

WASHINGTON'S COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES

# 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

*Detailed summary of legislative impacts to Washington's community and technical college system*



**BETTER JOBS, BRIGHTER FUTURES, A STRONGER WASHINGTON**

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This report, which includes active links to legislation and other information, is available electronically at the SBCTC Government Relations web page:

[http://sbctc.edu/college/gv\\_index.aspx](http://sbctc.edu/college/gv_index.aspx).

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## A Letter from the Executive Director

July 2015

The Legislature finished its work on July 10, 2015 after 176 days and three special sessions. Although it took a while for lawmakers to reach agreement on the budget, the final \$38.2 billion spending plan was hailed for prioritizing higher education.



When session started, the higher education community braced for budget cuts. The concern was that the Legislature would reduce funding for colleges and universities in order to invest more money in K-12 education as required under the Supreme Court's McCleary decision.

The higher education community and K-12 system linked arms to urge the Legislature to fund education as a continuum, from preschool through bachelor's degrees and beyond. Community and technical colleges and universities also joined forces to urge the Legislature to continue reinvesting in higher education after the historic budget cuts of 2008-2012.

Community and technical college representatives were at the capitol daily, testifying before committees, meeting with legislators and collaborating with allies. Students also testified, including two college interns participating in a new SBCTC legislative internship program.

Meanwhile, college presidents and trustees emailed lawmakers weekly to spotlight the community and technical college system's role in building the economy and the quality of life here in Washington. An improved revenue forecast also brightened the budget picture.

Like the two-year budget before it, the final 2015-17 operating budget reinvested in higher education. It also increased K-12 funding by \$2.9 billion.

Highlights of the session include:

- For the first time in state history, a budget that reduced the tuition operating fee and backfilled for lost revenue, providing financial relief for students and families.
- State-funded salary increases for faculty and staff for the first time since 2008.
- New system-request laws that streamline state statutes for community and technical colleges, and waive the building fees and service and activity fees for active duty military personnel.

Thank you for your hard work and contributions this session. Thank you, also, to all the legislators who supported our students and colleges. Together, we made a difference for Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marty Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marty Brown  
Executive Director

### Budget Summaries

#### Operating Budget

The final 2015-17 operating budget ([ESB 6052](#)), was signed into law June 30. Below are highlights for the community and technical college system.

#### Tuition and Financial Aid

- The operating fee portion of tuition was reduced 5 percent for all levels of coursework beginning fall 2015. In fall 2016, the operating fee will stay flat for 2-year degrees or shorter, but decrease by an additional 15 percent for upper level coursework (applied bachelor's degrees). Beginning fall 2017, operating fee increases cannot exceed the 14-year average percent increase in the median hourly wage.
- The building fee portion of tuition was increased slightly for inflation.
- All projected lost tuition revenue was backfilled per the accompanying legislation ([2ESSB 5954](#)).
- State Need Grant funding was reduced to reflect lower tuition rates, as were the award amounts for public college students.

#### Compensation

- State agencies and institutions were authorized to provide a 3 percent general salary increase for fiscal year 2016 and another 1.8 increase in fiscal year 2017, for a total 4.8 percent increase over the biennium. Those salary increases include COLAs for employees covered by I-732, but for community and technical colleges, the budget funds only 65 percent of the COLA costs. This partial funding mirrors the fact that overall, the community and technical college system is 65 percent supported by state funds and 35 percent by tuition collections. This policy shift is expected to cost the community and technical college system \$7 million over the biennium.
- The budget allows colleges to use local funds to pay for faculty increments for the 2015-17 biennium only.

#### Other Policy Items

- Allied Health: \$425,000 annually for Seattle Colleges to operate the Allied Health Programs at Seattle Central.
- WATR Center Aerospace: \$580,000 in FY 2016 and another \$420,000 in FY 2017 for expansion of the fabrication composite wing incumbent worker training program.
- Bellevue Bachelor of Science in Computer Science: \$750,000 in one-time funding for initial start-up costs and to develop a plan to offer a BS in computer science.
- Feasibility Study: \$150,000 annually to study feasibility of placing a community college near Graham.
- Central Service Changes: \$163,000 in adjustments to anticipating billings from state central service agencies.

