



May 27, 2020

Dear Graduating Senior,

Congratulations! Graduating from high school is a big accomplishment. You put years of effort into your education and becoming the person you are today. This is a day to celebrate!

The world right now doesn't look like what any of us expected, but that doesn't diminish your accomplishment. Graduation is a major milestone. It's a moment for you to look back at your hard work and accomplishments, and it's also a moment for you to look forward to your next steps. What are your goals for your life? Your career? With your family and friends?

If you have already decided what you'll do in the coming years, whether it's heading to one of our outstanding colleges or universities in Washington – or one out of state – joining the military, pursuing an apprenticeship, or going to work, congratulations and best wishes to you!

If you haven't already made plans or if your plans for the coming years are changing, know that we're here to support you. As you begin the next phase of your journey, we encourage you to consider enrolling in your local community or technical college. There is a place for you!

Washington State's community and technical colleges are ranked number one in the nation for the percentage of transfer students who begin at a community or technical college and earn a bachelor's degree. It is a great way to get started on the next stage of your life. If you want to earn your bachelor's degree, learn a skill, be an apprentice, or find out what college is like, colleges have classes and programs for you. Their small classes will meet you, challenge you, and take you to a higher level. They are supportive and affordable. Faculty love what they do – you'll learn from them and your classmates, and they'll learn from you.

Ready to get started? Check out your local college's website and social media or take a look at **sbctc.edu** to find out more about what colleges have to offer and the kinds of classes you can take.

You'll also need to apply for financial aid, even if you think you don't qualify. Go to **wsac.wa.gov/apply** to find applications and learn about what's available help you pay for college.

Again, congratulations on graduating! We're proud of you. Now that you're starting your journey into the world, make sure you continue to learn, make friends, and create memories, just like you did throughout school. You made it, and we can't wait to see what you'll do next!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Yoshiwara".

Jan Yoshiwara
Executive Director
Washington State Board for Community and
Technical Colleges

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris P.S. Reykdal".

Chris Reykdal
Superintendent
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction