

# NEWSLETTER

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March 2024



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Update: PSCCN Partners
  - Postsecondary Resources & Opportunities
  - College & Career News
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## KING COUNTY PROMISE spotlight

King County Promise, a long-term initiative supporting young people in pursuing postsecondary education, is currently in its second year of implementation and nearing the end of Phase 1. A key element of the program is providing high-quality advising, which can be tough to define. There's no one-size-fits-all approach to advising because every student's situation is unique. However, we can often identify clear cases of it, such as with Taylor\*, who received support from an education advocate at Northwest Education Access.

Taylor recently started classes at a local college. Initially, he planned to attend a different college within the program's partnership. However, after carefully considering his options, including available programs and transportation, it became clear that another institution would better suit his needs. Taylor faced several challenges when starting college, particularly around academic accommodations and navigating student services as a first-generation student. Unfortunately, he wasn't aware of the disability accommodations available to him until later in the quarter. As a result, he felt overwhelmed and ultimately had to drop his classes.

Thankfully, Taylor didn't give up. With the support of his Education Advocate, he successfully completed several appeal processes and is now making progress towards his educational goals.

This example illustrates several key principles of the Promise model. First, it emphasizes the importance of **advisors being attentive to students' concerns and knowledgeable about available resources**. Second, it highlights the significance of **listening to students' goals and prioritizing their needs above all else**. Both of these require building a relationship of trust with the student.

Lastly, it underscores the vital role of **support in navigating bureaucratic obstacles**, such as complex paperwork processes. We are incredibly grateful for our dedicated navigators who provide the high-quality advising that Promise students deserve.

\*Pseudonym to maintain student privacy.



# Welcome to *Our Team!*



## **Dr. Elizabeth J Cook** **DIRECTOR, POSTSECONDARY OPERATIONS & PROGRAM ALIGNMENT**

### **Welcome Dr. Elizabeth Cook to PSCCN.**

Dr. Elizabeth Cook joins the PSCCN team as the Director, Postsecondary Operations & Program Alignment of Puget Sound College and Career Network. Elizabeth is a passionate advocate for postsecondary education, particularly focused on serving students with the greatest needs. With extensive knowledge and experience, she has successfully fostered collaboration across diverse communities, educational institutions spanning from kindergarten to higher education (K-20), and various other contexts.

A product of the Tacoma Public School system, Elizabeth obtained her undergraduate degree from Duke University in Durham, NC. She holds advanced degrees from the University of Oklahoma (M.Ed) and the University of Texas at San Antonio (Ed.D). Please join us in welcoming Elizabeth to the team, and let's support her as she embarks on this exciting journey with us.

**Best Wishes,**  
*We will Miss you!*



## **Christian Granlund**

**INTERIM DIRECTOR,  
POSTSECONDARY PROGRAMS**

As Christian embarks on his new journey, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude for his invaluable contributions to our team. His passion, dedication, and leadership have left an indelible mark on all of us.

Throughout his time with us, Christian has exemplified what it means to be a true leader. His unwavering commitment to the King County Promise and Pierce County Strong initiatives has been instrumental in driving our mission forward. His positive attitude, collaborative spirit, and tireless work ethic inspires us all. As he returns to South Seattle College, we look forward to the new ways Christian will continue increasing the inclusivity and accessibility of postsecondary pathways.

While we'll miss having Christian as part of our team, we look forward to continued collaboration. Join us in wishing Christian the best in his next chapter.



## *Promise Program Director*

## **Promise Program Director**

King County Promise Program Director: Are you seeking an opportunity to make a direct impact on the lives of King County Promise students? Look no further. As the Promise Program Director, you'll lead the charge in guiding students from inquiry to post-secondary completion. Working closely with partner organizations and fostering relationships, you'll play a pivotal role in supporting student success both academically and beyond. This role guides historically underserved young people towards postsecondary credentials, collaborating Centro Rendu, Northwest Education Access, and the Congolese Integration Network. The Promise Program Director facilitates Promise activities and serves as a primary contact for the initiative, contributing to broader college system integration. The priority consideration date will be April 5, 2024.

[Click the link](#) for more information.

## **Promise High School Navigator**

Are you interested in empowering underserved youth in a diverse, inclusive environment? Join us as a Promise High School Navigator, part of King County's Promise Initiative. The Promise High School Navigator is responsible for supporting opportunity youth from the point of inquiry through their high school completion. Namely, advising around high school credential options, pathways, and program/plan credit requirements. The Promise High School Navigator will provide complementary services to existing departments and partnerships to increase post-secondary enrollment, transitions, and retention. This position will support students both on RTC's campus and off-campus in the community. The priority consideration date will be April 8, 2024.

[Click the link](#) for more information.



## *Promise High School Navigator*

# The State Board of Education is seeking a new student representative: Applications due this Friday!

SBE is seeking a current high school sophomore (rising junior) to serve a two-year term as a Student Representative. See eligibility requirements and more information below.

Eligible Students must:

- Reside and attend a public or private school in Washington State through the academic years of their term (2024 - 2026).
- Be a current sophomore (rising junior) at the time of selection.



- Have a passion for improving K-12 public education.
- Be able to devote sufficient time to the responsibilities of the board, including, but not limited to, participating in all scheduled State Board of Education Board meetings.
- Have a positive academic and/or extracurricular record, which can be demonstrated by grades, activities, accomplishments, and/or recommendations of peers, educators, or community members.
- Commit to making up for missed schoolwork while attending scheduled meetings and other board functions.

Application, and more information can be found on the AWSL.

Click the link for information.



*High  
School  
& Beyond  
Plan*

## Council of Presidents College Decision Day extension

Washington's public, four-year institutions have extended College Decision Day to June 1, 2024, giving students applying for fall 2024 admissions more time to choose their college options. Despite delays in FAFSA implementation causing stress, these institutions are dedicated to removing barriers for families to access affordable education.

Students and families are encouraged to start the college application process and submit FAFSA or WAFSA. Washington institutions assure support despite potential challenges.

Washington's four-year institutions eagerly await students' enrollment decisions and encourage consideration of the state's excellent college options.

Click the link for more information.

## Foundation for Tacoma Students:

### Listening sessions on the High School & Beyond Plan

In partnership with the State Board of Education (SBE), the Foundation for Tacoma Students is hosting three public listening sessions as part of their work to enhance the High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP). Through these community discussions, the hope is that they can better understand how the HSBP is utilized and improve its impact on students and their futures. These sessions are geared towards students, parents, teachers, counselors, or any practitioner familiar with the HSBP and willing to provide input. All registered participants will receive a \$50 online gift card. The first session will be April 10, 2024.

Click the link for more information.



*College  
Decision  
Day  
extension*

# College and Career News in Washington State

The Seattle Times:

- WA wants school districts to keep better track of truant students
- Teachers, tech execs among those who want to serve on Seattle School Board
- Money in college savings accounts can now go toward retirement
- WA public universities give applicants more decision time amid FAFSA woes
- First woman to lead Seattle Pacific University takes on steep challenges
- Biden administration cancels \$1.2B in student loans
- Student, parents left 'in limbo' as FAFSA delays continue
- \$1 Billion Donation Will Provide Free Tuition at New York Medical School



Thank you for your continued support.  
Contact us at [pscnc@psed.org](mailto:pscnc@psed.org)