

## Director's Report

15 January 2021

### 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. More to come!

### 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 Education Director Carli Schiffner's administrative assistant. We will miss Shannon greatly and hope to hire her replacement soon. In the meantime, please join me in thanking Christy Lowder and Scott Toscano for stepping in to take care of Shannon's essential duties.

Please be sure that all WABERS+ related questions continue to go to the WABERS+ Helpdesk at [wabers@sbctc.edu](mailto:wabers@sbctc.edu)

### Distance Education Training Modules

Thanks to the work of Susie Pearson and Jen Gonthier at Walla Walla Community College, we are happy to announce that a distance ed training module is available to all providers in the CBS Canvas Shell. It is located at the top of the CBS shell and is housed in the Distance Ed Training Module as an IMSCC file. If you would like to use this course to keep your faculty current on Distance Ed procedures, you can download the IMSCC file and import into your Canvas instance. If you have any questions about the module content, or have anything you would like to see added, or if you need assistance with importing the cartridge to your Canvas instance, please reach out to Jodi Ruback ([jruback@sbctc.edu](mailto:jruback@sbctc.edu)).

### 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](mailto:wdurden@sbctc.edu). I look forward to hearing from you.