

## Summary of 2014-15

- Washington community and technical colleges enrolled the equivalent of 181,451 full-time students (annual FTES) during academic year 2014-15, a decrease of one percent from the previous year's level. Of the total, 138,279 FTES — seventy-six percent were in state-funded courses. State-funded FTES are supported by student tuition and state funding.
- Community and technical colleges served over a third of a million people — 385,872 students in 2014-15. This unduplicated headcount represents each student counted only once, even if the student enrolled for more than one quarter or at more than one college during the year.
- A total of 65,437 (47 percent) state-supported FTES were generated by students enrolled for workforce education (upgrading job skills or preparing to enter a new job field). Workforce FTES declined seven percent from the previous year and 16 percent from the record high enrollment in 2010-11.
- In 2014-15, community and technical colleges served 10,987 Worker Retraining students (6,751 FTES). This represents a 13 percent decrease in students from the prior year, largely a result of the improving economy.
- Students who were preparing to transfer to four-year institutions accounted for 54,876 FTES (40 percent). Students enrolled with an immediate goal of basic education generated 13,931 FTES (10 percent): The programs under this area are Adult Basic Education (ABE), English as a Second Language (ESL), High School Equivalency (HSE) preparation, or High School Completion (HSC) programs.
- Colleges enrolled 44,990 FTES in eLearning instruction, an increase of seven percent from 2013-14. Online learning comprises 62 percent of eLearning and increased by four percent. Hybrid, which combines online with some face-to-face, was 37 percent of all eLearning. Colleges enrolled 16,570 FTES as hybrid, an increase of 13 percent from the prior year.
- In 2014-15, nearly 22,000 Running Start students — high school students earning high school and college credit simultaneously — accounted for 16,371 FTES. Another 4,814 high school students (1,087 FTES) enrolled in college classes offered at their high school through College in the High School programs (CHS) and 3,793 high school students (1,912 FTES) enrolled in alternative high school programs offered at the colleges.
- Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) pairs ABE or ESL with workforce training that earns college credit. In 2014-15, 3,937 students were enrolled for 2,178 FTES in programs in fields such as allied health, welding, automotive, and early childhood education.
- Fifteen colleges offered upper division course work for 35 applied bachelor's degrees. FTES from all funding sources including non-matriculated students were 1,037. This was a significant increase of nearly sixty percent from the prior year and a fifty percent increase in the number of programs offered.
- In 2014-15, 17,724 individuals were employed in state-supported positions in Washington community and technical colleges. This included faculty, classified staff, administrative, and other professionals, and equaled 13,944 full-time equivalents and 52 percent faculty positions.
- System expenditures totaled more than \$1.34 billion. Forty-five percent came from general and special state funds.
- Capital appropriations for the 2014-16 biennium totaled \$274.6 million. The 30 college districts own just over 19 million square feet of facilities and 3,036 acres of land.

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# Introduction

## The Report

The *Academic Year Report 2014-15* provides a snapshot of funding, facilities, staffing, and enrollments in Washington's community and technical colleges for the past academic year. The report also describes key measures of student outcomes and addresses the most frequently asked questions related to expenditures, personnel, and students. Additional demographic information regarding community and technical college students is available in the AYR 2014-15's companion publication: *Fall 2014 Enrollment and Staffing Report*.

The primary source of information for this document is the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges' (SBCTC) Data Warehouse, which is derived from the common management information systems used by all community and technical colleges in the state.

## The Washington Community and Technical College System

Washington's Community and Technical College Act of 1991 provides for a state system of community and technical colleges separate from public secondary schools and four-year institutions. The act requires community colleges "offer an open door to every citizen, regardless of his or her academic background or experiences, at a cost normally within his or her economic means" (RCW 28B.50.020(1)).

