

# Legislative News

Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

March 10, 2006

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## Legislature passes supplemental budget

The Legislature ended the 2006 session a day early with a budget that addresses the needs of state parks users, students struggling with the WASL, the working poor, minor league ball fields, higher education and more.

Many of the needs of two-year colleges were addressed, including money to launch applied bachelor's degrees and funding to expand customized training for businesses across the state.

## Operating Budget

### Access

**M&O:** The legislative budget provides two-year colleges with \$5.2 million for maintenance and operations of its new state-funded facilities that will be occupied in the 2005-07 biennium. Funding is also included for instructional facilities that were financed with Certificates of Participation.

**Applied Bachelor's Degrees:** The legislative budget provides \$400,000 for planning funds and \$504,000 for ongoing costs for four applied baccalaureate degree programs.

**University Contracts:** The budget provides \$156,000 for university partnerships, in addition to funding provided for 2005-07 general growth enrollments. The university contracts' 120 FTES are to be covered within the already appropriated SBCTC fiscal year 2007 new enrollments. The enrollment support funding per FTE is provided at \$1,300, which is the difference between the \$5,000 already appropriated for growth enrollments and the \$6,300 rate requested by the State Board.

**Opportunity Grants:** The budget allocates \$4.1 million to implement the Opportunity Grant pilot project. The project would provide additional financial aid, through grants, to low-income students attending community and technical colleges.

**High Demand:** Funding is provided for 187 enrollments at community and technical colleges at an average of \$8,000 per student. High demand applies to

programs where enrollment is limited and employers are experiencing difficulty finding qualified job applications to fill job openings.

**NSIS:** The legislative budget provides funds to expand access to higher education in North Snohomish, Island, and Skagit counties. The university contracts' 250 FTES are to be covered within the already appropriated SBCTC fiscal year 2007 new enrollments. The enrollment support funding per FTE is provided at \$1,300, which is the difference between the \$5,000 already appropriated for growth enrollments and the \$6,300 rate requested by the State Board.

**Transition Math Project:** The project received \$275,000 to continue addressing the need to reduce remedial math courses taken at the colleges.

**Firefighter Apprenticeship:** The budget provides \$150,000 for the firefighter apprenticeship program.

**Healthcare Partnerships:** The budget provides \$150,000 in matching funds for work provided under contract to the State Board office for development of strategic statewide partnerships to address the health workforce shortage.

**Natural Gas:** One-time funding (\$761,000) is included to offset price increases in natural gas rates during fiscal year 2006.

**Smart Buy:** The budget exempts two-year colleges from a budget cut related to the Smart Buy program.

## Compensation

**COLAs:** Funding is included to implement the 2.8 percent cost-of-living increase as specified by Initiative 732 for fiscal year 2007.

## This Week in The News...

- Bill round-up and final cut-off
- Senate action on gubers
- Hearing highlights

**Increments:** Increment funding (\$1.5 million) is provided for fiscal year 2007 to be allocated proportionally to part-time and full-time faculty based on their respective salary bases.

**Health benefits:** The budget includes \$768,000 to maintain employer-paid health benefits during summer quarter for eligible part-time faculty.

**Classification Revision:** The budget provides \$193,000 to cover the increased cost of the classification revisions as negotiated through collective bargaining for represented community college classified employees.

**Pensions:** Funding of \$1.56 million is provided from the new pension funding stabilization account to pay for increased employer pension contribution rates for employees in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) and the Teachers Retirement System (TRS). These increased contributions will address shortfalls in PERS Plan 1 and TRS Plan 1.

**Nursing Salaries:** The budget provides \$140,000 to implement a nursing faculty retention and recruitment pilot project. The project would raise nursing faculty salaries by \$10,000 for fiscal year 2007 at Yakima Valley Community College and another community college located in the western part of the state.

## Economic Development

**Customized Workforce Training:** The budget provides \$3.15 million to implement the Customized Workforce Training program, including the creation of skills standards. Employers will be able to repay these training costs over 18 months, and are eligible for a tax credit.