### Capital Budget

The 2015-17 capital budget ([2EHB 1115](#)), was signed into law June 30. Below are highlights for the community and technical college system:

- The overall funding level for community and technical colleges was about 75 percent of the requested level.
- The budget funded projects in priority order down through the design for an Advanced Manufacturing Technologies building at Clover Park.
- The budget included reductions of 4 percent to 11 percent in construction funding for individual projects.
- In addition to sufficient reappropriations for all major projects, the budget included limited reappropriations for minor work projects that were not completed in the 2013-15 biennium.
- The budget authorized the use of certificates of participation (COPs) backed by local funds as requested.

### 2015 Legislation

SBCTC staff monitored approximately 250 pieces of legislation during the 2015 session. This included analyzing proposed bills, providing testimony in legislative committees, and collaborating with legislative staff on possible amendments to protect the community and technical college system.

Appendix 1 lists key bills passed that include new legislative requirements for the community and technical system. This information will also serve as a resource in tracking the internal bill implementation process throughout the year.

Appendix 2 lists key bills that did not pass.

### System Involvement

Community and technical college system representatives are key to a successful session. System representatives, including SBCTC staff, testified 81 times:

- 69 times on bills
- 12 times at work sessions
- 29 times in the House
- 27 times in the Senate
- 14 staff members
- 32 system representatives
- System representatives joined staff at 20 hearings

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### System Representatives Who Testified in 2015

Below is a list of chancellors, presidents and system advocates who testified on behalf of our system during the 2015 legislative session (excludes SBCTC staff):

**Ed Brewster**, president, Grays Harbor College  
**John Carlisle**, business owner, Allegiance Staffing  
**Mary Chikwinya**, student services vice president, Tacoma Community College  
**Rich Cummins**, president, Columbia Basin College  
**Eric Flint**, former inmate and graduate, Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla  
**Lori Griffin**, transitional studies dean, Pierce College  
**Jean Hernandez**, president, Edmonds Community College  
**Lesly Ibarra**, MESA student, Columbia Basin College  
**Michele Johnson**, chancellor, Pierce College  
**Melissa Kotzin**, education and early childhood faculty, Yakima Valley Community College  
**Nate Langstraat**, administrative services vice president, Whatcom Community College  
**Robert Lasker**, SBCTC student intern, Pierce College Fort Steilacoom  
**Barbara Martinez-Griego**, early childhood education-paraprofessional programs faculty and department chair, Skagit Valley College  
**Marty Mattes**, facilities and operations director, Bates Technical College  
**Ginger McCormick**, MESA student, Columbia Basin College  
**Lori Miller**, faculty member, Seattle Central College  
**Alexandra Minea**, SBCTC student intern, Highline College  
**Taleah Mitchell**, former student, Seattle Central College  
**David Murley**, corrections education dean, Spokane Community College  
**Eric Murray**, president, Cascadia College  
**Bruce Riveland**, administrative services vice president, Olympic College  
**Cheryl Roberts**, president, Shoreline Community College  
**Luke Robins**, president, Peninsula College  
**Linda Schoonmaker**, finance and administration vice president, Clover Park Technical College  
**Sarah Sytsma**, corrections education director, Tacoma Community College  
**Loretta Taylor**, corrections education director, Walla Walla Community College  
**Stuart Trippel**, business and student support services executive director, Shoreline Community College  
**Steve Ward**, finance and administration vice president, Centralia College  
**Jodi White**, education faculty and department coordinator, Highline College  
**Gabriela Whitemarsh**, MESA director, Columbia Basin College  
**Merrill Williams**, former student, South Puget Sound Community College  
**Denise Yochum**, president, Pierce College Fort Steilacoom



