

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, March 11, 2026
Regular Board Meeting -2:00 pm
237 West Kellogg Road, Bellingham
Learning Commons Room 160

MEMBERS:

- **Jeff Fairchild,**
Chair
- **Rebecca Johnson,**
Vice Chair
- **Wendy Bohlke**
- **John Pedlow**
- **Teresa Taylor**

If you are a person with a disability and require an accommodation while attending the meeting, please contact the President's Office at rkloke@whatcom.edu two days prior to the meeting to allow sufficient time to make arrangements.

**NEXT MEETING
REMINDER**

Board Retreat

March 17, 2026

Call to Order & Approval of Agenda, and Notice of Public Comment Time

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
 - [Protocols for Public Comment](#)
- III. Consent Agenda Tab 1
 - a. Minutes of February 18, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting (Attachment A)
- IV. Executive Session
 - ...to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee...
- V. Action Item Tab 2
 - a. Tenure Considerations
- VI. Report from the President
- VII. Reports Tab 3
 - ASWCC – Coco Lavelle, President
 - WCCFT – Barry Maxwell, President
 - WFSE – Dan Andreason, President
 - WCC AFT Staff – Joseph Santos, Chair
 - Administrative Services –Vice President Nate Langstraat
 - Student Services – Interim Vice President Kerri Holferty
 - Instruction –Vice President Steven Thomas
- VIII. Discussion Items for the Board
 - March 17 – Board Retreat
- IX. Executive Session
 - ...RCW 42.30.140 (4)(a), to discuss collective bargaining...
- X. Adjournment

***The Board of Trustees may adjourn to an Executive Session to discuss items provided for in RCW 42.30.110 (1):**

- (b) to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase...;
- (c) to consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease...;
- (d) to review negotiations on the performance of a publicly bid contract...;
- (f) to receive and evaluate complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee...;
- (g) to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee...; or as provided in RCW 42.30.140 (4)(a), to discuss collective bargaining
- (h) to evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office...;
- (i) to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions... or... litigation or potential litigation...



CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of February 18, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting (Attachment A)

SUGGESTED RESPONSE

The chair reads out the letters of the consent items. Then the chair states: "If there are no objections, these items will be adopted". After pausing for any objections, the chair states, "As there are no objections, these items are adopted."

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
237 W. Kellogg Road, Bellingham
Learning Commons 160
Wednesday, February 18, 2026
2:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Jeff Fairchild officially called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Present in addition to the chair were trustees Wendy Bohlke, John Pedlow, and Teresa Taylor constituting a quorum. Trustee Rebecca Johnson was absent. Others present included President Justin Guillory; Nate Langstraat, Executive Vice President for Business & College Operations, Kerri Holferty, Interim Vice President for Student Services; Steven Thomas, Vice President for Instruction, Annie Aslan, Assistant Attorney General; and Rafeeka Kloke, Executive Director for the Office of the President.

Chair Fairchild began with a land acknowledgment to recognize and pay respect to the Coast Salish Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

ACTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

- Trustee Taylor moved to accept the agenda. It was seconded by Trustee Bohlke, and the motion was approved.
- Chair Fairchild announced that there is a designated time for public comment on the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Consent Agenda
 - Minutes of January 14, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting.
 - WCC Graduates Fall 2025

Chair Fairchild stated: "If there are no objections, the items in the consent agenda with the addition will be adopted." As there was no objection, these items were adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chair Fairchild called for public comment. The following individuals shared public comments.
 - Tommaso Vannelli, Chemistry faculty, shared concerns about capital projects and their potential impact on the college budget.
 - James Lantz, student, read a statement from another student supporting the continuation of the BAS Business Management program.
 - Alexandra Haueter, student, expressed support for the continuation of the BAS Business Management program.
 - Cara James, student, expressed support for the continuation of the BAS Business Management program.
 - John Escher, Visual Communication Industry Advisory Committee member, expressed support for the continuation of the Visual Communication program.
 - Tim Cathersal, Visual Communication Industry Advisory Committee member, expressed support for the continuation of the Visual Communication program.

- **Accreditation Year Seven – Anne Marie Karlberg, Executive Director for Assessment and Institutional Research Tawny Townsend, Director for Advising and Career Services, and Peter Horne, Senior Research Analyst**

Karlberg, Townsend, and Horne presented a PowerPoint on Standard 1D: Student Achievement.

Townsend reviewed the revised advising framework and its alignment with the standard. Institutional data informed the development of the framework, implementation of changes, and measurement of outcomes. The Empowered Grant supported several key advising checkpoints.

Early results from entry and advising show improved retention, reduced equity gaps, and increased math and English placement and enrollment. Some enrollment declines were attributed to fraudulent applications and false enrollments.

Reported outcomes included a 19% increase in English success for historically underserved students and a 9% increase in spring-to-fall retention among new students who completed mandatory advising. Data presented supports Standards 1D2, 1D3, and 1D4 and reflects a focus on student learning and needs.

