Director’s Report to the Adult Education Advisory Council
May 2021

Legislative Update
State
We have exciting news to share in the state legislative world: both of the bills that we monitored this session have passed!

- **HB1044**: Postsecondary Education in Prison is a complex bill that includes allowing our college education programs to offer transfer-level Associate of Arts (AA) degree. In the past, only “workforce” coded degrees were allowed.
- **ESHB1176**: Concerning Access to Higher Education disallows school districts from withholding transcripts to students with unpaid fines and fees. This allows more High School Plus (HS+) students to have their transcripts evaluated for prior credit toward a diploma!

Both bills are huge equity wins for our students (and several years in the making!) A huge thanks to our staff leads on these bills, Pat Seibert-Love and Troy Goracke respectively, for helping to ensure that these bills are now law.

Federal
We are currently engaged with the state Workforce Board on providing recommendations for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) reauthorization that is likely to take place this year. Our advocacy is around ensuring our students continue to be represented in the workforce development system, with an increased presence in work-based learning programs by expanding the IET model to Apprenticeship (including pre-apprenticeship) and other employer-driven training programs. Please share with me any thoughts you have on WIOA reauthorization that would boost our advocacy efforts in this area.

Data on Immigrant Parents in Washington State
The Migration Policy Institute has released a treasure trove of information on immigrant parents of U.S-born children in Washington state. It includes information gleaned during the pandemic. The report focuses on parents of children ages 0-10 and advocates for a 2-gen approach. I would welcome the Council’s review of the report to see if there are any advocacy issues the report addresses and am happy to provide a more detailed summary at your request.

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.