## Appendix I: 2015 Key Bills That Passed

Bill	Description	SBCTC Tasks	SBCTC Staff Lead	Report Due
<a href="#">SHB 1052</a> (Hayes)  Position: support	Expands the early registration process for veterans receiving Veteran's Administration education benefits to include veterans' spouses and domestic partners that are receiving veteran education benefits.	Communicate new requirement to student services, admission, registration, advising, counseling, and veteran offices.	Scott Copeland	N/A
<a href="#">2EHB 1115</a> (Dunshee)  Position: neutral	2015-17 capital budget	Allocate state appropriations.  Assist Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board on predesign, development, and transition costs at the Seattle Vocational Institute to create the central area community opportunity center and clearinghouse.	Wayne Doty	Dec. 1, 2015 (Legislature)  <i>WTECB responsible for report.</i>
<a href="#">SHB 1138</a> (Orwall)  Position: support	Creates a task force on mental health and suicide prevention at higher education institutions to determine policies, resources, and technical assistance needed to support improving access to mental health services and suicide prevention responses.	Requires one SBCTC representative on the task force.	Joe Holliday	Nov. 1, 2016 (Governor and Legislature)  <i>Task Force responsible for report.</i>
<a href="#">ESHB 1166</a> (Dunshee)  Position: support	Authorizes the State Finance Committee to issue up to \$2.3 billion in general obligation bonds to finance projects in the 2015-17 Capital Budget.		Wayne Doty	N/A

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Bill	Description	SBCTC Tasks	SBCTC Staff Lead	Report Due
<a href="#">E2SHB 1546</a> (Reykdal)  Position: support	<p>Makes policy changes to dual credit programs throughout the state, such as Running Start and College in the High School, that allow high school students to earn college credits while also earning credit toward high school graduation. Makes tenth grade students eligible for the College in the High School program, eliminates the use of Running Start courses offered solely at high school campuses, and allows the use of Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) credits for Running Start and College in the High School fees.</p>	<p>Collaborate with WSAC, OSPI, and the public 4-year institutions to report recommendations for streamlining and improving dual credit programs.</p> <p>Collaborate with OSPI, WSAC, and COP on CHS and RS rules.</p>	Scott Copeland	<p>Sept. 15, 2016 (Legislature)</p> <p><i>WSAC responsible for report.</i></p>
<a href="#">SHB 1636</a> (MacEwen)  Position: neutral	Requires state agencies and institutions to report turnover and hiring statistics with a focus on employees with disabilities.	Communicate new reporting requirement to HR offices and compile agency report.	John Boesenberg	Jan. 31, 2016 and annually (OFM)
<a href="#">HB 1706</a> (Stanford)  <b>*SBCTC request</b>	Authorizes waivers for building and service and activities fees for military members eligible to participate in the Department of Defense Tuition Assistance Program.	Establish waiver in system.	Nick Lutes	N/A
<a href="#">SHB 1897</a> (Smith)  Position: support	Creates the Joint Center for Deployment and Research of Earth-Abundant Materials as a multi-institutional education and research center for research that leads to less reliance on rare earth elements and other expensive, difficult to source earth components. The research will support a variety of technologies used in clean energy and transportation. Must provide report on the center's impact on the state economy and the development of next generation clean energy and transportation technologies.	The center's board of directors must include one representative from the community and technical college system.	Kathy Goebel	<p>Dec. 1, 2015 and every two years (Governor and Legislature)</p> <p><i>Center responsible for report.</i></p>