Horne reviewed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) used to track student progress, along with the implementation timeline and sample evaluation questions.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- President Justin provided an update on the Institutional Sustainability Review (ISR) process, which was designed to support long-term financial sustainability and mission alignment. A total of 86 academic and non-academic program reports were completed. The review identified four potential outcomes: Growth, Continued Support, Restructure/Reimagine, and Discontinue. The process increased transparency and created a data-informed framework to guide future planning. The findings informed decision-making but were not the sole determining factor. The college has now moved into the decision phase. Several

programs have been eliminated based on considerations including financial sustainability, enrollment trends, workforce demand, mission alignment, and institutional capacity. The next phase will focus on implementing Restructure/Reimagine recommendations through action plans aligned with budget sustainability. Additional updates will be shared in late February and early March.

- President Justin provided an update on the establishment of an Executive Vice President of Instruction and Student Success position to strengthen collaboration, improve alignment, and enhance institutional effectiveness. Campus forums and divisional meetings were held, and a draft position description was posted for feedback. The position is expected to be posted by the end of February, with a goal of filling the role by summer. Additional reporting structure updates have also been finalized to support greater clarity and operational efficiency.
- President Justin attended Washington Association of Community and Technical Colleges legislative meetings in Olympia and met with Senator Sharon Shewmake and Representatives Joe Timmons, Debra Lekanoff, and Alex Ramel. He shared that advocacy priorities included continued state investment in community and technical colleges, full COLA funding, and protection of Running Start funding. He also testified on SB 6260 with other regarding proposed changes to Running Start which would significantly impact Summer Running Start. He shared his appreciation for the work of Katie DeOrio, Director for K12 Partnership and her team.
- President Justin also noted that Bob Ferguson has proposed a 1.5% base reduction beginning FY27 and partial COLA funding. The college will continue legislative advocacy while addressing its structural deficit through the Institutional Sustainability Review (ISR) process.
- President Justin met with Mt. Baker School District Superintendent Jessica Schenck to discuss strengthening pathways for students. He also met with the new Executive Director of the Washington Campus Coalition for Public Good, housed at Western Washington University.
- The WCC Foundation Board passed a resolution in its January meeting to honor Ward Naf's efforts in raising funds for the Orca Food Pantry. The Foundation also received a \$25,000 donation from Aaron Booker
- President Justin thanked Cynthia Hoskins, Chair of the Professional Development Committee and committee members for their work in organizing Professional Development Day. He congratulated Dan Swigart-Harris as the 2025 Fran Hudson Excellence Award recipient.
- President Justin shared a baseline budget is being developed in February, with projections to be refined in March based on legislative updates. A mid-year review identified areas requiring course correction. The Budget Review Committee will reconvene as part of the college's ongoing planning and budget management process.

REPORTS

➤ **WCCFT – Barry Maxwell, President**

Maxwell reported that the issue raised by faculty regarding the ISR process has been resolved between the union and the administration.

DISCUSSION ITEMS OF THE BOARD

➤ **ACCT Legislative Summit – February 2026**

Trustee Bohlke reported that the summit included presentations from the Department of Education and the Department of Labor. Elected officials who spoke expressed support for students and community colleges, and attendees received useful information.

There was discussion regarding the possibility of taxing Pell Grants. Congressional representatives indicated they were working to address this issue.

Trustee Bohlke emphasized the importance of predictability in funding and policy to ensure colleges can effectively serve students.

In addition, Trustee Bohlke shared that she and her husband are alumni of the WCC Parent Education Co-op program. She noted that her family greatly appreciated and benefited from being part of the program.

ACTION ITEM

➤ **Reduction–In–Force Recommendation – Drama**

President Justin shared that the Board has directed him to identify and implement solutions to address the College’s projected budget shortfall. Current projections indicate a minimum \$1.5 million budget gap for FY 2026–2027. He noted that the recommendation being presented is part of a broader set of difficult actions required to address the budget gap. Actions taken and currently underway include:

- Program reduction or discontinuation
- Contraction of the class schedule
- Staffing reductions
- An ongoing institutional sustainability review

The College currently offers six drama courses annually, and no enrollment growth is projected for the 2026–2027 academic year. The discipline currently includes one full-time tenured faculty position. The available course load (six courses at five credits each) does not support a full-time tenure-track position. For several years, the faculty load has been supplemented with courses outside the discipline, including humanities and film; however, he stated that this approach is no longer operationally or fiscally sustainable.

President Justin shared that Article XVIII of the Collective Bargaining Agreement governs Reduction in Force procedures. He met with a three-member faculty union committee to review the situation and explore potential alternatives, including continuing cross-disciplinary assignments. After review, it was

determined that maintaining the current arrangement would not meet the College's fiscal or operational needs.

President Justin recommended that the Board approve the Reduction in Force of one full-time tenured faculty position in Drama.

➔ **WCCFT Proposed Alternatives for Board Considerations – Barry Maxwell, WCCFT President**

Maxwell acknowledged that the College must make difficult financial decisions but questioned why the Drama program was selected, noting that the program operates at relatively low cost. He stated that Drama courses generally have strong enrollment and fill rates.

He stated that the Institutional Sustainability Review (ISR) process did not provide all the information needed to fully evaluate the decision and referenced slide materials highlighting program performance.

Concerns were raised about the inconsistent application of rules, noting that many faculty members teach courses outside their primary disciplines and that the College has historically relied on this practice due to limited staffing flexibility.

Additionally, he noted that while adjunct faculty can sometimes be a less expensive option for offering individual classes, he expressed concern that limitations on full-time faculty teaching loads could potentially contribute to situations where reductions in force (RIFs) are considered.

