

WASHINGTON'S COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES

2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

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



BETTER JOBS, BRIGHTER FUTURES, A STRONGER WASHINGTON

Table of Contents

Letter from the Executive Director	3
Budget Summaries	4
2016 Legislation	6
System Involvement	7
Appendix 1: 2016 Key Bills That Passed	9
Appendix 2: 2016 Key Bills That Did Not Pass	10

This report, which includes active links to legislation and other information, is available electronically at the SBCTC Legislative Outreach web page: <http://j.mp/ITviHXp>.

If you have questions regarding the content of this report, please contact Arlen Harris, SBCTC legislative director, at 360-704-4394 or aharris@sbctc.edu, or Julie Walter, SBCTC legislative coordinator, at 360-704-4313 or jwalter@sbctc.edu.

A Letter from the Executive Director

April 2016

The 2016 Legislature adjourned March 29, 20 days into a special session in which legislators agreed upon supplemental capital, operating and transportation budgets. Top on their agenda were addressing the catastrophic 2015 wildfires, assisting the state's mental health hospitals and homeless populations, and finding a sustainable K-12 education funding solution.



Topping the priority list for the community and technical college system were funding backfills following historic tuition cuts and much-needed salary increases. Colleges were well-represented throughout session. State Board staff joined college presidents, trustees, administrators, faculty, staff and students for daily work with legislators. This included one-on-one meetings, committee testimony and stakeholder collaboration. Others helped by sending letters and speaking with their legislators by phone. Students from around the state gathered January 26 for a dynamic and passionate rally in the Legislative Building's rotunda stressing the critical role of community and technical colleges in higher education and the state's economy.

Because of the hard work of our system's partners during this short session, I'm proud of the budget and policy accomplishments we helped advance. These include:

- Partial backfill of requested funds to cover tuition reduction.
- State investment in existing MESA Community College programs which help under-represented students pursue STEM degrees.
- Authorization for Bellevue College to offer Bachelor of Science degrees in computer science.
- An operating budget proviso to authorize the offering of associate degrees in our corrections system for the remainder of the biennium.

As we look forward to the 2017 session and a new budget cycle, the college system needs to continue to work together to accomplish shared goals. We can expect K-12 funding to remain a priority. To that end, legislators this session created the Education Funding Task Force. The task force will conduct a formal review of education funding needs. It will report its findings to the Legislature in January 2017.

Thank you to those who contributed and advocated on behalf of Washington's community and technical colleges. We are especially appreciative of the legislators who support our colleges and students. I look forward to working with all of our partners over the interim and during the 2017 session as, together, we champion our system of community and technical colleges.

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

Supplemental Capital Budget

The 2016 supplemental capital budget, [ESHB 2380](#), was signed by the Governor on April 18, 2016.

The budget does not fund new design or construction of major projects in the community and technical college system. It does, however, include authority to finance locally funded projects at Bellevue College, Spokane Falls Community College, Wenatchee Valley College and Pierce College Fort Steilacoom.

The budget also transfers land currently leased from the Department of Natural Resources at Grays Harbor College, Green River College, Highline College and South Seattle College-Georgetown campus to those colleges. Under the legislation's terms, the land must continue to be used for an educational purpose.

Supplemental Operating Budget

The final 2016 operating budget, [2ESHB 2376](#), was signed by the Governor on April 18, 2016. After accounting for one-time impacts from the 2014 state Supreme Court decision Moore vs. HCA and the maintenance and operation shift to the Education Construction Account, the supplemental operating budget includes a \$2.51 million increase for the fiscal year ending on June 30 and a \$3.22 million increase for the 2017 fiscal year which begins on July 1.

The budget specifically affects the state's community and technical colleges by:

- Increasing funding for existing MESA pilot projects (\$450,000 in FY 2017): Additional funding to bring pilot allocations to \$125,000 annually and program oversight/research to \$110,000 annually.
- Increasing tuition reduction backfill (\$386,000 in FY 2016, \$93,000 in FY 2017): Acknowledges errors in applied baccalaureate program's enrollment base used to calculate tuition reduction impact.
- Settling the Moore v. HCA class action suit by providing: \$19 million in general fund state for FY 2017 but local fund liability remains at \$13.4 million.
- Funding for Alcoa worker retraining (\$750,000 in FY 2016, \$1.5 million in FY 2017): Funding for retraining of aluminum smelter workers at Alcoa Intalco impacted by foreign trade through Bellingham Technical College.
- Funding wildfire prevention program (\$157,000 in FY 2017): Funding to start a Wildfire prevention program at Wenatchee Valley College.
- Health benefit contribution rate change (\$616,000 in FY 2017): The change in appropriations will reduce the amount of the 2017 scheduled increase in contribution rates. The new 2017 rate is increasing to \$888 per employee per month (from the 2016 rate of \$840.)

