

2025 League for Innovation Report



SEATTLE COLLEGES
North · Central · South



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Celebrating Seattle Colleges Class of 2025



"So now what? We go out and make the world better—not perfect, just better. Kinder. More honest. More compassionate. Class of 2025, thank you. Congratulations!"

– Ubah Farah, Seattle Central College graduate speaker, Class of 2025

Welcome

I am pleased to submit Seattle Colleges' Innovation Report

as our formal request to be reaffirmed as a Board Member College of the League for Innovation in Community Colleges. The innovative programs and related support detailed in this report reflect the work of our staff, faculty, and administration.

We created many of these programs and services through partnerships and opportunities gained as a Board Member College of the League. For more than 50 years, Seattle Colleges has been a leader in the community college movement, creating and implementing academic, workforce, and student-support programs leading to student success and completion.

As Seattle Colleges 11th chancellor and first woman of color in this position, I am proud to lead the largest and most diverse community college district in the state of Washington.

Our three distinctive colleges—North Seattle College, Seattle Central College, and South Seattle College—and five specialty training centers are led by three college presidents who are supported by an executive team and 2,000 employees. Our district serves approximately 35,000 students each year with a range of programs and services in college transfer, career preparation, technical education, basic studies, and continuing education.

Engaging in the League's innovative publications, presentations, conferences, and award-winning programs has enriched our efforts and enabled us to collaborate to create best practices and exchange ideas.

We look forward to our continuing work.

Yours,



Dr. Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap

Chancellor

Seattle Colleges





1500 Harvard Avenue, Seattle WA 98122-3803 | www.seattlecolleges.edu

March 26, 2025

Rufus Glasper, Ph.D.
President and CEO, League for Innovation in the Community College
2040 S. Alma School Rd., Suite 1-500, Chandler, AZ 85286

Dr. Glasper:

It is my honor as the Seattle Colleges Board of Trustee chair, to provide a letter of support for Seattle Colleges. I have been a board member for 8 years and have served as chair from September 2023 to present. During this time, I have had the privilege of working with the current Chancellor, Dr. Rosie Rimando-Charlesunsap, and the three presidents, Dr. Rachel Solemsaas of North, Dr. Chantae Recasner of Central and Dr. Monica Brown of South. As a member of the board, we are provided monthly highlight presentations during our meetings to showcase the impactful programing that is offered throughout our three campuses, a number of them having been presented and awarded as innovative programming.

Although there are core programs consistent on each campus, the colleges also provide programs and services that look to meet the demographics and audiences of their locations in the city. This allows the institution as a whole, to have a wider reach than if they were singularly located. From a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Computer Science, to Maritime, to Aviation; Seattle Colleges has worked to listen and engage with our industry partners to bring educational programing that aligns with the professional climate of the city today.

Seattle Colleges is the second largest academic institution in Washington state, second only to the acclaimed University of Washington. Seattle Colleges also has the largest apprenticeship program in the state, serving 50 occupations. The apprenticeship programs provide hands-on training from both family-owned and corporate partners that lead to living wage positions. Seattle Colleges stands by its declaration to keep moving towards being an anti-racist institution, which is represented in their mission statement, strategic plans, community engagements and the very board I am proud to sit on. For this and many other reasons previously stated, I am proud to provide my support.

Sincerely,

Rosa Peralta
Chair
Seattle Colleges Board of Trustees





Seattle Department of Education & Early Learning

Bruce Harrell, Mayor

Dr. Dwane Chappelle, Director

March 25, 2025

Dr. Rufus Glasper, CEO
League for Innovation in the Community College
2040 S. Alma School Rd., Suite 1-500
Chandler, AZ 85286

RE: Letter of Support – Seattle Colleges

Dr. Glasper:

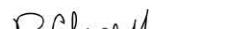
On behalf of Seattle's Department of Education & Early Learning (DEEL), I am pleased to support Seattle Colleges in their pursuit of reaffirmation candidacy as a member of the League For Innovation in the Community College. The partnership we have is one that I truly value as we have had the opportunity to collaborate on a number of programs that benefit young adults across Seattle. I would like to share some highlights of Seattle Promise; a college tuition and success program launched by Seattle Colleges, Seattle Public Schools, and the City of Seattle in 2018

- Seattle Promise support is robust from high school through to completion
 - Students receive pre-enrollment support from the Outreach Specialist team including application, FAFSA, and other pre-enrollment activities, like accessing Seattle Colleges enrollment systems.
 - Once enrolled, students benefit from dedicated Retention Specialists who carry expertise advising to students' academic pathways toward degree completion and navigating campus resources.
- Despite declining enrollment across WA state public institutions of higher education, DEEL's partnership with the Seattle College's has positively impacted 2-year college-going for all Seattle Public Schools graduates.
 - About 72% of the SPS graduating class of 2024 applied. Of these applicants, the program saw a record-breaking fall enrollment of roughly 900 students, representing the largest cohort in its history.
- In the midst of nationwide enrollment declines due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Seattle Promise Program managed to record positive retention trends for cohort 2023. This underscores the essential role of operational improvements and advising support for all Promise scholars.
 - The fall-to-fall (Year 1) retention rate reached 65% for cohort 2023, exceeding cohort 2018.
 - Year 1 retention rate for BIPOC scholars (cohort 2023) stands at 65%, for the first time since the pandemic, reaching equivalence to the overall cohort retention rate. This is a 5-percentage point gain from prior cohort 2022.
 - Nearly all student groups saw increases in Year 1 retention rates (cohort 2023) compared to the previous cohort.
 - Black and Hispanic/Latinx retention rates reached 60% and 62% respectively, the largest gains at 14- and 15-percentage points. Asian and multiracial students experienced small and positive gains at 2- and 6-percentage points.

As you can see, the impact of Seattle Colleges is felt immensely throughout our work here in DEEL. We would not be where we are as a department without their continued partnership. More importantly, our students greatly benefit from their commitment to educational excellence. It is an honor for me to advocate on their behalf. Thank you for taking the time to review my request to support their reaffirmation application.

Please contact me at Dwane.Chappelle@seattle.gov or 206-684-4508 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Dr. Dwane Chappelle
Mar 26, 2025 07:29 PDT

Dr. Dwane Chappelle, Director

Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning
PO Box 94665
Seattle, Washington 98124-6965
<http://www.seattle.gov/education>

Tel (206) 233-5118
Fax: (206) 386-1900
Hearing Impaired use the Washington Relay Service (7-1-1)

PRAMILA JAYPAL
7TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

*Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Immigration Integrity, Security, and
Enforcement*

*Member, Subcommittee on the Administrative
State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION & THE WORKFORCE

*Member, Subcommittee on Higher
Education & Workforce Development*

*Member, Subcommittee on Health,
Employment, Labor, and Pensions*

2346 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3106

2033 6TH AVE.
SUITE 1011
SEATTLE, WA 98121
(206) 674-0040

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2025

Rufus Glasper, Ph.D.
President and CEO
League for Innovation in the Community College
2040 S. Alma School Rd., Suite 1-500
Chandler, AZ 85286

Dear Dr. Glasper,

I am writing in support of Seattle Colleges' candidacy for the League for Innovation in the Community College. Seattle Colleges commitment to accessible, high-quality education has made a profound impact on our region. I am confident that Seattle Colleges' continued efforts will further enhance the educational landscape.

Seattle Colleges has long championed a mission of fostering accessible, high-quality higher education. The career training programs, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees and certificate programs offered across three distinct campuses and five technical training centers have impacted the lives of thousands in Washington State and beyond. These efforts have made Washington's community and technical college system into one of the best in the country

I commend Seattle Colleges' students, staff, faculty, and alumni for their dedication to fostering an inclusive community and broadening access to higher education. I am confident that Seattle Colleges will continue to be a driving force in advancing higher education and supporting the success of all students.

I urge you to give full and fair consideration to Seattle Colleges' candidacy for the League for Innovation in the Community College. Please do not hesitate to contact my office at (206) 674-0040 if you have any questions about my support for this designation.

Sincerely,



PRAMILA JAYPAL
Member of Congress

About Us

Mission

As an open-access learning institution, Seattle Colleges prepares each student for success in life and work, fostering a diverse, engaged, and dynamic community.

Vision

Seattle Colleges is recognized as an exemplary learning institution that transforms lives, promotes equity, and enriches the community.