Each college district is required to "offer thoroughly comprehensive educational, training and service programs to meet the needs of both the communities and students served by combining high standards of excellence in academic transfer courses; realistic and practical courses in occupational education, both graded and ungraded; community services of an educational, cultural, and recreational nature; and adult education" (RCW 28B.50.020(2)). Technical colleges are exempt from the requirement to offer academic transfer courses. Each district is governed by a board of five trustees appointed to five-year terms by the Governor with the consent of the senate.

Washington's first junior college was founded in 1915 in Everett, when 42 students started a one-year college program on the top floor of Everett High School. It closed in 1923 because of a lack of students. Centralia College, the state's oldest continuously operating community college, opened in 1925. It was followed by Skagit Valley College in 1926, Yakima Valley College in 1928, and Grays Harbor College in 1930. Between 1933 and 1941, four more community colleges began operation in Washington: Clark College in 1933, Lower Columbia in 1934, Wenatchee Valley in 1939 and Everett in 1941. The colleges', all locally administered and funded, combined enrollment was approximately 1,000 students.

The Seattle School District opened Edison Vocational School in 1930, the state's first true, public vocational school. The Spokane School District followed suit in 1939, by establishing the Spokane Trade School. Both schools eventually became community colleges. The oldest existing vocational technical institute (VTI), Tacoma's Bates VTI, opened in 1940. VTIs subsequently opened in Lakewood (Clover Park), Pasco (Columbia Basin), Renton, Vancouver (Clark), Kirkland (Lake Washington), Olympia (South Puget Sound) and Bellingham. The VTIs in Pasco, Vancouver and Olympia became community colleges.

Between 1925 and 1941, Washington state made three attempts to provide public financial support for junior colleges. State support was provided for the first time by the 1941 Legislature. However, that act restricted the number and location of junior colleges, prohibiting their establishment in counties having either a public or private four-year institution. In 1945, junior colleges were made a part of their local school districts and supported through their funding. This was also the case with vocational technical institutes until 1991.

In 1961, the restrictions against expansion of community colleges were removed by the Legislature and junior colleges were designated as "community" colleges. Community colleges' financing was separated from that of local school districts in 1963. In 1965, the Legislature declared its intention to establish a separate, independent community college system. Based on the recommendations of the Arthur D. Little Company, the 1967 Legislature adopted the Community College Act of 1967, which the Governor signed on April 3 of that year.

The structure of the community college system remained largely intact until 1991. That year, as part of the Workforce Training and Education Act, the Legislature amended the Community College Act of 1967. It was designated it as the Community and Technical College Act of 1991.

The state's five remaining public vocational technical institutes were designated as "technical colleges," removing them from the jurisdiction of their local school districts, and instead including them with the community colleges into the community and technical college system. Each technical college was provided with its own college district and board of trustees. Technical college districts overlap with the districts of neighboring community colleges. The State Board for Community College Education was renamed the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges in the act.

The Community and Technical College Act of 1991 also brought the Seattle Vocational Institute (SVI) into the Seattle Community College District. SVI, previously known as the Washington Institute of Applied Technology from its establishment by the Legislature in 1987, was housed in a facility once occupied by the Seattle Occupational Industrialization Center. SVI serves economically disadvantaged people in Seattle's Central district, providing job-related training for adults and contract training for local businesses.

In 1994, the Legislature approved the establishment of the 30th college district, Cascadia Community College. The new district began enrolling state-supported students in fall 2000. In 1999, Pierce College Puyallup became the system's 34th college, when the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges granted it college status as part of the Pierce District.

In 2005, the Legislature gave the State Board authority to offer applied baccalaureate programs in a pilot program at selected community and technical colleges. The 2010 Legislature removed the pilot status and gave the State Board authority to approve community and technical college applied baccalaureate degree programs.

In 2009, the Legislature allowed the five technical colleges to offer transfer degrees that prepare students for professional bachelor's degrees in addition to offering technical degrees. The 2010 Legislature removed the pilot status; and in 2012 the Legislature gave the State Board authority to approve community and technical college applied baccalaureate degree programs. Spokane Institute for Extended Learning merged with Spokane Community College in 2014.

## Washington Community and Technical Colleges

