



OPPORTUNITY AND JOBS

**Creating a 21st-century workforce with the
Workforce Education Investment**



AN INVESTMENT

...IN WASHINGTON WORKERS

ADDRESSING DEMAND THROUGH TARGETED INVESTMENT

The Workforce Education Investment brings together businesses, higher education institutions, students, and workers to address employment needs of the 21st century.

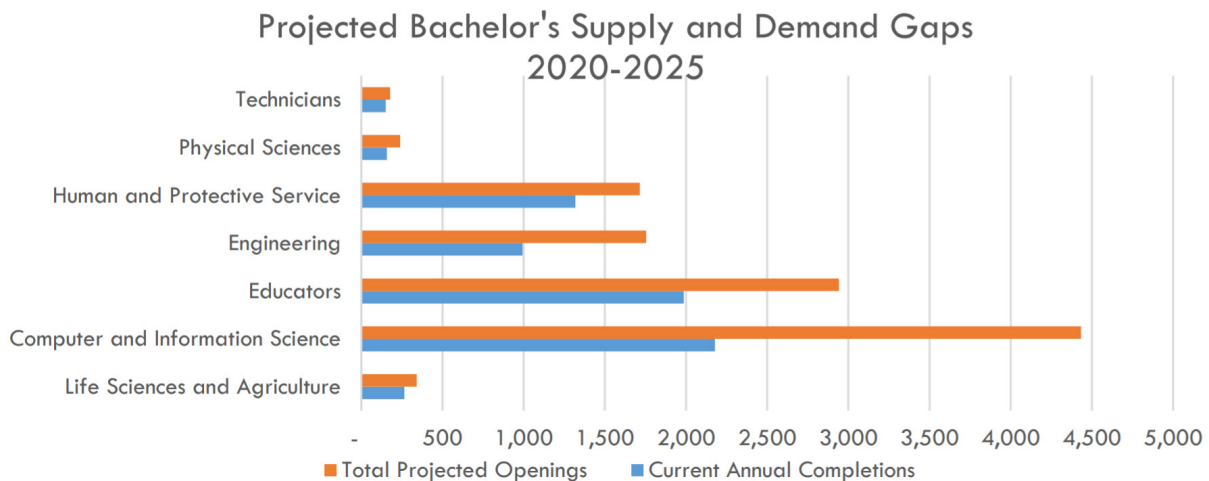
“THE CREDENTIAL IS ESSENTIAL”

- The Education Foundation of the Washington Roundtable

THE WORKFORCE EDUCATION INVESTMENT

How a 21st century economy gets 21st century workers

In just two years, Washington businesses need to hire for 740,000 jobs, but colleges and universities are close to capacity. We have a problem.



Washington Student Achievement Council, "A Skilled and Educated Workforce - 2017 Update" Figure 7

The state needs to keep tuition affordable, create pathways for students to pursue credentials, and expand capacity for in-state students.

1 WASHINGTON COLLEGE GRANT (STATE NEED GRANT)

Reduce barriers to higher education for low-income students by fully funding the Washington College Grant and expand the WCG and other college affordability programs to make college and career training affordable for everyone.

2 WASHINGTON STUDENTS FOR WASHINGTON JOBS

Use evidence-based strategies, such as Guided Pathways, to get Washington students through college or apprenticeships and into the workforce.

3 INVESTING IN OUR WORKERS

Dedicate funding to high-demand programs, such as computer science, engineering, nursing, and other high-demand fields. An Oversight & Accountability Board is created to help ensure investments are effectively helping students get into the workforce.

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EXPANDING AND PROTECTING THE WASHINGTON COLLEGE GRANT



For more than four decades, the State Need Grant has assisted low-income students pursuing higher education. Now it is time to fully fund this highly successful program and ensure it remains a reliable, consistent resource in the future by creating the Washington College Grant.

69,000 Students

Students from all across Washington receive funding that keeps pace with tuition and allows them to pursue four-year degrees, two-year degrees, certificate programs, and apprenticeships.

Serving Families Earning Up To \$60,000

The current State Need Grant serves families of four earning \$60,000 or less. That leaves out tens of thousands of middle class families.

18,000 Students Without Grant

Yet, 18,000 qualifying students are currently without the Grant. The state must fully fund the Washington College Grant so these students can afford college or career training.

Middle Class Looking for Options

We need more options for Washington families who do not currently qualify for the current SNG but still need help affording college. We can create the WCG and expand the program to include more families.

WASHINGTON STUDENTS

FOR WASHINGTON JOBS



BUILDING PATHWAYS FOR THE FUTURE

Washington businesses want to hire Washington workers and that means training our current workforce and students already here in the state. With just 40 percent of high school students going on to earn a post-high school credential, the workforce simply is not there to fill the jobs. Expanding the Guided Pathways programs at our community colleges will help students find a career path faster, save time and money, and overcome the achievement gap.

INVESTING IN OUR WORKERS

BUSINESSES NEED SKILLED WORKERS

Getting skilled workers means investing in people pursuing high-demand degrees. Higher education institutions are at capacity, and the only way to get the workers we need is to expand programs training computer scientists, engineers, nurses, and other high-demand professions.

WASHINGTON COLLEGE GRANT (FORMERLY STATE NEED GRANT)

- Fully fund the Washington College Grant in the current biennium and expand the WCG to fully cover the cost of public college tuition for families earning up to \$50k/year (\$343M)
 - Fully fund the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) match & ensure WSOS does not supplant College Bound (in operating budget)
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WA STUDENTS FOR WA JOBS

- Guided Pathways at community colleges to help students graduate on time and get into the workforce (\$120M)
 - Counselors & advisers at regional universities (\$4.6M)
 - Career Connect Washington apprenticeship proposal (\$24.8M)
 - Working Connections Child Care for working parents (\$12.7M)
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INVESTING IN OUR WORKERS

- UW Engineering (\$25M) (includes Seattle, Tacoma, & Bothell)
 - WSU Medical School current funding and expansion of medical class sizes (\$37M)
 - High-demand degrees at the regional universities (STEM) (\$15.57M)
 - Targeted raises for hard-to-hire faculty at community colleges (e.g. nursing faculty) (\$141.6M)
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OVERSIGHT & ACCOUNTABILITY

- An Oversight & Accountability Board helps to ensure investments are effectively helping students get into the workforce.

The Seattle Times

How the business community can support higher-education funding

By BRAD SMITH, ANA MARI CAUCE
AND WAYNE MARTIN
Special to The Times

- THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019, SEATTLE TIMES OPINION SECTION

Our Proposal: Create the Workforce Education Investment

To address college affordability, build education pathways that lead to good paying jobs, and train Washington's workforce for Washington jobs, we have to invest in the right programs right now.

As business and community leaders, we can step up to ensure 70% of Washington students earn the credentials they need for career success. We propose a new assessment on the very professions who need these skilled workers: Just as the building and construction trades have assessed themselves to fund apprenticeships to train the next generation of skilled workers, we propose that the professions that depend on higher education pay an assessment to invest in college and career training.

Specifically, we propose an assessment on the services & other Business & Occupations (B&O) tax rate for the professions that depend on higher education. We would use this assessment to create a new Workforce Education Investment to fund the programs that would help all Washington families complete college and career training.