

Washington Centers of Excellence Newsletter

Welcome to the Washington Centers of Excellence newsletter. Our mission is to serve as the statewide liaisons to business, industry, labor and the state's educational systems for the purpose of creating a highly skilled and readily available workforce critical to the success of the industries driving the state's economy and supporting Washington families.

[Learn more about our work at coewa.com](http://www.coewa.com)



Allied Health

The Center conducted the Allied Health Deans and Directors meeting on November 19, 2015 at the SSC Georgetown Campus. There were 35 deans, directors and department heads and program coordinators from 19 community and technical colleges as well as representatives from Western WA AHEC, Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County, and the University of Washington's Center for Health Workforce Studies. Topics included an introduction to the Sentinel Network, an update of the Accountable Communities of Health, and the Washington Patient Safety Coalition. A special focus also included showcasing initiatives and strategies that promote retention and completion in health workforce programs. The next Deans meeting is scheduled for March 30 at Bellevue College and will include topics on understanding military culture and trauma informed curriculum for the health professions.

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Agriculture



WWCC Instructor Mike Hagerman illustrating the importance of precision agriculture education

In January, with the support of Northwest Grain Growers (NWGG), we hosted our annual Precision Ag Seminar. We invited a broad range of speakers from many facets of the agriculture industry: soil science, irrigation, animal science, precision mapping, and precision agricultural education. We were very excited to increase registration for the event by nearly 30%! Additionally, our partnership with NWGG enabled us to host a pesticide licensing training and cover the cost of participants' exam fees.

We look forward to adding members to our advisory board to better represent the diversity of our industry, sponsoring Washington ag students on their road to the Postsecondary Agricultural Students (PAS) competition, participating in PAS-qualifying competitions, and hosting the district Agricultural Mechanics FFA competition to name a few.

[Visit us online: agcenterofexcellence.com](http://www.agcenterofexcellence.com)

Upcoming Events

- March 30 – Allied Health Deans and Directors Meeting, Bellevue College
- May 18–19 – Clean Energy and Construction Best Practices Summit, “Building an Energized Future”

Careers in Education

The [Center of Excellence for Careers in Education](http://www.ececareers.del.wa.gov) partnered with the Department of Early Learning and State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to develop an Early Learning Professional Careers Portal. This interactive web portal was designed to help students and current practitioners learn about:

- Careers in Early Childhood Education
- Required education levels for various positions
- Certificate, Associate's, and Bachelor's degree program options at Washington State colleges and universities
- Connecting with an Early Childhood Education program contact at a college or university
- Financial aid for Early Childhood Education programs, and how to apply
- Exploring career pathways, and taking the next step in your Early Childhood Education career

We invite you to [visit the brand new portal at ececareers.del.wa.gov](http://www.ececareers.del.wa.gov). Please share the tool with interested staff, faculty, and students!

[Visit us online: http://www.careersined.org/](http://www.careersined.org/)

Clean Energy and Construction



The Center of Excellence for Clean Energy and the Construction Center of Excellence present this year's Best Practices Summit, "Building an Energized Future" May 18–19 at Bates South Campus in Tacoma.

The Summit, now in its 11th year, features the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER)'s Matt Morrison

(right) as keynote. Mr. Morrison has been a leader in promoting innovation in the Canada-US border region and has been instrumental in several successful pilots of Beyond the

Borders and Perimeter Security Action Plan. Morrison has also been instrumental in building resilience over the past decade by hosting a critical infrastructure interdependency series focused on the regional economy.

The morning panel session looks at "Executive Action on Climate and Energy." Many aspects of energy policy fall within the authority of the executive branch of government. Learn about initiatives that are under way in Washington and on the federal level, including the EPA Clean Power plan, the state Clean Air Rule, and state Executive orders. The Summit is intended for energy/construction educators, industry, organized labor, and economic and workforce development representatives.

Registration is open at <http://cleanenergyexcellence.org/>

Homeland Security-Emergency Management

The Center collaborated with several college program managers and administrators to develop an employer survey "designed to capture key information about demands and trends, skills and competency gaps, and important curriculum updates in our industry," said Wendy Freitag, Communications and Outreach Coordinator. Following the initial survey, the Center held one-on-one industry meetings with hiring managers to solicit their feedback. A total of 20 organizations participated in the pilot from public, private and nonprofit organizations. Freitag reported, "Employers clearly recognized internships as a direct pathway to future employment and endorsed internships as a way to ascertain if a student would be a good fit for their organization." View the full pilot report on [the Center's website www.coe-hsem.com](http://www.coe-hsem.com) or by contacting Wendy Freitag at wfreitag@pierce.ctc.edu.

In 2015 the Center launched its [Work Experience Marketplace](#) which helps students, employers and educators identify the latest jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities under the professional pathway of HSEM. David Core, a graduate of the HSEM AA degree program, recently completed an internship with the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) and was hired as their Division Assistant for Tactical Operations Support in the Critical Indicant Planning and Mapping System. In a recent conversation with Linda Crerar, Director of the HSEM Center, David credits his hard work, good grades, and the internship as the reasons why he was able to secure the position with WASPC. He complimented the on-going support and guidance he received from HSEM program staff in securing and completing his internship.

Information and Computing Technology

The Center of Excellence for Information and Computing Technology will release a report in spring quarter 2016 that explores the history of robotics/automation, the impact of technology and computing on the global workforce using data from the World Economic Forum's [The Future of Jobs Employment, Skills and Workforce Strategy for the Fourth Industrial Revolution](#), curriculum and program developments your college could start exploring this year, as well as technology's impact across all industry sectors. Additionally, look for updates on the experiences of Bellevue College and Spokane Falls College IT faculty with the [NAO robot](#). [Visit us online: coeforict.org](http://coeforict.org)



Honda's Asimo robot can walk down stairs



Atlas the robot cleans

Marine Manufacturing & Technology and Construction

The Centers of Excellence for Construction and Marine Manufacturing & Technology have collaborated with [local marketing firm Trio Group](#) to create a series of six professional development webinars for faculty, administrators, and deans throughout the community and technical college system. The webinars will begin in February and will be available for download via both Center of Excellence websites: www.constructioncenterofexcellence.com and www.marinecenterofexcellence.com.

The webinars will focus on the following topics:

- The ten commandments of digital marketing (on a shoestring budget)
- Content strategy 101: how to attract your target audience
- Creating awesome slide decks: best practices and tools
- Lights, camera, classroom: using live streaming technology to augment classroom instruction
- Eye-popping graphic content
- Video content that rocks

The first webinar will be broadcast mid-February.