

Target Date: April 21, 2025

To: All staff, all colleges

From: Moriah Shistle, Director, Title III Cooperative SIP Grant

Replies to: moriah.shistle@seattlecolleges.edu

SUBJ: The Funding Navigation Project – Spring 2025 Update



April 21, 2025

Hello Seattle Colleges faculty and staff:

Welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of the Funding Navigation newsletter. Read on to find out how we're supporting students and how you can help us build a better funding experience for students.

In this issue:

- Meet our student leaders
- What we accomplished in Winter
- Let's collaborate this Spring
- Don't miss stipend opportunities for Spring, Summer, and next academic year!

Meet Our Student Leaders

This Spring, students are joining our team. Each student leader brings a unique perspective and life experience to the project which, together, will help Seattle Colleges build excellent programming that reaches more students.



Rayne Renney is a North Seattle College student studying Accounting. "I am excited to be a student leader for funding navigation because I am passionate about financial philosophy and want to pursue a career in financial ethics! Being part of helping students with funding navigation is in alignment with my dreams for financial justice, while being a space to grow and foster those dreams. A fun fact about me is that I have been to every state in the US except for Hawaii, and 8 provinces of Canada! Someday I want to leave North America on traveling adventures and see the world!"



Ryan Komba is a Seattle Central student also studying Accounting. "I am excited to join the Funding Navigation Team and contribute to academic equity by promoting funding options across Seattle colleges—creating a stronger impact for a stronger future. A fun fact about me is I have three dogs!"

We are currently in the process of hiring a Student Leader at South Seattle College and look forward to introducing them soon!

Here's what we accomplished in Winter...

Accepted referrals & appointments – Thank you to all the staff who have used Starfish to refer students to Funding Navigation! We received **65 Starfish referrals** and met with over **200 students**.

Provided FAFSA/WASFA assistance – Via both one-on-one appointments and in weekly virtual workshops, Funding Navigators helped **207 students** submit a financial aid application in Winter term.

Offered targeted retention support – With Seattle Promise, Funding Navigators co-facilitated workshops to support students whose financial aid is at risk of suspension due to not meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). Navigators also engaged in an outreach campaign to enrolled students with incomplete aid applications, personally calling over **120 students** to encourage them to complete their process.

Provided re-enrollment support – to **twelve** North Seattle students with past-due balances who were offered a Commitment Scholarship, helping them identify funding for future quarters

Hosted collaborative workshops and class visits – with Project Baldwin, Career Link, Welcome Center, Workforce Education, AANAPISI, TRiO, and others to help connect more students with funding opportunities.

Lots to look forward to this Spring

Funding Navigators will continue to host **virtual FAFSA/WASFA workshops** every Tuesday at noon via Zoom. Students learn the basics of FAFSA/WASFA and then have the option to receive one-on-one support via breakout rooms, if needed.

Throughout April and May, we're hosting a series of **student focus groups** to learn more about the student experience and specific funding-related barriers students face. To draw out the unique experiences of our multilingual students, we are working with ECE at North to host focus groups in languages other than English. If you speak Somali or Mandarin and would like to help, please email ramon.jimenez3@seattlecolleges.edu

Funding Navigators are working with ABE/ESL and high school reengagement programs to **connect with transitional studies students** through class visits and workshops. Interested in partnering with us to reach these students? Contact moriah.shistle@seattlecolleges.edu

A cross-functional team is **developing a screening tool** to help students identify what funding sources they are eligible for, how to get started, and where they can go for support. We're consulting with Financial Aid, Workforce, and students throughout this process.

We need you! Get involved with exciting projects

URGENT NEED FOR SOMALI AND MANDARIN SPEAKERS to facilitate focus groups with students in May. Training will be provided, and stipends are available for faculty. This will be a 3-4 hour time commitment. Contact ramon.jimenez3@seattlecolleges.edu if you are interested!

Join a Workgroup for 2025-26 – STIPENDS AVAILABLE! Do you care about connecting students to funding? Have firsthand knowledge of financial challenges your students face? Want to help us improve funding support services? Join a Funding Navigation workgroup – email moriah.shistle@seattlecolleges.edu for more information.

South partners: let's bring financial literacy to your students! We're looking for a department to partner with in Spring quarter to host a workshop. If you have students who could benefit from learning about budgeting, credit scores, identity protection, or other personal finance topics, please contact omar.fadiel@seattlecolleges.edu to discuss a collaboration.

Remind me, what's the Funding Navigation grant?

Seattle Colleges was awarded a five-year Title III grant to improve the student experience with securing funding for college. You can read more about the many different projects underneath the Funding Navigation grant on our [website](#). Updates will be posted quarterly and sent via email.

Best regards,

The Funding Navigation Team



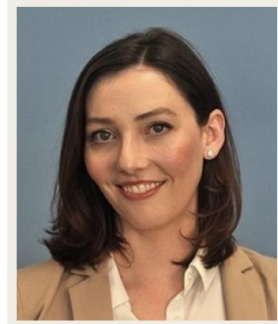
Omar G Fadiel
Funding Navigator,
North Seattle College



Tsetsen Anuurad
Funding Navigator,
Seattle Central College



Ramon Jimenez
Funding Navigator,
South Seattle College



Moriah E Shistle
Director, Title III Funding
Navigation Grant