



Washington Community and Technical College Student Association

2019 Legislative Action Agenda

The following issues were developed during the 2018 Legislative Voice Academy by the Washington Community & Technical College Student Association (WACTCSA). This agenda represents the issues community and technical college (CTC) students have identified as their highest priorities for advocacy during the 2018-2019 academic and legislative session.

Legislative Issue

New Hope for Previously Incarcerated Students

The State should support legislation that limits disclosure of a student's criminal past on social and human service applications to encourage reintegrating students to apply for services that impact academic achievement; like housing and food assistance. This action can increase employment and housing opportunities, reduce recidivism, and decrease racial disparity in the criminal justice system. Further, this action will help students enroll in college and support academic completion. Regardless of a criminal background CTC students deserve equal opportunity and access to social services regardless of their criminal background.

Textbooks and Open Educational Resources (O.E.R.s) Affordability and Accessibility

The legislature should establish greater incentives and funding for educators and professors to facilitate OER development; an effective and proven process. CTC students are continually concerned about prohibitive costs of educational resources for most courses offered in the CTC system. CTC students want equitable access to affordable content to support their education; when not available, students seek other alternatives or do not purchase books. We appreciate former legislative action to support the development of OERs but more is needed.

College Affordability

The legislature should expand access to in-state tuition programs and adopt an innovative model that supports academic completion for CTC students. A high school diploma is no longer enough to give a person equal access to quality jobs; studies show that by 2020 65% of all jobs in the U.S. will require post-secondary education. To meet this demand, every resident of Washington State should have an equitable opportunity to pursue higher education. This makes our workforce more competitive and strengthens our State's economy.

System Issue

Address College Campus Food Insecurity

The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges should create a study focused on developing best practices and policies focused on CTC college campus food pantries and electronic debit systems for statewide adoption. Currently, CTC Student Associations are at various stages of pantry development. Responding to these concerns using a common set of guidelines or best practices would enhance streamlining efforts to combat food insecurities. Schools currently do not have guidance on partnering and/or networking with local agencies. Additionally, students are more in need of access to EBT transactions; as campus stays are longer due to spread out course schedules. Addressing barriers to low-income student's ability to obtain food on campus is an access issue for academic success and a best practice model can address this.