

Centers of Excellence

Benefitting Washington State

- **Industry data and resources:** Centers are a resource for real time industry data on new technologies, processes and trends for stakeholders. Working with industry partners, labor, faculty and colleges, COEs help ensure students have access to relevant knowledge, skills and abilities.

- **Curriculum development and skill standards:**

Community and technical colleges pride themselves on quickly adapting to changing workforce needs. COEs engage industry partners to capture workforce needs, sharing those with all 34 colleges. COEs facilitate curriculum workshops with industry subject matter experts who identify critical knowledge, skills and abilities for existing and emerging occupations. These activities ensure students are workforce ready, helping Washington state maintain its competitive workforce advantage.

Maintaining Current Skills Standards

- **Implicit bias training:** Centers have taken the lead as Washington state's professional-technical workforce rapidly becomes more diverse. COEs engage with underserved communities across the state, providing career pathway information and connection points to community and technical college programs. COEs are leaders in providing professional development to the workforce system on implicit bias.

- **Faculty professional development:** COEs actively help faculty keep their skills current by providing access to professional development opportunities in the classroom and the field.

Promoting Professional Development

Washington state's **Centers of Excellence (COEs)** support the community and technical college system and the industry partners they serve as they prepare students for the technical workforce of today and tomorrow. Each COE is dedicated to a specific economic sector. We serve as the connection between education, industry, business, labor, government and the community — strengthening relationships, anticipating trends, and leading with data-driven expertise.

Education is key to keeping Washington's economy strong. Each COE is strategically housed at a community or technical college, and supported by the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. Established by the State Board in 2004 and supported by the Washington State Legislature, COEs are tasked with building a "diverse workforce for strategic industries."

- **Certifications and credentials access:** Industry led technologies and processes continue to evolve along with requirements for certification and credentialing. COEs are leading efforts to ensure professional-technical programs have access to the most current skills requirements for certification and credentialing for student completion and success.

- **Bachelor of Applied Science development:**

Centers of Excellence provide insight into developing industry trends and workforce needs, and labor market data to support the development of BAS degrees focused on regional and statewide needs. These degrees allow place-bound students to enter the workforce with critical skills and knowledge without having to leave their families or jobs.

Ensuring Industry-Relevant Credentials

- **Industry partnerships:** COEs leverage relationships with key industries, standards organizations, and associations to relate workforce needs to the community and technical college system, helping programs adapt in order to support continued student completion, success and competitiveness.

- **Advisory Board development:** COEs assist colleges as they build and maintain their program advisory boards, facilitating connections between industry partners and college programs, ensuring curriculum reflects industry standards and needs.

Working with the Community





Your Aerospace & Advanced Manufacturing COE...

...supports and sustains programs capable of meeting industry demand, working toward ensuring students have access to 21st-century tools and technology, and linking educational programs to industry-recognized credentials. We convene, problem solve, and disseminate as needed, ensuring academic institutions are ready and able to deliver relevant programs.



Your Agriculture & Natural Resource COE...

...provides collaborative leadership in addressing the emerging workforce and economic development interests of both rural and urban regions of Washington state. ANR strives to support economic vitality, advocating for understanding and recognition that Washington state is a global leader in agriculture and natural resources. Underpinning its work, we work closely with community and technical college programs to support these essential industries.



Your Allied Health COE...

...regularly brings together Washington state allied health and health science deans and directors to identify common areas of concern and management challenges. We provide professional development opportunities, advocating for interprofessional education opportunities. The center further serves as a Community Based Training Partner with the Northwest Public Health Training Center.



Your Careers in Education COE...

...is designed to respond to the workforce training needs and related interests of educational institutions and industries in Washington state. The state's community and technical colleges are an integral part of the workforce pipeline for future educators, offering pathways for careers in paraeducation and early child education, as well as transfer degrees leading into teacher preparation programs.



Your Clean Energy COE...

...is a statewide resource that represents the interests of the energy industry and labor partners within Washington state's community and technical college system. The center is a nationally recognized model providing strategic coordination for the energy industry's skilled workforce in the Pacific Northwest.



Your Construction COE...

...collaborates with industry, labor, education and workforce stakeholders to create a diverse and highly skilled workforce to meet industry demands. The center provides statewide leadership with a focus on equity and inclusion to ensure Washington state residents have access to fulfilling, living wage careers.



Your Global Trade & Supply Chain Management COE...

...is mission driven in building a skilled workforce for international trade. We maintain an institutional reputation for innovation, responsive education and training delivery to industry. We act as an information and resource broker for industry representatives, community-based organizations, economic development, secondary education institutions, colleges and universities.



Your Homeland Security-Emergency Management COE...

...helps Washington state community and technical colleges prepare a skilled workforce to help maintain our national security. We help ensure an effective response to all-hazard events through education and training initiatives and build disaster resilience in our communities.



Your Information & Computing Technology COE...

...provides research and reports on industry trends, current and future workforce demand, industry perceptions of Washington's community and technical college system and its graduates, and emerging technology developments. We work to share information, build awareness, and increase enrollments in IT programs in all community and technical colleges.



Your Marine Manufacturing & Technology COE...

...is dedicated to building a world-renowned maritime industry through collaborative leadership. We address emerging workforce and economic development interests throughout Washington state. The center supports economic vitality and the understanding and recognition that Washington is a leader in the maritime industry, with robust community and technical college and apprenticeship programs supporting this critical industry.



Your Semiconductors & Electronics Manufacturing COE...

...supports and sustains programs capable of meeting industry demand. We work to ensure students have access to 21st-century tools and technology and link educational programs to industry-recognized credentials. We convene, problem solve, and disseminate as needed to ensure K-12, colleges, and training partners are ready and able to deliver relevant programs.