**Job Skills Program:** The budget includes \$1 million to expand the Job Skills Program.

## Capital Budget

**Infrastructure Projects:** Funding of \$5,570,000 is included for the four infrastructure projects requested by the State Board for Highline Community College – Skagit Valley College, Green River Community College and Seattle Central Community College.

(Seattle Central receives funding for design and permitting this biennium.)

**NSIS:** Capital funds of \$4,169,000 are included in the budget to purchase property and design expansion of the Undergraduate Education Center at Everett Community College, and design expansion of the science replacement project at Skagit Valley College to accommodate the North Snohomish, Island and Skagit County consortium.

**Certificates of Participation:** Certificates of Participation were approved for Edmonds Community College, Clark College and Columbia Basin College. Walla Walla Community College received approval for its technical change. Bellevue Community College received approval to remove its project.

**Gnomon repair:** The State Arts Commission budget includes \$5,000 for a competitive grant for the redesign and repair of the gnomon on the capital campus sundial. All Washington public community and technical colleges are encouraged to submit design proposals to the Washington State Arts commission by December 31, 2006. Final selection shall be made by the commission.

The budget bills now go to Governor Gregoire, where she has 20 days to take action.

## One signature away from becoming law – the final bill round-up

Since the last edition of *Legislative News*, the following bills of interest to the two-year colleges were passed by the Legislature and delivered to Governor Gregoire for signature.

### Tuition Waivers

**Rep. Dan Kristiansen**, R-Snohomish sponsored **Substitute House Bill 2233**, which directs institutions of higher education to participate in outreach activities to increase the number of veterans who receive tuition waivers.

### Students, financial aid and high school completion

**Substitute House Bill 2973**, sponsored by **Rep. Skip Priest**, R-Federal Way, creates a career and technical high school graduation option for students meeting state standards in fundamental academic content areas. Under the proposed legislation, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction must consult with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, employers,

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the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, apprenticeship programs, and other regional and national experts in career and technical education to develop the work samples for career and technical education programs.

**Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe**, D-Bothell, sponsored **Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6475**, authorizing the Superintendent of Public Instruction to implement alternative methods of assessment and appeal processes for the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) to demonstrate a student's achievement of state academic standards.

**Second Substitute House Bill 2002**, sponsored by **Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson**, D-Seattle, creating the Foster Youth Achievement Act, authorizes continuing foster care and support services to youths who are in state-supervised foster care on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday until they are 21 years of age. In order to remain eligible, they must maintain a 2.0 grade point average and remain enrolled in school.

## Faculty compensation

**Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6396**, sponsored by **Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles**, D-Seattle, modifies the accumulation of sick leave accrued by part-time faculty. The bill states that part-time academic employees must be allowed to accumulate leave after the first quarter of employment at a college district and may take this leave at any time. This bill states leave accumulation will not be retroactive.

**Sen. Mark Doumit**, D-Cathlamet sponsored **Senate Bill 6411**, increasing the maximum allowable term for certain collective bargaining agreements from three to up to six years. This affects the bargaining at local governments and technical colleges.

## Workforce training and economic development

**Rep. Derek Kilmer**, D-Gig Harbor (and Tacoma Community College trustee) sponsored **Second Substitute House Bill 2498**, which instructs the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development to work with industry and cluster associations and other organizations in the development of industry cluster-based strategies for economic development. Under the bill, a competitive grant program (up to \$100,000 per applicant) would be created to assist communities to fund activities designed to further regional cluster growth.

**Second Substitute House Bill 2789**, sponsored by **Rep. Dave Quall**, D-Mount Vernon, expands apprenticeship opportunities for high school graduates.

**Second Substitute Senate Bill 6326**, sponsored by **Sen. Paull Shin**, D-Edmonds, creates the Washington Customized Employment Training Program.