2016 Legislative Session Report

- Shift of M&O costs from State to Education Construction Account (fund 253) (-\$3.6 million in FY 2016 and 2017, with +\$3.6 million in Education Construction Account funding): Similar to previous Maintenance and Operation fund shifts to the building fee account, this move is a zero-sum to the system. It will require a transfer of expenditures for this activity from state fund sources to the Education Construction Account. This is stated in supporting documents as a one-time shift.
- Changes in pass-through charges: Changes in state funding are appropriated, however total increases in anticipated service charges include increases assumed to be paid by local funds. With the exception of worker's compensation (which is allocated to districts), all charges for central services provided to community and technical colleges are paid by the SBCTC exclusively using state appropriations allocated for those purposes. Past increases in central service charges that identify impacts to local funds have been paid using state resources.
 - Worker's compensation changes (\$545,000 additional state for \$839,000 in increased charges for FY 2017): Reflects increases in rates.
 - Self-insurance rate changes (\$27,000 less state for a \$41,000 overall reduction in FYs 2016 and 2017): Updated actuarial analysis based on refreshed actuals changed rates.
 - OFM budget/accounting/forecast (\$712,000 additional state for \$1,096,000 in anticipated new annual charges): OFM will now be charging agencies for the services provided by statewide budgeting, accounting and forecasting divisions. The charges are scheduled to begin in FY 2016. (The governor vetoed this policy in the OFM budget. Because there remains an appropriation to the agency, OFM will need to recover some of this state funding to balance their budget needs. The impact of the policy will be removed from our appropriation during the 2017 supplemental).
 - All other changes: \$143,000 additional state for \$220,000 in additional annual charges in FY 2016. \$36,000 in state for \$54,000 in additional annual charges in FY 2017. Reflect rate changes for Audit, Attorney General, DES Central Services and payment for the Time, Leave and Attendance System development costs.
- Department of Corrections (DOC) contract increases for COLAs (\$1.25 million total for both fiscal years): Funding is included to recognize the impact of 2016 and 2017 COLAs on education contracts between DOC and SBCTC.
- Allows the system to provide post-secondary education through the existing Department of Corrections contract for the remainder of this biennium.

2016 Legislation

SBCTC staff monitored approximately 122 pieces of legislation during the 2016 session. Staff work included analyzing bills, providing testimony in legislative committees, and collaborating with legislative staff on possible amendments on behalf of 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 and SBCTC staff testified 42 times before House and Senate committees:

- 34 times on bills
- 9 times at work sessions
- 24 times in the House
- 18 times in the Senate
- 35 college system representatives
- 15 SBCTC staff members

Below is a list of presidents, trustees, system advocates and SBCTC staff who testified on behalf of our system during the 2016 legislative session.

Presidents

- **Ed Brewster**, Grays Harbor College
- **Warren Brown**, North Seattle College
- **Marty Cavalluzzi**, Pierce College Puyallup
- **Rich Cummins**, Columbia Basin College
- **Jean Hernandez**, Edmonds Community College
- **Lonnie Howard**, Clover Park Technical College
- **Cheryl Roberts**, Shoreline Community College
- **Luke Robins**, Peninsula College
- **Dave Rule**, Bellevue College
- **Denise Yochum**, Pierce College Fort Steilacoom

Trustees

- **Stu Halsan**, Centralia College
- **Steve Miller**, Bellevue College

Students

- **Camille Clements**, Pierce College Puyallup
- **Monica Elenes**, South Seattle College
- **Jezabel Garcia**, Seattle Central College
- **Faline Jett**, North Seattle College
- **Dawud Malik**, former corrections education student
- **Edward Parnel**, former corrections education student

Faculty, Staff, Administrators and Associates

- **Luis Alcazar**, Columbia Basin College
- **Frank Ashby**, South Seattle College
- **Jo Ann Baria**, Pierce College
- **Suzie Benson**, Wenatchee Valley College
- **Christina DuWors**, Pierce College
- **Doug Emory**, Lake Washington Institute of Technology
- **Nate Langstraat**, Whatcom Community College
- **Karen Lee**, Lake Washington Institute of Technology
- **John Martens**, Centralia College
- **Marty Mattes**, Bates Technical College
- **Larry McGee**, Centralia College (retired)
- **Sally Murrow**, South Puget Sound Community College
- **Ed Parks**, South Seattle College
- **Bob Pasquariello**, Olympic College
- **Elizabeth Pluhta**, South Seattle College
- **Kim Thompson**, Shoreline Community College
- **Barron Willis**, MESA board of directors

