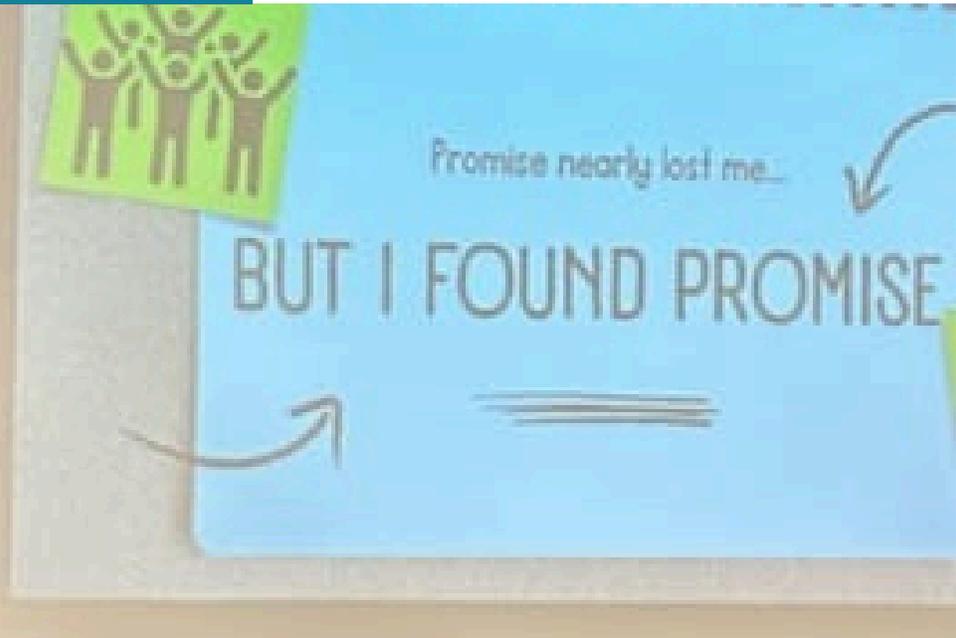


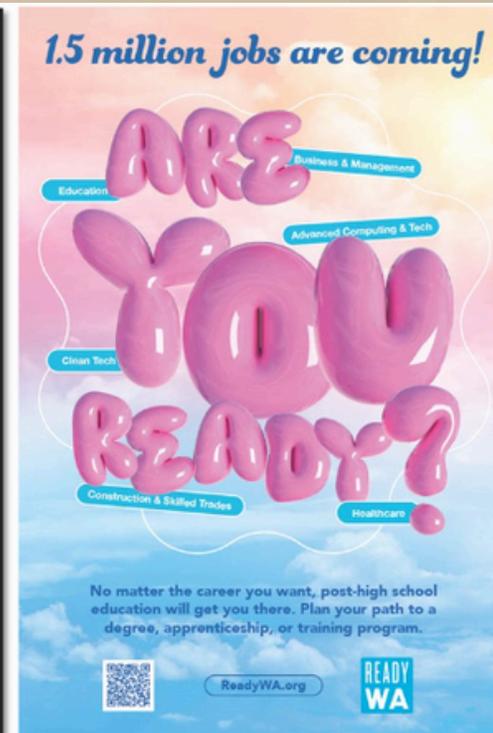
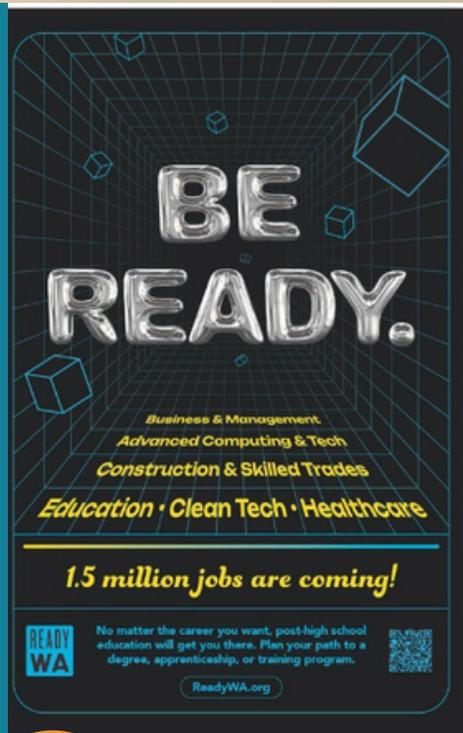
NEWSLETTER

October 2024



HIGHLIGHTS

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



NEW POSTERS
FROM READY WA

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KING COUNTY PROMISE Phase 2 Launch

On October 2, 2024, PSCCN launched Phase 2 of the King County Promise (KCP) initiative, marking a significant **milestone in the program's development**. The event saw strong participation from all KCP partnerships, including representatives from the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) County partners.

Christopher Dorizar, PSCCN's student Special Project Liaison, opened the event by sharing his personal educational journey, highlighting the challenges he faced and the support he received along the way. His testimony underscored the importance of programs like King County Promise in helping **students navigate postsecondary education**.





Key insights from the event included appreciation for the collaborative discussions that enhanced understanding of the various organizations involved and their roles in supporting students within the Promise framework. Participants expressed a desire for clearer documentation regarding the transition process to college. They also expressed a need for more time to network and explore various support systems available at different colleges.

As KCP moves forward, it aims to continue expanding its reach and impact, working towards its goal of providing comprehensive support to historically underserved young people in obtaining postsecondary credentials.

