/preferred result

Staff recommends formal commendation and recognition of the life and service of Earl Hale to the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

Policy Manual Change Yes ☐ No ☒

Prepared by: Marianna Watson, executive assistant

STATE OF WASHINGTON STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES RESOLUTION 25-08-35

A resolution formally recognizing the life and service of former executive director Earl Hale in the wake of his passing.

WHEREAS, Earl Hale worked for the State Board for Community and Technical colleges for 35 years, including serving as its executive director for 19 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hale focused our colleges' efforts in workforce development while nurturing lasting relationships with leaders across the state, cementing the community and technical college system's place in Washington's educational landscape; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the community and technical college system grew from 27 community colleges to 34 community and technical colleges with the addition of Bates, Bellingham, Cascadia, Clover Park, Lake Washington, Pierce Puallup, and Renton; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hale oversaw the launch of applied bachelor's degrees at community and technical colleges which have since expanded over 150 offerings at all 34 colleges, opening new doors to education and careers to thousands of students;

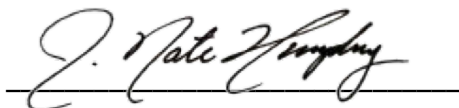
WHEREAS, Mr. Hale understood the power of relationships and believed in the community and technical college system; and

WHEREAS, he continued to advocate for our colleges even after his retirement, always underscoring the importance of connections;

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

APPROVED AND ADOPTED on (08/20/2025)

Attest



Nate Humphrey, secretary



Martin Valadez, chair