



**Workforce Training and
Education Coordinating Board**

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Carl Perkins \$24 million grant gives educators chance to innovate

Olympia, Wash.—A multi-million dollar grant that helps educators better prepare students for the workplace through innovative teaching techniques and other strategies will soon be flowing to Washington state high schools, community and technical colleges.

The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) received more than \$24 million in federal Carl Perkins funding July 1 and general approval of a five-year spending plan that can total more than \$115 million. The annual federal funding spurs innovation in Washington high school classrooms where more than 240,000 students acquire knowledge and skills for use in the workplace and prepare for their next educational step. A portion of the Carl Perkins money also flows to the state's 34 community and technical colleges.

Career and technical education, formerly known as vocational education, must continuously innovate and improve to provide the supply of skilled and qualified workers demanded by today's economy. While three out of four jobs in Washington do not require a four-year degree, most of those jobs require additional career and technical education beyond high school. The new funds will help high schools and community colleges update their current career and technical education courses, and align high school and college programs to create smoother transitions for students.

"A growing number of jobs call for education and training that extends past high school," said Eleni Papadakis, executive director of the Workforce Board. "Career and technical education can help students move to that next level."

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act currently provides about \$1.3 billion for career and technical education programs nationwide. The Workforce Board is responsible for distributing the grant in Washington state. The grant represents between 2 and 3 percent of the total funding that goes toward career and technical education classes statewide.

"Even though Perkins funding is a small part of school budgets, the money is vital because it helps educators innovate and fine-tune their programs," Papadakis said.

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Washington state's Tech Prep program, in particular, benefits from Carl Perkins funding. Tech Prep courses are taught at local high schools and give students the chance to earn both high school and college credits in approved career and technical education classes. Some \$2 million in Perkins funding will flow to Tech Prep programs across the state.

During 2006-2007, over 19,000 students earned over 121,000 college credits in Tech Prep classes.

The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board is a partnership of labor, business and government dedicated to helping Washington state students prepare for careers, while meeting employers' needs for skilled workers.

Quick Facts about Tech Prep:

Families and taxpayers save money

- More than 19,400 Washington State high school students earned over 121,000 college credits (equal to almost 2,690 FTE) through Tech Prep in 2006-07. That's an average of over six credits per student.
- Students and their families realized a savings of over \$7.3 million by earning Tech Prep credits in 2006-07, and provided a savings to taxpayers of over \$11.9 million. That's more than \$19.3 million saved by the citizens of Washington state in 2006-07.

High school students succeed in college courses

- Tech Prep is a federally funded cooperative effort among K-12 schools, community and technical colleges, business and labor.
- Tech Prep career and technical education courses are taught on high school campuses by high school instructors.
- Instructors work with local colleges to assure the courses are taught at the college-level and mesh with the college program.
- Colleges award credit to students who successfully complete college-equivalent courses and programs with a "B" or better while still in high school.

To view the state's Tech Prep consortiums go to: <http://www.techprepwa.org/consortiums.htm>

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