Draft Meeting Summary
AHECC: Apprenticeships and Higher Education Coordinating Committee
June 16, 2026 | 9:00am-12:30pm
Zoom

Attendees: *See Appendix A*

William D. Ruckelshaus Facilitation Team: Chris Page, Director of Projects; Melissa Girbach, Associate Facilitator; Gaby Diamond, Project Specialist

Council on Adult Experiential Learning Staff: Ashley Wilhelm

Welcome & Introductions
Chris Page welcomed members, asked them to introduce themselves and put their favorite thing about summer in the Zoom chat.

Review Agenda and Consider Accepting April & May Meeting Summary
Chris reviewed the agenda and Melissa shared highlights from the last meeting. Chris asked if members had any changes to the April meeting summary, and with no suggested edits, members accepted it for the record. One member abstained from accepting the April meeting summary. Chris asked if there were any changes to the May meeting summary and there were none, and members also accepted it for the record.

Updates from Committee Members
- Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC): The Washington Grant for Apprentices (WG-A) will open July 1st, 2026, and the process should be more streamlined than previous years due to new automation.
- Workforce Training Board (WTB): The WTB is looking for a new CFO, the job posting can be found here (applications closed on 6/30/2026):
    - State of Washington Job Opportunities | Work that Matters
- Apprenti has been in contact and working with Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology to develop degree pathways for apprentices. The pathways would lead to an AAS with additional paid credits that could easily transfer to Wichita State University to move towards a bachelor's degree. If anyone would like to see an example of the endpoint assessment, reach out to Andrea Anderson (Apprenti).

Funding Model Diagram
Chris introduced the updated diagram and asked members who previously suggested removing the tuition section if they would like to write up their explanation for why they'd prefer it to be separate. Members suggested the following changes to the current diagram:
- ESD and CCW funding are connected, and that relationship is changing in the upcoming year. The diagram could include a snapshot of the previous year's funding arrangement and note in the diagram that the programs are undergoing changes.
- SBCTC does not receive specifically designated money for apprenticeships; that should be explained in the diagram.

- L&I noted that they do not have any direct funding for program expansion.
- A suggestion to add a table to the diagram explaining all the nuances of the elements will help explain the funding sources and purpose.
- Revenue from the Legislature and tuition is depicted, but not employer education funds, scholarships, etc. Those other sources should be included.

Members also wanted to make a diagram based on the future of the ecosystem. Some noted that such an ideal future diagram could show something that the parties could strive to educate the Legislature about while budgets are low. Some members suggested the following for a future model:

- Money should flow through sponsors (or L&I) and colleges should get resources too.
- Ideally, all sides have what they need and remuneration (or any money exchange between colleges and apprenticeship programs) wouldn't be needed.
- Acknowledge other 4-year universities and private career schools to be included if they want to be.

Draft Potential Recommendations

Members discussed the potential recommendations. Some were unsure of the language around what it might mean to "fully fund" programs; the Legislature asked the Committee to recommend a sustainable funding structure for RSI at CTCs, and this suggestion would not be sustainable in the long-term due to budget fluctuation. Committee members suggested that to address sustainability, future funding could be tied to enrollment; apprenticeship programs with higher enrollments would receive a different amount than programs with fewer apprentices. To ensure that the programs are still valued the same, a per apprentice amount would need to be created.

Chris added language to the top-level recommendation, so it reads, "The Legislature should fund core FTE allocation for SBCTC to the local colleges for apprenticeship and, with a separate allocation through L&I, that would support registered apprentice programs (RAPs). While this can allow continuation of the existing work, expansion of registered apprentice pathways will require additional investments into both RAPs and their higher ed partners, e.g., from apprentice program sponsors, employers, etc."

Members discussed the need for funding for the current system. Investment in both apprenticeship programs and CTCs is needed to maintain and grow apprentice numbers. The funding also needs to be flexible, while also demonstrating maintenance, growth, and responding to demands.

The group continued discussing suggestions from the Workgroup and other ideas that AHECC had not previously considered as a whole group. Most members liked the Workgroup's additions and appreciated the structure of the recommendations.

In the section on incentives for employers as well as for education, a member requested to use the term "employer" instead of "employers who participate in group sponsored…".

Members agreed with the idea of restoring the previous (higher) level of WG-A funding should be discussed in the fall, and to remove the language about Workforce Pell. They also decided they need more information on how removing the 50% tuition waiver would affect the system. The group also removed the draft recommendation around Core Plus funding, with members noting that it is an important program, but is more focused on pre-apprenticeships than registered apprenticeship programs. It should be noted in the report that Core Plus and other pre-apprenticeship programs are important to the system but is out of scope of this Committee.

Institutional Costs of Delivering RSI

SBCTC shared their institutional costs to deliver RSI and walked through their methodology. There was dedicated funding around apprenticeships in 2007-2008 and SBCTC added 50 FTEs on top of the 150 previously dedicated. In 2008-2009 the Legislature added 150 more FTEs, taking the total to 412FTEs. During the Recession, the need for apprenticeships decreased, and needs for worker re-training programs and general enrollment increased.