Values



ACCESSIBILITY for all learners and partners



COLLABORATION through open communication and commitment to working together



DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND EQUITY for all individuals, particularly the underserved in our community



FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY for long-term viability and excellence in service and operations



GROWTH AND ENGAGEMENT of faculty and staff through professional development



INNOVATION in instruction, student services, operations, and organizational culture



INTEGRITY by adhering to the highest standards of ethics and public stewardship

Our History

SEATTLE CENTRAL COLLEGE

Seattle Community College—now Seattle Central College—opened in 1966 as part of the public school system. As the first two-year college in the city, and the 19th in Washington state, its establishment filled a huge unmet need for affordable education and career training for the city's residents. No longer would people have to travel to colleges in Everett, Bremerton, or other areas outside of Seattle. The first classes were held in the Edison Vocational Technical Institute in the Capitol Hill neighborhood.

Although Seattle Central was established in 1966, its roots run much deeper. Broadway High School, the city's first high school, opened in 1902 and originally stood on the current Capitol Hill campus. When it closed in 1946, shortly after World War II ended, Edison Technical Institute opened on that site to serve thousands of veterans returning from the war with vocational training and education, helping them transition to civilian life.

The State Community College Act of 1967 established college districts apart from the public schools, with a mandate to provide an open door to education for all who seek it. A long-range plan called for three campuses in the city, and planning began immediately for North Seattle College and South Seattle College.

SOUTH SEATTLE COLLEGE

South Seattle College was established in July of 1969. In that first year the college held classes at various locations, including the site now known as its Georgetown Campus, West Seattle High School, and a site on 3rd Avenue. Construction began at South's current 16th Avenue Location in West Seattle in January of 1970, with the first completed building opening later that year to offer aviation related classes.

NORTH SEATTLE COLLEGE

North Seattle College first opened its doors to the public in fall 1970. The campus is located in the Aurora-Licton Springs area of North Seattle, an area once heavily forested and filled with numerous mineral springs, bogs, and marshes. The original campus

master plan was designed to be constructed in three phases, beginning with what are now the Instruction Building, College Center, Library, Health Sciences and Student Resources, and Arts and Sciences buildings.

THREE COLLEGES, ONE DISTRICT

By September 1970, all three colleges opened together for the first time as a multicampus district.

By design, each of the colleges reflects its community. While the colleges are an integral part of their neighborhoods and offer certain unique educational programs, all are comprehensive and offer programs in college transfer, career and technical training, adult basic education, and continuing education.

Seattle Colleges acknowledges that our campuses exist on the lands that are the traditional home of the Coast Salish people, the traditional home of all tribes and bands within the Duwamish, Suquamish, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot nations, past and present. We honor with gratitude the land itself, the people, and their legacy.



Our Locations

Seattle Colleges is comprised of three colleges, several specialty centers, and a district office.

SEATTLE COLLEGES DISTRICT OFFICE AT SIEGAL CENTER

The district office is located one block south of Seattle Central's Broadway Edison Building in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood at Siegal Center, 1500 Harvard Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122.

The office represents Seattle Colleges on the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) for purposes of enrollment and budget allocations. With offices in Siegal Center, the chancellor's senior administrative leadership team leads and coordinates districtwide functions, activities, and services. Administrative units—including Access, Community, and Opportunity (ACO); Advancement/Foundation; the Chancellor's Office; District Communications; Enrollment, Effectiveness, and Reporting; Finance and Operations; Human Resources; Information Technology; and Workforce Education.



SEATTLE CENTRAL COLLEGE

Seattle Central is located at 1701 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122 on Capitol Hill, a vibrant neighborhood that reflects the diversity and activity of the city. Adjacent to a wide variety of food, art, music, and culture, the campus is minutes from downtown Seattle and accessible from every part of the city via public transportation including bus, trolley, and light rail.

Central administers three specialty training centers.

Health Education Center at Pacific Tower

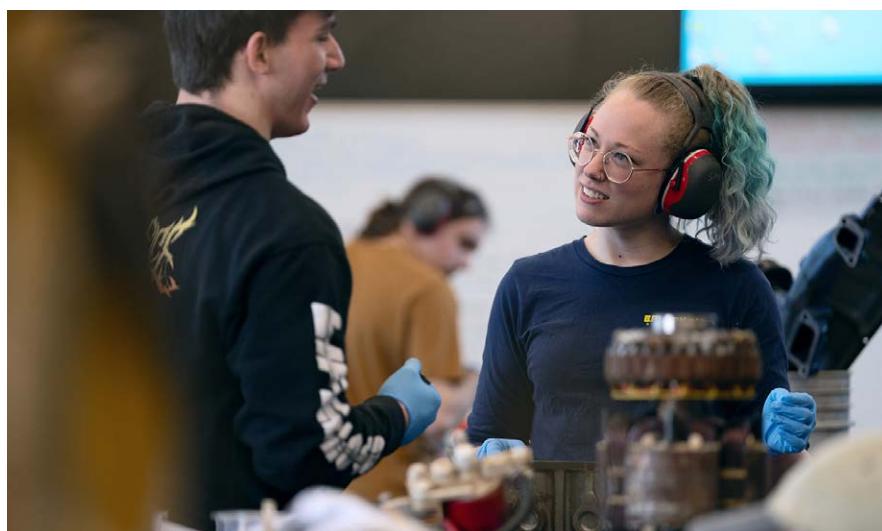
Seattle Central's intensive, hands-on healthcare programs have a world-class training facility in the Health Education Center located in the historic Pacific Tower on Beacon Hill, 1200 12th Avenue S, Seattle, WA 98144.

Seattle Maritime Academy

Central's Seattle Maritime Academy is located on the waterfront at a leading-edge facility in Seattle's Ballard neighborhood at 4455 Shilshole Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98107.

Wood Technology Center

Seattle Central's Wood Technology Center is a state-of-the-art woodworking facility located in Seattle's Central District at 2310 S Lane Street, Seattle, WA 98144. Note: the Wood Technology Center is closed on Fridays.



NORTH SEATTLE COLLEGE

North Seattle College is located in the Northgate/Licton Springs residential neighborhood of Seattle at 9600 College Way N, Seattle, WA 98103. It's a short walk from the Northgate light rail station using the John Lewis Memorial Bridge. Campus features include modern architecture, numerous murals, and environmentally sensitive wetlands that have inspired a college-wide commitment to sustainability.

SOUTH SEATTLE COLLEGE

South Seattle College is located on a spacious hilltop in West Seattle at 6000 16th Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98106. South offers panoramic views of the city skyline and surrounding mountains. South's expansive campus features a six-acre arboretum which serves as an outdoor classroom, next to the Seattle Chinese Garden. Various bus routes serve the campus, and there is ample on-site parking.

South administers two specialty training centers.

Georgetown Campus

The Georgetown campus is known as the area's premier workforce education and training center. The campus is located in Seattle's Georgetown neighborhood at 6737 Corson Avenue S, Seattle, WA 98108.

NewHolly Learning Center

The NewHolly Learning Center is a community resource for southeast Seattle. It is located on Beacon Hill on the second floor of the Learners Building at 7058 32nd Avenue S, Seattle, WA 98118.



South also operates a collaborative public-private training site.

Harbor Island Training Center

Harbor Island Training Center is a public-private partnership established on-site at Vigor Industrial Shipyards on Harbor Island to train maritime welders

for the regional shipbuilding and repair community. This "classroom-in-a-shipyard" is designed to meet the needs of maritime companies in Puget Sound with instructors who are industry professionals teaching the necessary skills students need to become highly employable shipyard welders.

Accreditation and Affiliations

ACCREDITATION

Seattle Central College, North Seattle College, and South Seattle College are state-supported public institutions accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education. Each college is accredited individually.

Accreditation of an institution of higher education by the NWCCU indicates that it meets or exceeds criteria for the assessment of institutional quality evaluated through a peer review process. An accredited college or university is one which has available the necessary resources to achieve its stated purposes through appropriate educational programs, is substantially doing so, and gives reasonable evidence

that it will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Institutional integrity is also addressed through accreditation.

Accreditation by the NWCCU is not partial but applies to the institution as a whole. As such, it is not a guarantee of every course or program offered, or the competence of individual graduates. Rather, it provides reasonable assurance about the quality of opportunities available to students who attend the institution.

