



# COUNCIL CONVERSATIONS

WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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## GRANTS SUPPORT TEACHING OF TRIBAL GOVERNMENT, HISTORY, AND CULTURE

Through its [Educators for the 21st Century](#) program, the Washington Student Achievement Council provides partnership grants for K-12 professional development projects. For 2016-17, three of the seven funded projects relate to Washington's [Since Time Immemorial](#) curriculum. The curriculum—which school districts are phasing in, as required by state law—teaches the history of the state's 29 federally recognized tribes, and also covers tribal sovereignty and current tribal issues.

The first project, *Implementation of Since Time Immemorial: Higher Education and K-12 School Partnership Pilot Project*, was awarded \$400,000 to assist schools with a large Native American student population. Western Washington University (WWU) and the University of Washington (UW) Seattle will partner to provide training and coaching for K-12 professionals in discussing tribal government and history, as well as culture. One hundred percent of the funding for this project is federal.

The second project, *Science and the Swinomish*, was awarded \$200,000 to train teachers and principals in the La Conner and Concrete school districts. It features close collaboration between WWU and the Swinomish Tribe, which is contributing \$12,500 worth of goods and services in kind. This project relates the Since Time Immemorial curriculum to scientific applications such as salmon recovery, tideland impacts, and water use. It will also help schools implement the [Smarter Balanced Digital Library](#). Funding for the project is 94 percent federal, 6 percent tribal.

The third project, *Project Core-Time-Digital K-12*, was awarded \$450,000 not only to help schools across the state implement the Since Time Immemorial curriculum and Smarter Balanced Digital Library, but also to help teachers obtain endorsements in core academic subjects. Faculty from UW Tacoma and Pacific Lutheran University are collaborating in using a train-the-trainer model to deliver professional learning opportunities. One hundred percent of the funding for this project is federal.

Visit WSAC's website for more information about these and other projects funded by the [Educators for the 21st Century](#) program.

## NEW FINANCIAL AID DEADLINE ALLOWS STUDENTS TO APPLY IN OCTOBER

Students seeking financial aid for college must apply in order to qualify. This requires completing either the [FAFSA](#) (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or [WASFA](#) (Washington Application for State Financial Aid). Most students will file the FAFSA, but those who aren't eligible to file the FAFSA due to immigration status should file a WASFA instead.

Starting October 1, 2016, students will be able to file a [2017-18 FAFSA or WASFA](#). In previous years, applications could not be submitted until January. The earlier application window will allow students to file for financial aid at the same time that they're completing college applications.

Also for the first time this cycle, students will report income information from an earlier tax year. Students and families previously filed for financial aid using estimated income in January, and were then required to update their information later in the spring. Beginning in October 2016, students and families will use their completed 2015 tax information to file for financial aid for the 2017-18 school year.

For more information on financial aid and college readiness, visit [www.readysetgrad.org](http://www.readysetgrad.org).

## MAKE IT IN WASHINGTON SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY: DON'T MISS OUT

### **Deadline approaches for manufacturing workers seeking tuition-free online training**

*By Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director of the Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board*

Helping working Washingtonians advance their careers and improve their economic self-sufficiency through further education and training is an important goal of the [Talent and Prosperity for All](#) state workforce plan recently adopted by the state's [Workforce Board](#).

But a lack of money and time—not to mention distance from higher education institutions—can put this goal out of reach for too many working people, especially in rural areas of the state. That's one reason the Workforce Board applied for a \$2.7 million U.S. Department of Labor grant that is paying for worker training at nearly no cost at small and mid-sized manufacturers in 31 rural Washington counties.

Employees are able to get online training through Highline and Shoreline community colleges, and they may also be eligible to take undergraduate and graduate courses through Washington State University. Training is focused on industry-relevant areas such as supply-chain management, international trade, and logistics. Undergraduate and graduate courses expand into project management, manufacturing leadership, and six sigma certification.

But participants will need to act quickly to take advantage of this grant, now in its final year. The enrollment deadline for this fall's WSU online classes was in late July and fall deadlines for Shoreline and Highline community colleges are in September.

In addition to course offerings at both the community college and university level for employees, qualifying manufacturers may also receive a free business assessment from Impact Washington to help plan for improvement and growth. More details are available on the Workforce Board's [Make it in Washington](#) web page.

## WSAC PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES INCREASE ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

*By Rachele Sharpe, Acting Executive Director of the Washington Student Achievement Council*

Summer 2016 brought both change and continuity to the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC). While Council members began the search for a new Executive Director, the agency team maintained momentum on projects and developed new program and policy initiatives.

Improving educational attainment is the core of the Council's mission. Recommendations for how to increase educational attainment will drive our fall report to the Legislature, the *2017-19 Strategic Action Plan*. The plan will include proposals to address persistent achievement gaps for underserved students in order to ensure postsecondary education and training are more accessible and attainable for all students. The Council will review a draft of the plan at the October Council meeting.

Our mission-driven work also includes the administration of college access, financial aid, and savings programs. Outreach is a significant component of this effort, including conference presentations, college readiness information, [webinars](#) and promotional materials for K-12 counselors, updates to college financial aid administrators, communications to [College Bound Scholarship](#) students and families, and admission and financial aid application campaigns ([12th Year Campaign](#)). Underlying all of these efforts is the conviction that resources and support create opportunity and foster lifelong success for Washington's students.

Our newest Council member, Jessica Murillo-Rosales, reminds us of the importance of this work. An alumnus of Central Washington University, Jessica was the first in her family to earn a college degree, and she is now pursuing a Master's Degree in Education. Jessica participates in civic and leadership activities, enters film competitions, and speaks to education professionals about the importance of personalized student support services. She will bring an important student perspective and passion for education to the development of the Strategic Action Plan. We are all excited to work with and learn from Jessica this year.

## PAVE THE WAY EARLY REGISTRATION AND SESSION PROPOSAL DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15

Early bird registration rates end September 15 for [Pave the Way 2016](#), which will take place November 1-2 at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center. The Washington Student Achievement Council will host the conference, with a focus on advancing equity, access, readiness, and support for educational attainment. This annual event brings together P-20 educators, policymakers, and community-based partners committed to removing barriers and closing the opportunity and achievement gap.

WSAC has also issued a call for session proposals. Successful proposals will offer presentations that facilitate audience participation and engage attendees. Content should highlight policies, best practices, and programs designed to address the opportunity and achievement gap and promote educational attainment for underserved students throughout the P-20 educational system. Proposals can be submitted via the [online submission form](#). The deadline to submit proposals is September 15, 2016.

For more information about registration, session proposals, and conference sponsorship opportunities, visit the [Pave the Way](#) website.