



# Puget Sound College and Career Network

## PSCCN Team Update



Sending a huge shout out to Angelica Alvarez as she embarks on an amazing opportunity with another program within the ESD. Angelica recently finished her time with PSCCN after establishing many strong connections with partners in the region as well as contributing to the creation of numerous student-focused resources. During her time with PSCCN, she led many projects to increase financial aid completion rates for students of color, low-income families, and first-generation American students etc. Some of her projects include Financial Aid workshops, Financial Aid action teams, Steering Committee, and various student & family engagement convenings. Angelica also produced monthly actionable financial aid data reports for districts and school leadership. Even though Angelica's tenure with PSCCN cannot be fully encapsulated in this article, her contributions cannot be overstated. Thank you, Angelica, for all your work and dedication!

## Postsecondary Resources & Reminders

In this month's newsletter we focus on financial aid completion. According to our friends at WSAC, seniors who complete a financial aid application are 84% more likely to enroll in postsecondary education. The rate is even higher for students from lower-income families. We hope [these resources](#) will assist you in supporting students in completing this crucial step towards postsecondary access.

### PSCCN Partners:

- How are you juggling financial aid strategies with the move to remote learning?
- Are you seeking extra support and resources?

- Has your district implemented a new innovative approach with promising results?

Either way we want to hear from you. Email: [cgranlund@psed.org](mailto:cgranlund@psed.org) to share promising practices or to request technical assistance support.

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### WSAC FAFSA Portal

The WSAC FAFSA Portal access is a critical tool for individualized student support in financial aid completion. The portal gives educators the ability to track individual FAFSA completions.

#### Annual Renewals:

- Data sharing agreement with the Washington Student Achievement Council to continue to access the FAFSA Portal.
- Individual educators must also renew their non-disclosure agreement to gain access to the FAFSA Portal.

Contact [fafsa@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:fafsa@wsac.wa.gov) for details.

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### Strategies for a Changing Labor Market: Reskilling and Upskilling for Career Advancement in the Post-COVID-19 Economy

Like other states, Washington is facing many challenges brought on by COVID-19 such as those facing the higher education system. Below are some reports that offer examples of how Washington can address some of the challenges with well-coordinated credential pathways including strategies to help educators successfully navigate the recovery period.

#### What Evidence From Research Tells Us:

- Closing Equity Gaps in Postsecondary Access and Completion ([2020](#))

#### Financial Aid & Affordability:

- College Bound Senior Counts and FAFSA Completion ([2019](#))

#### College Affordability:

- FAFSA Completion by High School Students ([2019](#))

#### Grant Awards - open Educational Resources:

- Open Educational Resources Grant Pilot Program ([2019](#))
- Final Report - Western Washington University ([2019](#))
- Report to the Legislature - Higher Education OER Grant Program ([2019](#))

To explore the full report, [click on this link](#).

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### Washington Public Four-Year College & Universities COVID-19 FAQ

Due to COVID-19, the education sector has seen many disruptions, but public colleges and universities in Washington State are committed to making sure it does not disadvantage students' ability to strive for and attain education at a Washington public four-year college or university. [Click here](#) to get answers to questions pertaining to Washington's public four-year college and universities.

## Opportunities

### Job Opportunity

King County: K-12, Postsecondary, and Community Strategies Manager/PPM III  
For more information, [click here](#).

## Student Intern Spotlight



This summer PSCCN had the pleasure of hosting Jazzlynn Jefferson as a summer intern from July to September. She is a second-year Master of Public Administration student at the University of Washington. Jazzlynn brought a great personality, a willingness to learn, and a great student's perspective on the work we do. During her internship, Jazzlynn had the opportunity to work on many different projects with the whole team and while we are sad to see her go, we are excited to see what lies ahead for her. To wrap up her tenure here at PSCCN, Jazzlynn shares her experience through a Q&A interview. For the complete interview, [click on this link](#).

## Postsecondary News



Washington must keep its promise of public education. [Click here for more information.](#)

COVID-19 pandemic cuts enrollment at some Washington state colleges, forces others to reimagine higher ed. [Click here for more information.](#)

As Seattle struggles with online learning, Miami provides a few lessons. [Click here for more information.](#)

Washington's constitution protects K-12 funding. The coronavirus will test that promise. [Click here for more information.](#)

Last year, Washington lawmakers made college free for some. This year, they want to make it more accessible. [Click here for more information.](#)

Inslee's budget priorities don't include K-12 education. Can anyone change that? [Click here for more information.](#)

COVID-19 outbreak in UW's Greek system grew by 27% over the weekend. [Click here for more information.](#)

Pullman's party problem: Skyrocketing COVID-19 cases could bring reckoning for WSU culture. [Click here for more information.](#)

A COVID-19 outbreak on UW's Greek Row hints at how hard it may be to open colleges this fall. [Click here for more information.](#)

Enrollment at regional colleges drops, leading to cuts. [Click here for more information.](#)

## Upcoming Events and Trainings



### Financial Aid Zoom Trainings

Financial Aid 101  
Thursday Oct 29th  
1pm to 3:30 PM  
To register [click here.](#)

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