High School+ Course Review and Revision

The revision of 7 of the 10 High School+ (HS+) courses begun in December 2019 with a small group of faculty is now complete. The developers accomplished the goal to revise the courses with an equity lens and make them more inclusive and representative of the students served. All the revised courses are available through the Open WA hub and Canvas Commons. BEdA staff held two information sessions on the updated HS+ curriculum allowing faculty to learn about the curriculum, its development, and how to incorporate it into their courses.

Equity

The “ABC’s of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion” training helps participants to build an EDI vocabulary, explore concepts that include power, privilege and inequity, microaggressions, and courageous conversations within a context that centers Basic Education for Adults programming and students. Participants also explore and share their campus and program efforts surrounding EDI and learn more about what SBCTC is doing to advance equity and close equity gaps for all students, with an emphasis on students in Basic Education for Adults programs. The six-week training is available to faculty, staff and administrators both fall and winter quarter.

SBCTC Executive Director, Jan Yoshiwara, introduced an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Director position for the agency. Former BEdA Policy Associate and Adult Education Advisory Council Liaison Ha Nguyen was named director in October. Congratulations, Ha!

Access to Higher Education Bill (HB 1715)

We have brought back the agency request bill HB 1715 with full support from OSPI. The bill revises state law RCW 28A.635.060 to remove grades and transcripts from being withheld due to unpaid fines in the K-12 system. This removes a critical barrier for Washingtonians with a K-12 fine on the books allowing them access to postsecondary education.

Creating Prison to Postsecondary Education Pathways (HB 2299)

We are also asking for consideration of HB 2299. The bill eliminates the language of “Associate Workforce Degrees” and changes it to “Post-Secondary Education,” expanding student choice in degree pathways. The bill also opens Department of Corrections (DOC) partnerships to any accredited college/university and explores the use of secured internet for the purposes of furthering post-secondary education degree opportunities.

Here to Serve

As always, I am available anytime you need information, have a question, or would like to provide input on how we are doing. Please email me at wdurden@sbctc.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.