

Closing our region's skills gap by increasing access post-secondary credentials for our youth.

Presented to the King County Council | Amy Morrison Goings, EdD. President
LWTech

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Urgent skills gap is impeding prosperity for our youth

Today only 31% of high school graduates are going on to earn a post-secondary credential. In order to meet our region's job openings in the next five years, 70% of our youth must earn a post-secondary credential.

Decade long disinvestment in community and technical colleges is exacerbating the skills gap

This skills gap is exacerbated by dramatic cuts to two-year colleges since the recession, over \$100M in operating funds. LWTech lost nearly 40% of its operating budget. Some positive strides were made in the 2017 session but recent operating gains at LWTech have been undermined by the inability to pass a capital budget.

2/3rds of these jobs require some form of post-secondary credential, not only a baccalaureate degree

The 17 community and technical colleges serving 103,000 FTEs annually are ready to work with you to close the gap.

Preparing Washington Kids for Washington Jobs

TODAY'S REALITY

31%

of Washington High School Students Go on to Earn a Postsecondary Credential

OUR GOAL: BY 2030

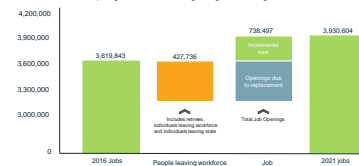
70%

of Washington Students Earn a Postsecondary Credential By Age 26

Note: Current postsecondary attainment rate based on credential attainment of public high school students within seven years of the expected high school graduation, class of 2006.
Source: Washington Roundtable Analysis of data from Education Research & Data Center and CBO.

~740K job openings in Washington state
between 2016–2021

Outpacing national forward-looking average and Washington historical trends



WA growth is ~3x US projected growth rate; 1.2x WA historical growth rate

U.S. projects 0.6% employment growth rate from 2014-2024. Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis. Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD) 2016.

We know what works

On behalf of the 17 community and technical colleges in Pierce, King, and Snohomish counties, we know how to remove barriers to student success.

We look forward to working with you to make critical investments in access to youth education and success.

Key references for future planning:

Washington Roundtable:
<http://www.waroundtable.com/policy-center/>

Opportunity Grant Program:
<https://www.sbctc.edu/resources/documents/about-acts-pubs/opportunity-grant.pdf>

South Seattle College's 13th Year:
<http://www.southseattle.edu/13th-year/>



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