Spokane Community College (SCC) partners with industry and provides apprenticeship programs in 22 different fields. Students are paid apprentices while earning their journeyman status. The college also partners with the Eastern Washington Apprenticeship Coordinators Council (EWACC) on a number of outreach events, including Pizza, Pop and Power Tools, which has served more than 3,000 eighth grade girls since it began in 2003. SCC’s pre-apprenticeship program — Skills Trade Preparation (STP) — is an 11-week course that gives students, particularly women and students of color, the basic skills and knowledge to successfully apply for an apprenticeship.

SCC’s Running Start for Careers (RS4C) program is an innovative and unique approach to the Running Start program because it allows high school students to pursue a professional-technical career program while completing their high school diploma. Students who are committed to a career in a professional-technical field have 21 programs to choose from when they become a high school junior. This allows students to attend college tuition free and enter the workforce early. Additional costs for the student are supported through scholarship opportunities and special funding efforts.

SCC offers the largest Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) program in the state. Referred to as “Smart Start” at SCC these programs train students for in-demand professions while they learn basic skills in reading, writing, math or English language. Each program is designed around the needs of the students and often targets areas where the additional support is most effective. English as a Second Language (ESL) students get a quick on-ramp into Smart Start by learning content-specific skills before entering a Smart Start program. This sets the students up for success in Smart Start and puts them on the path to high-wage, high-demand careers sooner.