In the four years since North Seattle College launched its Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Early Childhood Education — the first of its kind at a community college — annual enrollments in the program have increased eight-fold and the college is leading the way in providing much-needed professionalization in the early childhood education industry. The program, which is part of a pathway built by the college and includes everything from certificates all the way to articulation agreements to a master’s degree program — meets a regional employer need to find skilled and qualified childcare workers, lead teachers and learning center directors. It enables childcare providers to comply with new requirements that all childcare and family daycare teachers have at least an Initial Certificate, and Head Start and accreditation standards that require lead teachers to hold baccalaureate degrees. Graduates are experiencing increased mobility to higher paying teaching and leadership jobs. A number of graduates have also opened or plan to open their own home-based childcare businesses, addressing the shortage of affordable childcare in the greater Seattle area and creating jobs for other early learning professionals.

North Seattle College was recognized as the number four institution in the nation among associate colleges for sustainability, by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. The ranking is measured by the Sustainable Campus Index, and recognizes top-performing colleges and universities in 17 sustainability impact areas.

North Seattle College received a nationally competitive $140,000 grant from the American Association of Community Colleges’ Expanding Community College Apprenticeships Initiative. Funded by the US Department of Labor, the initiative expands registered apprenticeship opportunities nationwide. With support from AACC for program management, NSC launched the program in fall 2019 with an apprenticeship with the Iron Workers Local Union #86.