

NEWSLETTER

September 2024



HIGHLIGHTS

- PSCCN Updates
- Postsecondary Opportunities
- Partner Content
- College & Career News





BRIDGE PROGRAM



On September 12th, the PSCCN team and Promise to Community Navigators successfully hosted the first King County Promise Bridge event at Renton Technical College. Naveed Badri led the effort to introduce youth to King County Promise (KCP). They received a step-by-step walkthrough of a KCP student's journey from high school through college to graduation, as well as insights into the Equity grant and other relevant topics.



Students had the opportunity to share their aspirational goals, which was a highlight of the event. One student, who will begin their studies in business administration this fall, shared their ambition to open a youth coffee lounge post-graduation, where students and young adults can hang out. Additionally, several students studying industrial maintenance mechanics and repair discussed their plans to open their own repair shops after graduation.





Following the presentations, prospective, incoming, and current RTC students received personalized and small group support to aid their postsecondary transition and retention efforts. These activities included campus tours, career exploration, financial aid assistance, registration support, and college budgeting. Incoming students and their Navigators were also able to attend RTC's New Student Orientation that was held later that same day.

A huge thank you goes to the PtC partners for their thought partnership in preparing for this event. We extend special recognition to RTC for generously providing the event space and refreshments. A heartfelt thanks to CIN, Centro Rendu, NWEdA, and YouthSource Navigators for their collaboration in co-developing the program and for offering hands-on support to the students in attendance.

We look forward to future iterations of this event with students and the larger Promise community.



EMPOWERING JOY

MARIA HERNÁNDEZ

CENTRO RENDU OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

We spoke to Maria Hernández, the Lead Youth Case Manager at Centro Rendu of St. Vincent de Paul. She has similar lived experience to the youth served, moving to the States and needing to learn how to navigate a new language and culture. She took this role to be the support she didn't have.

Centro Rendu
of St. Vincent de Paul



As we offer this sequence of resilience, we caution readers that our underserved youth should not have to be resilient all the time. These write-ups capture ingredients to survive or thrive in the current educational system, though we know that striving for an equitable postsecondary landscape means reimagining the system itself.



CONDITION FOR JOY #1: PEER SUPPORT

Maria stressed that every student wants to feel like they are part of a larger community. She said, "Every human wants to be seen and heard." When youth feel like they are connected and actively a part of something, they are driven to stay engaged.

CONDITION FOR JOY #2: AGENCY TO ACHIEVE

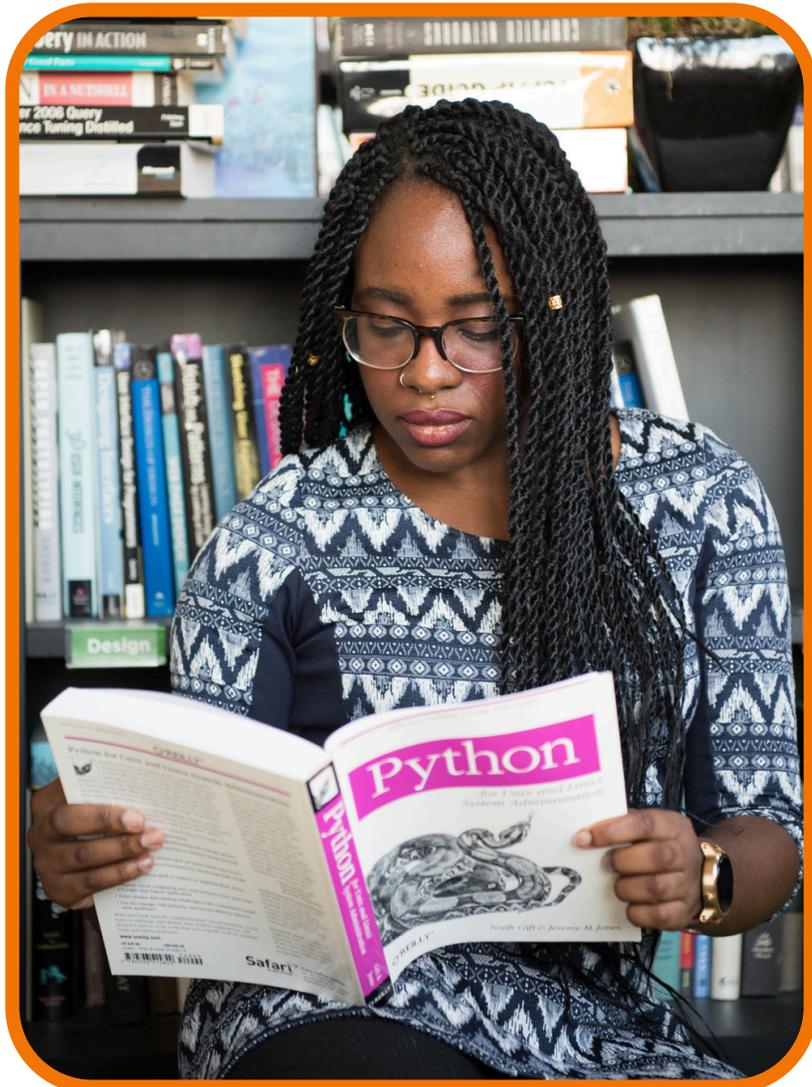


The opportunity youth that CR works with want to be the actors in their lives, acting on their own ideas and skills. Navigators express that youth need the space and support to pursue their own interests. All three orgs gave examples where they did deep listening to youth's interests and passions before giving advice. For example, at CR, a student had dropped out of high school and did not want to pursue any education beyond a GED. He eventually expressed that he did not want to be at a school just writing, he would rather do something with his hands. After they talked about programs at RTC which are very hands-on, he decided to pursue a mechanic certificate.