The program would provide assistance to businesses wanting to locate or expand in Washington state by allowing employers to receive training allowances to cover the costs of training their employees. To qualify for the allowances, employers would execute customized training contracts with community and technical colleges or licensed private career and technical schools.

The employer would pay back one-quarter of the training allowance upon completion of the training and pay the remaining three-quarters of the allowance within 18 months. The employer would be granted a business and occupation tax credit for 50 percent of the value of their payments. The bill gives preference to employers with fewer than 50 employees.

## Priorities for higher education

**Substitute House Bill 2817**, sponsored by **Rep. Mike Sells**, D-Everett, places a statewide emphasis on enrollments and degrees in the fields of engineering, technology, biotechnology, science, computer science and mathematics.

**Engrossed Senate Bill 6194**, sponsored by **Sen. Rosa Franklin**, D-Tacoma, requires educational programs that train health care providers to incorporate multicultural health training into the curricula.

## Expanding access to higher education

**Substitute House Bill 3113**, sponsored by **Rep. Mike Sells**, D-Everett, expands access to higher education using the university-center model in the North Snohomish, Island and Skagit (NSIS) region. Under the bill, funding for 250 full-time equivalent students is provided to the NSIS consortium, and a report to the Legislature regarding enrollments and degrees by July 1, 2007 is required.

Sponsored by **Rep. Phyllis Gutierrez-Kenney**, D-Seattle, **Substitute House Bill 2867** expands access to bachelor's degrees in the Tri-Cities area by allowing WSU Tri-Cities to expand into a four-year institution.

## State government

The Department of Early Learning was created by **Second Substitute House Bill 2964**, sponsored by **Rep. Ruth Kagi**, D-Lake Forest. The new agency will bring together existing services to better serve the needs of early childhood education.

## Forty-four trustees and one State Board member confirmed by the full Senate

When the Legislature convened in January, legislators were facing a backlog of 83 two-year college trustees and State Board members waiting for confirmation.

**Sen. Craig Pridemore**, D-Vancouver stepped up to the plate by holding additional confirmation hearings on Monday evenings for two-year college appointees. He moved those appointments through the **Senate Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education Committee** and on to the **Rules Committee**.

For the first time, the Senate batched their roll-call votes by college, which allowed more trustees to get through the process in a shorter period of time. **Sen. Phil Rockefeller**, D-Kitsap County played an instrumental role moving votes on the Senate floor.

“I give Senators Pridemore and Rockefeller great credit for working so hard to get so many of our trustees confirmed,” said **Cindy Hough**, State Board legislative liaison and administrator to the Trustees Association for Community and Technical Colleges. “They worked as champions for our appointees.”

The final confirmation status for the State Board and each college is:

### State Board

Lyle Quasim..... Confirmed  
Jane Nishita ..... Calendar  
Reuven Carlyle..... Rules

### Bates

Karen Seinfeld ..... Confirmed  
Michael Grunwald ..... Confirmed  
Stanley Rumbaugh..... Confirmed  
Theresa Pan ..... Rules  
Carolyn Lake ..... Gov’s office

### Bellevue

Steve Miller..... Calendar

### Bellingham

Yvonne Bianchi..... Rules  
Sonia Arevalo-Hayes ..... Calendar  
James Cunningham..... Calendar

### Big Bend

Katherine Kenison ..... Confirmed  
Michael Blakely ..... Confirmed  
Cecilia Deluna-Geta ..... Gov’s office

### Cascadia

Mark Wolfram ..... Confirmed  
Michael Martino ..... Confirmed  
Roy Wilkinson ..... Confirmed  
Jean Magladry ..... Confirmed  
Julie Davidson ..... In committee

### Centralia

George Mohoric..... Calendar  
Judy Guenther ..... Calendar

### Clark

Addison Jacobs..... Confirmed  
Sherry Parker ..... Confirmed

### Clover Park

Robert Lenigan ..... Rules

### Columbia Basin

Wayne Martin..... Confirmed  
Enriqueta Mayuga..... Confirmed  
Josie Villa..... Confirmed  
R. Gary Culbert ..... Confirmed  
Salvador Beltran..... Confirmed

