

Washington Community and Technical Colleges 2017-19 Operating Budget Request

Our operating budget request is designed to produce the diverse talent pool needed to fill thousands of jobs and grow Washington's economy. New investments would increase completion and retention rates, producing at least **15,000 more** degrees and certificates over the next two years.



Operating budget request (\$200 million)

Stabilize funding to move forward (\$49.6 million)

A fully funded, maintenance-level budget would create a financial backstop, ensuring community and technical colleges could push forward to serve 381,000 students. This request covers the current level of operations plus inflation. It also includes Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) for faculty and technical college classified employees as required by I-732.

Deliverable: Stabilized funding means fewer cuts to programs and services needed by students and employers.

Close skill gaps, fill jobs

- **Guided pathways to careers, including STEM (\$81 million)**
“Guided pathways” is a research-based approach that simplifies choices for students. Courses are grouped together to form specific career paths that lead to jobs after graduation. Students get intensive, targeted advising to stay on their chosen pathways, learn and complete. This investment also includes \$7.3 million for the MESA Community College Program, which helps under-represented students pursue STEM degrees. 100 percent of the MESA graduates in the 2011-12 graduating class earned a bachelor's degree in a STEM field.¹

Deliverables: 15,000 more degrees and certificates over the biennium.² In the past two academic years, we awarded 87,692 degrees and certificates. The highly successful MESA program would expand from the current six colleges to all 34 colleges.

- **Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (\$11.3 million)**
Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) programs use a team-teaching approach. One instructor teaches reading, writing and math skills while the other shows students how to apply those skills in a profession. Students learn by doing. I-BEST students earn an average of \$2,675 more per year and work more hours.³

Deliverables: additional 900 (FTE) for I-BEST; greater completions and higher earnings. Last year, we served 2,493 full-time equivalent students and 4,518 individuals.



Fast Facts

- Washington state will have 740,000 job openings in the next five years. More than half of those openings will be filled by people who have postsecondary education or training.⁴
- Employers are having the hardest time filling mid-level jobs. These jobs require more than a high school education but less than a four-year degree — the level of education provided by community and technical colleges.⁵
- Washington's goal for postsecondary education is for 70 percent of all adults to have a postsecondary credential by 2023. To meet our share, Washington community and technical colleges will need to produce 228,000 more graduates who have earned a certificate or degree for the first time.⁶

- **Opportunity Grants (\$10.3 million)**

Opportunity Grants help low-income students train for careers in high-demand fields. Grants cover tuition (up to 45 credits), books and supplies, emergency childcare and transportation services.

Deliverables: 660 more students would receive grants to pursue high-demand programs. Average grant amounts would increase by 20 percent. Last year we served 2,567 full-time equivalent students and 4,282 individuals.

Invest in teaching and learning, align salary increases (\$34.1 million)

Producing qualified students for the workforce and for university transfer depends on keeping and attracting outstanding faculty and staff. Our request seeks additional funds to increase faculty and staff salaries and to move more part-time faculty positions into full-time positions. Students would have greater access to full-time faculty outside of class, resulting in higher retention and achievement.⁷ This request includes funding to align salary increase rates for employees.

Deliverables: improved ability to keep and attract talent; higher student retention and achievement.

Create a safe learning environment (\$13.6 million)

Campus safety is of utmost concern, especially given the tragic school shootings nationwide. This investment would help colleges protect students, employees and visitors from armed/hostile intruders, wildfires, floods, sexual violence and harassment, and other human and natural dangers.

Deliverables: more robust safety programs and planning; a safer learning and working environment.

Keep college affordable (WSAC request)

SBCTC supports the Washington Student Achievement Council's request for additional funding for the State Need Grant.

Sources:

1. Washington MESA Community College Program Overview, Data & Highlights, by Washington MESA, Jan. 19, 2014; 2. SBCTC Research Division. (to see methodology, see SBCTC agency budget submission to OFM); 3. 2015 Workforce Training Results, Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board; 4. Washington Roundtable and The Boston Consulting Group report, "Washington Kids for Washington Jobs," Oct. 5, 2016; 5. A Skilled and Educated Workforce, 2015 Update by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Washington Student Achievement Council, and Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board. Data projected for 2018-2023; 6. SBCTC Research Report, "CTC Role in WSAC Roadmap Goals," April 2015; 7. SBCTC Efficiency Study: Understanding Benefit Drivers, March 1, 2013, based on findings by The Hill Group.