Inquiries regarding an institution's accredited status by the NWCCU should be directed to the administrative staff of the institution. Individuals may also contact the commission.

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
8060 165th Avenue NE, Suite 100
Redmond, WA 98052
(425) 558-4224
www.nwccu.org

AFFILIATIONS

Seattle Colleges is affiliated with:

- League for Innovation



- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)



- American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)



Financial Information

SEATTLE COLLEGES STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

	June 30, 2024	Discrete Component Units
Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 63,926,743	\$ 10,849,320
Restricted cash	677,139	–
Short-term investments	–	9,934,901
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts	36,994,358	2,020,923
Leases receivable, current portion	739,401	–
Other assets	–	66,979
Total Current Assets	102,337,641	22,872,123
Noncurrent Assets		
Long-term investments	–	49,466,552
Leases receivable, net of current portion	4,073,233	–
Loans and other receivables	–	1,941,591
Pension asset	10,275,011	–
Non-depreciable capital assets	57,002,590	–
Depreciable capital assets, net of depreciation	202,604,315	–
Total Noncurrent Assets	273,955,149	51,408,143
Total Assets	376,292,790	74,280,266
Deferred Outflows of Resources		
Deferred outflows related to pensions	16,588,837	–
Deferred outflows related to OPEB	4,418,359	–
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	21,007,196	–
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$ 397,299,986	\$ 74,280,266



SEATTLE COLLEGES STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

	June 30, 2024	Discrete Component Units
Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Net Position		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 5,037,235	\$ 2,560,717
Deposits payable	–	286,378
Accrued liabilities	11,538,692	–
Compensated absences, current portion	5,852,695	–
Unearned revenue	6,053,137	–
Pension liability, current portion	354,446	–
OPEB liability, current portion	1,056,698	–
Right-to-use lease liability, current portion	1,587,833	–
Notes payable, current portion	1,455,543	–
Total Current Liabilities	32,936,279	2,847,095
Noncurrent Liabilities		
Compensated absences, net of current portion	7,282,842	–
Pension liability, net of current portion	9,985,435	–
OPEB liability, net of current portion	40,877,605	–
Right-to-use lease liability, net of current portion	7,310,823	–
Notes payable, net of current portion	19,132,020	–
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	84,588,725	–
Total Liabilities	117,525,004	2,847,095
Deferred Inflows of Resources		
Deferred inflows related to pensions	13,907,265	–
Deferred inflows related to OPEB	41,644,933	–
Deferred inflows on right-to-use assets	4,565,301	–
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	60,117,499	–
Net Position		
Net investment in capital assets	239,019,342	–
Restricted – Expendable	677,139	–
Restricted for pension plan assets	14,965,571	–
Restricted for Component Units	–	4,151,958
Unrestricted	(35,004,569)	17,281,213
Total Net Position	219,657,483	71,433,171
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Net Position	\$ 397,299,986	\$ 74,280,266

Foundation Funds and Overview

The Seattle Colleges Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the city's three community colleges, North Seattle College, Seattle Central College, and South Seattle College. Since its establishment in 2018, the Foundation has mobilized upward of \$50 million for urgent student necessities, scholarships, and new and enhanced programs responsive to industry and community needs.

The Foundation is an institutionally related (501)(c)(3) nonprofit whose approach and priorities align with the colleges. The district chancellor and three college presidents occupy *ex officio* roles on the board, as does a trustee from the colleges' overall governing body (whose members are appointed by the governor). Other board members are leaders from top area companies and philanthropies.

COVID 19 Emergency Relief Fund

The Foundation's first major initiative was launching an emergency relief fund for students affected by the pandemic. This began in Spring 2019 just days after the lockdown was declared, when hundreds if not thousands of students began losing their jobs as waiters, gig workers, hotel workers, and the like. With help from a broad range of individual, corporate, and foundation contributors, the Foundation quickly raised and distributed more than a half-million dollars in emergency grants for rent, food and utilities. Later, government relief dollars were able to take over.

Equity Can't Wait Campaign

Encouraged by the tremendous outpouring of generosity during the pandemic, the Foundation declared a bold five-year,

\$50M campaign to make Seattle Colleges a leader in providing world class, state-of-the art education to everyone, of every background, throughout the city.

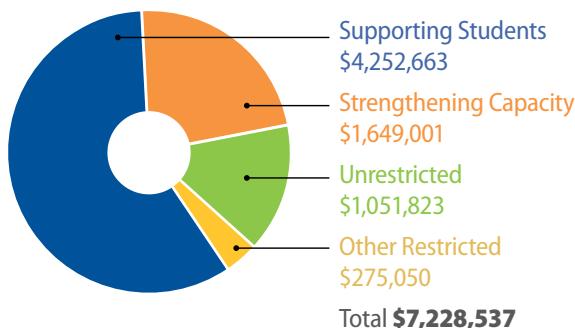
Seattle Colleges Scholarships

Every year, thanks to the generosity of hundreds of individuals, families, organizations, and companies, we are able to award scholarships to high-achieving Seattle Colleges students, easing their financial burden. In 2024-25 we distributed a record amount, **\$2.2 million**. Thanks in part to new *Stay in the Game* funds, the average scholarship also hit a high: **\$4,279**.

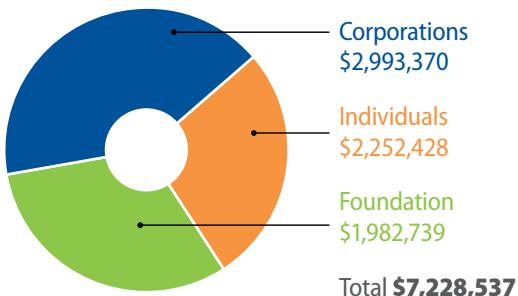
513 students received a 2023-24 scholarship—**twice the number** awarded when the *Equity Can't Wait* campaign began. **Seventy percent** were first-generation college students with an average age of **29**.

2023-2024 FINANCIALS | July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Purpose of Funding



Sources of Funding



Assets	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
Cash and cash equivalents	11,024,108	8,770,746
Investments	34,939,858	31,463,473
Pledge receivable	3,928,224	5,947,107
Prepaid expenses	64,910	14,423
Total Assets	\$49,957,100	\$46,195,749

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	567,854	594,428
Scholarship Payable	1,982,120	1,422,637
Total Liabilities	\$2,549,974	\$2,017,065

Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	7,729,503	5,862,404
With donor restrictions	39,677,623	38,316,280
Total Net Assets	\$47,407,126	\$44,178,684
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$49,957,100	\$46,195,749

Our Leadership

Board of Trustees

Seattle Colleges is governed by a five-member board of trustees appointed by the Washington state governor and approved by the state Senate. Trustees serve sequential five-year terms. The primary responsibility of the board of trustees is to meet the changing educational needs of the community while reflecting the community's values in fulfilling Seattle Colleges' mission.

Trustees certify the consistency of college missions and goals, formulate policy, and ensure effective leadership and responsible use of resources. Their responsibilities also include hiring the chancellor, who is the chief executive officer for Seattle Colleges District and reports to the board.



Rosa Peralta, Chair
*Independent consultant
civil rights, juvenile justice,
community engagement,
education, and healthcare*



Louise Chernin, Trustee
*Emeritus President and
Chief Executive Officer of
the Greater Seattle Business
Association (GSBA),
the largest LGBTQ+
Chamber of Commerce
in the United States*



Brian Surratt, Vice Chair
*President and Chief
Executive Officer of
Greater Seattle Partners*



Colleen Echohawk, Trustee
*President of Headwater
People Consulting; former
Chief Executive Officer of
Eighth Generation, an art
and lifestyle brand that
promotes Native designed
products*



Teresita Batayola, Trustee
*Former Commissioner for
President Joe Biden's White
House Initiative for Asian
Americans, Native Hawaiians
and Pacific Islanders; President
Emeritus of International
Community Health Services*

Chancellor's Executive Cabinet

CHANCELLOR

Dr. Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap



Dr. Rimando-Chareunsap has dedicated much of her career to Seattle Colleges beginning in 2000 as an advisor to first-generation college-bound youth in TRiO Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound programs. She was appointed Chancellor by the Seattle Colleges Board of Trustees in August 2023, after serving since 2022 as Interim Chancellor.

