Pell for Corrections
Congressional leaders have struck a deal to reinstate Pell grants for incarcerated students more than a quarter century after banning the aid for prison education programs. Our state played a huge role in this – specifically, Senator Murray relied on the success of second chance Pell pilot sites in our Corrections Education programs to help push for the reinstatement.

COVID-19 Relief and FY2021 Appropriations
More exciting news out of DC:

- Adult Education state grants are funded at $675 million for FY2021, which is an increase of $18 million over FY2020!
- Adult Education is explicitly mentioned as an eligible use of funds in the K-12 set aside for COVID-19 Relief, and the governors’ pot is consistent with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act language to include Adult Education.
- For the higher education pot, IHEs are permitted to fund student support services, which could include funding for services for Adult Education students.

Staff Transitions
Our BEdA team is evolving. Shannon Bell, who provided critical administrative support in several areas including data system support to the field, professional development, Corrections Education, and I-BEST, has moved on to become SBCTC Education Director Carli Schiffner’s administrative assistant. We will miss Shannon greatly and hope to hire her replacement later in January. In the meantime, please join me in thanking Christy Lowder and Scott Toscano on the BEdA team for stepping in to take care of Shannon’s essential duties.

Food for Thought: Metrics
There is chatter on the national level about proposing alternative metrics for adult education. Through a contract with OCTAE, the National Reporting System (NRS) currently governs the metrics system in place. These are often referred to as the “NRS levels” and focus on level gains in core subjects like reading and math, with an emphasis on using standardized testing to demonstrate that students are “making gains.”

I would be interested in AEAC diving into the topic of how the feds measure student success in our adult education programs. This might dovetail nicely with the presentation that SBCTC Research director Darby Kaikkonen will make on SAI 3.0 for the January 2021 AEAC meeting. Please let me know if you have interest in this work!

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.