

2019-21 Operating and Capital Budget Requests

Legislative Districts: 40, 42

Overview

Whatcom Community College in Bellingham is regularly recognized as one of the top 150 community colleges in the nation by the Aspen Institute. The college, a destination for cybersecurity, pre-engineering, healthcare, and business studies, offers a four-year bachelor of applied science degree, transfer degrees, career preparation, online courses, and community education classes.

WCC offers paths to solid, high-paying careers. We are accessible to all types of students, affordable, and connected to local universities and employers.

Meet Kordel Clarks



Kordel Clarks is a member of the 2018 All-Washington Academic Team. Kordel is studying engineering at Whatcom and hopes to transfer to the University of Washington to earn a degree in aeronautical engineering. He said his long-time passion for the subject as a child motivated him to pursue higher education despite significant financial and health obstacles. He maintains a 3.97 GPA, works at WCC's Learning Center as a math tutor, serves on a faculty tenure committee, and volunteers at his church's community garden. He credits his support network of WCC faculty and math center staff as the reason for his success.

Return on Investment

Fully funding our 2019-2021 operating and capital budget requests will have real returns for students like Kordel and for the people and employers in Whatcom County. With full funding, our students will learn from exceptional instructors who will receive competitive compensation. They will reap the benefits of "Guided Pathways," and they will have more access to training in high-demand areas like nursing, behavioral health, cybersecurity, computer information systems, and engineering.

The capital investments would fund design work for the new Technology and Engineering Center, an essential component to WCC's evolving campus.



Our Students

Total headcount.....	11,195
Total full-time equivalent (FTE).....	4,039
Full-time	48%
Part-time	52%
Students of color.....	35%

Operating Budget Estimate

If the system's operating budget request of \$189 million is fully funded, Whatcom Community College would receive approximately \$3.8 million in additional funding.

Capital Budget Estimate

If the system's capital request for \$627 million is fully funded Whatcom Community College will receive approximately \$2.8 million for operation, maintenance, repairs and minor improvements of its existing facilities and approximately \$2.9 million for design of the Technology and Engineering Center project.

