Pierce College Fort Steilacoom has been named a Rising Star college for the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. This is the nation’s signature recognition of high achievement and performance in community colleges, and places Pierce in the top five community colleges in the nation. We were selected due to our exceptional three-year graduation and transfer rate of 59 percent, nearly 20 percentage points above the national average. The college also stands out due to our progress in closing equity gaps and our strong support programs to help veterans succeed in the classroom and beyond.

Pierce College Fort Steilacoom’s Veterans Resource Center assists with housing, jobs, mental health counseling, emergency services and textbooks. We support over 3,100 military-affiliated students between the campuses and Joint Base Lewis-McCord. Pierce College is also a leader in the Veterans Industry Education 25 program, a partnership between local community and technical colleges, state agencies and the armed forces, which offers transitioning service members education to prepare for Washington’s most in-demand industries.

Pierce College now offers five Bachelor of Applied Science degrees: the BAS in Dental Hygiene, the BAS in P-3 Teaching, the BAS in Homeland Security Emergency Management and the two newest offerings: the BAS in Applied Business Management and the BAS in Fire Services Leadership and Management. Each of these applied bachelor’s degrees are an important part of our guided career pathways efforts, designed to prepare students with hands-on experiences and job-related skills for the workplace.