

2015 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Building a Work-Ready Washington

Invest in students, high-demand programs for a skilled workforce

- **New operating budget request: \$164.7 million**

The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges' 2015-17 biennial operating budget request is designed to train more Washington residents for in-demand jobs, fuel our state's rebounding economy by better connecting students with employer needs, and reach statewide educational attainment goals adopted during the 2014 legislative session: By 2023, at least 70 percent of Washington adults ages 25 to 44 will have a postsecondary credential, and 100 percent will have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Promote student access, completion, and college efficiency

- **Expand access to Basic Education for Adults**

With an open-door policy, community and technical colleges serve all types of students including those needing basic education. Approximately 650,000 to 700,000¹ Washington adults require basic skills to pursue college and living-wage jobs and meet employers' needs. Amending state statute to fund Basic Education for Adults using a caseload model will promote program stability and allow colleges to expand these critical programs by a projected 2,000 FTE.

- **Promote public safety through corrections education and training**

Community and technical colleges contract with the Department of Corrections to provide basic skills and vocational training to incarcerated adults. National research shows these services reduce recidivism rates by approximately 43 percent and better prepare adults for reentry into society.² A statutory change is necessary to also allow the use of existing state funds for academic degree programs within corrections institutions.

- **Waive building fees for active duty military personnel**

The military's Tuition Assistance program now covers only tuition; participating military members are responsible for any other fees not directly related to instruction. A statutory change authorizing a permissive waiver for building and student activity fees for active duty military personnel will help honor those who serve by removing an additional cost barrier.

- **Support system efficiency by streamlining statutes**

State laws governing the community and technical college system include outdated language that is no longer needed or relevant to today's delivery of higher education services. A statutory change is required to ensure outdated statutes are properly decodified, expired and clarified to better promote efficiency within the two-year college system.

Support a work-ready Washington through 21st century capital projects

- **Capital budget request: \$367 million**

The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges' 2015-17 biennial capital budget request is in priority order and has been scored based on the need for space, condition of existing facilities, system-wide policy objectives and estimated costs. Our new buildings are designed to last upwards of 50 years with renovation projects extending the life of our buildings by approximately 20 years. Creating high-quality learning environments allows our colleges to better meet the changing needs of students and the in-demand careers of tomorrow.

1. SBCTC calculation from 2008-12 five-year and 2010-12 three-year American Community Survey estimates.

2. Rand Corporation.(2013). Evaluating the Effectiveness of Correctional Education. Arlington.