WASHINGTON STATE
ADULT EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Washington state Adult Education Advisory Council (AEAC) is a governor-appointed body whose members work collaboratively and as individuals to achieve its vision, mission and values in support of Adult Education in our Community and Technical Colleges, Community-Based Organizations, and Corrections Education. They provide recommendations in the implementation of our state’s goals for adult education as well as implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) which is the federal act governing Adult Education in the United States.

VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

VISION
Everyone in Washington State has the knowledge, skills and credentials necessary to earn a living wage and achieve economic self-sufficiency, which results in a dynamic economy and vibrant communities.

MISSION
AEAC partners with stakeholders to develop equitable and inclusive policies to build college and career pathways that result in a strong Washington economy.

VALUES
• Inclusiveness – respects people and cultures, values diversity, and is committed to equitable student-centered educational and economic opportunity.
• Collaboration – works collaboratively and openly with stakeholders to bridge systems.
• Quality – endorses continual data-driven innovation and improvement of adult education that impacts all students.
• Innovation – promotes rigorous educational innovation that moves students further and faster toward educational and career goals.
• Advocacy – seeks to inform and advance an agenda of student-centered education and economic development.

HISTORY AND MEMBERSHIP
Established by the legislature in 1991, the AEAC provides policy recommendations about adult basic education. Its members represent agencies and organizations in Washington State that depend on and support Basic Education for Adults (BEdA) services. They include key leaders from the following sectors:
• American Federation of Teachers
• Business
• Community & Technical College System
• Community-Based Organization

CONTACT INFORMATION
Jon Kerr
Director, Basic Education for Adults
p: 360-704-4346
e: jkerr@sbctc.edu
Council for Basic Skills  
Department of Commerce  
Department of Corrections  
Department of Social and Health Services  
Employment Security Department  
General Public Representative  
Library System  
Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Organized Labor  
Student Representative  
WA State Board for Community & Technical Colleges  
Washington Workforce Association (WWA/WDC)  
Washington Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ensured that tuition for basic skills remains affordable for every individual.

Facilitated the development of the Washington State Basic Education for Adults Vision, Mission, Values and Goals with stakeholders across the state in order to guide basic skills innovation and development in our state and under Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA).

Provided detailed input into the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act regulations and Washington State’s WIOA plan that will govern our work for the next 10+ years. As a result of that work, many of the regulations were changed to benefit our programs here in Washington.

Championed the creation, implementation, and expansion of the High School 21+ initiative which has changed the world of basic skills for thousands of individuals with over 5,000 high school diplomas earned in the past 31/2 years. HS 21+ has now been expanded into all 34 colleges, five community based organizations, and our Correctional Education programs.

Developed high functioning taskforces that have brought HS 21+ training to local Workforce Development Councils across the state, promoted legislation to work on fine forgiveness for adults wanting to move into HS 21+ programming, and led the change for-increasing the percent of full-time faculty in basic skills.

Developed a new funding guide in collaboration with all stakeholder agencies across the state to be used by advisors and navigators, coaches, and pathway planners as a critical support to student success.

Increased outreach and collaboration among stakeholders across Washington and the nation.