She also served as President of South Seattle College from 2018 until July 2022, and as the Vice Chancellor of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for the Seattle Colleges district.

Rimando-Chareunsap is recognized as a collaborative leader and colleague across the Seattle district. She contributed to the city-wide effort to implement Mayor Jenny Durkan's ambitious Seattle Promise program by representing the colleges in this effort and serving on the City's Design team to implement the work at all three colleges.

In addition to her leadership at South and across the district, Rimando-Chareunsap has been a leader on a statewide level serving on the executive committee of the Washington State Student Services Commission, and the Washington State Community and Technical College commission.

She has been recognized nationally for her leadership and commitment to equity and is an alumnae of the prestigious Aspen Presidential Fellowship program by leaders of national community college partnership organizations. She has also been named "Most Influential Filipina in the World" in 2023 in Prague, Czech Republic and recently was named Washington State University Board of Regents Most Distinguished Alumni in spring 2025. She serves on the board of Evergreen Goodwill of the Pacific Northwest, the League for Innovation, and the National Asian Pacific Islander Council of AACC.

Rimando-Chareunsap holds a B.A. in English and Ethnic Studies from Washington State University (WSU), a Master of Public Administration from the University of Washington, and a Doctorate of Education from WSU.

SOUTH SEATTLE COLLEGE PRESIDENT

Dr. Monica Brown *and Vice Chancellor of Student Services*



Dr. Brown, a higher education leader with over 18 years of progressive leadership experience, became South Seattle College's eighth permanent president in college history on August 1, 2024.

Brown brings nearly two decades of leadership experience in the community college environment and eight years at the senior level to her new role at South. She has worked at four-year and two-year institutions with diverse student, faculty, and staff populations. Her eclectic background derives from her experiences in academic affairs, continuing education, and student affairs.

In 2003, she started her tenure at Montgomery College, a multi-campus institution in the suburbs of Washington, DC, with a diverse population of 43,000 credit and non-credit students representing more than 155 nations, where she most recently served as the senior vice president for student affairs before joining South.

Brown earned a doctorate in higher education administration from Morgan State University, a Master of Arts in counseling from Trinity College, and a Bachelor of Arts from Georgetown University.

SEATTLE CENTRAL COLLEGE

INTERIM PRESIDENT

Dr. Chantae Recasner



Dr. Recasner joined Seattle Central College in 2023 from Western Governors University (WGU), where she served as the Equity Research Manager. With the support of data and research scientists, she led a team of faculty research fellows that helped close achievement gaps at the university. Prior to WGU, Recasner served as Dean for Academic Success at Northeast Lakeview College, one of five independently accredited colleges in the Alamo Colleges District. She oversaw Distance Learning/Instructional Innovation, Library Services, Academic Support, Dual Credit, and Grants & Scholarships. Prior to her appointment as Interim President, she served as the Vice President of Instruction at Seattle Central.

Recasner's career in education spans 20 years. She has served K-12 and higher education in various roles with a commitment to growing stronger, more equitable communities. She has focused on eliminating barriers to resources, systems, and institutions, especially for those historically oppressed and excluded.

She earned her Ph.D. in Education from the University of Cincinnati, and her three master's degrees are from The Ohio State University in Business Operational Excellence, Teaching and Learning, and African American and African Studies. She earned a BA in English from Loyola University New Orleans.

NORTH SEATTLE COLLEGE

PRESIDENT

Dr. Rachel Solemsaas

and Acting Vice Chancellor of Finance and Operations



Dr. Solemsaas began her work at Seattle Colleges in September 2023, arriving at North as Interim President before being selected to serve as President beginning July 1, 2024.

Prior to her work at Seattle Colleges, Solemsaas served for seven years as Chancellor of Hawai'i Community College, part of a 10-campus system. She has held a number of leadership positions, including chief financial officer or chief business officer at Truckee Meadows Community College in Nevada, and Bellevue College and Edmonds College in Washington. Before joining the community and technical college system, Solemsaas served Snohomish and King counties in various capacities in finance, related to public government, health and human services.

She brings a wealth of experience in mission fulfillment and accreditation as an experienced peer evaluator and commissioner for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and

the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, serving California, Hawai'i, and Pacific Islands. Throughout her career, she has remained committed to fighting poverty and, specifically, its impact on communities of color.

Solemsaas' educational background brings three distinct skill sets as a CEO, namely business acumen, administration, and community college leadership. She earned a Doctor of Education with an emphasis on Community College Leadership from Washington State University, a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Washington, and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from De La Salle University in Manila, Philippines.



Barbara Childs
*Associate Vice Chancellor
of Public Relations and
Strategic Initiatives*



Melody McMillan
*Senior Executive Director
of Seattle Promise*



Jennifer Dixon
*Vice Chancellor for
Human Resources*



Earnest Phillips
*Vice Chancellor of Public
Relations and Strategic
Initiatives*



D'Andre Fisher
*Associate Vice Chancellor
for Access, Community,
and Opportunity*



Cindy Riche
*Associate Vice Chancellor
of Information
Technology and Chief
Information Officer*



Cedric Howard
*Associate Vice Chancellor
of Strategic Enrollment
Management*



Dalia Sherif
*Senior Executive Director
of Workforce*



Kerry Howell
*Vice Chancellor
for Advancement*

2024-2025 Seattle Colleges Foundation Board of Directors

These community and corporate leaders contribute their time, talent, and resources as members of the Seattle Colleges Foundation Board of Directors.



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Trustee Emeritus,
Seattle Colleges;
Community Volunteer



VICE CHAIR

Rahim S. Rajan

CEO, AQL Labs



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President, South Seattle College

Louise Chernin

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Kerry Howell

Vice Chancellor for Advancement,
Seattle Colleges & CEO,
Seattle Colleges Foundation

Dr. Chantae Recasner

Interim President, Seattle Central College

Dr. Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap

Chancellor, Seattle Colleges

Dr. Rachel Solemsaas

President, North Seattle College

current as of 31-Mar-2025



Our Strategic Plan 2024–2034

The Board of Trustees approved and adopted the Strategic Plan for 2024-2034 on December 12, 2024.

A critical part of our planning process involved engaging and gaining input from our employees, students, and community members. The steering committee planned a series of data gathering activities during the first quarter of 2024. These activities and conversations ensured that more than 1000 faculty, staff, students, community members, and civic and business leaders were able to offer feedback.

Rooted in our commitment to becoming an anti-bias, anti-racist institution, the plan reflects a collective common purpose, beliefs, commitments, major goals and priorities. It recognizes the unique characteristics of each college and includes a range of high-level strategies that will be operationalized in a manner appropriate for each college.

Ultimately, this strategic plan acknowledges our proud history, short-term challenges, and opportunities while identifying future directions, aspirations, and operational strategies. It also affirms our fundamental mission: to prepare each student for a successful life and work in a diverse, global, and dynamic society.

GOAL 1: CULTURALLY AND SOCIALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

We use anti-bias, anti-racist frameworks to offer culturally relevant, inclusive, and accessible teaching and learning; and evolve programs to include community and industry needs preparing students for personal, academic, and professional success in a changing economy.

Strategies:

- Consistently implement training programs focusing on anti-bias, anti-racist teaching and learning standards and practices for faculty and staff that are accessible and inclusive.
- Implement anti-bias, anti-racist focus to all employee professional development plans that are built on a mutually agreed upon process.
- Provide a wide range of learning opportunities, instructional programs, and curricula in various modalities and scheduling.
- Integrate anti-bias, anti-racist frameworks into all instructional assessment practices and systems.
- Strengthen the comprehensive review and assessment process that analyzes industry and community needs that are specific to existing and potential programs.
- Improve accessibility for academic resources.
- Foster strong partnerships with community and industry to ensure our academic programming meets the needs of our community and students.



GOAL 2: HOLISTIC AND INCLUSIVE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

We use anti-bias, anti-racist frameworks to create a student experience that supports a diverse community; fosters a sense of belonging among our students, especially People of Color (BIPOC) and other historically underserved, under-supported groups; and ensures equitable access to services and essential resources that meet student needs.

