

Dinda Davis

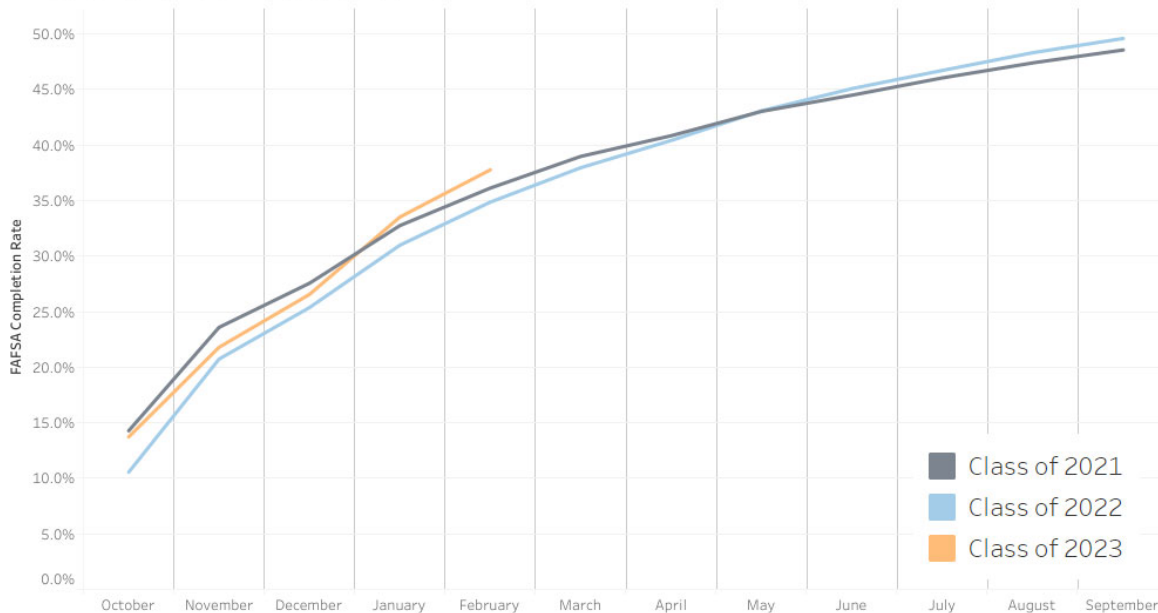
From: noreply@psed.org.myenotice.com on behalf of Ddavis@psed.org
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Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 7:31 AM
To: Dinda Davis
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Financial Aid Completion Rates

WA State: Completion Rate by School Year



This graph shows FAFSA completion rates by month for every senior class since the class of 2021. The WSAC portal can help you visualize completion rates for your school district or get a

[Washington State report](#). As we celebrate these completion rates, below here are some resources to aid your efforts:

Financial Aid Trainings

Refresh your Financial Aid Knowledge by watching recorded sessions of our most recent Financial Aid trainings:

- [Financial Aid: 201 \(3/01/23\)](#)
- [Financial Aid: 101 \(11/07/22\)](#)



AWARD LETTERS

— Remind Students to accept! —



March Reminder for the Graduating Class 2022 - 2023

- Students should be on the look out for this official notice.
 - The Letter will outline the student's financial aid award package.
- Don't forget to remind students to accept their award letters.
 - If students don't receive their letters in March, award letters will continue to be sent out all the way through May.

