

STATE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chelsea Mason-Placek, chair // Martin Valadez, vice chair // Bernal Baca // Ben Bagherpour // Crystal Donner // Mack Hogans // Jay Reich // Kady Titus // Fred Whang

Paul Francis, executive director // Julie Walter, executive assistant

Statutory Authority: Laws of 1991, Chapter 28B.50 Revised Code of Washington

Regular Meeting: Thursday, June 27, 2024 // 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 841 0069 5051

State Board Members Present: Ben Bagherpour, Crystal Donner, Mack Hogans, Chelsea Mason-Placek, Jay Reich, Kady Titus Martin Valadez, and Fred Whang

State Board Members Absent: Bernal Baca

Welcome

Chair Mason-Placek called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed those present.

Establish a Quorum and Adoption of Agenda

Chair Mason-Placek noted that a quorum was present and requested a motion to adopt the agenda.

MOTION: Moved by Board Member Donner, seconded by Vice Chair Valadez, and unanimously approved by the board, the adoption of the June 27, 2024 regular meeting agenda.

Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Edmonds College: Request to include local capital expenditure authority financed by a Certificate of Participation (COP) in 2025-27 SBCTC capital budget request
Resolution 24-06-31
- b. Columbia Basin College: Request to include local capital expenditure authority financed by a Certificate of Participation (COP) in 2025-27 SBCTC capital request to construct new student housing facility
Resolution 24-06-32
- c. Columbia Basin College: Science Wing renovation local expenditure authority increase
Resolution 24-06-33
- d. Spokane Falls Community College: Local capital expenditure authority to design and construct Lodge building renovations
Resolution 24-06-34
- e. Yakima Valley College: Property acquisition
Resolution 24-06-35
- f. Olympic College: Ground lease to Western Washington University
Resolution 24-06-36
- g. Instructure/Canvas contract renewal
Resolution 24-06-37

- h. 2024-25 Correction Education Interagency Agreement
Resolution 24-06-38
- i. SBCTC meeting minutes: May 9, 2024

MOTION: Moved by Vice Chair Valadez, seconded by Board Member Donner, and unanimously approved by the board, the adoption of the June 27, 2024 consent agenda.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Election of 2024-25 State Board chair and vice chair

In accordance with current State Board bylaws, the election of officers is to be held by June of each year.

Board Member Bagherpour gave the nominating committee report and submitted the nomination of Martin Valadez for the position of the 2024-25 State Board Chair and Kady Titus for the position of the 2024-25 State Board Vice Chair.

MOTION: Moved by Board Member Bagherpour, seconded by Board Member Reich, and unanimously approved by the board, appointing Martin Valadez as the 2024-25 State Board Chair.

MOTION: Moved by Board Member Bagherpour, seconded by Board Member Reich, and unanimously approved by the board, appointing Kady Titus as the 2024-25 State Board Vice Chair.

FAFSA update

The US Department of Education has continued to face challenges with the rollout of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2024-25 academic year. There have been frequent and ongoing errors and issues with the application that have caused further delays for college financial aid offices as staff processes financial aid awards for current and new college students.

Jamie Traugott, student services and K12 alignment director, and Dani Bundy, ctclink customer support director, provided an update since the last report to the board in May, including:

- The ctclink Financial Aid Support team conducted open work sessions to assist college financial aid teams in processing Institutional Student Information Records (ISIRs), initiating the awarding of financial aid to students, and awarding of financial aid to students.
- [FAFSA Simplification 2024-2025 Known Issues in ctclink](#) is posted on the ctclink Reference Center under FAFSA Simplifications 2024-25. This resource is a compilation of known issues and bugs which have been discussed extensively with the financial aid community. Each item includes statement of impact, workaround (if any), timeline for resolution, priority level, and current status.
- [SBCTC FAFSA 2024-25 Rollout](#) webpage houses updates and resources developed for colleges, students, and partners, including:
 - FAQs for students and colleges regarding the FAFSA delay. These are frequently updated with emerging needs.
 - [FAFSA Simplification Q&A Center](#) for system staff to submit questions, requests, and

feedback to SBCTC. This will identify system needs, emerging trends, and inform strategies to address the ongoing FAFSA cycle.