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Bill	Description	SBCTC Tasks	SBCTC Staff Lead	Report Due
<a href="#">HB 1961</a> (Zeiger)  <b>*SBCTC request</b>	Streamlines state statutes for community and technical colleges.	Update WACs and SBCTC Policy Manual to integrate technical colleges into the tuition and fee provisions.	Denise Graham	N/A
<a href="#">ESSB 5355</a> (Bailey)  Position: support	Modifies the definition of resident student to comply with federal requirements established by the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014.	Communicate updated requirements affecting coding and residency for tuition purposes to student services, financial aid, admission, registration, veterans' offices.	Scott Copeland	N/A
<a href="#">SSB 5518</a> (Kohl-Welles)  Position: support	<p>Guarantees college student survivors of sexual violence certain rights. Prohibits higher education institutions from varying disciplinary processes.</p> <p>Requires colleges to develop and distribute policies and procedures for handling complaints of sexual violence. Specifies that colleges must make information available annually about their compliance with campus sexual violence confidentiality and reporting requirements.</p>	<p>SBCTC must conduct a uniform campus climate assessment survey of colleges, and develop a plan or proposal for a statewide public awareness campaign.</p> <p>Report on steps taken by institutions to enter into memoranda of understanding with local law enforcement.</p>	Joe Holliday	<p>Dec. 31, 2016 (Governor and Legislature)</p> <p>July 1, 2016 (Governor and Legislature)</p> <p><i>SBCTC responsible for reports.</i></p>
<a href="#">SB 5638</a> (Hasegawa)  Position: support	Modifies the requirements of the State Need Grant program to make the grant available to students enrolled or accepted for enrollment for at least three quarter credits, or the equivalent semester credits. This policy had been authorized on a pilot basis since 2005; the bill made it permanent.	Coordinate with WSAC to communicate eligibility to system financial aid directors.	Scott Copeland	N/A

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Bill	Description	SBCTC Tasks	SBCTC Staff Lead	Report Due
<a href="#">SSB 5719</a> (Bailey)  Position: support	Creates a task force on campus sexual violence prevention to recommend best practices on sexual assault prevention. Requires task force to report on its goals and recommendations.	Requires one SBCTC representative to serve on the task force.	Joe Holliday	Dec. 31, 2015 and annually (Legislature)  <i>Task Force responsible for report.</i>
<a href="#">SB 5746</a> (Bailey)  Position: support	Makes Everett Community College eligible to use the Aerospace Training Student Loan program.		Kendra Hodgson	N/A
<a href="#">2SSB 5851</a> (Frockt)  Position: neutral	Concerning recommendations of the College Bound Scholarship (CBS) program work group, including data collection, outreach and program outcomes.	SBCTC and colleges must ensure the data needed to analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the CBS program is promptly transmitted to the Education Research and Data Center.	Scott Copeland	Dec. 1, 2018 (Legislature)  <i>Washington State Institute for Public Policy responsible for report.</i>
<a href="#">2ESSB 5954</a> (Braun)  Position: neutral	In fiscal year 2016, reduces the operating fee by 5 percent for upper and lower division tuition and increases the building fee slightly for inflation. Decreases upper division tuition by an additional 15 percent in fiscal year 2017.	Establish and communicate tuition schedule.	Nick Lutes	N/A
<a href="#">ESSB 6052</a> (Hill)  Position: neutral	2015-17 operating budget.	Allocate state appropriations.  Provide status report on the Job Skills Program.  Report number of campuses and students served in the MESA program.  Conduct feasibility study for a potential new college in Graham, WA.	Nick Lutes  Anna Nikolaeva  Joe Holliday	Jan. 1, 2016 and annually (Governor and Legislature)  Dec. 31, 2018 (Legislature)  TBD

## Appendix 2: 2015 Key Bills That Did Not Pass

Bill	Description	SBCTC Staff Lead
<a href="#">SHB 1031</a> (Johnson) Position: concerns	Expanding participation in college in the high school programs.	Scott Copeland
<a href="#">HB 1081</a> (Sullivan) Position: concerns	Expanding participation in the college in the high school programs.	Scott Copeland
<a href="#">HB 1146</a> (Haler) Position: neutral	Concerning higher education fiscal matters.	Nick Lutes
<a href="#">HB 1147</a> (Haler) Position: neutral	Requiring a study of the transition to a three-track or four-track admission system for public institutions of higher education.	Scott Copeland
<a href="#">SHB 1154</a> (Bergquist) Position: concerns	Creating the affordable college for everyone grant contract program.	Scott Copeland
<a href="#">ESHB 1236</a> (Ortiz-Self) Position: neutral	Concerning witnessing a student's College Bound scholarship pledge when efforts to obtain a parent's or guardian's signature are unsuccessful.	Scott Copeland
<a href="#">SHB 1238</a> (Pollet) Position: support	Concerning affordable tuition planning.	Nick Lutes
<a href="#">HB 1293/E2SSB 5179</a> (Bergquist/Hill) Position: concerns	Concerning paraeducators.	Kathy Goebel
<a href="#">SHB 1344/SB 5335</a> (Pollet/Keiser) Position: neutral	Creating the nurse educator pay it forward program.	Scott Copeland
<a href="#">HB 1363/SB 5327</a> (Hunt/McCoy) Position: neutral	Eliminating the requirement to obtain a certificate of academic achievement or certificate of individual achievement to graduate from high school.	Bill Moore
<a href="#">HB 1385/SSB 5063</a> (Magendanz/Hill) Position: support	Prioritizing state revenue growth for education.	Nick Lutes

