

Seattle College District receives 2014 Pacific Region Equity Award

SEATTLE—The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) has announced that the Seattle College District is the recipient of the 2014 Pacific Region Equity Award. The award will be presented in October at the organization's annual leadership congress in Chicago.

"This is a distinct honor," says Seattle Colleges Chancellor Jill Wakefield. "We are committed to diversity and equity in educational opportunity for the communities and students we serve. We appreciate the opportunity to share our story and the role we are privileged to play in changing lives."

The Equity Award calls for demonstrable evidence of leadership in setting policies, championing an environment of inclusivity, and ensuring results for the success, enhancement and expansion of opportunities for women and underrepresented and underserved communities.

Diversity flourishes throughout the Seattle Colleges: half of the students are ethnically diverse and their backgrounds represent more than 80 first languages. The student body is 17.6 percent Asian/Pacific Islander; 16.7 percent African American; 14 percent Other/Multiple; 2.9 percent Hispanic; and .8 percent Native American. In addition, the District sends more transfer students of color than any other community college in the state to the University of Washington, where, in GPA and graduation rates, they do as well as or better than those who start at the UW as freshmen.

The Seattle Colleges meet the needs of their diverse student population in many ways. The **Northstar Navigator Program** provides tutoring to increase retention and completion rates of the diverse student populations. The **Women's Center** provides direct support, resources, and referrals to students of all gender identities and sexual orientations. **Emerging Leaders of Communities of Color Committee** meets to collectively improve educational, economic, social and environmental opportunities for communities and organizations in the colleges' service area. **V.O.I.C.E.S** (Vision, Opportunity, Inclusion, Collaboration, Equity, Social Justice) is a campuswide learning community for diverse leaders. It builds knowledge and leadership skills to support student success, especially those of marginalized communities. It promotes diversity through equity and social justice frameworks across the curriculum and in department meetings through professional development trainings. **Diversity Speaker Series** plans and implements programs and activities that promote student engagement, build community, reflect values of diversity and foster a rich intellectual, educational and cultural campus life. **Students of Color Conference** brings together students from higher education institutions from across Washington state. It provides opportunities for students to develop leadership skills and strategies to empower themselves personally, culturally and academically.

ACCT also recognized the District's leadership and workforce, which is more than 36 percent ethnically diverse.

About Seattle Colleges

The Seattle College District is Washington state's largest two-year college district, comprised of North Seattle College, Seattle Central College, South Seattle College, Seattle Vocational Institute and four specialty centers. We offer workforce education and training, professional-technical programs, bachelor's degrees in career areas and transfer degree programs to nearly 50,000 students each year. We are committed to endless possibilities and strong support for student success because we all benefit when everyone has a lifetime of opportunity. Follow Seattle Colleges on Twitter [@seattlecolleges](https://twitter.com/seattlecolleges).

About ACCT

The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) is a non-profit educational organization of governing boards, representing more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees who govern over 1,200 community, technical, and junior colleges in the United States and beyond. For more information, go to www.acct.org. Follow ACCT on Twitter [@CCTrustees](https://twitter.com/CCTrustees).

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