SBCTC's President pledged to maintain 2,331 FTEs as a system while keeping additional funding available for general use. This year, they looked at the average apprenticeship FTE over the last four years, took that number (how many FTEs the system serves, 4,083) minus the initial base pledge of 2,331, leaves an unfunded gap of 1,752 FTEs.

If SBCTC were to request or receive funding for an additional 700 FTEs (less than half of the gap) at $10,000 per apprentice, it would come to roughly $7 million. The total annual request would be around $8,029,132 after adding salary and benefits and an apprenticeship coordinator at each college.

SBCTC shared that it is noteworthy that the legislatively assigned value of FTEs when SBCTC pledged to maintain 2,331 FTEs was considerably lower than the value today, and despite the pledge and the request, enrollments would only be 3,031 (about 75 percent). A single FTE is generally equivalent to about 4 apprentices.

Questions from members:

- **Q:** Could the information be broken down per apprentice? **A:** The college system works in FTEs.
- SBCTC noted that the number to fully fund the demand of apprentices going through the CTCs would be around 40 million (average over the last four years). **Q:** Is that number for both types of contractual relationships: the 23 percent that use CTC instructors and facilities and the 60 percent that only receive transcription? Or just 23 percent? **A:** The number is for both, the entire cost per FTE (there are about 4 apprentices per FTE per quarter).

Recap Discussion, Action Items, and Next Steps

Chris thanked members for their robust conversation and reflected the following action items:

- Members prefer to meet in September instead of August. The Facilitation Team will send out a meeting poll to determine the final two meetings in the fall.

- The Facilitation Team will clean up and send out potential recommendations and ask for feedback from all members.
- In the fall, the Facilitation Team will ask to revisit the charter, and revise committee membership for consensus decisions.

ADJOURN

Appendix A: Attendees X=attended (all virtual)

Committee member	**Attend**	**Alternate member**	**Attend**
Andrea Anderson, Sr. Director of Program Development and Education, Apprenti	X		
Heather Hudson, Deputy Policy Advisor – Childcare, Education, and Workforce, Governor's Office (ex-officio)?		Dawn Gearhart	
Maryann Brathwaite, Executive Director, NW Career Colleges Federation	X		
Marie Bruin, Workforce Education Director, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges	X	Genevieve Howard, Workforce Policy Associate	X
Joyce Hammer, Deputy Executive Director of Education, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges			
Karen Dove, Executive Director, Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Employment for Women			
Julie Garver, Director of Policy and Academic Affairs, Council of Presidents			
Rachel McAloon, Apprenticeship Program Manager, Department of Labor and Industries, Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council (WSATC)	X	Jordan Shepherd, Apprenticeship Policy Advisor; Brittany Craighead, Compliance Specialist; Todd Tveten	
Kimberly Hetrick, Director, Career Connect Washington		Therese Williams, Associate Director	
Laura Hopkins, Executive Director, SEIU Healthcare 1199NW Multi-Employer Training Fund	X		
Brian Jeffries, Policy Director, Washington Roundtable Partnership for Learning			
Inez Olive, Director, Adult Pathways, Washington Student Achievement Council	X	Lyle Irimata, Assistant Director, Needs Based Programs, Contracts and Reporting	X

Kairie Pierce, Sector Lead, Innovation Workforce, Department of Commerce			
Heather Kurtenbach, Executive Secretary, Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council		Erin Frasier, Assistant Executive Secretary, Washington State Building Trades	
Christina Riley, Independent Consultant & Co-Chair of Tribal Subcommittee of State Apprenticeship Council	X		
Halene Sigmund, President, Construction Industry Training Council of Washington			
April Sims, Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO		Shana Peschek, Machinists Institute	
		Ryan Davis, Machinists Institute	
Donald Smith, Policy Manager, Long-Term Care Workforce		Joe Wilcox	X
		Maddy Thompson, Executive Director	
Sheila Steiner, Senior Director, Policy and Engagement, Independent Colleges of Washington		Terri Standish-Kuon, President and Chief Executive Officer	
Lynn Strickland, Executive Director, AJAC			
Becky Wallace, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education and Pathways for Preparation, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction	X	Krista Fox, Director of Career and Technical Education	
Emily Wittman, Government Affairs Director for Education, Workforce and Healthcare, Association of Washington Business			
Additional Members			
Heather Winfrey, Curriculum Coordinator, Seattle Area Pipe Trades			
Cori Morris, Professional Development Navigator, Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs	X		
Laura Kingston, Executive Dean, Georgetown- South Seattle College			
Matt Poischbeg, Advanced Manufacturing Skills Center (AMSC)/ Washington Aerospace Training & Research (WATR) Edmonds College	X		