In alignment with Governor Inslee’s Career Connect Washington efforts, Olympic College partnered with a wide array of local employers, industry representatives and other colleges to develop an 8,000-hour Associate Controls Specialist apprenticeship program. Siemens Corporation, MacDonald-Miller and other local employers collaborated in developing the program, along with the West Sound STEM Regional Network, Renton Technical College, Clover Park Technical College, South Seattle College and Bates Technical College. Approval was also granted for a 2,000-hour youth apprenticeship program, Controls Programmer, to be offered in the Bremerton, Central Kitsap, Chimacum, Peninsula, South Kitsap and Tacoma school districts.

Olympic College’s Cybersecurity Program Receives National Recognition

In October 2019, OC’s Cybersecurity program received the Circle of Excellence Award from the International Council of Electronic Commerce Consultants (EC-Council). The award program formally highlights academic instructions with lasting impacts on cybersecurity education. OC rolled certification into its Ethical Hacker program, providing $400 towards the $800 cost and removing a barrier to becoming certified for many students. Through our partnership with WWU, graduates of OC’s associate degree program may transfer seamlessly into Western’s Cybersecurity Bachelor of Science program offered locally at our Poulsbo campus.

Olympic College Military and Veteran Programs Fill Funding-Gap for Active Duty Navy Students

On May 21, the Navy Tuition Assistance program announced it did not have enough available funding to provide tuition assistance for the rest of the fiscal year, through Oct. 1. That left 125 OC students using the Navy’s tuition assistance program without the means to pay for classes in fall quarter. To fill this void, OC Military and Veteran Programs offered a temporary grant to affected students. The grant allowed 75 OC students to pay for fall quarter classes and continue their education without interruption. Of those helped, 55 percent were first-generation college students, and 46 percent were underrepresented students, including African Americans (18 percent), and Asian and Pacific Islanders (8 percent).