- The Student Aid Outreach and Completion Initiative Pilot Program ([HB 1835](#)) has been expanded to ESD 113 (Capitol Region). This includes five new college outreach specialists to support school districts in aiding seniors in financial aid completion for the 2024-25 school year. The colleges included in ESD 113's service area are Grays Harbor College, Centralia College, and South Puget Sound Community College.
- An op-ed co-authored by Paul Francis, Ruben Flores (Council of Presidents), and Terri Standish-Kuon (Independent Colleges of Washington) appeared in the Seattle Times: [Why some WA students are still waiting for college financial aid](#)

Consideration of fiscal year 2025 workforce and student support awards and allocations (Resolution 24-06-39 and Resolution 24-06-40)

Colleges fund workforce education programs and student support programs in multiple ways, including the use of general enrollment funding and state and federal targeted funding. Each June, the State Board approves the targeted funding for the next fiscal year. Staff presented the proposed targeted federal and state contracted funding for fiscal year 2025:

- Carl D. Perkins Grant
- Early Achievers Grant
- Basic Food Employment and Training
- WorkFirst

MOTION: Moved by Board Member Bagherpour, seconded by Board Member Reich, and unanimously approved by the board the adoption of Resolution 24-06-39 approving allocating and awarding \$20,374,909 of federal and state contracted workforce training funds to community and technical colleges as presented.

MOTION: Moved by Board Member Donner, seconded by Board Member Hogans, and unanimously approved by the board the adoption of Resolution 24-06-40 allocating and awarding \$30,774,147 of federal and state contracted student support funds to community and technical colleges as presented.

Consideration of fiscal year 2025 Basic Education for Adults awards and allocations (Resolution 24-06-41)

The board heard a presentation and received a recommendation for the distribution of federal funds for Basic Education for Adults to 34 colleges and five community-based organizations based on the second year of awards resulting from the 2022-27 five-year competitive application process. These applications detail:

- Each program's alignment with their local workforce development board's memorandum of understanding.
- Alignment to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

- Progress and planning toward meeting proposed levels of service.
- Demonstrated effectiveness and planning toward meeting federal student outcome targets.
- Progress toward integration within Guided Pathways.

Colleges and community-based organizations provide assurance of specific program improvements and innovations to meet *Title II Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* requirements that reflect their own data and validated research, and these funds are collectively aligned to the Washington State Talent and Prosperity for All approved state strategic plan for the public workforce system. Funds are distributed based on a pro-rata share among providers for the following (three-year average of data):

- 50% Performance-based
 - 10% Transitions
 - 20% Total Student Achievement Points
 - 20% SAI points per student
- 50% Enrollment

MOTION: Moved by Board Member Bagherpour, seconded by Board Member Reich, and unanimously approved by the board the adoption of Resolution 24-06-41 allocating and awarding \$13,744,139 of federal adult and family literacy funds to community and technical colleges as presented.

2025-2027 operating budget priorities

The list of operating budget priorities was the outcome of a process that began earlier this year. College presidents were asked to complete a series of surveys with the participation of their leadership, trustees, faculty, staff, and student representatives. Responses were submitted by all 30 college districts, and the resulting list was representative of the diverse make up and needs of the community and technical college system in Washington state.

The collaborative process continued through discussions at Board meetings and outreach that included participation from SBCTC staff, WACTC legislative, operating budget, and equity committee members, as well as feedback from labor unions, local businesses, and students.