We extend huge gratitude to all partners for their engaged participation in launching Phase 2 and look forward to continued collaborative efforts in this important work.



JOY

IN EDUCATION

CHRISTOPHER DORIZAR

PROMISE SCHOLAR SPECIALIST

At PSCCN, we had the pleasure of working with a Promise Scholar at Highline College, Chris Dorizar, over the summer. He finished his first year and is working towards a biology degree, with a passion for environmental science.

We asked Chris about his experience as a Promise student, and what (if any) aspects of it helped bring joy to his academic journey. He said Promise helped enable his ability to code-switch, created an environment where he felt like he belonged, and created space to build support among peers.

“Being a member of King County Promise means having a community that has my back.”

Chris spoke to the joy of having a community that understood and could help him navigate code switching necessary in white spaces. Having a safe place to relax without code switching, and being able to gain advice from his peers that were breaking boundaries and expectations, were important to developing his own ability to navigate systems independently.

ENABLING JOY: CODE-SWITCHING SUPPORT



ENABLING JOY: ENVIRONMENT OF BELONGING



Chris related how special it was to find a program that was created for someone like him. In high school he did not feel like he always fit in with the crowd. However, having a program that was built to support Black and brown young men was meaningful. He said, "Having a program that wants to support me and wants to see me thrive in other ways, I can also learn and build community and connections even outside the program." There are struggles and successes that peers in this particular community were able to identify with and provide support for, either in the form of understanding or tangible ideas and tips for navigating the situations in the future.

ENABLING JOY: SPACE FOR PEER SUPPORT



Learning communities at Highline College are structured to create a shared space where students can comfortably socialize and get to know other peers. Chris spent time in the Promise den, which led to many unplanned conversations with navigators and peers about classes and life. He said everything was open and accessible. "I find myself being an extrovert, like hanging out with people," which can be difficult to find on commuter college campuses. The availability of these spaces fosters the peer support that all previous interviewees stressed as important.

FINANCIAL AID 101 TRAINING RECAP



Essential Updates and Resources:

On September 20, 2024, PSCCN in collaboration with WSAC hosted a successful Financial Aid 101 workshop, providing attendees with crucial updates and guidance on the financial aid application process.

Here's a summary of the key topics covered and resources available to assist you and your students:

Key Topics Covered:

- FAFSA Simplification Act Refresher
- 24-25 Application Cycle Update
- 25-26 FAFSA/WASFA Update
- FAFSA Line by Line
- WASFA Guide
- Financial Aid Appeals
- Common Errors & How to Fix Them
- Common Scenarios + Group Discussion + Resources



Resources:

- [Financial Aid 101 Training.](#)
 - [Training Video & Slide Deck.](#)
- [Financial Aid Resource Padlet.](#)
- [12th Year Campaign Padlet.](#)
- [Common Scenarios.](#)

College Knowledge Workbooks (CKW):

- [Download the Complete CKW Electronic Version in Arabic, English, Somali, Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian, & Vietnamese.](#)
- [Order Hard-Copy Workbooks.](#)
- [Updated CKW Student Lesson Plans.](#)

We hope these resources will prove invaluable in assisting students with their financial aid applications. Thank you to all who participated and contributed to the success of this workshop.

For more information or to access these resources, please visit our website or contact our support team at pscncn@pscsd.org.



Regional FAFSA

Some students are fighting to stay in college after the FAFSA delayed financial aid: NPR shares the story of Brenda, who almost did not make it to her first day of college due to the FAFSA delays. Read more [here](#).

Stress Testing the FAFSA: The Department of Education wrapped up phase one of the FAFSA limited rollout last week, seeking out early bugs and reassurance for families. Read more [here](#).



LEARN MORE



1



\$2,000 DEDICATION TO EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Get Schooled is offering the \$2,000 Dedication to Education Scholarship to support high school juniors and seniors, including undocumented youth, as they pursue postsecondary education. Whether students are planning to attend a 4-year college, community college, or a trade/vocational program, this scholarship is designed to help them take the next step. Applications close on December 8, 2024, at 11:59 pm PST. Encourage students to [apply here!](#)



2

COLLEGE PROMISE COALITION CALLING FOR STUDENTS OR ALUMNI TO SHARE YOUR STORIES

The College Promise Coalition (CPC) is seeking stories from students and alumni who have benefited from financial aid, like the Washington College Grant, or experienced the positive impact of higher education. If you know someone who fits this description, please have them contact Rita via email at rita@partnership4learning.org



READY WASHINGTON POSTERS NOW IN HIGH SCHOOLS STATEWIDE

3

Ready Washington's [new posters](#), co-created with Washington students, are now arriving in high schools across the state. Designed to grab attention and inspire students about their future in Washington, these vibrant posters aim to make an impact. Learn more [here!](#)



4

CAREER CONNECT WASHINGTON: MEDIA CAREER PREP FOR NE WA STUDENTS

The KSPS PBS Media Makers Career Prep program, funded by Career Connect WA's Program Builder Grant, is empowering students in Northeastern Washington with hands-on learning and career experience. This initiative blends paid internships in the media industry with a Career and Technical Education (CTE) curriculum, providing students with valuable skills. Key features include collaboration with K-12 schools and industry partners, along with paid, 10-hour-per-week internships that offer real-world experience. Check out the [digital toolkit!](#) Learn more [here.](#)



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