

Community and Technical College Students
2009 Student Voice Academy
WHITE PAPER

The five critical issues outlined in the white paper represent the priorities of students in the Washington state community and technical colleges during the upcoming legislative session and biennium budget process. The issues are listed in no specific order.

CUTTING TEXTBOOK COSTS

The high cost of textbooks is a burden to students. Textbooks available in a printable, online format as well as in a traditional format would make it easily accessible to students and instructors. Legislation that requires college instructional divisions to enhance available college online options for every required textbook whenever possible is requested. An online option would have a drastic decrease in the cost of textbooks by decreasing publishing costs.

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Citizens and businesses are concerned with the environment and are looking to make a difference with the help of legislation. Students are asking for a pool of funding from legislation to fund environmental projects in the community and technical college system that have an impact of cost savings to campuses. Earmark funding would be made available to campuses through an application process administered by the State Board for Community and Technical College system. Criteria shall be established in collaboration with student government association representatives and State Board staff.

CAMPUS SAFETY/SECURITY

Students consider safety to be of the utmost importance in order to provide the highest quality of education. Students support legislation that provides more funding for community and technical colleges safety and security departments. It is proposed that at least one commissioned police officer works at the community and technical college as a part of the campus safety and security department.

STATE MATCHING FUNDS FOR STUDENT SPACES

Community and technical college capital project budgets in many cases are not open to funding of student spaces that are not specified for instructional purposes. Student spaces greatly contribute to student learning, life, retention, and growth opportunities. It would be beneficial if community and technical colleges operating budgets were made available for matching funds for gyms, student unions, and other student spaces.

STUDENT VOTING REPRESENTATIVE ON BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Students request voting representation on governing boards for community and technical colleges for all voting matters, minus board approving personnel issues. Students' direct understanding of the impacts of college policy will ensure accurate and efficient decisions. Students are the principle stakeholders in their institutions and deserve an equal voice in the critical decisions governing their education.