



Washington State  
Centers of Excellence



# Impact Report

FY 2021-22



**Eleven** Centers of Excellence across Washington serve as economic development drivers for **industry** and **education**. Each center is hosted by one of Washington's community and technical colleges and serves the entire state.

**Washington State Centers of Excellence** exists at the intersection of education, business, and industry. It is the connection point between knowledge, activity, and potential. At the center of this dynamic system, COEWA inspires and supports collaboration. Coordinating the activities of many stakeholders, COEWA navigates ever-changing workforce complexities through leadership and collaboration. COEWA is continuously on the lookout for creative innovation by establishing broad connections and facilitating relationships across the state.

# AEROSPACE



- **Facilitated** an Avionics Technician DACUM (Developing a Curriculum) with employers
- **Convened** manufacturing community colleges to apply for a \$4.53 million federal grant
- **Tracked** state legislative session, assisting State Board with data for their advocacy efforts
- **Panelist** on workforce and hiring, Seattle European-American Air Forum



- **Co-Chaired** MyTRI 2030 Agriculture Council, a regional visioning initiative with the goal to create a shared vision for the region.
- **Articulation Agreements:** Transfer into existing BAS programs at Walla Walla Community College and Columbia Basin College.
- **Partnered:** Implicit Bias & Student Homelessness, Neurodiversity & Implicit Bias, Professional Portfolio & Mentorship



# AGRICULTURE

# HEALTH



- **Northwest Health Career Pathway Summit:** A virtual event in partnership with the UW, OSPI, and AHECWW.
- **Program Assessment:** Worked with Clinical Placements Northwest (CPNW) to survey college health workforce programs.
- **Career Pathways:** Community Health Worker Team supported efforts for educational pathway development with DSHS.
- **Behavioral Health:** Worked with Center for Health Workforce Studies to support research into Behavioral Health workforce.
- **Substance Use Disorder Professional Training:** Financial support to develop an online training program.



## Careers in Education Center of Excellence

- **Workforce Deans Academy:** Relaunched the hybrid Workforce Deans Academy, the state's only grow-your-own program for CTC workforce leaders. Served 18 individuals from across the system.
- **Teaching Equity Network (TEN):** Partnered with TEN, a group of cross-sector collaborators from PESB, WEA, OSPI, promoting equity in pathways to education.
- **Skill Standards for Prof/Tech Faculty:** Skill Standards for Prof/Tech Faculty: Served on the leadership team in updating the statewide standards. Completed intensive facilitated focus groups with 41 faculty.



EDUCATION



ENERGY



- **Presented** at Economic Alliance of Lewis County symposium, TRIo College Sneak Peak, Capital STEM, and Foundation for Water & Energy Education
- **Hosted:** Hydrogen Symposium, Electric Transportation Transition Forum, Careers in Energy Week (daily posts)
- **Careers in Energy:** Created a video with 1.9 million impressions.
- **Partnered** with CleanTech Alliance as Career Connect Washington's Clean Energy/Clean Technology Industry Intermediary.
- **WA Workforce Energy Convening:** Statewide, hybrid summit with locations in Seattle, Tri-Cities, Centralia, and online.



- **Commercial Driver's License:** Employer round tables to develop recommendations for qualified truck drivers.
- **Regional Pre-apprenticeship Collaborative (RPAC):** Provided staff support and strategic plan for new members.
- **Mentorship Matters:** Partnership with Sound Transit promoting mentorship curriculum for apprentices and journeyworkers.
- **Apprenticeship Week:** An online toolkit promoting apprenticeship and careers and pathway to living-wage construction jobs.
- **EmPower Conference:** 200+ workers, apprentices, labor members, and employers joined an inspiring women's conference.



BUILDING



**Global Trade & Supply Chain Management**  
*Highline College*

- **Mentorship Guidebook:** Developed a mentorship program and documentation to reach dozens of students, two colleges, and a business organization.
- **Economic Development:** Documented more than 170,000 people working in the global trade and supply management sector, with 100,000 at companies mainly focused on supply chain work.
- **Education, Innovation & Efficiency:** Reached 400+ students in virtual workshops with Vietnam focused on supply chain issues.



- **Career Pathway Guide:** Information on six emergency management careers pathways via SBCTC colleges and Skills Centers.
- **Emergency Mgmt. Work Group:** Assessment of current curriculum and data for a private sector corporate EM certificate.
- **Firefighter JATC:** Ensured that instruction meets NFPA standards, is accredited, and provides college-level credit.
- **CJ Curricula:** Worked with 19 programs to standardize course numbering, statewide curriculum, and common assessment.
- **Climate Change: A Practical Guide:** Impacts of extreme weather on health, property, finances, safety, and day-to-day activities.



- **Professional Development:** Supported professional development for IT faculty including Linux certification, full stack development bootcamps, business analytics training, and more.
- **Industry Projects:** Launched a pilot program with Riipen.com, giving approximately 100 IT students from multiple colleges access to hands-on, industry-sponsored projects.
- **IT Skill Standards:** Facilitated access to the latest industry-defined skill standards for IT career clusters at ITSkillStandards.org.
- **Industry Report:** Issued a report about non-degree tech education, national trends, industry demand, changing hiring practices, student demand, and enrollment impacts.



- **ROV Proof of Concept, Phase I:** Introduction to submersible ROV's for K12 students. Students work in teams to design, build, deploy, collect data, maintain and troubleshoot ROV's.
- **Chmura Data Pilot, Phase I:** Joint Centers of Excellence project to collect, map, and produce industry demand, workforce, and impact data to benefit all 34 community and technical colleges.
- **Implicit Bias in Workforce Education Institute Project:** Professional development pathway and webinar series, with more than 1000 registrants statewide in 21-22, working with subject matter experts, to identify, reduce and break down barriers.



MARINE



ELECTRONICS



- **High-Tech Careers Seminar:** Working with sector industries, the SEM hosted it's online High-Tech Careers seminar showcasing nine Semiconductor & Electronics Manufacturing companies in Camas/Vancouver Metro Area, representing over 200 roles.
- **Industry Data Points:** The starting wage range is \$17 to \$45 per hour, with average starting pay at \$20.62/hour. Most jobs offer benefits and additional compensation plans. 25% of roles are paid internships.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Each center supports workforce development and its economic driver industry by serving as the link between local, regional, national, and international education, labor, and business organizations.

**INDUSTRY SECTOR STRATEGY:** As the link between education and industry, the centers ensure teachers, counselors and others have the latest knowledge of the field, and that curriculum accurately reflects evolving business needs.

**EDUCATION, INNOVATION & EFFICIENCY:** The centers look for ways to improve what and how students learn. The centers also advocate for expanded apprenticeships, credit for prior learning, and industry-recognized credentials.

**WORKFORCE SUPPLY/DEMAND:** The centers research, analyze and distribute to their partners the latest information specific to their driver industry. Sectors use that information to find ways to close skills gaps and expand training capacity.

**LEADING WITH EQUITY & ACCESS:** Working with industry and education to maximize student and workforce potential within a culture that advances racial, social and economic justice to service our diverse communities.