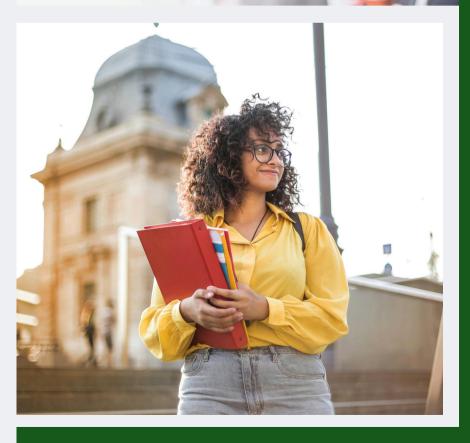
NEWSLETTER

April 2024







HIGHLIGHTS

- Update: KCPPSCCNPartners
- Postsecondary Resources & Opportunities
- College & Career News





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L. Michelle, Director of Communications lmichelle@psesd.org



PRESS RELEASE (>)

Date Release: 04/26/2024

Puget Sound Educational Service District Selected for Grant Program to Help Local Students Pursue Education and Career Training After High School

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is supporting a regional partnership coordinated by PSESD that features local school districts, colleges, and community and workforce organizations.

Renton, WA - Puget Sound Educational Service District (PSESD) is proud to announce that our region has been selected to be part of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Horizons Regional Grant Program, a three-year initiative to help more local students continue their education after high school and achieve their goals.

PSESD serves a diverse population of more than 400,000 students attending public, tribal, and charter schools, and will coordinate the local partnership that includes the Highline, Federal Way, and Tukwila School Districts, Highline College, and Community Business Organizations including Becoming a Man, College Possible, and Communities In Schools. The partnership will work together to expand programs that are proven to help students transition from high school into postsecondary education - whether that's an apprenticeship, career certificate, or two- or four-year degree program.

"We are excited and proud to have this opportunity to take part in the Horizons program for the benefit of the schools, students, and families in our region," comments PSESD Superintendent John Welch. "Working with its partners, PSESD will dedicate itself to expanding programs, grounded in culturally responsive advising and implementation practices, which are proven to reduce historical educational inequities and help students transition from high school into postsecondary education."

In addition to grant funding, PSESD will receive technical assistance to learn more about highquality advising strategies and other programs proven to help students take the next step after graduation. Washington STEM, a nonprofit dedicated to removing barriers to STEM education and postsecondary credentials, will manage the Horizons grant program and help partners increase their capacity to access, analyze, and apply data so they can refine programs to meet student needs.

"The partnership will be intentional in understanding the complexities of the Black and brown male scholar experience leading up to post-secondary direct enrollment," adds Welch. "Through the understanding of the lived experience of these scholars, our aim is to develop a cohesive system of culturally informed advising and support that results in increased attendance, graduation, and post-secondary enrollment pathways for these scholars."





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PSESD received an initial seed grant from the Gates Foundation to work with the technical assistance providers over the next several months to finalize the local partnership's goals and implementation plan. PSESD will receive additional Gates Foundation grant funding when their implementation plan is finalized this fall.

Horizons is part of the Gates Foundation's work in Washington state that focuses on ensuring that young people have access to the opportunities they need to design the future they want. PSESD and its partners also participate in the Limitless Learning Network, which is funded by the Gates Foundation and brings twenty-six local partnerships across Washington state together to help identify strategies that help students see a clear path to success after high school.

PSESD is one of nine regional service districts serving thirty-five local school districts, ten charter schools, 291 private schools, and two tribal compact schools in King and Pierce counties and Bainbridge Island. PSESD develops and delivers an array of services providing instructional and administrative support to PreK-12 schools, as well as direct service to students and families in the Puget Sound region. Its End Goal is "Success for Each Child & Eliminate the Opportunity Gap by Leading with Racial Equity" is a goal that envisions a future filled with peace, hope, and opportunities for young people to thrive.

For more information about PSESD's Horizons Regional Grant, please contact Jonathan Joseph at jjoseph@psesd.org or Elizabeth Cook at ecook@psesd.org.

KING COUNTY PROMISE: REFLECTIONS OF A NAVIGATOR.