### Edmonds

Mauri Moore ..... Confirmed  
Richard VanHollebeke ..... Calendar

### Everett

James Shipman ..... Calendar  
Carlos Veliz..... Calendar

### Grays Harbor

Carol Carlstad..... Confirmed  
Fawn Sharp-Malvini..... Confirmed  
John Warring ..... Confirmed  
Rebecca Chaffee..... Confirmed

### Green River

Arlista Holman ..... Calendar  
Lawton Case ..... Gov’s office

### Highline

Elizabeth Chen ..... Confirmed  
Karen Vander Ark ..... Confirmed  
Rita Creighton..... Rules

### Lake Washington

Bruce Reid ..... Calendar  
Janis Machala..... Calendar  
Don Mukai ..... Calendar  
Jane Stein ..... Calendar

### Lower Columbia

Kay Cochran..... Confirmed  
Lyle Lovingfoss ..... Confirmed  
Thuy Vo ..... Confirmed

### Olympic

Alice Tawresey..... Confirmed  
Peter Crane ..... Confirmed

### Peninsula

Toni Aspin ..... Calendar

### Pierce

Claire Spain-Remy ..... Calendar

### Renton Tech

Ira SanGupta ..... Confirmed  
Richard Zwicker ..... Confirmed

### Seattle

Don Root ..... Gov’s office

**Shoreline**

Shoubee Liaw..... Confirmed  
 Richard Stucky..... Confirmed  
 Gidget Terpstra ..... Confirmed

**Skagit**

Margaret Rojas..... Confirmed  
 Tom Moser ..... Gov's office

**South Puget Sound**

Barbara Clarkson ..... Confirmed  
 Judy Blinn..... Confirmed  
 Brian Vance..... In committee

**Spokane**

Ben Cabildo..... Confirmed  
 Carol Landa-McVicker ..... Confirmed  
 Patty Shea ..... Gov's office

**Tacoma**

Marilyn Walton ..... Confirmed

**Walla Walla**

Kristine Klaveano..... Calendar

**Wenatchee**

James Tiffany ..... Calendar  
 William McDowell ..... Calendar  
 Kris Pomianek ..... Calendar  
 Darlene Wilder ..... Calendar

**Whatcom**

Barbara Rofkar..... Calendar  
 Charles Robinson..... In committee  
 Susan Cole..... In committee

**Yakima Valley**

James Carvo..... Confirmed  
 Larry Sanchez ..... Confirmed  
 Lisa Parker ..... Confirmed  
 Patricia Whitefoot..... Confirmed  
 Paul McDonald..... Confirmed

**Hearing Highlights:**

**Tracking student progress from K-12 through higher ed**

The **House Higher Education and Workforce Education Committee** invited members of the **House Education Committee** to a work session on March 3 to hear a summary of various data systems used to track student progress from K-12 through higher education.

Speaking on behalf of the two-year college system, SBCTC Assistant Director for Education Services **Loretta Seppanen** explained the system's data warehouse tracks not only student inputs, how they progress through colleges and their status upon leaving, but also what happens to students after college.

She added that joint research projects involve data shared as well as collaborative work between institutions and agencies, leading to common understanding of student progress and success measures.

Several of the collaborative partners also described their data systems including Deputy Superintendent for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction **Marty Daybell**, Executive Director of the Council of Presidents **Terry Teale** who spoke on behalf of the public baccalaureate institutions, and Associate Director of the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board **Bryan Wilson**.

Members heard additional reports from Deputy Director of the Higher Education Coordinating Board **Joann Wiszmann** and Chief of Forecasting for the Office of Financial Management **Irv Lefberg**. Committee chair **Rep. Phyllis Gutierrez-Kenny**, D-Seattle indicated the topic for the interim would be consideration of the respective role the HECB and OFM regarding student tracking data.