



## **Talent and Prosperity for All Plan Update**

*Public comment period now closed, submission to U.S. Dept. of Education and Labor pending final approval by the Workforce Board*

Washington's workforce plan, Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP), is a four-year strategy covering 2024-28 to support a strong and successful workforce development system.

Stakeholders, partners and community members have been working to create the 2024-2028 TAP plan that will be submitted to both the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor. The new plan was initially posted for public comment the week of January 18 and closed on March 15. Washington's Perkins plan, which included updated proposed state determined performance levels for CTE programs, is featured as an appendix within the state's TAP Plan. Non-substantive changes were made to the plan between the 2020-2024 and 2024-2028 versions.

The Workforce Board will take action on approving the plan at their March 21 meeting. Following Board approval, the plan will be submitted to both federal agencies.

### **More Perkins details**

The Workforce Board is designated by the Governor and Legislature to oversee federal funds received through Perkins V as a pass-through and oversight entity. Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), along with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), are subrecipient agencies that award local funding to school districts and colleges supporting CTE programs.

Perkins funds support CTE programs that prepare students for further education and careers, in part by supporting the integration of academic and technical education to meet the needs of business and industry.

As Washington's CTE administrator, the Workforce Board's role includes preparing and adopting the state plan, tracking state-level expenditures, establishing and tracking performance targets, and submitting annual reports to the U.S. Department of Education.

For 2021-2022, Washington received approximately \$24 million in Perkins funds. It's divided up among the Workforce Board, the state's community and technical colleges, and the state's K-12 system. Federal funding makes up less than five percent of the CTE funding that flows to Washington's secondary and postsecondary schools but remains an important piece of the workforce system due to its robust federal monitoring, evaluation, and reporting requirements.



## **WAVE Scholarship Update**

*Successful social media campaign as the application period comes to a close.*

The Washington Workforce Board is pleased to announce that the legislature has allocated additional funds in its recent budget for the Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) scholarship. Furthermore, the application period has been extended. This is excellent news for students pursuing vocational education in Washington!

Lawmakers approved an additional \$500,000 in this year's budget for the scholarship. This means this year's award will pay up to \$5,500 per year, for up to two years, or \$11,000. Awards vary depending on the college or university attended. Funding was also allocated to improve the online submission process (more information below).

The 2024 WAVE marketing campaign also saw some great success.

The Workforce Board utilized Perkins special population funding this year to spread the word through social media about the great opportunities that CTE and the WAVE scholarship can provide to students and families. The social media campaign reached more than 300,000 users within this population group over two weeks.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to WA-ACTE for helping us get the message out.

WAVE honors Washington's outstanding career and technical education students. Each of the state's 49 legislative districts can have up to three winners per year—for as many as 147 total annual scholarship awardees. Graduating high school seniors who completed or are in the process of completing a second year in a single CTE pathway are eligible. Community and technical college students who have completed or are in the process of completing a year of professional-technical training are also eligible.

The application period for this year's scholarship is now closed. Applications were accepted from February 1-March 19, 2024. The Workforce Board administers this annual, merit-based scholarship.

## **Help us reach more CTE students**

We are looking for insight on how to more effectively reach CTE teachers to inform them about the scholarship in the future. CTE teachers play a critical role in providing students with information about the scholarship and also to fill out a CTE certification and recommendation forms that verify a student's eligibility and provide support for their application. Are there things we can do differently to help this process? Would you like a video? A direct email to your school in box? What works best? Please provide feedback to [wave.award@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:wave.award@wtb.wa.gov).

## **Coming soon—a new WAVE portal!**

The Legislature has provided funding for a new WAVE portal and the Workforce Board will be creating this targeted, easier, and more equitable online portal over the next year. We realize that the current portal, which includes many other state scholarships, has been difficult for some students to use. If you have thoughts about what to include in this new portal, we'd like to hear from you about that, too. Thanks for being such great partners!