Maria's main goal was to help students understand their identity and worth. She related that if students understand how impactful they can be and that they can do great things, that belief empowers them to pursue bigger goals for themselves. A primary role of a navigator is to help youth discover what that means in the context of their own individual interests.

**CONDITION FOR JOY #3:
IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT**



Upcoming HSBP Listen & Learn Stakeholder Events

OSPI is excited to announce the HSBP Listen & Learn Stakeholder Events taking place this fall in partnership with each ESD during September and October 2024. These events aim to raise awareness about the transition of the High School and Beyond Plan to a universal online platform.

Join OSPI to learn about the [SchoolLinks](#) partnership, implementation planning, and provide valuable feedback for statewide implementation set to begin in Fall 2025. Separate sessions will be available for school staff, community partners, families, and students, along with virtual options. Registration is required—[secure your spot at this link!](#)

EMPOWERING JOY: Maria Hernandez; Centro Rendu

1 Can you tell us about your current role and what led you to it?



I am the Youth Navigator and Case Manager at Central Ending for the youth program. My journey started when I participated in a youth program at Parrish, which inspired me to work with young people. Having struggled with navigating systems during my own youth, I wanted to provide the support I didn't have.

2



What academic background do you have, & what accomplishments are you proud of?

I moved to the U.S. at 11 and faced the challenge of learning English. Graduating high school was a significant achievement for me. After working two jobs to save for college, I eventually pursued higher education, despite the hurdles I faced as an immigrant student.

3

What might surprise others about your job?

One surprising aspect is the level of resilience students show despite their struggles. When you view their situations through a lens of hope, it can be uplifting—not just for them, but for us as well.



4



Where are the students you work with in their academic journeys?

Students I work with range from those still in high school to others who have dropped out and wish to return. Many struggle with graduation due to systemic barriers.

5

What excites and motivates students when you talk to them?



Students often get excited about finding their passions. For instance, one student became enthusiastic about pursuing mechanics after realizing it aligns with his hands-on learning style.

How do your own experiences with joy influence your work with students?

My personal experiences shape my understanding and empathy toward students. I share my journey to encourage them to believe in themselves and pursue their dreams, even if they seem distant.



8

Can you share an instance where you changed a student's outlook?

I often encourage students who feel discouraged by discussing their interests and potential career paths. This approach helps them see that there are viable options, reigniting their motivation.



6

Where do you see students experiencing joy in their academic lives?



Joy often comes from feeling part of a community. When students feel seen and heard, they find joy, even if school itself is challenging.

7

What is your role in helping students attain joy or excitement?

My role involves walking alongside students, providing emotional support, and helping them explore their aspirations without the fear of failure.

10

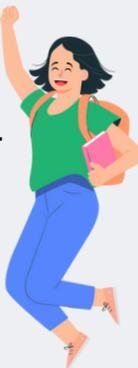
What barriers do students face in attaining joy in their education?

Many students face challenges at home, financial constraints, or systemic issues that discourage them from pursuing their goals, often leading to feelings of disillusionment.



Is there anything else you'd like to add?

I believe my mission is to help students recognize their potential and make informed choices for their futures. I want them to leave with a sense of hope and the belief that they can make an impact in the world.

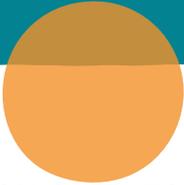


PARTNER CONTENT



COLLEGE POSSIBLE WASHINGTON

FAFSA/WASFA individual appointments
College Possible Washington is offering virtual FAFSA/WASFA individual appointments, where students and family members can get support with completing applications and making corrections and help in understanding financial aid award letters. Appointments can be booked [here](#). Please share this great resource with your network!



REGISTRATION OPEN FOR STATE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION 2024

Graduate Tacoma invites you to register for the State of Public Education 2024: Pathways to Possibilities! Join us on October 24 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Clover Park Technical College's McGavick Conference Center for an inspiring celebration of our community's commitment to every child's success. This free event honors the dedicated service providers, educators, mentors, families, and advocates who support our youth. Don't miss this opportunity to come together and celebrate! [Register now!](#)



WA CHARTERS

Op-ed in the Seattle Times + Back to School Newsletter + Video Storytelling Content

Seattle Times Op-ed
ICYMI, check out this [op-ed](#) in the Seattle Times titled "Charters were supposed to be labs for school improvement. What lessons do they offer?"

Back to School Newsletter
WA Charters' back-to-school newsletter is coming out soon! Be sure to sign up for it [here](#).

CCW HIGHLIGHTS FRED HUTCH'S LABLAUNCH PROGRAM

CCW is proud to present an Employer Spotlight on Fred Hutch's LabLaunch program, which is revolutionizing career preparation in the life sciences. This partnership with the Washington Alliance for Better Schools and Shoreline Community College provides students with essential skills for high-demand lab technician roles through a blend of hands-on experience and academic training. Participants are guaranteed interviews at Fred Hutch upon completion, creating a skilled, diverse candidate pool that meets workforce needs while empowering students with clear career pathways. Read more about this innovative program [here!](#)