CLOSED SESSION

At 3:20 p.m. the meeting was adjourned for a closed session of the Board for approximately 10 minutes, as provided in RCW 42.30.110 and 42.30.140 (4) (a), to discuss collective bargaining.

Chair Fairchild announced that action was anticipated. Guests included President Justin Guillory, Vice President for Instruction Steven Thomas, Executive Director for Human Resources, KayCee Johnson, Executive Director for Office of the President, Rafeeka Kloke and Assistant Attorney General Annie Aslan.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. and the Board reconvened into open session at 3:40 p.m.

Trustee Bohlke moved to approve the implementation of a reduction-in-force for the full-time tenured faculty position in the academic discipline of Drama, based on the reasons outlined in President Justin's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Trustee Taylor and was approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:43 p.m. the meeting was adjourned for an executive session for approximately 10 minutes to review performance of an employee...

Chair Fairchild announced that action was not anticipated. Guests included President Justin Guillory, Vice President for Instruction Steven Thomas, Executive Director for Office of the President, Rafeeka Kloke and Assistant Attorney General Annie Aslan.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 3:53 p.m. and the Board reconvened into open session at 3:53 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

MEMORANDUM

Office of the President

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: Justin Guillory, President
DATE: March 11, 2026
RE: Tenure Considerations

State law (RCW 28B.50.852) and the Negotiated Agreement require that full-time faculty members employed primarily with state funds be extended, awarded or denied tenure by the last day of winter quarter during their third year of employment.

In anticipation of future consideration for tenure, each new full-time faculty member is assigned a Probationary Review Committee. The role of that committee is to:

- Assess and advise the probationary of his/her/their professional strengths and weaknesses and to make reasonable efforts to encourage and aid in overcoming any deficiencies.
- Conduct the probationary review process in accordance with the Negotiated Agreement between the Faculty Union and the Board of Trustees.
- Provide a written recommendation to the appointing authority for or against the awarding of tenure.

The Probationary Review Committee assigned to work with the probationary faculty member have submitted the committee final report and recommendation for consideration by the Board of Trustees.

DISCIPLINE	FACULTY MEMBER & CHAIR
Nursing	Maria Kirk & Tommaso Vannelli
Early Childhood Education	Cindy Johansen & Nita Harker
Visual Communications	Kevin Baier & Melanie Sehman
Physical Therapy Assistant	Lisa Nau & Tealia Slagle
Computer Information System	Kristin Rudy & Chris Pasquini

Possible Actions for probationary faculty member

- To award tenure: Move the award of tenure to
- To deny tenure: Move to deny tenure to
- To extend probationary period: By mutual consent of the committee, the probationer, and the Board, move to extend the probation period by

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Reports to the Board of Trustees March 11, 2026

➤ ASWCC – Coco Lavelle, President

ASWCC Executive Board Update

The ASWCC S&A Fee Budget Committee has heard all funding request presentations and has received the 2026-27 S&A fee budget forecast from the VP for Administration Services. The ASWCC S&A Fee Budget Committee approved a 3.3% increase to 2026-27 S&A fees in line with the increase in tuition. Funding recommendation deliberations will take place on Friday, March 6. The ASWCC Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee continues to meet weekly on Fridays.

Civic Engagement

ASWCC Executive Board members traveled to Olympia, to meet with legislators on Legislative Advocacy Day, February 5th. Advocacy topics included housing affordability/accessibility, keeping campuses affordable with emphasis on books and transportation and retaining funding for Running Start.

ASWCC Student Organizations

There are currently 11 chartered ASWCC Associations.
There are currently 5 chartered ASWCC Unions and 3 ASWCC Clubs.

Advocacy and Health & Wellness

The ASWCC Social Justice Committee meets Mondays from 1–2 PM. The committee is currently planning Whatcom Listens and Students Leading Change. The ASWCC Health and Wellness Committee meets on Thursdays from 1:30-2:30PM.

ASWCC Student Engagement Activities

Coffee with a Student Leader is held Thursdays from 9:30–11:30 AM in the Learning Commons and is hosted primarily by ASWCC Senators. The ASWCC Student Engagement Advisory Committee meets every Tuesday from 11 AM–12 PM. ASWCC VP for Student Engagement held Planning Orca Day (POD) Parties on February 3rd and will meet on March 3rd and March 17th from 11AM-12PM.

ASWCC Senate

Ten ASWCC Senator positions are currently filled.
The ASWCC Senate approved the following requests:

- \$1,500 for facilitator for Whatcom Listens and Expression Workshop Event
- \$1,110 supplemental funding for design for all-gender restroom

- \$1,400 for water bottle filling station for 2nd floor of Syre Student Center
\$1,804 for 9 students and 1 advisor from the ASWCC Sustainability Oriented Students Association to attend the Washington/Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference

➔ **WCCFT—Barry Maxwell, President**

No report.

➔ **WSFE – Dan Andreason, President**

No report.

➔ **WCC AFT Staff Union – Petra McDonnell-Ingoglia , Representative**

AFT Staff Union Executive Team:

Joseph Santos, Chair

Monica Malcolm, Vice-Chair of Membership

Andrew Chan, Treasurer

Finn Parker, Secretary

Tamara Addis, Member-at-Large

The items reported by each division contribute to the following strategic goals:

- Renew and Expand Impactful community connections within and beyond the college.
- Encourage Innovation focused on delivering high-value education.
- Sustain a diverse and inclusive campus community to support success and belonging.
- Deliver educational experiences that foster improved student success.

