With a focus on equity, diversity and inclusion, Skagit Valley College (SVC) has created the Center for Participatory Excellence to develop resources and engagement opportunities for faculty and staff throughout the community and technical college system. Activities include gatherings, presentations and book discussions that address curriculum, teaching strategies and students’ needs in order to ensure all students achieve equitable outcomes. SVC views learning opportunities for faculty and staff as a key element in reaching the college system’s vision statement on racial equity.

Thanks to a Workforce Development Grant from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, student chefs in SVC’s Culinary Arts program are enjoying hands-on training in one of today’s foodie business trends: operating a food truck. The funds allowed the program to create its Mobile Food Lab, which helped fulfill a goal of adding this unique training experience to their students’ portfolio. Each week, the truck visits SVC’s Cardinal Craft Brewing to greet the growing number of loyal customers. In addition to sourcing Skagit Valley ingredients, students gain valuable experience in operating a successful mobile food business.

In collaboration with the Northwest Workforce Council, SVC launched a program fall quarter to help Job Corps students train for high-wage, high-demand jobs. Thanks to a three-year, $1,186,900 grant from the US Department of Labor, the Job Corps Scholars Program covers tuition and provides wrap-around support for 80 students who are pursuing a certificate in a high-demand, high-wage program: Allied Health, Automotive, Manufacturing, Marine Technology, Multimedia and Interactive Technology, Technical Design and Welding.