Best Practices & Learnings from Fife School District

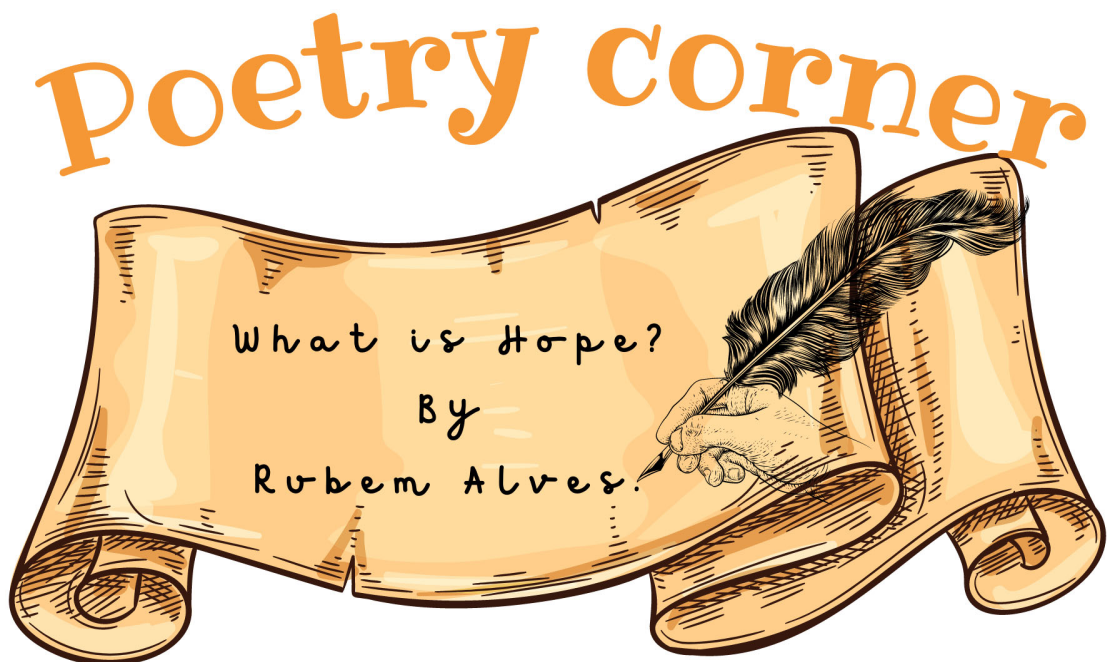
We spoke with College and Career Specialist, **Christiann Thomas**, from Fife High School to learn about their current financial aid work. Please read below for strategies that could apply to your district's work:

- Leveraging data for individualized support: Merging and filtering student data allows counselors to connect with groups of students to provide translators, financial aid, types of post-secondary opportunities, and supports that apply to them. It can help identify the appropriate students to reach out to with individualized support in late winter and spring. It also allows counselors to identify underrepresented populations. This often takes expertise beyond the requirements of the role, and many schools utilize their data or IT staff to assist. The three main data sources Christiann pulls from include College Bound, the WSAC portal, and the school system's student information system.

- Wide ranging methods of in-person and virtual outreach: Evening workshops, Zoom workshops, workshops in classes, financial aid nights with pizza, and phone calls to families in multiple languages.
- Partnering with colleges: For College Bound students, Christiann partners with local postsecondary institutions to highlight specific types of colleges, tuition savings, and alternative higher education options.

Finally, some things are out of anyone's control. From her perspective, the overall mood in fall of 2022 for seniors at Fife High School around financial aid was different from fall 2021. Some of the school challenges associated with COVID caused panic for seniors coming back to in-person learning, which may have led to students approaching the financial aid application with a sense of urgency. She has observed that this year's seniors do not seem to display the same level of urgency. Many thanks to Christiann for making time to meet with us.

Poem of the Month



PSCCN has added a new section called "Poem of the Month" in our newsletter which we hope you will enjoy. The first poem we are highlighting is by Rubem Alves.

What is hope?

It is the pre-sentiment that imagination is more real
and reality is less real
than it looks.

It is the hunch that the overwhelming brutality of facts that oppress and repress
is not the last word.

It is the suspicion that reality is more complex
than the realists want us to believe.

That the frontiers of the possible are not determined
by the limits of actual

and in a miraculous and unexplained way

life is opening up creative events

which will open the way to freedom and resurrection

but the two, suffering and hope...

So let us plant dates

even though we who plant them will never eat them.

We must live by the love of what we see.
That is the secret discipline.
It is the refusal to let our creative act be dissolved away
in immediate sense experience
and a stubborn commitment to the future
of our grandchildren.
Such disciplined hope is what has given
prophets, revolutionaries and saints,
the courage to die for the future they envisage.
They make their own bodies the seed of their highest hopes.