➔ **Administrative Services—Nate Langstraat, Vice President**

The services provided through the Administrative Services division directly and indirectly support the four goal areas of the strategic plan.

Athletic & Recreation

Basketball season is wrapping up. Last game day of the year is February 25th at Bellevue College.

Successful game day theme nights for basketball this season. Black History Celebration Night, in collaboration with the Intercultural Center and Black Student Union, was on held on February 7 (vs. Peninsula College). A singer performed the Black national anthem before the game, and community member, Bernard Franklin was honored at halftime as an “unsung hero” for his impact in the community and being the owner of Busy B’s Barbershop. Sophomore Night was on February 21 and five [5] sophomores from men’s basketball and one [1] sophomore from women’s basketball were recognized.

In February, Athletics collaborated with the ASWCC Badminton Club to host a badminton tournament and provide a drop-in basketball session for faculty and staff on Professional Development Day. Approximately 30 employees participated.

Business and Finance

The FY27 budget development process has been revised to align with two significant concurrent institutional efforts: Institutional Sustainability Review (ISR) and Organizational Restructure.

Considering the timing and potential budget impacts of these efforts, the Budget Review Committee, in consultation with Cabinet, will develop a FY27 baseline budget. Budget managers will not be required to submit budget requests unless they are specifically asked to provide proposed adjustments, as growth areas have been identified through the ISR process and will be prioritized for funding if resources are available.

This approach supports a more integrated and strategic budget development process by allowing the College to incorporate ISR and Restructure outcomes into the FY27 baseline budget framework.

Conference and Event Services

External agreements have been confirmed for SparWarz 19 (Mixed Martial Arts event), Rangers (youth soccer), Whatcom Select (youth soccer), WCASA (adult soccer) and Bellingham Warriors (youth lacrosse).

Department staff will provide support for the following internal events: ASWCC Weekly Open Public Meetings, ASWCC Movie Night (The Hunger Games), WCC Drag Show, Mock Accreditation Event, All Faculty Meeting, ASWCC SOS Film Screening, IMALIVE Mental Health Fair, Pick up the Mic with Autumn Higashi, Student Services Division Meeting, Contemporary Music Ensemble Concert, & the Nursing Pinning Ceremony.

Facilities & Operations

The predesign document for the Technology & Engineering Center (TEC) was submitted to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) on January 30 for final review and approval. The college anticipates a response from OFM during the last week of February and plans to resume schematic design in the first week of March. The allotment request for design and pre-construction services has been prepared and is ready for submission upon OFM approval.

Construction of the Community Transitions Project (CT) is progressing steadily. Most site excavation and foundation work has been completed. Domestic water and fire line connections have been established, and the majority of the storm drainage system is installed. Utility pathways are currently being installed below grade in preparation for the first-floor concrete slab.

The 2025–27 capital repairs and improvements program is in various stages of design and construction. Projects include the Cascade 136 print lab remodel; Kulshan reroofing; Laidlaw classroom upgrades; Syre elevator upgrades; Laidlaw building envelope repairs; sidewalk and retaining wall repairs; and several mechanical and lighting upgrades.

Safety & Security

February provided meaningful safety and security training opportunities for WCC employees in two key focus areas:

- **Medical Emergencies in the Classroom:** A newly developed training session was offered to faculty and staff on Professional Development Day with strong attendance and engagement. The session covered emergency procedures and student resources, with emphasis on responding to seizures, mental health crises, and general injuries. The training highlighted the key support role of Access and Disability Services (ADS) before, during and after medical situations.
- **Emergency Response Team Tabletop Exercise:** The WCC Emergency Response Team conducted an earthquake tabletop exercise, “Shake, Rattle, and Uh Oh!” Thirty-four designated emergency operations personnel participated in scenario-based discussions focused on prioritizing immediate campus needs following a regional earthquake. The exercise generated valuable insights and action items to support more refined, role-specific training moving forward.

➤ **Student Services—Kerri Holferty, Interim Vice President**

Academic Advising & Career Services:

Academic Advising and Career Services continue to see success with the newly implemented advising platform, completing 423 advising appointments during the first three weeks of February, a 67% increase over February 2025. Advising also continues to create and sustain collaborations across WCC, as well as with neighboring institutions. During February the department hosted 3 separate events:

- Hosted WWU On the Spot Admissions Day, serving 13 WCC students with personalized advisement, transfer application fee waivers, and provisional admission to WWU for Fall 2026. This event is the first of its kind for WWU.
- Hosted 14 staff from Academic Advising and Career Services, Running Start, and Workforce Funding to review and discuss findings from Community College Research Center’s “How New Community College Students Think about Programs of Study and Potential Careers.” Inventoried resources and needs to inform an action plan to advance embedded career advising.
- 30 WCC staff and faculty attended the Winter 2026 All-Comers meeting, gaining valuable knowledge related to veterans’ services, the Intercultural Center, financial aid, university transfer, graduation, study abroad, and accreditation.

Advisors continue to engage in regular professional development, including the WWU annual Transfer Advisor workshop, learning critical program and service updates and investing in relationships that support student transfer. Director Dr. Tawny Townsend co-presented the “Charting a Path to Completion” session at Professional Development Day, while Associate Director Kelly Bashaw and Career and Academic Advisor for Business Shannon Vacek served on the student and advisor panel.

