NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025

Puget Sound College and Career Network



HIGHLIGHTS

- PSCCN Updates
- Student Resources
- Partner Content
- College & Career Events



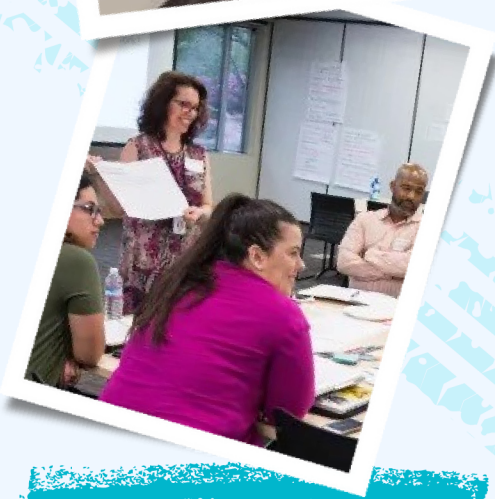
A JOURNEY OF CURIOSITY & COMPASSION
Reimagining Postsecondary Readiness



In a recent conversation, we had the privilege of sitting down with Dr. Hilary Loeb, a returning leader at the Puget Sound College and Career Network (PSCCN). Her journey reflects the power of curiosity, compassion, and a deep commitment to educational equity. Hilary stepped into this leadership role twelve years after joining PSESD to staff the Puget Sound Coalition for College and Career Readiness.



Inspired by her mother, whose career as an educator, book editor and fundraiser instilled a thirst for curiosity, knowledge and justice, Hilary's path led her to multiple roles as a teacher, grant writer, and researcher. Witnessing stark disparities in education ignited her passion for service. Driven to make a broader impact, Hilary pursued graduate studies in public policy and multicultural education, focusing on helping educators recognize their privilege and embrace culturally relevant teaching. This passion evolved into a career dedicated to systems-level change, ensuring that all students have equitable opportunities to succeed.



Now returning to PSCCN after service on PSESD's Strategy, Evaluation and Learning Team, Hilary brings a renewed sense of urgency and excitement. Committed to listening to students and collaborating with partners, she aims to foster a culture of compassion and curiosity. Her vision includes establishing clear priorities and responsive work plans that build expertise, create dynamic learning spaces, and promote collaboration among students, families and partners.

"How do we create spaces for every student who wants information and a caring adult who can help them navigate? How can we reimagine systems so that young people's gifts and needs are centered in their pathways to life after high school?" Hilary posed these questions as guiding principles for her work. PSCCN is excited to welcome Hilary back and look forward to the journey ahead, inspired by her dedication to transforming systems and empowering students.

For more information on the changes happening at the PSCCN, please **refer to the message** from Mr. John Welch, Superintendent of PSESD.

FAREWELL & BEST WISHES TO NAVEED BADRI



Unfortunately, due to a budget shortfall, Naveed was impacted by a Reduction in Force (RIF). His last day was February 3, 2025. As a College & Career Network Program Manager, Naveed's dedication and expertise has made a significant impact on the PSESD team and the many community partners he has supported.

Throughout his tenure, Naveed has been a champion for equity and student success, leading critical efforts such as the King County Promise and the Promise to Community pathway. His work supported community and technical colleges (CTCs), K-12 districts, community-based organizations (CBOs), and young people in navigating college and career transitions, particularly those facing challenges in traditional education settings. He also played a key role in the Demonstration District work in Pierce County, fostering collaboration between districts and CTCs to boost financial aid completion and advance equitable postsecondary pathways.

Naveed's ability to build strong and meaningful relationships with cross-sector partners, along with his leadership, collaborative spirit, and deep commitment to centering youth voices, helped create an innovative network focused on educational equity.

While we will deeply miss Naveed's expertise, warmth, and unwavering passion for youth justice, we are excited to see where his next chapter takes him.

Please join us in wishing Naveed all the best in his future endeavors!