SBCTC staff and community and technical college presidents make the following recommendation for the 2025-27 operating budget priorities:

- **Competitive Compensation** — Increase salaries for all employee groups supported with 100% state funding. Colleges are struggling to recruit and retain faculty and staff in several areas. Recent legislatively-provided salary increases created equity gaps as some employee groups received significantly larger increases than others. These challenges cannot be addressed unless our college system receives compensation funding to help keep pace with industry and K-12.
- **Increase General Purpose Funding** — With the rising cost of doing business throughout all areas of campus operations, colleges are stretched to meet demand using existing resources. The rising costs of materials, supplies, and operation have placed major constraints on our colleges' budgets, making implementing innovative ideas challenging. While the individual campus needs may differ, all colleges are squeezed by cost increases,

restricted funding, and structural barriers that limit colleges' ability to respond to student and college operating needs.

- **Expand Capacity of Job Skills Programs** – Since 1983, Washington has invested in partnerships between colleges and employers to provide incumbent workers skills training through the Job Skills Program (RCW 28C.04.400-420). Last biennium the program enabled 17 colleges to provide 1,200 customized skills courses to 8,200 working learners across 118 Job Skills grants. Demand for Job Skills grants exceeds available funding. This fiscal year all funding was awarded by July 1, leaving 14 proposals unfunded. College continuing education leaders indicate strong interest in the program from local businesses. Additional funding would provide an opportunity to expand college participation to meet the current demands and increase the number of small, rural, and diverse owned businesses supported with training grants.

Additional common priorities included IT and cybersecurity, student services, continued diversity, equity, and inclusion work, workforce education, basic education for adults, and campus safety and security. Upon further discussion at WACTC, presidents unanimously agreed that all priorities become unobtainable if colleges are unable to meet the basic demands for services.

The board provided guidance to staff to continue development of the 2025-27 budget request for consideration at the August meeting.

ACT Report

Upcoming events

- Board of Directors Retreat: Aug. 22-23, Seattle
- New Trustee Orientation: Fall, TBD
- Legislative Action Committee Meeting: Fall, TBD
- ACCT Leadership Congress: Oct. 23-26, Seattle

WACTC Report

Tim Stokes, WACTC president, provided a preview of the July Retreat:

- Fireside Chat around Microsoft's support of the community and technical college system in Washington, followed by a panel discussion on Cybersecurity Partnerships, and wrapping up with discussions around opportunities posed by AI.
- Guided Pathways Coaching Focus Group.
- Allocation Model Review Task Force update.
- Discussion with Washington Roundtable members.
- State Board budget overview.

System Unions Report

- Suzanne Southerland, Washington Education Association (WEA), thanked everyone for the work on the part-time faculty parity report and announced the 2025 United Voices for Higher Education Lobby Day will be Jan. 30.

Executive Director Report

Paul Francis, executive director, reported on the following:

- Government-to-Government Summit: June 18, The Evergreen State College.
- Corrections education update.
- \$9.3 million National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grant to support the Tribal Stewards Program.
- Leadership Development Program.
- Part-time faculty parity report.
- ctcLink improvement plan.
 - New employee onboarding training manuals for Student Financial and Campus Solutions Core.
 - Enhancement Request (ER) prioritization process.
- State Director's Retreat: July 21-24.
- June 24 All Staff Day of Learning:
 - Writing Your First Grant Proposal
 - Introduction to Coaching
 - New Employee Check In
- Linda Kaminski's retirement from Yakima Valley College after 27 years as president.

Board Discussion and Chair's Report

- The board recognized Chair Mason-Placek for her service as the 2023-24 State Board Chair.
- Committee/Task Force updates.
 - Evaluation Committee: The committee continues the interviews with various stakeholders.
 - Long-Term Advocacy Task Force: The task force met on May 20 and discussed the upcoming session.
 - Strategic Action Plan Task Force: No report.
- Chair Mason-Placek thanked the board members for their time and State Board staff for their presentations.

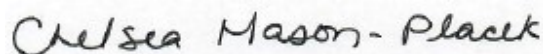
Adjournment/next meeting

There being no further business, the State Board adjourned its June 27, 2024 regular meeting at 12:35 p.m. The next regular meeting will be Aug. 29, 2024 at Suncadia.

Attest



Paul Francis, secretary



Chelsea Mason-Placek, chair