Access & Disability Services:

Access and Disability Services are working hard to support campus leading up to the April 24, 2026 deadline for ADA Title II compliance. Program Coordinator, Hadia Rezia, is providing the advising department with digital accessibility support by updating the degree sheets for accessibility. Director Lisa Forsythe, is supporting Title II Compliance work by monitoring and supporting the WCC Canvas Accessibility Training course for all employees, and was also a presenter during Professional Development Day, co-presenting Emergencies in the Classroom and a training session for the DocHub document remediation software.

There are 250 students registered with ADS to date for Winter Quarter, and 560 accommodation letters have been sent to faculty. In Winter 2025, 283 students registered with ADS and 591 accommodation letters were sent. The 2025 data reflect the entirety of Winter Quarter, which suggests that ADS is on track to serve a similar volume of students this Winter quarter.

Dual Credit Programs:

Dual Credit Programs has implemented Mandatory Entry Advising for the first time in many years for Spring 2026, something that was made possible by the addition of a third Running Start Advisor. In addition, the department hosted an Information Session on 2/18/26 with 15 attendees, all of whom were high school sophomores preparing for summer/fall 2026.

It is our pleasure to share that during Professional Development Day Program Specialist II, Dan Swigart-Harris was awarded the 2026 Fran Hudson Award of Excellence, recognizing his proven excellence in job-related duties, initiative in maintaining a positive atmosphere and providing support for colleagues, service to the college, creativity, and outstanding service to students.

It is important to note that Legislature is still considering [Senate Bill 6260](#) lowering the enrollment cap from 1.4 to 1.2 full-time equivalents beginning in AY 2026–27.

Enrollment Services:

As of 2/23/2026, there have been 951 applications for Spring 2026 compared with 2609 for Spring 2025

It is important to note that in Spring 2025, we were receiving a large influx of fake/fraudulent applications. We have since built processes that have significantly reduced how many potentially fake/fraudulent records actually get enrolled in classes. This has resulted in less fake/fraudulent applications being submitted.

Beginning in May 2026, WCC will join most of the other CTC's in using Parchment to manage the printing and distribution of our diplomas, degrees and certificates. This will result in time savings and allow our credential evaluation team to focus on continuing to evaluate incoming credits in an expedited fashion. This will benefit students, not only in having their credits evaluated quicker, but also give them access to their WCC-awarded credentials in a digital format.

Financial Aid:

Chris Bouchard, financial aid PS4 and longtime WCC employee, has officially submitted her retirement letter effective August 2026. Carl Schroer, financial aid PS2 has been approved for an in-training opportunity for the PS4 role.

So far during the 2025-26 academic year, \$2,647,148 in Washington College Grant, \$63,571 in College Bound Scholarship, and \$29,309 in Passport to College has been disbursed to students. This equals \$2,740,028 in just state aid disbursed in Fall and Winter quarter of this award year.

Office of Student Life & Development:

A robust winter events schedule included a Mid-Winter Feast (84 students), Cookies Condoms and Consent (43 students), Finny themed World Whale Day celebration (60 students), and the ongoing movie series.

The Orca Food Pantry is working with Trader Joe's to receive a weekly donation from the north store site. Trader Joe's representatives toured the pantry and are pleased to begin a weekly supply of food for college students. The Community Service Center from Western Washington University collected food on the MLK Day of Service for four area colleges, including WCC, and dropped off food and toiletry donations. They also promoted the QR code for direct monetary donations for the pantry. The Cordata Neighborhood Association donated 8 full bags of protein based canned goods to the Orca Food Pantry through a special donation drive.

Orca Central Operations:

Orca Central facilitated over 400 scheduled appointments for Advising, Financial Aid, and Running Start.

Transitional Learning opened ABE/ELL applications for spring quarter on February 18. As of 2/24/26, Orca Central has received 67 completed applications to share with TL team.

Outreach:

Outreach continues to engage local high schools, middle schools, and the Whatcom County community with WCC tours, presentations, tabling events, and open houses.

Residence Life:

Cedar Hall is incorporating a Students Helping Students project with funds provided by Workforce Funding. This project will be led by a student resident focused on food insecurity. Activities will include cooking lessons, food pantry items, and resource awareness provided to residents in Cedar Hall.

Winter quarter occupancy numbers are currently at 156. 15 move out requests were received for winter quarter so far for the following reasons: student-athletes whose season is over, challenges with paying housing fee, and students taking spring quarter classes online.

TRIO Student Support Services:

The WCC TRIO Student Support Services program was successfully awarded funding for the 2025–2030 federal grant cycle, ensuring continued support for first-generation, low-income, and disabled students at WCC.

The TRIO Student Support Services program hosted activities and training to support student success and staff development. These included:

- Score a Scholarship Workshop (2/11/26): 12 students attended a workshop on finding, applying for, and earning scholarships through WCC’s Foundation and other sources. Students practiced writing scholarship applications and used the online tutoring platform to review their essays.
- Spring Quarter Registration Workshop (2/25/26): 25 students participated in guided registration and received support to build schedules that meet both personal and academic goals.
- Central Washington University Transfer Workshop (2/26/26): 5 students attended a session on transfer preparation, including transfer credits, application basics, financial aid, and scholarship opportunities. Students will explore university selection criteria and TRIO-specific resources such as application fee waivers and transfer advising.