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Bill	Description	SBCTC Staff Lead
<a href="#">SHB 1400</a> (Haler) Position: concerns	Increasing transparency in higher education by requiring budgeting information to be available online.	Nick Lutes
<a href="#">HB 1446</a> (Manweller) Position: neutral	Creating the youth internship opportunity act.	Danny Marshall
<a href="#">SHB 1482</a> (Pollet) Position: neutral	Requiring an analysis of regional higher education capacity to meet educational attainment goals.	Jan Yoshiwara
<a href="#">SHB 1500/ESSB 5133</a> (Zeiger/Bailey) Position: neutral	Concerning a study of higher education cost drivers.	Nick Lutes
<a href="#">HB 1532/SB 5562</a> (Smith/Bailey) Position: neutral	Concerning budget submissions for capital design and construction at institutions of higher education.	Wayne Doty
<a href="#">HB 1538/SB 5469</a> (Sells/Hasegawa) Position: support with concerns	Restoring cost-of-living increases for educational employees.	John Boesenberg
<a href="#">SHB 1556</a> (Hargrove) Position: neutral	Strengthening the Washington advanced college tuition payment program by setting new requirements on the purchase and use of tuition units.	Scott Copeland
<a href="#">HB 1592/SB 5559</a> (Hunt/Billig) Position: neutral	Concerning tuition waivers for state and educational employees.	Nick Lutes
<a href="#">SHB 1644/SSB 5561</a> (Gregory/Bailey) Position: neutral	Concerning veteran survivor tuition waiver eligibility.	Nick Lutes
<a href="#">SHB 1696/SB 5484</a> (Haler/Bailey) Position: neutral	Modifying provisions related to tuition setting authority at public institutions of higher education.	Nick Lutes
<a href="#">HB 1704</a> (Pettigrew) * <b>SBCTC request</b>	Enhancing public safety and reducing recidivism through postsecondary education.	Brian Walsh

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Bill	Description	SBCTC Staff Lead
<a href="#">HB 1705/SB 5619</a> (Haler/Bailey) <b>*SBCTC request</b>	Concerning basic education for adults at community and technical colleges.	Jon Kerr
<a href="#">HB 1743/SSB 5676</a> (Lytton/Roach)  Position: concerns	Concerning the acceptance of additional high school equivalency tests.	Lou Sager
<a href="#">HB 1767</a> (Hargrove)  Position: support with concerns	Adding a minimum grade point average to the state need grant renewal requirement.	Scott Copeland
<a href="#">HB 1773/SB 5602</a> (G. Hunt/Warnick)  Position: neutral	Prohibiting public entities from giving or loaning public funds to bargaining unit representatives for nongovernment functions.	John Boesenberg
<a href="#">HB 1810</a> (Holy)  Position: neutral	Making ample provisions to support higher education.	Nick Lutes
<a href="#">HB 1820/SB 5794</a> (Reykdal/McAuliffe)  Position: support	Requiring the Department of Social and Health Services to request all necessary exemptions and waivers from the federal government to allow students to use electronic benefit transfer cards at institutions of higher education.	Edward Esparza
<a href="#">HB 1834</a> (Klippert)  Position: neutral	Making certain higher education facilities available for use by certain public high school programs.	Nick Lutes
<a href="#">HB 1863</a> (Reykdal)  Position: concerns	Modifying collective bargaining law related to providing additional compensation for academic employees at community and technical colleges.	John Boesenberg
<a href="#">ESHB 1875</a> (Walsh)  Position: support	Concerning the definition of work activity for the purposes of the WorkFirst program.	Mat Carlisle
<a href="#">SHB 1887</a> (Stanford)  Position: support	Creating the student veterans' support program.	Scott Copeland
<a href="#">SHB 1893</a> (Sells)  Position: concerns	Increasing transparency in community and technical colleges by requiring certain budget detail to be available online.	Nick Lutes