Strategies:

- Leverage the Guided Pathways framework to proactively support students' pathways, in a clear and structured journey.
- Implement and offer programs and services such as disability services and services for BIPOC students that alleviate students' personal and financial barriers.
- Establish a comprehensive student feedback loop that gathers insights and informs actionable improvements to enhance the overall student experience.
- Create additional affinity groups on each campus to provide space for conversations and support.
- Develop and implement initiatives and support services that foster a strong sense of belonging for all students.
- Implement targeted outreach programs; and streamline and align admissions and financial aid processes for all students.
- Foster strong community-based partnerships that provide wrap-around services for our students.

GOAL 3: EMPOWERING EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE

We use anti-bias, anti-racist frameworks to create a sense of belonging for our employees, especially our People of Color (BIPOC) and other historically underserved, undersupported groups; promote professional development; and increase morale and retention to cultivate an inclusive and safe environment where our employees thrive and contribute to our students' success, our mission, and our community's needs.

Strategies:

- Implement a comprehensive supervisor training using anti-bias, anti-racist frameworks.
- Create a new employee onboarding system that integrates new employees into the college's culture and their role.
- Create additional affinity groups on each campus, including the district office, to provide space for conversations and support.
- Develop and implement initiatives that foster a strong sense of belonging for all employees.
- Build the infrastructure to support all employees in ongoing training and professional development opportunities.

GOAL 4: EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES AND PRACTICES

We use anti-bias, anti-racist frameworks to address systemic barriers faced by students and employees and to create equitable policies and procedures; strengthen operations in environmentally and fiscally sustainable ways; modernize physical and technology infrastructure; and promote transparency and accountability.

Strategies:

- Establish a well-defined, shared, and collaborative governance structure that is committed to the improvement of policies and procedures.
- Implement strategies for communicating decision making between employees and leadership.
- Implement a multi-year budgeting process that supports the college's mission, strategic priorities, long-term goals and financial resilience.
- Create and implement a plan to modernize the physical and technological infrastructure that prioritizes environmental sustainability.
- Enhance external relations and community partnerships for revenue opportunity and growth.
- Linked below is a document that provides an overview of the plan.

[Strategic Plan 2024-2034 \(pdf\)](#)

Our Commitment to Access

Seattle Colleges is committed to promoting equity, diversity, inclusion, and community and to ensuring just and equitable policies and practices. It is a moral and social justice imperative.

We work to ensure our systems, processes, and practices are equitable for all identities including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, culture, creed, religion, spirituality, non- spirituality, social and economic status, sex, sexual orientation and identity, gender, gender identity and expression, pregnancy, marital status, veteran status, disability, citizenship, and immigration status.

EQUITY IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR WORK

We define equity as the presence of justice and fairness within policies, practices, and distribution of resources by institutions and systems. We commit to equity as a core value to advance our charge to adopt and implement the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) Vision Statement: Leading with racial equity, our colleges maximize student potential and transform lives within a culture of belonging that advances racial, social, and economic justice in service to our diverse communities.

AN ANTI-BIAS, ANTI-RACIST INSTITUTION AND FRAMEWORK

We explicitly and unequivocally denounce racism and discrimination because they undermine the well-being and vitality of our communities. We acknowledge structural racism, ethnic discrimination, and other forms of oppression have contributed to disparities that have existed in the past and persist in the present.

Anti-racism is an active and conscious effort to work against all aspects of overt and systemic racism. We commit to becoming an anti-bias, anti-racist institution where all students and employees receive the access, resources, and services needed to achieve their educational, career, teaching/learning, and personal goals.

We use the [Framework for Advancing Racial Equity and Anti-Racism Strategy on Campus](#), developed by the [National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education](#), to focus our work—both in achieving our strategic goals and in the recruitment, support, retention, and completion of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and other historically underserved, under-supported groups.

COMMITMENT TO CHANGE

We commit to continued professional development and the unlearning of racism, sexism, classism, ableism, heterosexism, and other forms of oppression, biases, and anti-blackness operating at the personal, interpersonal, institutional, and cultural levels. As we understand the depth and history of inequitable, racist policies and practices in higher education in the United States, we commit to addressing and correcting these wrongs.

We acknowledge that these commitments will take intentional action both immediately and over time. Meaningful and effective change requires a fully engaged commitment throughout the organization and adequate time to develop capacity for change. We as individuals and as employees must change, in order for the system to change. We are not separate, and students can only have a more effective experience at our colleges when we are also willing to make changes in our teaching and the ways we serve our students. Our institutional success is measured by the success of our students, those who face the greatest systemic barriers to completion.

May this statement manifest to be more than words. May it guide us and be reflected in our strategic plan, goals, strategies, and outcomes. Our commitments hold space for all voices.

Our Colleges

North Seattle College

PROGRAMS WE OFFER

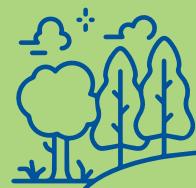
No matter your interests or goals, North Seattle College will help you prepare to transfer to a four-year school with an associate degree, earn a bachelor's degree, or train (or retrain) for any number of careers you'll love.

Highlighted Programs

- Art
- Business and Accounting
- Computer Science and Information Technology
- Early Childhood Education
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- Watch Technology

Explore more at
seattlecolleges.edu/programs

Inclusive, Student Centric,
Social Justice Minded



62 ACRE

NEIGHBORHOOD CAMPUS
near Green Lake Park.

Near many bus and transit options,
including the Northgate Link light
rail station.



→ Vibrant and eclectic
murals and public
artworks.

→ Lush wetlands,
community gardens
and green spaces,
courtyards, and an
iconic water fountain.

STUDENT BODY

32%
MALE

56%
FEMALE

<1%
NON-BINARY

13%
NOT REPORTED



NUMBER OF STUDENTS
12,092

FULL-TIME STUDENTS

23%



PART-TIME STUDENTS

77%

6%
OF STUDENTS
ARE PARENTS

38%
IDENTIFY AS
STUDENTS OF COLOR

31
MEDIAN AGE

Seattle Central College



PROGRAMS WE OFFER

No matter where your passions lie, Seattle Central College offers a variety of high-quality, affordable programs that include bachelor's degrees, associate degrees, and professional certificates. All designed to help you achieve your education and career goals.

Highlighted Programs

- Nursing
- Software Development
- Computer Science and Information Technology
- Graphic Design
- Marine Engineering Technology
- Social and Human Services

Explore more at

seattlecolleges.edu/programs

Historic, Community-Driven,
Rooted in Activism



15 ACRE

URBAN CAMPUS with
six main buildings.

Within WALKING DISTANCE of the
Capitol Hill Link light rail station and
Seattle Metro buses and streetcars.



→ Historically set in the heart
of progress, equity, and social
justice, with many movements
and demonstrations beginning
near its doorstep.

→ Surrounded by
food, shopping,
culture, and
urban green
spaces.

STUDENT BODY

37%
MALE

52%
FEMALE

1%
NON-BINARY

9%
NOT REPORTED

NUMBER OF STUDENTS
12,110

6%
OF STUDENTS
ARE PARENTS

54%
IDENTIFY AS
STUDENTS OF COLOR

FULL-TIME STUDENTS

37%



PART-TIME STUDENTS

63%

24
MEDIAN AGE

South Seattle College

PROGRAMS WE OFFER

Opportunities at South Seattle College include career training, college transfer and applied bachelor's degrees, and short-term training and personal enrichment courses to fit practically any schedule. We also offer high school completion, ESL classes, and apprenticeship programs to meet all our students' needs.

Highlighted Programs

- Automotive Technology
- Aviation Maintenance Technology
- Business
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Welding Fabrication Technology

Explore more at
seattlecolleges.edu/programs

Fun-Loving, Connected,
Equity-Focused



87 ACRE

HILLTOP CAMPUS in West Seattle with views of Seattle's skyline and mountain ranges.

Various BUS ROUTES take you directly to campus, with ample on-site parking and carpool options available.



→ Campus attractions include a world-class arboretum, Seattle Chinese Garden, Northwest Wine Academy, and more.

→ Expansive campus with room to roam, reflect, study, and play.

STUDENT BODY

59%
MALE

32%
FEMALE

<1%
NON-BINARY

9%
NOT REPORTED



NUMBER OF STUDENTS
9,688

FULL-TIME STUDENTS

35%



PART-TIME STUDENTS

65%

3%
OF STUDENTS
ARE PARENTS

47%
IDENTIFY AS
STUDENTS OF COLOR

28
MEDIAN AGE

Our Points of Pride

A collection of interesting, inspiring, and noteworthy stories at Seattle Colleges.