TRIO Upward Bound:

During the week of 2/2/26, the Upward Bound team held Tutor.com and study skills workshops at Mount Baker High School, Nooksack Valley High School, and Ferndale High School. Students received guidance on time management, effective study strategies, and step-by-step instruction on using the 24/7 online tutoring platform.

On 2/20/26, eight students interested in healthcare participated in a guided tour of Bellevue College. The tour highlighted healthcare programs, campus resources, and the college’s TRIO services, giving students a clearer picture of academic pathways and support available in postsecondary education.

➤ **Instruction— Steven Thomas, Vice President**

Community & Continuing Education (CCE)

CCE closed Fall 2025 with a duplicated headcount of 1,971 students, reflecting a 25% increase over Fall 2024 and returning to pre-pandemic Fall 2019 levels.

During Summer and Fall 2025, CCE delivered 21 customized trainings for regional partners, including 20 OneDrive trainings for the City of Bellingham and one Excel training for Peoples Bank.

Update on NSF SEECRS grant scholars

Whatcom Community College has been awarded a \$1.9-million National Science Foundation (NSF) S-STEM grant to support low-income and academically talented students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. 15 scholars were selected in the Fall with the grant dispersing about \$14,000 of scholarship funds to each of those students over the course of the academic year. In addition to funds, SEECRS scholars are paired with faculty for year-long mentorship, meet as a cohort to discuss pertinent topics and build community, get dedicated advising, and opportunities to engage in research. The leadership team of Lauren Maniatis-*Biology faculty*, Liz Johnson-*Dean of Instruction*, Tawny Townsend-*Director of Advising*, Jason Babcock-*Learning Center Director*, and Chloe Boland- *Engineering faculty* represent a great example of cross-department collaboration fulfilling the mission of the college.

NSF funded CUREs

Tommaso Vanelli (Chemistry), Nita Harker (Sociology), Melanie Zabel (Psychology) and Patrick Blaine (Social Sciences Dean) were accepted to the first ever WA-Academy hosted by the SBCTC as part of a larger NSF-funded program to enhance Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs). Continuing the work from the previous NSF funding for WCC on institutionalizing CUREs, the group going to Wenatchee in June will be shifting focus to addressing some of the specific challenges that social sciences face in implementing CUREs while also building on the momentum from the original NSF grant to assure ongoing support for faculty who are continuing to teach CUREs. In addition, Geology faculty, Kaatje Kraft will also be attending as a coach to support another community college in attendance at this workshop.

Building Community Connections through Arts Education at MBT's Isabel Wilkerson Lecture

Thanks to generous donations to the Arts Education program at Mount Baker Theater, nearly 200 students, staff and faculty had the opportunity to attend author Isabel Wilkerson's Lecture on "The Warmth of Other Suns" on Feb 5th. Much appreciation to Yusuke Okazaki and Tanya Zaragoza-Rosas through the Intercultural Center who helped facilitate the distribution of tickets. We also were gifted a signed copy of Isabel Wilkerson's award-winning book, *Caste*, that will be housed in the Intercultural Center and available for students to borrow. Some feedback from attendees included: "Thank you so much for helping make this happen. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me. I am so grateful" and from a student in intro to sociology: "[i]f I could tell her something, I would thank her for making such a complex and heavy topic easy to understand. She encouraged reflection without placing blame, which made her message more meaningful," and "Going to see Isabel Wilkerson in person helped me learn a great deal about the Great Migration, far more than I had previously understood . . . If I were able to speak to Isabel Wilkerson directly, I would simply say thank you for her commitment, her compassion, and her perseverance. Thank you for doing the difficult work of uncovering these stories and for making space for voices that were silenced for far too long."

National Cybersecurity Training & Education Center (NCyTE)

Workshops & Professional Development

NCyTE continued to broaden its national training footprint through both virtual and in-person professional development sessions:

- Implications of AI for Community College Educators
Delivered in partnership with Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College on February 6 (in-person) and February 13, 2026 (virtual) 21 attendees (17 instructors, 4 college admin/staff) .
- C5 Module Update Work Session
Hosted virtually on February 25, 2026 for high school and middle school educators to review and evaluate updates to the 13 NCyTE-developed C5 Cybersecurity Concept Lessons. These lessons support integration of cybersecurity concepts into AP Computer Science Principles coursework and are available free to educators via [CodeHS](#). The session drew 23 registered participants, including 8 from Washington State.

NCyTE Monthly Member Meetings

- Evaluating CAE Cybersecurity Career Outcomes, January 16, 2026, Virtual, 74 attendees, 5 Washington state (2 students [1 from WCC], 3 instructors [2 from WCC]) – *Note, attendee stats were unavailable for the January report.*
- Leveraging AI in the Teaching and Learning Process (February 20, 2026)
Virtual session with 14 attendees, including 2 from Washington State.

NCyTE Student Programs & Competitions

- NCyTE launched the 2026 Virtual Cybersecurity Career Challenge on February 4, 2026. A total of 99 students were accepted, 21 Washington state, and 4 from Whatcom Community College (WCC).

