



NEWSLETTER

August 2023

Affirming OUR Actions to Increase Postsecondary Success

The recent ruling from the US Supreme Court that denies affirmative action will drastically impact the postsecondary opportunities for youth in our region. When Washington state enacted similar legislation, we saw a sharp decline in Black, brown, Latinx, and immigrant students enrolling in college and postsecondary opportunities.

The impact of this decision will be felt for generations and provides us an opportunity to affirm OUR actions, as a community, in creating a more equitable education experience for all students. From our work, we know that we cannot rely on the system alone to provide equitable education access to our students. However, through authentic collaborations and co-design in partnership with the community, we as leaders in the education system can understand the postsecondary experience of those historically furthest from college opportunities and provide targeted services to remove barriers that the system won't. These critical connections with institutions, community providers, families, and students unearth the unmet needs our students face, and challenge us, as educational leaders, to innovate and provide tools necessary to achieve postsecondary success.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Update: KCP Partners
- Postsecondary Opportunities
- August Poem
- College & Career News





Through our partnerships, we have created services to support students across the region.

These include:

- FAFSA and WAFSA advising spaces.
- FAFSA toolkit workshops.
- College transition checklists.
- College course navigation guides
- Social-emotional support providers
- Convening spaces to share best practices and learning opportunities with education and industry leaders.



- Program guidance and coordination across institutions and community-based organizations for King County Promise.

These are just some of the actions we have taken in response to student needs. As we enter this new college and career landscape, let us continue to lean into our relationships and learn about the opportunities to support our students navigating postsecondary pathways.

In Partnership,
PSCCN Team



COME JOIN THE PSCCN TEAM

Puget Sound Educational School District seeks a Director of Postsecondary Programs to guide and manage the Puget Sound College & Career Network's programming and ensure strong gap-closing PSCCN program implementation across King and Pierce Counties to advance the Agency's End: Success for Each Child and Eliminating the Opportunity Gap by Leading with Racial Equity.

[Click on this link](#), for more information.



NEW REPORT: Projected decline in credential attainment demands bold action by Partnership for Learning & Washington Roundtable.

In 2016, the Washington Roundtable set a goal: 70% of Washington students—overall and within each racial and ethnic community—will complete a postsecondary credential by age 26. This goal reflects the workforce needs of Washington employers and national and state data projecting that at least 70% of jobs in our state will be filled by workers who complete a postsecondary credential, such as a degree, such as a degree, apprenticeship, or industry-aligned certificate or license.

Nearly a third of the progress made toward the goal since the class of 2006 was wiped out during the pandemic. The estimated credential attainment rate for the high school class of 2021 is 40%—three percentage points lower than the class of 2019 and 30 points below the goal.

[Click on the link](#) to read the latest report for key insights and a path forward.



TIPS

*A college freshman to
high school seniors*



"A piece of advice I received about my career is to find someone (or people) who has the job that you aspire to have and ask them how they got to where they are. Then you get an idea of the paths they've taken and what you'd like to do."

Tips for HS seniors from college first-years.

Tips for HS seniors from college first-years. In her final infographic, Student Storyteller Arianna compiles tips for high school seniors as they prepare for college. [Click on the link](#) to check out her new infographic and great advice.



EDUCATION STRATEGY GROUP: JOB PATHWAYS TOOLKIT

At the 8/4 coalition meeting, ESG presented a new toolkit about incorporating labor market data into job pathways communications with families. Resources from the meeting:

- Slide deck.
- The full ESG communications toolkit, including both ready-to-go graphics and customizable InDesign files.
- The strategy and key messages [document](#).

If you'd like access to the Seattle-area communications toolkit that includes current top career pathways based on labor market data, please contact Kelly Van Beveren at kvanbeveren@edstrategy.org.

"AVID was a daily reminder. Like yes, I do need to consider college and all the steps. I have to be paying attention."

OPTIONS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

OPTIONS HS SENIORS REFLECT ABOUT THEIR COLLEGE + CAREER PLANS.

In a June conversation with Options High School students, they reflected on their senior year – how their plans had changed (or not), what they had learned through their AVID experience, and who supported them on their path through high school and what's to come.

These reflections followed an initial conversation with Ready Washington in December about similar topics.





Washington Family Engagement: Free learning opportunities this fall.

UPDATED WSAC Resource: Tips to prepare for senior year of high school.

The Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) is a program of Washington Family Engagement. The PLTI is a 12-week online course that teaches parents, community members, and professionals working with families to understand systems and develop civic, leadership, and public speaking skills.

Virtual classes begin on Saturday, September 16th, and end on Saturday, December 16th.

Course in English:

Thursdays, 6 pm to 9 pm

Saturdays, 9 am to 12 pm

[Click on this link](#) to Register for the course in English

Curso en Español:

Wednesdays, 6 pm to 9 pm

Saturdays, 9 am to 12 pm

[Regístrate aquí para el curso en Español](#)

The Washington Student Achievement Council has updated its tips for seniors, a social media and mini blog supporting high school students entering their senior year.



- Tip #1: Consider your options after high school
- Tip #2: Narrow down your list of colleges or training programs
- Tip #3: Learn about different types of financial aid
- Tip #4: Make a calendar for important dates
- Tip #5: Sign up for OtterBot
- Tip #6: Earn college or tech school credits while you're still in high school

For more information, [click on the link](#).





*Horizons
Regional
Grant
released their
Request for
Proposals*

GATES FOUNDATION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Gates Foundation launched an RFP for a new regional grant program, Horizons, to help more students transition from high school into postsecondary education.

- This RFP is open to all regional partnerships in WA state who meet some basic requirements.
- Applicants must be part of regional partnerships based in Washington state that include at least one local K-12 district and one higher education institution, as well as a “backbone” organization that helps coordinate efforts across the partnership.
- Proposals are due September 22.

[Click on the link](#) to learn more about the opportunity, including informational webinars about the Horizons.

August Poetry Writing Submission Opportunities

In our last Poetry Corner, we shared opportunities to find support for your own writing. If you feel ready to share that work in the world, submitting your work for publication or contests is the next step!



*Open Contest
Invitation
for Poets &
Writers*

Check out the links below to find out about contests and other publishing opportunities for your work:

- [Calls for Submissions September 2023 - The Authors Guild](#)
- [Writing Contests, Grants & Awards July/August 2023 | Poets & Writers \(pw.org\)](#).
- [Submission Calendar | Poets & Writers \(pw.org\)](#)



College and Career News in Washington State

The Seattle Times:

- [A new FAFSA form is coming, along with changes in college aid.](#)
 - [Going to college? Here's what you should know about student loans.](#)
 - [Ballmer Group gives \\$9M to nonprofit that serves WA schools.](#)
 - [In Seattle, test scores lag but opportunities align to help Black male students.](#)
 - [SPS will hold community meetings about plans for 'well-resourced schools.'](#)
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- [As Pell Grants return for incarcerated students, how will higher ed shake out in WA prisons?](#)
 - [A 'sisterhood' graduates with new doctorates in Indigenous-centered education.](#)



Thank you for your continued support.
Contact us at psccn@psed.org