South Launches Nation's First Publicly Offered Airport Ground Support Equipment Training Program in Partnership with the Port of Seattle.



Seven students proudly represented North Seattle College at the Women Entrepreneur Business Solutions Competition at the University of Washington's Foster School of Business on Feb. 1. Their ideas won.



Painting from the past, inspiring the future: Seattle Colleges' James Baldwin mural.

A discussion about the legacy of James Baldwin, the namesake for Project Baldwin, and the centerpiece of the stunning new mural in the library at North Seattle College.



The National Early Care and Education Workforce Center features North Seattle College's Early Childhood Education language immersion program, offering coursework to students in four native languages.



The City of Seattle's Office of Economic Development grants the Seattle Maritime Academy nearly \$1 million to recruit more women and people of color into the maritime academy.

Follow a day in the life of our Seattle Maritime students.



The Academy for Rising Educators (ARE) at Seattle Central College is helping students envision themselves as teachers.

Our Programs and Offerings

BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Seattle Colleges offers 14 bachelor's degrees that create educational pathways, build on two-year technical degrees, and expand career opportunities.

When compared to traditional bachelor's degrees, the four-year Bachelor's of Applied Science (BAS) degrees incorporate more applied, hands-on learning focused on a particular industry and include strong internship components. They often offer credit for prior learning and workplace experience.

1. Accounting with a focus on International Accounting (BAS)
2. Application Development (BAS)
3. Computer Science (BS)
4. Early Childhood Education (BAS)
5. International Business (BAS)
6. Residential and Commercial Property Management (BAS)
7. Applied Behavioral Science (BAS)
8. Community Health and Education (BAS)
9. Dental Hygiene (BAS)
10. Healthcare Services Management (BAS)
11. Respiratory Care (BAS)
12. Teacher Education (BAS)
13. Hospitality Management (BAS)
14. Sustainable Building Science Technology (BAS)

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

In the Fall of 2022, Seattle Colleges received approval to offer a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. The new degree was the culmination of a partnership with Seattle Colleges and Amazon with a specific aim at meeting the demand for computer science graduates across the region.

TRANSFER PROGRAM

Seattle Colleges transfer program offers courses in a wide range of academic fields common to undergraduate study in colleges and universities. These courses meet requirements for associate degrees and will transfer to four-year institutions within guidelines established by those schools. The courses and programs offered are designed to enable the student to make a successful transition to a baccalaureate (four-year) institution.

Transfer Degree Summaries

- Associate of Arts (A.A. – DTA)
- Associate in Business (A.B.)
- Associate of Science – Transfer (A.S.-T)
- Associate of Fine Arts (A.F.A.)
- Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S. and A.A.S.-T)

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Seattle Colleges offers more than 130 career and technical education (CTE) and training programs (also known as professional and technical education). These programs offer certificates and/or degrees, and vary from 1 to 7 quarters in length.

They are designed to prepare students for specific careers. Several professional/technical programs also offer short-term training certificates. In some programs students may build skills and add certificates over time to progress in their fields.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Seattle Colleges offers certificate programs of one to seven quarters in length designed to prepare graduates for employment in a wide variety of careers or to upgrade the skills of incumbent workers.

Short-term Certificates

Short-term certificates have fewer than 20 credits. They usually cover an entry-level or specific skill set needed for that industry. Students can complete a short-term certificate and enter/re-enter the workplace with improved skills. They may also continue on a pathway to a higher certificate or degree, and some or all of the credits from the short-term certificate may apply to the next-level certificate or degree. Some programs are composed of short-term certificates that are specifically designed to build, or "stack," sequential skills and credits.

Stackable Certificates

Among these short-term certificates are some that are considered "stackable" certificates. Stackable certificates are short-term certificates of fewer than 20 credits each, which are specifically designed to build, or "stack" sequential skills and credits. On completion of each certificate, students can return to the workplace with added skills or they can continue building additional skills at the next level in the stackable series of certificates. Taken together, stackable certificates lead to a sequence of increasing skills, potential job advancement, and/or cumulative credits toward a higher certificate or degree.

For example, in Wood Technology, students can take 18-credit certificates independently in Carpentry, Finishing, and/or Framing Fundamentals. These

skills can lead to jobs, or students can accumulate the skills, which can lead to more job skills, further certificates, or an A.A.S.-T degree.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Seattle Colleges is serving the community by offering a range of continuing education courses at reasonable cost. The programming consists of three primary components:

- Personal enrichment
- Professional development
- Industry training

Continuing Education classes are mostly noncredit and nongraded. Most are taught by community members and local professionals who are experts in their fields. Classes include areas as diverse as arts and crafts, computers, dance and exercise, food and wine, foreign languages, gardening, financial planning, leadership,

business, and more. Continuing Education offers online courses as well. The Industry Training courses offer innovative education and certification for businesses in Washington State.

CORPORATE AND CUSTOMIZED TRAINING

The Office of Corporate & Customized Training is a leading-edge supplier of workforce and customized training for the Seattle region. It serves as a single point of contact for business and industry by:

- Providing relevant training to upskill workforces and give companies a competitive advantage.
- Offering a full suite of professional training solutions developed for and provided to business, industry, and organizations.



HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

College Concurrent:

Running Start

Running Start allows qualified Washington state high school juniors and seniors to register for college-level courses while remaining enrolled at their local high school. Partial to full tuition is paid for by the state; students pay mandatory fees, buy their own books, and provide their own transportation.

Students eligible for free/reduced lunch have their fees waived and can borrow textbooks from the Running Start offices on a quarterly basis. To qualify, students must take a placement test and be ready for college-level coursework.

As a dual enrollment program, students receive both high school and college credit, accelerating their progress through the education system. Running Start is a good option for high school students who are ready to start college early.

College Prep

Seattle Colleges offers four college preparation programs:

Learning Center Seattle at Seattle Central College

The Learning Center Seattle helps learners improve their lives through one-on-one education advocacy and case management services as well as tuition-free college at Seattle Colleges up to an AA degree.

Career Link High School at South Seattle College

Career Link is a high school completion program for students ages 16-21 who no longer attend traditional high school. It offers students the opportunity to work on academic skills, personal development, and make progress towards a high school diploma during their enrollment.

TRIO Educational Talent Search at South Seattle College

The TRIO Talent Search program is a free, federally funded program that serves middle and high school students by helping low-income and first-generation college-bound students successfully graduate from secondary school and enroll in post-secondary education. The program provides academic, career, and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school and continue on to and complete their postsecondary education. The program publicizes the availability of financial aid and assists participants with the postsecondary application process.

Upward Bound at South Seattle College

The Upward Bound Program serves selected high school students by providing low-income and potential first-generation students with college access programming and opportunities to improve their skills and motivation to complete high school, go to college, and graduate from college.

PRE-COLLEGE AND ESL

Pre-College and English as a second language (ESL) courses provide instruction for adults who want to:

- Improve their ESL skills for work or college.
- Earn a high school diploma or GED®.
- Get college-ready with their reading, writing, communication, and math skills.
- Begin college or job-training while earning a high school diploma.
- Brush up on skills to get better jobs or prepare for college.
- Refresh or build reading, writing, and math skills for personal goals, future education, and employment.

The programming includes:

- Adult Basic Education
- Developmental Education
- English as a Second Language
- English as a Second Language (Transitional)
- GED® Prep
- High School+ (HS+)
- (Adult) High School Completion
- High School Completion Tuition Waiver
- Integrated Basic Education & Training (I-BEST)

Our Innovative Programs



**SEATTLE
PROMISE**

2023-24 NUMBERS

Seattle Promise participants complete their degrees at **twice the rate** of community college students nationally.

Nearly **2/3 of seniors** graduating from Seattle Public Schools applied for the program in 2024.

Program enrollment has increased from 220 students in Fall 2018 to **1,460 students in Fall 2024**.

One-third of students are the **first in their families** to attend college; two-thirds are from communities of color.

Over 50% of Promise students come from **families earning less than \$75K a year**.

Large numbers of Promise participants later **transfer to four-year schools** including the University of Washington, Washington State University, and Seattle University.