- NCyTE is sponsoring a team of 8 WCC students to participate in the Pacific Rim Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (PRCCDC). March 19—22, 2026. The annual PRCCDC provides WCC's CIS/Cyber students the opportunity to compete in an event that closely mimics the real-world experience students will have working in IT or cybersecurity. Students are immersed in realistic experiences, managing and defending networks. The team will perform IT-related tasks related to the mock business they are working for, including a wide range of common IT tasks, including protecting the business network and other business assets from cyber-attac Regional finalists move on to compete in the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition, April 24-26, 2026.
- NCyTE is also sponsoring student participation in the 2026 National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Cyber Cup Challenge. Participating schools include middle schools, high schools, and community colleges. The challenge reached over 50+ schools and 529 middle, high school and college students in the Western region last year.

CAE Candidates National Center (CCNC)

- The CAE Candidates National Center (CCNC) hosted targeted CAE Helpdesk sessions to provide direct technical assistance and application guidance to institutions progressing through Program of Study (PoS) validation and CAE redesignation cycles. These sessions support institutions needing clarification on technical requirements, documentation standards, and navigation of the NCAE application tool. Requirement subject matter experts participate to provide real-time guidance to both institutions and assigned mentors. PoS Cycle 25 / CAE Cycle 23 Helpdesk Sessions:
 - February 10, 2026: 68 institutions invited; 10 institutions participated
 - February 24, 2026: 68 institutions invited; 28 institutions participated, including 2 from Washington State

Arts, Humanities & Languages — Winter 2026 Events

World Premiere Performance

The WWU Chamber Music Ensemble will debut a new work by WCC music and engineering student Michael McKenzie on March 10 at the WWU Performing Arts Center Concert Hall. His two-movement composition, *Objects*, is inspired by astronomical Messier objects and was commissioned specifically for this performance. Admission is free.

Art Exhibitions

- Volumes: A Showcase of Ceramic and Mixed-Media Work by Students
February 25 – March 13
Cascade Hall Gallery (open during business hours)
- Visual Communications Winter Publication Display
March 18 – March 27
Cascade Hall Gallery (open during business hours)

Drama

- Student Acting & Directing Scenes
March 19
12:00–1:00 pm
Heiner Theater

Music

- Soloists Recital
March 18, 7:30 pm
Heiner Theater
- Contemporary Music Ensemble Preview Concert
March 24, 2:00–3:00 pm
Heiner Theater
- Contemporary Music Ensemble Concert
March 25, 7:30 pm
Heiner Theater

Physics Faculty Presents on the Underrepresentation Curriculum

Scott Sawyer, tenure track full-time faculty attended the American Association of Physics Teachers Winter Meeting in Las Vegas this January, to present a talk on "The Underrepresentation Curriculum" and the lessons he used in his Engineering Physics Classes at WCC in W2025, S2025 and F2025.

The Underrepresentation Curriculum (URC) is a curriculum for STEM instructors to teach about injustice and change the culture of STEM. Using tools such as data analysis, hypothesis creation, and investigation, students look critically at science through the lenses of equity and inclusion. By comparing the general population to similar data describing scientists, students can explore issues of social justice in STEM

➤ Institutional Management – Rafeeka Kloke, Executive Director for the Office of the President

○ Marketing and Communications

Communications, Marketing and Publications Campaigns/Events/Projects/Publications completed or in development - for a variety of events and programs (includes social media, campus screens, online marketing, print, streaming ads, tv spots, print):

- **New and Significant Website Updates:**
 - New EVP search webpage
 - International Program Website cleanup for branding and accessibility purposes.
 - English and Math placement buttons added to top of the Placement Info webpage.

- New Library of Degree Planning worksheets webpage for Advising and Career Services (in process)
- Website backend folder cleanup for accessibility purposes
- Team training and onboarding of Silktide (for ADAC)
- Team training with Granicus support, for website maintenance
- **Social Media Activity:** The top three posts/reels on Instagram and Facebook that received the most engagement for February 2026 are:
 - The Facebook boosted post promoting the Guys & Guts workshop.



Figure 1

- The Facebook boosted post promoting the medical assisting program.

Whatcom Community College

MEDICAL ASSISTING Degree/Certificate Program

Prepare for an in-demand career and become a valued member of the healthcare community.

Apply Now!

FOR SPRING 2026

Application Deadline:
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

HYBRID CLASS

The hybrid program is designed for people who want to continue working while advancing their education. Classes are offered online with labs on campus Tuesday and Thursday evenings only.

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Luanne Peel: lpeel@whatcom.edu

COME TO AN INFO SESSION:
whatcom.edu/calendar

Whatcom
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

This ad is paid for with funds from the Carl D. Perkins Act.

Overview

Based on insights from your original post and combined ads from Facebook and Instagram.

Views [📈]	Viewers [👤]	Interactions [👍]	Link clicks [🔗]	Follows [👤]
37.838	25.091	35	339	0

- The Facebook post welcoming Brad Tuininga as Executive Director for the WCC Foundation.

Whatcom Community College
 Published by Pallyy · February 18 at 11:01 AM · ...

