



September 23, 2025

Alaafia, Washington Community and Technical College Colleagues,

The Washington State Student Success Center at the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) is pleased to announce the inaugural cohort of Fellows in the **Middle Leadership Academy (MLA)**. This academy represents a statewide investment in developing equity-minded leaders crucial to advancing the Guided Pathways framework and supporting student success throughout our community and technical college system.

The MLA provides mid-level leaders the opportunity to deepen their skills in equity-centered leadership, institutional transformation, and student success. Over the course of a year, Fellows will engage in applied learning that bridges leadership theory with practice. A signature component of the Academy is the applied project, through which Fellows, working in teams and in partnership with experienced coaches, will tackle complex challenges facing our colleges. These projects are designed to strengthen local Guided Pathways implementation and generate solutions that can be shared across the system.

This first cohort represents the depth of talent, commitment, and vision within our colleges. Together, they will form a community of practice dedicated to expanding opportunity, advancing equity, and ensuring that every student can achieve strong and equitable post-completion outcomes.

We are grateful to the many college leaders who supported nominations and to the coaches who will guide and mentor Fellows throughout the year. Their collective efforts embody the spirit of collaboration and care that has always defined our system.

We are honored to recognize the 2025–26 Fellows.

2025–26 Middle Leadership Academy Fellows

Samantha Archuleta

Mgr. of Career Education & Partnerships
Spokane Community College

Shayna Begun

Interim Exec Dir, Effectiveness, Research & Analytics
Bellevue College

Prisco Blanco

Dir. for Planetarium & Observatory
Columbia Basin College

Sarah Boldizar

Student Employment Coordinator
Wenatchee Valley College

Dr. Ashley Bowie-Gallegos

Dean of SS & Enrollment Management
Grays Harbor College

Tony Brito

Student Success Coach,
Pierce College Puyallup

Mark Brown

Dir. of Learning and Innovation
Green River College

Lester Burkes

Dean of Trades, Transportation, and
Apprenticeship
Clover Park Technical College

Holly Campbell

Biology Faculty/Science Dept. Chair
Spokane Community College

Dr. Aaron Coby

Dean of Arts & Sciences & Extended Learning
Grays Harbor College

Dr. Ashley DeMotive

Dean, Visual, Performing & Applied Science
Spokane Falls Community College

Katie Devore

Dir of Housing & Residential Life
Pierce College Fort Steilacoom

Gordon Dutrisac

Student Advising & Success Services
Cascadia College

Eva Kimble

Dean of STEM
Olympic College

Emily Feleen

Dir. of Learning Resources
Pierce College Puyallup

Jeanice Freeman

Dir of Workforce Education
North Seattle College

Lionel Candido Flores

Interim Instructional Dean
Green River College

Sam Gracie

Admission Coach
Lake Washington Institute of Technology

Savena Garrett

Dir. of Student Success
Shoreline Community College

Rhianna Johnson

Dir. of Guided Pathways & Partnerships
Clark College

Naydene Hays

Dir. of Tutoring
Olympic College

Daniel Knox

Student Success Technology Specialist
Pierce College District

Joseph Hing

Assoc. Dir. of Finance & Business Services
Centralia College

David Larsen

Dean of Enrollment & Completion
Green River College

Mari Kosi

Dir. of Access & Advising
Shoreline Community College

Kelly Leahy

Assist Dir of Student Learning & Design
Cascadia College

Mike Law

Dir. of Student Equity & Inclusion
Clark College

Lindsey Morrow

Workforce Coordinator
Wenatchee Valley College

Christina Nakada-Alm

Exec. Dir. for Student Advocacy & Cultural
Support
Tacoma Community College

Diana Peregrina

Dir. of Outreach & Recruitment
Skagit Valley College

Ferdinand Orbino

Dean of Skilled Trades
South Seattle College

Darcell Scott

Dean of Student Services
Centralia College

Spencer Roland

Assist. Athletic Director
Columbia Basin College

Dr. Tolu Taiwo

Asso. Dir. for EDI and Campus Climate
Clover Park Technical College

Dr. Sultana Shabazz

Dean of Education, Social, and Behavioral
Sciences
Tacoma Community College

Dr. Amber Wyman

Professor of Natural Science & Chair, Learning
Outcomes Assessment
Lake Washington Institute of Technology

Rahel Weldu

Asso. Dean of Student Funding
Renton Technical College

Please join us in congratulating the Fellows and supporting their journey. We look forward to sharing the Academy's progress and the impact of the applied projects in the months ahead.

Dr. MA Gunn, Ed.D.

Policy Associate, Education Division