

Why should community and technical colleges offer applied bachelor's degree pilot programs?

- Statewide, companies need a more skilled workforce to stay competitive. Many occupations that once required less than a two-year college education now require an associates or bachelor's degree.
- Employees with two-year degrees want to move up in their careers with bachelor's degrees designed for their industry.
- Employees need these industry-focused degrees offered in their communities where they live and work.
- Only those degrees that meet a targeted industry need will receive authorization to be a pilot program.
- These degrees won't duplicate efforts – they'll be responsive to unmet demands.
- Washington is well below other states in the number of technical degree graduates continuing on to earn bachelor's degrees.
- Through the pilots, the strengths of the CTC system will be used without losing the focus on open door access.

Why should two-year colleges contract with universities to offer bachelor's degrees pilot programs?

- CTCs and universities are already working well together. The pilot university contracts would utilize the strengths of the CTCs and four-year institutions, and build on the partnerships.
- Two-year colleges can lead this effort because they know the needs of their local communities. The pilots create greater incentive for the university partners to respond to these local needs.
- Placebound students need more opportunity to complete their bachelor's degrees at home.
- In a recent survey, a majority of students already at a community college said they would like to continue for their bachelor's degree at the same location rather than going away for further education.