WCC is pleased to announce that Brad Tuininga has stepped into the role of executive director for the WCC Foundation. He started on January 16, 2026.... See more



Overview

Views ⓘ	Viewers ⓘ	Interactions ⓘ	Link clicks ⓘ	Follows ⓘ
8,870	6,440	82	--	0

- Department Campaigns and Promotions include outdoor advertising, online/print and social media marketing, posters, FIN slides, website, signage etc.
 - o **Support for events, marketing assets and initiatives:**
 - Executive Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs Brochure
 - New Running Start Dual Credit
 - Direct Admission to WCC: formal letter
 - Professional Development program
 - Dive-in to Accreditation Bookmark
 - Updated Internation programs PDF for accessibility standards for the website.
 - Foundation pen logo
 - CCoE February Newsletter review & edits
 - WCC Foundation Impact Reports
 - Foundation Scholarship applications marketing
 - Whatcom Wellness

- Outreach photo backdrop – designed & ordered from Special-T signs & graphics
- **Instruction/Professional Technical Information Sessions: social media, campus Screens and print, ad campaigns:**
 - New course promotion for CIS 101, Intro to AI
 - Spring 2026 Quarterly Newsletter
 - Criminal Justice marketing
 - Bachelor of Science in Computer Science marketing
 - Cooperative preschool open house
- **Campus and Departments: Social Media & Campus Screen (FIN) General Posts and other assets (posters, invitations, brochures, text, emails, etc.):**
 - Pickleball 2026 tournament marketing
 - Athletics banquet invitation & web form
- **Video or Photo shoots:**
 - Professional development day photos
 - Engineering class photos
 - Nursing program class photos
 - Massage Therapy program video shoot for social media
- **Press and Media:**

[Whatcom Community College Welcomes Brad Tuininga as Executive Director of the WCC Foundation | News List | Whatcom Community College](#), WCC News & Media, February 2026

[Viola Patten’s illustration chosen for cover of WCLS Whatcomics](#), Lynden Tribune, February 25, (mention of WCC Running Start student)

[Whatcom Community College Announces Brad Tuininga as Executive Director of WCC Foundation](#), Daily Journal of Commerce, February 24, 2026 (scroll to bottom and click more people)

[Finalists Named for Minnesota State College Southeast President](#), Minnesota State College, February 19, 2026 (mention of former WCC vice president of student Services)

[Geothermal Energy Workshop at WCC, Weekly Watchdog](#), Cascadia Daily News, February 19, 2026 (mention of event on WCC campus)

[Whatcom Community College lays off tenured faculty member; union calls foul](#), Cascadia Daily News, February 18, 2026

[WCC to discontinue programs, disciplines in pursuit of financial sustainability](#), Cascadia Daily News, February 15, 2026

[Skagit Valley head coach's tough love transforms his alma mater program](#), Cascadia Daily News, February 4, 2026 (shows photos of WCC's Men's Basketball team players and WCC basketball court)

➤ **Foundation**

Fundraising & Notable Gifts:

- 2025 Year-End Appeal
 - The Foundation's Fall Appeal fundraising campaign ran late October through December 31st, 2025
 - Total funds raised during this period was \$128,526 primarily in support of Student Scholarships.
- Fiscal year-to-date (February 25, 2026): \$1,308,660 has been raised including:
 - Recent Gifts of Note:
 - \$54,092 for the William and Bonita Waters Nursing Scholarship Endowment (additional Bequest distribution)
 - \$25,000 for the Joyce & David Morse Endowed Scholarship
 - \$25,000 pass through for the NIST RAMPS Grant
 - \$1,000 for the General Scholarship Fund
 - New Pledges Made:
 - \$1,500 for the Orca Food Pantry
- Total Raised in Donations & Pledge Payments (since last report): \$127,033

Foundations Events and Programs

- Upcoming President's Circle Event
 - The next President's Circle Event is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20th, 5:00-7:00pm
- Scholarships
 - WCC Foundation Scholarship applications open on January 5th and close on April 5th.
 - 472 students have started an application and 229 have completed.
 - An 18% increase for those who have started and a 30% increase for those who have completed compared to this time last year.
 - Foundation Staff are offering in-person scholarship assistance workshops through the Writing Center and Intercultural Center, as well as by appointment.
 - The student response has been positive, and more workshops are scheduled for March
 - 58 individuals who have agreed to help review scholarship applications.
 - Foundation anticipates awarding \$600,000 in scholarships to WCC students for 2026/2027 academic year.

➤ IDEA

Office of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA)

- For Professional Development Day on February 17, the Office of IDEA sponsored a Zoom workshop with Dr. Emily Ruth Rutter, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for Bloomfield College of Montclair State University, titled “Building Antiracism Consciousness in Student Spaces and Beyond.” Dr. Rutter presented an array of tools and resources for employees on this topic (in alignment with WA state law, RCW 28B.10.145). A total of 41 participants (29 in person, 12 online) attended this workshop.
- On February 26-27, Jennifer McFarlane Harris, Executive Director for IDEA, participated in the Diversity and Equity Officers Commission (DEOC) winter meeting, which was a combination of in-person and virtual components at Highline College.

Intercultural Center

- For the month of February, 96 students utilized the Simpson Intercultural Center for a total of 395 visits.
- On February 2-5, the Simpson Intercultural Center continued to support the Mount Baker Theatre to distribute tickets to the WCC community for a lecture event featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson. The event itself took place on February 5, and a few members of our department were able to attend.
- On February 5, the Intercultural Services department supported the ASWCC Native and Indigenous Student Union’s screening event of the film *Prey*. A total of 17 participants attended the film screening.
- On February 7, the Intercultural Services department partnered with Orca athletics and the ASWCC Black Student Union for the Black History Month Appreciation Night Basketball game. A total of 38 WCC students attended the event.