MORE THAN A SCHOLARSHIP — A PARTNERSHIP

Seattle Promise is a college tuition and success program launched by **Seattle Colleges, Seattle Public Schools**, and the **City of Seattle** following passage of the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise (FEPP) Levy in 2018. Open to all graduating seniors from the city's public and public-charter high schools, Seattle Promise has three core components:

- Student support and advising beginning junior year of high school and lasting through completion of a degree, certificate, credential, or transfer to a four-year institution.
- Up to two years of free tuition at any of the Seattle Colleges: North Seattle, Seattle Central, or South Seattle.
- Flexible funding for books, transportation, housing, etc. for students with financial need.



"Seattle Promise offers a model for other Washington communities looking to boost students' access to higher learning and career success."

Seattle Times Editorial 12/16/20

SEATTLE PROMISE PATH TO UW

"The Path to UW partnership with Seattle Colleges is rewriting the story of transfer to a flagship university," said Melody McMillan, senior executive director of Seattle Promise at Seattle Colleges. *"Built with student access and success at the center, Path to UW was shaped by student and faculty feedback—and acting on that feedback works."*

The Path to UW program is a collaboration between the Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning, Seattle Colleges, and University of Washington (UW). The program provides targeted support to Seattle Promise students as they transfer from community colleges to one of the most competitive universities in the nation.

Launched in 2022, the program offers a variety of services designed to increase students' academic readiness, facilitate the transfer process, and build a sense of community among Seattle Promise students. Through dedicated advising, workshops, and summer seminars led by UW faculty, the program supports students as they transition to UW.

Early results: Path to UW participants achieve 82–85% admission—well above 50–59% for non-participants and the 69% Washington community college transfer rate. A majority are students of color, underscoring the program's role in advancing equitable access from application through enrollment at UW–Seattle.

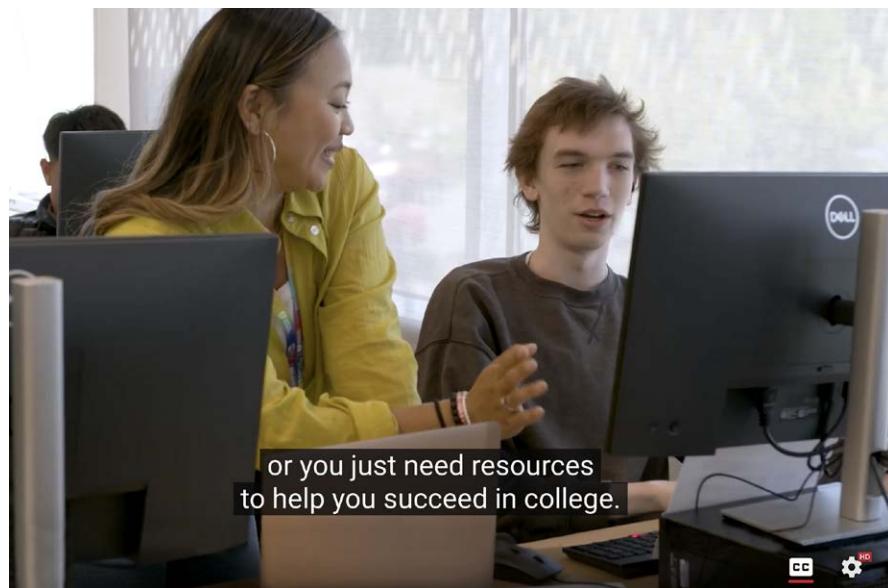
"Seattle's students are brilliant and driven—when institutions align around them, applications turn into admissions, admissions into enrollment, and enrollment into graduation and career," said McMillan

View Videos

Seattle Promise Alumni Stories



Your Future with Seattle Promise



SEATTLE CENTRAL COLLEGE ACADEMY FOR RISING EDUCATORS

Seattle Central College exemplifies its commitment to social and economic inclusion through innovative, equity-driven programs that expand access to education and career pathways. A standout initiative is the Academy for Rising Educators (ARE), which supports Seattle Public Schools graduates, especially students from disadvantaged populations who aspire to become educators in their communities.

ARE provides a flexible, supportive pathway for students to earn an associate degree focused on education, preparing them to transfer to four-year institutions and return to teaching in local schools. This program is a direct response to the need for a more diverse and representative educator workforce and reflects Seattle Central's broader student access and success mission.

In recognition of its impact, ARE received the NAME (National Association for Multicultural Education) Award in 2023 and was featured in a Campus Compact presentation for its role in advancing civic engagement and educational equity. The program also collaborates with community-based organizations and local schools to ensure students receive holistic support throughout their academic journey.

ARE is part of a broader ecosystem at Central, including the Seattle Promise program. Together, these programs are transforming lives, strengthening communities, and positioning Seattle Central College as a national leader in inclusive, community-rooted education.

NORTH SEATTLE COLLEGE COMPUTER SCIENCE BACHELOR'S PROGRAM

In 2022, Amazon invested \$1.5 million in North Seattle College, establishing a new Bachelor of Science in Computer Science program. The program, aimed at addressing the tech talent shortage, prepares students for various tech roles by focusing on practical skills in areas such as robotics, databases, and cybersecurity. Three years later, the program graduated its first class and showed positive results helping students find passion and career opportunities in tech, including Amazon.



Problem Solving, and Python Programming

Callan Hercules, a member of North's graduating Class of 2025, shares his perspectives on North's Bachelor of Science program in Computer Science. Supplementing his own passion and drive with a bit of help from a scholarship from Seattle Colleges Foundation, he's been able to build his portfolio and develop a sense of pride in himself as he now looks to pursue a career in technology.



SOUTH SEATTLE COLLEGE SUSTAINABLE BUILDING SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY

"The SBST program continues to be at the forefront of making good change in our communities through its use of living labs, student projects situated in real-world applications, and dynamic partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations working together to transform the ecology of our built environment."

—Alison Pugh, Dean of the SBST program

South Seattle College's Sustainable Building Science Technology (SBST) bachelor's program confers an industry-focused, applied science and technology bachelor's degree. Designed for working adults and those in transition, with classes held online, evenings, and Saturdays, the program focuses on building science, management skills, essential technologies, and financial/budgeting operations.

In 2024, the program celebrated its 10th anniversary by announcing the support of a \$900,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to establish a new Pacific Northwest Building Training and Assessment Center (BTAC) working closely with partners at the University of Washington Integrated Design Lab, University of Washington Industrial Assessment Center, and Northwest Indian College.

The BTAC Center at South Seattle College's Georgetown Campus will provide hands-on energy assessment training serving small and medium buildings to improve energy efficiency. SBST will also develop curriculum for building professionals, and the center will serve building owners in traditionally disadvantaged communities by having students in the program provide low to no-cost building energy assessments.

The BTAC aims to fill two gaps in building performance improvements: preparing a trained workforce and providing access to benchmarking and strategic roadmaps for energy efficiency and decarbonization, especially in disadvantaged communities.

"Everything that was involved in the program spoke to me and said, 'this is how you can begin to make a difference.'"

—Camille Barrat, SBST Alumna



Our Emerging Innovations

SEATTLE COLLEGES AND WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY: GUARANTEED TRANSFER ADMISSION PARTNERSHIP

Seattle Colleges and Western Washington University have launched the Guaranteed Transfer Admission Program to streamline the path to bachelor's degree completion for transfer students. Beginning Fall 2026, eligible students who complete an Associate in Arts (DTA) or Associate in Science - Transfer (AS-T) degree with a minimum 2.5 GPA will be directly admitted into majors at WWU. This initiative promotes early advising, intentional course selection, and proactive engagement, encouraging students to view their entry into Seattle Colleges as the first step toward a four-year degree.

By aligning academic planning with transfer goals, the program enhances student success and degree attainment. The partnership exemplifies a shared commitment to equity, access, and educational mobility, ensuring that students are supported from enrollment through graduation. This innovative model reflects the power of collaboration between two public institutions to remove barriers and create seamless transitions for Washington's community college students.



CENTRALIZED FINANCIAL AID MODEL: A STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT INNOVATION

Seattle Colleges' centralized financial aid model, launched in Fall 2023, and finalized by Summer 2024, has transformed student support and operational efficiency across the district. Anchored in the Strategic Enrollment Management framework, the model emphasizes collaboration, transparency, and service excellence.