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Bill	Description	SBCTC Staff Lead
<a href="#">SHB 1947</a> (Pollet) Position: neutral	Establishing a comprehensive plan to expand learning opportunities and improve educational outcomes for students with disabilities or special needs using multiple strategies and statewide partnerships.	Scott Copeland
<a href="#">HB 1955</a> (Van Werven) Position: concerns	Defining satisfactory academic progress for purposes of higher education.	Scott Copeland
<a href="#">HB 1958</a> (Zeiger) Position: concerns	Limiting the cost of assigned textbooks for institutions of higher education.	Mark Jenkins
<a href="#">SHB 1982</a> (Pollet) Position: support with concerns	Enhancing student completion through advising, mentoring, recapture initiatives, remedial programs, and accelerated precollege instruction and creating the innovations for student completion program.	Edward Esparza
<a href="#">HB 2024</a> (Parker) Position: neutral	Concerning the use of student housing facilities at the institutions of higher education by homeless students.	Joe Holliday
<a href="#">HB 2039</a> (Hargrove) Position: neutral	Encouraging eligible students to use their State Need Grant and College Bound scholarship awards to complete two years of education at community or technical colleges.	Scott Copeland
<a href="#">2SHB 2041</a> (Hansen) Position: neutral	Creating a pilot project on performance-based scholarships in the state need grant program.	Scott Copeland
<a href="#">SSB 5080</a> (Dammeier) Position: concerns	Concerning dual credit options.	Scott Copeland
<a href="#">SB 5086</a> (Litzow) Position: concerns	Concerning dual credit opportunities provided by Washington state's public institutions of higher education.	Scott Copeland
<a href="#">SSB 5112</a> (Brown) Position: support	Creating a pilot program that provides incentives for investments in Washington state job creation and economic development.	Kathy Goebel



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Bill	Description	SBCTC Staff Lead
<a href="#">SB 5231</a> (Sheldon) Position: concerns	Modifying collective bargaining law to authorize the right of state workers employed in the community and technical college system as nontenured part-time academic employees to form a collective bargaining unit for the protection of their common interests.	John Boesenberg
<a href="#">SB 5286</a> (Baumgartner) Position: neutral	Making ample provisions to support higher education.	Nick Lutes
<a href="#">SB 5354</a> (Hargrove) Position: support	Addressing the implementation of inmate postsecondary education degree programs to reduce recidivism.	Brian Walsh
<a href="#">SB 5391</a> (Litzow) Position: concerns	Concerning applied baccalaureate degree programs at community and technical colleges leading to teacher certification.	Joyce Hammer
<a href="#">SSB 5547</a> (Bailey) Position: concerns	Requiring a minimum grade point average to distribute State Need Grant awards.	Scott Copeland
<a href="#">SB 5620</a> (Bailey) Position: support	Authorizing waivers of building fees and services and activities fees for certain military service members.	Nick Lutes
<a href="#">SB 5636</a> (Hasegawa) Position: neutral	Establishing the GET ready for college program.	Scott Copeland
<a href="#">SB 5637</a> (Hasegawa) Position: support	Creating a peer mentoring program.	Edward Esparza
<a href="#">SB 5734</a> (Roach) Position: neutral	Concerning apprenticeship training programs.	Danny Marshall
<a href="#">SB 5856</a> (Frockt) Position: concerns	Creating a competitive grant program for high-quality, evidence-based outreach programs that improve high school graduation rates for College Bound scholarship students.	Scott Copeland
<a href="#">SB 6095</a> (Kohl-Welles) Position: neutral	Changing enrollment forecasts and budgeting for institutions of higher education.	Nick Lutes