Opportunities and Resources



Reminder - Ellison Education Grant Applications Due April 1st

Applications are now being accepted for the Ellison Education Grants. Over the past six years, the Ellison foundation has awarded 83 grants and \$831,000 to Washington State teachers. These grants are for K-12 public school teachers in Washington State.

The Ellison Foundation will award grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 in the spring of 2023 (for use during the 2023-2024 school year). Applications must be submitted by April 1, 2023.

To learn more about the Ellison Education Grants please click to the following link: <http://ellison-foundation.org/ellison-education>

Data and Evaluation Lead (Project Program Manager III)

DCHS is hiring an experienced evaluator to partner with Division leadership in advancing opportunities for all young people in King County to be happy, healthy, safe, and thriving members of their communities. The Data and Evaluation Lead will the evaluation and performance measurement support for DCHS's Children, Youth and Young Adults Division (CYYAD). [Click this link for more information on this position.](#)



Community Conversations 2022:
Cultivating a Racially Diverse & Thriving Educator Community in South King County

The Collaborative Improvement Networks for Racial Equity (CINRE) program at PSESD is excited to share the multimedia products of the Community Conversations they had with Students of Color from the communities we serve. The project was co-designed by our Youth Wisdom Council in partnership with community leaders and staff in LTFS and Equity in Education.

120 conversations were conducted with middle school and high school Youth of Color about their experiences with Educators of Color, the importance of having a more diverse educator workforce, and what it looks like and what we need for Educators of Color to thrive. Collective themes & calls to action were lifted up by our Youth Leaders.

For more information, and to view videos from the project and find Spanish language materials, click on the link for the [Community Conversations](#) website, and this link for quick access to a PDF of the [full report](#).

New Data Shows Sharp Decline in Students Moving Directly from High School to College

"The direct enrollment rate that once hovered around 60 percent dropped to 50 percent during the COVID-19 pandemic. Washington's direct enrollment rate is lower than the national average, and the decline in direct enrollment was more significant than the national trend." Read more [here](#).

Student Opportunities



High School and Beyond Plan Refreshed Animations

Our animated videos for students, families, and educators explaining the High School and Beyond Plan have relaunched with updated economic information! These videos are a great tool for awareness building among our audiences. Check out the videos: [Students video](#) | [Families video](#) | [Educators video](#)

STEM Signing Day 2023: The application is open!

STEM Signing Day celebrates high school seniors who choose to pursue STEM education at technical programs, two- and four-year colleges, and universities. Just like signing days for athletes, STEM Signing Day honorees sign a letter of intent to pursue their STEM goals. All Washington high school seniors who will be attending either college or university and pursuing a

STEM degree are eligible to apply for this recognition. There will be a ceremony toward the end of May. Help recruit students in your network to apply!

Application Link: <https://tallo.com/wasigningday/>

News from the Region



College and Career News in Washington State:

- The Seattle Times:
 - [These WA ZIP codes saw the most applicants for Biden's student loan relief.](#)
 - [The allure of a college degree for WA students may be fading.](#)
 - [Program aims to make college acceptance process easier in Washington.](#)
 - [How a once-homeless college student is taking the fight for housing to Olympia.](#)
 - [WA high school graduation rates are up. Here's who saw the biggest gains.](#)
 - [Teachers, facing increasing levels of stress, are burned out.](#)
 - [I'm a senior at PLU. Today's high school grads need even more support than I received](#)
- The Wenatchee World:
 - [Emma Oswald: Make College in the High School free for all students](#)
- Yakima Herald:
 - [Program aims to make college acceptance process easier in Washington](#)
- The Chronicle:
 - [Success of Chehalis students illustrates power of local solutions](#)
- Spokesman Review:
 - [Innovia Foundation gets \\$850,000 from state to start high school mentorship program](#)

Ready WA Student Storytellers

- - Karalynn: [Navigating the college application jungle](#) (website + blog)
 - Arianna: [How college support programs can make a difference](#) (podcast)

- Summer: [Running Start v. AP: making the right decision for you](#) (blog)
- Aleena: [A day in my life: Running Start](#) (video)

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