In my role as a navigator in King County Promise, I had the privilege of working with students in our Youth Re-engagement program, specifically those aged 16-21 who had become disengaged in high school.

Among the many impactful experiences, one stands out and touches my heart. A 16-year-old girl was referred to me by her probation officer. From the outset, she made it clear that she was only there for her appointment, displaying guarded body language and a defensive attitude. It was apparent that she was in survival mode, using these mechanisms to protect herself from past traumas in her educational journey.

Drawing on my experience raising young adults and working with this age group for over a decade, I recognized the importance of breaking through her defenses. Instead of keeping her in the office, I suggested we go outside for a walk, understanding that institutionalized settings can be triggering for some. As we strolled through our main enrollment office, known as the iBuilding, I sensed her anxiety. Wanting to convey that she mattered, I asked her about her aspirations, emphasizing the importance of envisioning a future without constraints. She initially hesitated with "buts," but with a gentle correction, she expressed a long-held desire to pursue Culinary Arts.

Seizing the opportunity to showcase our program, I took her downstairs to the Culinary Arts department. Her eyes widened with excitement. While giving her a tour, I explained the benefits of our program, including free tuition, an automatic high school diploma, and the additional support provided by the King County Promise community and Equity grant.

Introducing her to a Chef, I watched as she connected with someone who not only shared her passion but treated her with respect. The Chef extended an invitation for her to experience a day as a chef, including wearing the complete chef's attire. Overwhelmed with emotion, she shared how rarely she felt treated like an adult and respected by authority figures. The Chef, moved by her words, offered a comforting hug. Encouraged by this positive interaction, the student breezed through the entry advising process, enrolled for the winter quarter, and began thriving.

As we approach the end of the winter quarter, she has emerged as a leader in her class, displaying remarkable progress. Whenever she crosses paths with me in the Culinary Arts department, a broad smile appears on her face, and she never hesitates to share a warm hug. This experience taught me that external body language may not always reflect the entire story. I feel honored to be a part of her educational journey and eagerly anticipate the bright future ahead of her.

PSCCN echo's the PSESD's stance on the Israel-Gaza conflict.

- Amidst the ongoing violence and bloodshed of the Israel-Gaza conflict, we cannot ignore the countless lives lost and devasting
- impact, particularly to the young people ensnared in this turmoil.
- As a community committed to fostering peace and championing for the welfare of all, we stand together in unequivocal condemnation of violence and in our unwavering support for humanity.

We recognize the urgency of elevating this issue and actively promoting dialogue and reconciliation. Our primary goals are to advocate for an end to the killing, to choose humanity over hostility, and to secure a future where our children can thrive in a world free from fear and uncertainty.

Read the rest of this letter to students, families, and communities here on the <u>PSESD Website Press Release</u>.



Resource now in Arabic + English + French + Spanish + Somali

Tool to support family conversations about the future.

This tool provides guidance for families to have conversations about students' plans after high school. It was co-created with a small group of parents and students representing various ethnicities and languages. Each stop in the student's journey focuses on a different topic, including their interests, who can help them, and steps they can take to achieve their dreams. Families can choose the pace of the conversation and take time in between topics to think and explore. Here's a link to the webpage, where you'll find both PDF and mp4 files of the tool, along with a PDF of the accompanying worksheet - in each of five languages: Arabic + English + French + Spanish + Somali.

Core Plus Aerospace

Summer Manufacturing Internship Application Open for High School Students!

High school students interested in advanced manufacturing can start planning their summer today by applying for the 2024 Core Plus Aerospace summer internship hosted by Boeing. Learn more about the internship here. Take advantage of this opportunity to explore an exciting industry, take your advanced manufacturing skills to the next level, and build your resume with real-world experience.

Watch this video to hear from the 2023 Summer Interns.



College and Career News in Washington State

The Seattle Times:

- Some graduation requirements waived for WA's class of 2024
- New Gates Foundation grant will tackle WA's postsecondary problem
- WA students could forfeit thousands if they don't submit a FAFSA
- WA wants school districts to keep better track of truant students
- <u>UW graduation to feature</u>
 <u>speaker whose bestselling</u>
 <u>book inspired a George</u>
 <u>Clooney film</u>
- A look at the protests about the war in Gaza that have emerged on US college campuses



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