SBCTC Board Members and Staff

- **Shanuta Hyde**, SBCTC board chair
- **Marty Brown**, SBCTC executive director
- **John Boesenberg**, human resources deputy executive director
- **Scott Copeland**, student services policy associate
- **Nancy Dick**, workforce education director
- **Wayne Doty**, capital budget director
- **Kathy Goebel**, economic development policy associate
- **Arlen Harris**, legislative director
- **Joe Holliday**, student services director
- **Jon Kerr**, Basic Education for Adults director
- **Nick Lutes**, operating budget director
- **Katherine Mahoney**, workforce education program administrator
- **Bill Moore**, K-12 partnership director
- **Anna Nikolaeva**, workforce education program administrator
- **Brian Walsh**, corrections education policy associate
- **Jan Yoshiwara**, educational services deputy executive director

Appendix I: 2016 Key Bills That Passed

Bill (Prime sponsor)	Description	SBCTC Staff Lead
SSB 5928 (Dammeier) Position: support	Subject to SBCTC approval, authorizes Bellevue College to offer a bachelor of science degree in computer science.	Joyce Hammer
SSB 6354 (Lias) Position: support with concerns	Requires four-year institutions to work with SBCTC to develop plans for facilitating the reverse transfer of academic credits from four-year institutions to community and technical colleges. The plans must be adopted by Dec. 31, 2017 and include policy allowing eligible students the opportunity to transfer credits back to a community or technical college, to use towards a two-year degree and procedure for notifying eligible students in the program. Defines eligible students as transfer students who enroll as degree-seeking students at a four-year institution after completing at least 60 quarter credits at a community or technical college, but before attaining an associate degree.	Joyce Hammer
SSB 6466 (Habib) Position: support with concerns	Requires the Council of Presidents (COP) to convene a workgroup to develop a plan for removing obstacles for higher education students with disabilities. Plan must standardize medical documentation requirements, intake and review procedures, and develop best practices for institutions to provide outreach to and help prepare students for transmitting accommodations information and documentation to their next institution. COP must provide plan to the Legislature by Dec. 31, 2016. (Requires on SBCTC representative to serve on the workgroup.)	Scott Copeland

Appendix 2: Key Bills that Did Not Pass

Bill (Prime sponsor)	Description	SBCTC Staff Lead
ESHB 1875 (Walsh) Position: support	Concerning the definition of work activity for the purposes of the WorkFirst program.	Erin Frasier
SHB 2329/SSB 6161 (Haler/Bailey) *SBCTC request Position: support	Requires the Caseload Forecast Council to forecast the number of 25-44 year olds in the state that do not have a high school diploma, high school equivalency, or credential and forecast the number of students expected to enroll in basic education courses at community and technical colleges.	Jon Kerr
HB 2593 (Kilduff) Position: concerns	Making community and technical colleges more affordable by eliminating the application fee for low-income students and reviewing placement testing fees.	Scott Copeland
SHB 2615 (Pollet) Position: concerns	Sets two legislative goals regarding community and technical college faculty staffing: 1) Increase full-time faculty positions by adding 200 new full-time tenure track positions in each of the next three biennia. 2) Ensure part-time and non-tenured faculty receives priority consideration for continuing employment and tenure track positions.	John Boesenberg
HB 2619/SB 6260 (Haler/Hewitt) *SBCTC request Position: support	Allows community and technical colleges to provide associate and bachelor's degrees in corrections institutions to inmates who meet criteria established by the Department of Corrections (DOC). DOC could consider giving priority to inmates who are within five years or less of release, do not already have a postsecondary degree, and have a reentry plan that includes participation in a postsecondary education program.	Brian Walsh
2SHB 2769 (Senn) *SBCTC request Position: support	Allows SBCTC to select up to five community or technical colleges to develop and offer programs of study leading to bachelor degrees in high-demand fields of study.	Joyce Hammer

2016 Legislative Session Report

Bill (Prime sponsor)	Description	SBCTC Staff Lead
SHB 2820/SB 6481 (Pollet/Jayapal) Position: support with concerns	Establishing the Washington Promise Program, to help make the first two years of college affordable and accessible to the state's citizens by offering a tuition waiver for eligible students enrolled in associate degree or certificate programs offered by the state's community and technical colleges.	Nick Lutes
2SHB 2955 (Hansen) Position: support with concerns	Creating the Washington free to finish college program to encourage state residents who attended a postsecondary education degree or certificate program, but were unable to graduate and are no longer enrolled in a postsecondary education degree or certificate program, to return to an institution of higher education to complete their program of study.	Nick Lutes