FEDERAL STUDENT AID:
2025-26 FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Encourage all students in your networks to get started and **apply today**. Make sure you emphasize that Washingtonians have an extra incentive to consider college or training. For 2025-26, a family of four making up to **$131,000** can qualify for state financial aid in Washington. Students can get started **here**!

- Financial aid events will be posted and updated **here**.



SUPPORTING REFUGEE YOUTH: Challenges & Resources

Washington has long been a place of hope for those seeking safety and a fresh start. But for many refugee youth, the journey doesn't end when they arrive—it's just beginning. These young people face immense challenges, from disrupted education and mental health struggles to legal barriers, discrimination, and financial hardship. These students carry the weight of trauma while trying to navigate an unfamiliar educational system, often without the support they need.

Yet, despite these obstacles, they continue to showcase resilience and determination. As a community, our commitment to help by ensuring access to education, mental health resources, legal aid, and inclusive opportunities are publicized and serve as access points for families. This month, the PSCCN team is highlighting resources available in the region to support refugee youth in their pursuit of stability and success.

📌 Check out PSESD's curated resources and statements in support of immigrant, refugee, and undocumented students here.







LEARN MORE

1 Grants for Washington State K-12 Public School Teachers!



Applications are now being accepted for the "Ellison Education Grants". Grants are for K-12 public school teachers in Washington State. Grants will range from $1,000 to $10,000 and be awarded this spring to be used for the 2025 – 2026 school year. Applications must be submitted by March 30, 2025.
To learn more about the "Ellison Education Grants" click **here.**

2



WA Grant Recipient Stories: Inspiring Students to Pursue Higher Education

Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW) has launched a new campaign sharing powerful stories from WA Grant recipients across its nine campuses. These stories highlight how financial aid has transformed students' educational journeys and are being shared via email and social media. The campaign aims to inspire high school counselors, administrators, and policymakers to encourage students to apply for postsecondary financial aid.

Check out the first two stories: "Financial aid has allowed me more opportunities" and "My professors make me feel at home."

All student videos will be available **here**.

3



Exciting News! WAVE Scholarship Deadline Extended to March 17

Students pursuing career and technical education now have until March 17, 2025, to apply for the Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) Scholarship!

WAVE supports students in high-demand fields like healthcare, advanced manufacturing, aviation, and early childhood education. Awardees receive at least $3,900 per year for two years, with some past recipients receiving up to $11,700 per year! Plus, a **new application portal makes applying easier** than ever.

Contact: **wave.award@wtb.wa.gov**

4



Share Your Story: College Promise Coalition Seeks Student & Alumni Experiences

The College Promise Coalition is looking for students and alumni to share their experiences!

They are specifically seeking individuals who have received financial aid—such as the Washington College Grant—or can speak to how postsecondary education has positively impacted their lives.

If you know someone with a compelling story, please connect them with Rita Walker at **rita@partnership4learning.org**.

5

CAREER CONNECT WASHINGTON: A NEW PATHWAY TO CAREERS IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

Career Connect Washington (CCW) is highlighting an innovative program addressing the veterinary workforce shortage in North Central Washington.

Cascade Veterinary Clinics (CVC) has launched the nation's first Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT) Registered Apprenticeship Program, offering 6,000 hours of paid, hands-on training and 766 hours of classroom instruction. This program provides a direct pathway to the national veterinary licensing exam, helping to fill workforce gaps and create new career opportunities.

Learn more about this groundbreaking initiative **here**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FREE 1-ON-1 FAFSA & WASFA SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

College Possible WA, in partnership with Capital One, is offering FREE individualized support to help students and families complete the FAFSA or WASFA.

Knowledgeable coaches will be available to assist on a first-come, first-served basis.

📅 When: Saturday, March 15 | 12–4 PM

📍 Where: Seattle Capital One Café, 333 Westlake Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109

🍽️ Extras: Light snacks provided; coffee bar and food available for purchase. Laptops will be available for use.

🔗 Pre-registration is encouraged!
🔗 **Sign up here**.

Additionally, check out these helpful resources:

📌 **Get Schooled guide** on what to do after filing your FAFSA.

Spread the word to help more students access financial aid!