Creating Jobs

The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges granted approval for Wenatchee Valley College to offer its third and fourth Bachelor of Applied Science degrees in data analytics and teaching. Pending approval by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, the BAS-Teaching degree will meet an immediate need for early childhood education teachers and special education teachers in preschool through third grade in WVC’s service district. In a WVC survey of local school districts, 87 percent said they have difficulty finding qualified teachers. Of those districts, 79 percent said they currently have up to three unfilled teacher positions, 14 percent have four to six unfilled positions and 7 percent have 11 or more unfilled positions.

New Building

A building to replace Wells Hall on the Wenatchee campus is scheduled for completion by fall of 2021. The $37 million project will replace four of five wings in the 1951-era building. Currently, Wells Hall is the oldest building in the community and technical college system built for college instructional purposes. The new 70,000 square-foot building will be three stories and hold 25 classrooms, multiple WVC departments, a conference center and the Chelan County Emergency Operations Center.

Wildfire Education

WVC Continuing Education, in partnership with Okanogan Conservation District, hosted wildfire boot camp classes for landowners and contractors who wanted to be better prepared for wildfires. Eighty-one Okanogan County residents took the free classes, which included: Beginning Chainsaw Skills and Safety, Managing Your Land for Wildfire and Wildlife (sageland and forest property options) and Fire Ready Home and Landscape. Some of the classes will also be offered in fall 2020. The Legislature was instrumental in securing funding for these educational opportunities after historic wildfire seasons in recent years.