Multiple programs at Clover Park Technical College are now endorsed as Career Launch programs, providing students with enhancements such as state-of-the-art equipment and updated curricula. Career Launch programs are part of a statewide initiative to give students meaningful on-the-job experience — paired with relevant classroom learning — in growing industries across Washington. With paid apprenticeships laying the groundwork for funding eligibility, HVAC became the first endorsed program. HVAC students are now learning on the newest technology, which saves their future employers thousands in retraining costs. Professional-technical students who secure paid apprenticeships as part of their programs earn money while in college, lowering student debt and increasing completion. Additional programs have also been approved for Career Launch funds.

Nursing and allied health programs continue to prepare essential health care workers for the frontlines of the pandemic and community health care needs. The nursing assistant, behavioral health and medical assistant programs have all been approved as Career Launch programs, and stand to graduate more students by providing more remote learning opportunities to underserved areas. Faculty have also been hard at work implementing new clinical partnerships. By addressing the educational needs of people of color, first-generation immigrants, and ELL students, these innovations help advance CPTC’s equity, diversity and inclusion work.

Efforts to increase student success in college-level math, particularly for underserved populations, have greatly increased the percentage of students completing college-level courses in their first year. Faculty across the college collaborated for more than a year to develop, evaluate and revise a new placement process and new supplemental instruction based on extensive research on best practices. This work recognizes the interconnection of placement, just-in-time skills for professional-technical programs, and the correct timing of math courses in degree pathways to boost early math completion and, thereby, degree completion.