 Council for Basic Skills

January 27, 2023, Meeting Minutes

# Call to order

A meeting of the Council for Basic Skills (CBS) held a virtual meeting on January 27, 2023. Meeting Materials on SBCTC – [CBS website](https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/commissions-councils/cbs/meeting-cbs-2018-04.aspx).

# Attendees:

Jeff Williams-Airway Heights, Angela Driver-Bates, Darrell Haynes-Bellevue, Judi Wise-BTC, Jody Bortz-BBCC, Lyn Eisenhour-Cascadia, Kerry Urquizo & Lindsey Garcia-Centralia, Heidi Summers, Sara Gallow & Kristin Sherwood-Clark, Jenna Pollock & Felicia Dennis-CPTC, Daphne Larios & Erin Holloway-CBC, Sandi Phinney-CASC, Nicole Galipeau & Christine Kobayashi-EDCC, Katie Jensen-EVCC, Martin Reimer-GHC, Lionel Candido Flores & Kit Alston-GRC, Steve Washburn-Highline, Kelli Graham & Judy Faast-Hopelink, Kelly Cover-Tan & Maria Olivera-Deal-LWIT, Cat Howell-Lit.Source, Theresa Stalick-LCC, Curtis Bonney-NSC, Amanda Piesik, Mary Ly-Nguyen & Teresa McDermott-Olympic, Amie Batton-Peninsula, Rebecca Chase & Sam Nelson-RTC, Katie Heizenrader & Sy Ear-Sea.Central, Jonathan Molinaro, Paprika Fahrenwald, Taraji Belgacem, Zoe Withered & Mary Lockman-Shoreline, Alison Fernandez & Frances Boydstun-SVC, Jennifer Barber-SPSCC, John Bowers-So.Seattle, Sherri Fujita & Sarah Stiffler-Spokane, Jayme Peterson-Stafford Creed, Kim Flack & Rebecca Jayasundara-TCC, Amy Diehr-TCH, Carol Fitzgerald-WA State Penn, Riva Morgan, Mario Reyes & Julie Fitch-WVC, Dawn Kroontje & Tobi Martinez-Whatcom, and Marc Coomer-YVC

# Liaisons:

Michael Lee-IC Rep from CBC, Gerie Ventura-Library Rep from Highline and Jenni Martin-WEC Rep from Spokane Community College

# Members not in attendance:

Yifan Sun-Bates, Maria Ethier-Clallam Bay & Olympic Corrections, Denise Kammers-Coyote Ridge Corrections Center, Billy Potter-Larch Corrections Center, Sultana Shabazz-Mission Creek/WA Corrections Center for Women, Jamie Calley-Monroe Correctional Complex, Lori Griffin-Pierce College, and Christy Doyle-WWCC

# Business meeting

Approval of Minutes – October 2022– MOTION made to approve the October minutes as submitted/seconded and approved with no abstentions.

Treasurers Report – Will be emailed out along with the 2022-23 dues invoice.

# New business

## IC Update

Jenni Martin shared what IC has been working on these Call’s to Action:

* Developing standardized work plan templates
* Standardized testing – can we use our college accreditation, where we are accountable to the Northwest Commission for assessment vs. a standardized test?
* Serving Ukrainian refugees – we recognize that they are coming in with skills and credentials, they are highly educated in their home country. What can we do as a system to connect and engage and help students transition after the acquisition is completed or completed, a level where they can support our community? How can we connect our students with some continuing education opportunities to help them with their credentials?

IC wants to help get this on the Continuing Education Councils radar and advocate for funding to help our students move into jobs. There’s no reason for a credentialed nurse from Ukraine should have to go through our nursing program again to become a nurse in Washington, that’s ridiculous.

* What do you think about Running Start for Adults? What do you think about your high school program with looking and giving opportunity for your adults who are re-engaging with us and giving them an opportunity to earn both high school credit and college credit? Pierce College has figured this out, and we need to look at this as a system – this is an equity issue for our system.
* Scaling Ability to Benefit Statewide
* $25 tuition, is it necessary for what it costs the college administratively – is it worth the bang for the buck?

## CASAS COABE presentation

The Innovations Committee shared a presentation that they will be doing in April at the National COABE Conference. Will Durden will begin the presentation to provide context of what Washington State is like and make sure they understand that we are housed within the community and technical college and community-based organization system and provide a bit of history of our accountability system, and that we're not trying to move backwards in accountability, but we are trying to move differently in accountability. In a way that is more student centered and more equitable.

He will present some data about our employment and earnings outcomes, as they have been very stable pre and post pandemic. So, we’re trying to demonstrate that by looking at our employment and earnings outcomes, the MSG’s don’t really tell the story of our success.

Our point is that we want more choices than just CASAS for placement, not the elimination of it as a program choice. We want to talk about the rationale for what we're asking for, and have people understand, why are we asking for it and the reason behind it and then we're going to go by different organizations that are going to be presenting.

Some of the multiple measures we've identified we're using across the system: NRS aligned level completions, NRS aligned productive tests (speaking and writing), GED® tests, Directed self-placements. How we can use activities and assessments or modules that are tied to the Career and College Readiness Standards that show mastery of a standard or an outcome should in and of itself be enough to use to have a measurable skill gain.

We are trying to build a national trend/group who are interested in pursuing this with us, so that we can take this to OCTAE for a potential pilot. This could happen if WIOA is reauthorized by getting language in there to authorize a pilot which is really what we would be looking at so that they could study these methods. Our other option we believe is within WIOA to authorize and innovative pilot such as this and try to get the feds to trigger that option and invoke that section that would involve releasing funds to pay for the study. We would need to set up who the researchers would be, who the evaluators would be, there would be many components in that way.

## SBCTC Updates

### Federal News

* Additional $25 million nationally for Adult Education (Title II)
* Alternatives to Testing Progress Update

### State Updates

* New Arrival Funds – has all been spent and we are trying to find additional funding. Please continue to send your requests to Will as this helps him to also tell the need for the funding.
* Continuation Grants Update – we are still waiting for OCTAE’s approval to release the Continuation Grant
  + GEPA Statement – look for an email from us to collect your GEPA statements, we failed to collect those last year and we need to collect them for this year. This is a statement that already exists at your institution, so it is just a matter of uploading it into OGMS.
* WABERS+ Reminder – continue to reach out to the WABERS+ help desk when you've got policy questions, procedure questions. If you've got new folks, new staff, who are trying to get train or used to that, that's what we're here for so continue to reach out – that’s what we are here for!

## Action Items/Recap:

1. Look for the CBS meeting evaluation and get the back to us.
2. Keep in mind alternatives to CASAS Testing
3. Funding for Ukrainian refugees and not just that, but also what we can do as a system to help the students who are in our programming either transition to college programming or into careers that they're already qualified to be involved.
4. High School Dual Credit
5. Scaling Ability to Benefit
6. Some kind of advocacy to ARC about allowing basic skills to use the quick admit function
7. The Continuation Grant will be coming soon
8. Reach out to [MarcusAntonio](mailto:magunn@sbctc.edu) if you want to take part in the Math Pathways Training

## CBS 2022-23 Meeting Schedule

* May 18 & 19, 2023 – Columbia Basin College in Pasco – In-person meeting