Key accomplishments include the creation of "The More You Know" guides, a district-wide SharePoint hub, standardized onboarding, and a unified financial aid leadership team. Operational systems such as an internal ticketing platform, weekly district-wide meetings, and collaborative work sessions have streamlined issue resolution and improved student outcomes. Notably, some teams experienced an 80% increase in processing speed during the 2024–25 academic year.

This centralized approach ensures consistent policy alignment, proactive communication, and ongoing professional development. By removing silos and fostering innovation, Seattle Colleges has built a scalable model that enhances access to financial resources and supports student success at every stage of the enrollment journey.



Our Commitment to Faculty

Seattle Colleges employs a member of the faculty to serve as a faculty development coordinator to work toward the following goals:

- Increase subject matter expertise and innovate instructional methods
- Improve instructional skills with all students, especially academically and culturally diverse students
- Foster collaboration among colleagues throughout the district
- Encourage lifelong learning

Three committees of faculty peers help move the work forward:

- Faculty Development Committee
- Curriculum Development Grant Committee
- Professional Leave Committee

The Faculty Agreement with Seattle Colleges provides funding for numerous grants each year for both full-time and part-time faculty members.

Faculty Development Grants

Faculty Development Grants fund faculty for travel, conference attendance, and workshop facilitation on behalf of Seattle Colleges.

Curriculum Development Grants

Curriculum grants can be used to develop curriculum for any type of class taught by faculty at Seattle Colleges. Face-to-face, online, hybrid, and open educational resource (OER) projects are supported equally, based on the merits of the project.

Professional Leave Grants

Tenured faculty members who have completed three or more years of full-time employment with Seattle Colleges are eligible to apply for Professional Leave per AFT Agreement, Article 5.10. Types of Professional Leave include sabbatical, retraining, and return-to-industry.

eLearning Grants

eLearning supports faculty development by offering a range of stipends that enable educators to enhance their teaching through advanced pedagogical strategies, innovative technology integration, and improved accessibility practices. These targeted resources empower faculty to continuously refine their skills and effectively meet the diverse needs of their students.



Our League Participation

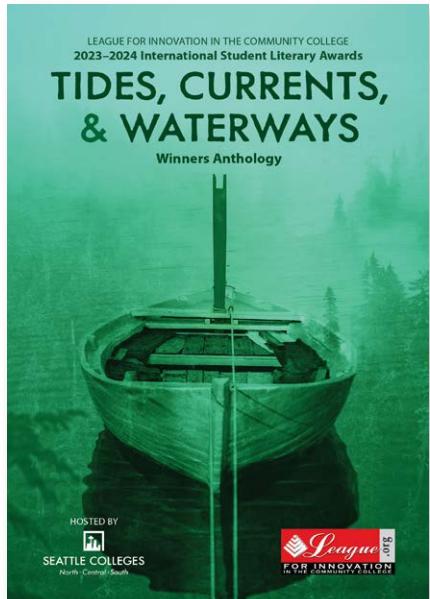
2024–2025 LEAGUE FOR INNOVATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

North Seattle College

Shireen Deboo
Hayoung Kim
Adrienne Lugg
Diana Ma

Seattle Central College

Jeff Bermudes
William Barry
Danny Blanchard
Bucky McKenzie
Jason Svendsen
Karen VanGenderen
Jerry Wright



2023–2024 LEAGUE FOR INNOVATION STUDENT ART AND LITERARY AWARDS

Art Competition

Best in Show

"Daughter of the Sea" charcoal on paper by Amaya Berger, North Seattle College

Second Place

"Glamour" charcoal on paper by Madeline Brandt, North Seattle College

Third Place

"Control" papier mâché, wood, wire, plastic, wooden beads, hot glue by Kristin Mayer, North Seattle College

Juror's Choice

"Woe" ink on paper by Vincea Fejeren, Seattle Central College

"The Weight of Youth" ceramic sculpture by Estelle Muey, South Seattle College

Honorable Mention

"Hand in Motion" charcoal on paper by Faina Abdrasil, North Seattle College

"Elevator" oil on canvas by Joseph Bantum, North Seattle College

"Bananas" stoneware by Justin Gregg, North Seattle College

"Stretch" digital illustration by Liliana Gutierrez-Pino, North Seattle College

"El Gallo" collagraph by Michelle Carranza Velasco, North Seattle College

"Fruity" charcoal on paper by Othello Smith, North Seattle College

"Still Life no. 3" charcoal on paper by Tamsin Gillie, North Seattle College

Literary Competition

Fiction

First Place

"Lopez" by Jules Raymond, Seattle Central College

Honorable Mention

"The Sidewalk" by Kimberly Dunham, North Seattle College

"Counting Raindrops" by Naomi Brown, South Seattle College

Essay

First Place

"Futility" by Crystal Kaya, Seattle Central College

Honorable Mention

"Feeding the Beast" by Sylvie Sallquist, Seattle Central College

"Sailing from Hanoi at Dusk" by Annabelle Vu, Seattle Central College

Poetry

First Place

"Why Dogs Howl"
by Linus Elkins,
Seattle Central College

Honorable Mention

"Lament of a Fallen Star"
by Aija Mattice,
North Seattle College
"1/5" by Josie Chevalier,
Seattle Central College

Spoken Word (Local Award)

First Place

"Real Eyes" by Douglas Moon,
North Seattle College

Creative Nonfiction (Local Award)

First Place

"The Breaking of the Wings"
by Caroline Recker,
Seattle Central College

Honorable Mention

"Fork" by Jules Raymond,
Seattle Central College
"My Favorite Orange"
by Douglas Moon,
North Seattle College
"Galaxios n Kosmos"
by El Molinos,
Seattle Central College

LEAGUE PRESENTATIONS; SELECTED INNOVATIONS PRESENTATIONS

League Board Meeting Host

Spring 2020, Feb 29, 2020, Seattle
Fall 2007, October 5, 2007, Seattle
Spring 1994, May 7, 1994, Seattle
Fall 1970, October 24, 1970, Seattle

OUR LEAGUE INNOVATIONS

Innovation of the Year Awards

2022–2023 Discover Seattle Colleges

Discover Seattle Colleges is an annual districtwide recruitment and image and reputation campaign, piloted during the pandemic and now in its third year. The campaign includes two main weeklong activities. The first is a series of online Zoom events, organized in eight areas of study, which invites prospective students and their families as well as current students to get inspired about their future careers. Participants are welcomed by recruitment staff each night, then join breakout rooms to listen to Seattle Colleges faculty present about their programs.

The following week, a series of open house events at our colleges and specialty centers kick off. Prospects from the first week and the public are invited to learn more in person and get started on their career path through campus tours; campus student services, scholarships, clubs, and employment tabling; classroom demonstrations; food; college giveaways; and more.



We invited the whole community to explore, get inspired, and get started during our fourth annual Discover Seattle Colleges event. Online events and open houses were held across our district.

2021-2022: Springboard8

2020-2021: English Directed Self Placement: Guiding Student Choice

2019-2020: Inclusion Advocate Program

2019: Seattle Promise

2018: Neighborcare Health Dental Education Clinic at Pacific Tower

2017: iMEC: Tactile Distance Learning System and Redesign of Developmental English Pathways

2016: Faculty Diversity MOU

2015: Ready-Set-Transfer



PAST INNOVATION AWARDS

Read more about our awards.



SEATTLE COLLEGES

North · Central · South

Seattle College District

1500 Harvard Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98122
206.934.4100
seattlecolleges.edu

North Seattle College

9600 College Way N
Seattle, Washington 98103
206.934.3600
northseattle.edu

Seattle Central College

1701 Broadway
Seattle, Washington 98122
206.934.3800
seattlecentral.edu

South Seattle College

6000 16th Avenue SW
Seattle, Washington 98106
206.934.5300
southseattle.edu

Specialized Training Centers

Georgetown Campus
Health Education Center
NewHolly Learning Center
Seattle Maritime Academy
Wood Technology Center

eLearning / Distance Education

Worldwide Virtual Campus
seattlecolleges.edu/distance

Seattle Colleges is committed to the concept and practice of equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation for all its students, employees, and applicants in education, employment, services, and contracts. For our full non-discrimination statement, visit seattlecolleges.edu/nds.