



Workforce Board

The Workforce Board is a state agency committed to the development of a highly skilled workforce that will sustain Washington's economic vitality. We accomplish this through research, partnership building, and policies designed to serve a diverse population.

The Postsecondary Skills Gap

Employers Report a Shortage of Workers With Postsecondary Vocational Training

- When surveyed in 2006, 22 percent of Washington employers reported difficulty finding job applicants with occupation-specific skills (e.g. They wanted to hire a registered nurse but had trouble finding one.)
- The shortage of qualified job applicants is highest at the sub-baccalaureate level (this is consistent with the findings of the joint 2005 study by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, the Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Workforce Board.
- 17 % of employers reported that the difficulty finding qualified job applicants lowered output or sales, 16 % said it lowered productivity, and 14% reported it reduced quality.

Additional Community and Technical College Workforce Education Enrollments Needed

In order to meet employer needs for skilled workers, we must enroll more individuals in workforce education and apprenticeship programs.

- **Job openings for new workers** in Washington with between one and four years of postsecondary education or training is expected to reach 31,000 between 2007 and 2012.
- **The current supply** coming out of community and technical colleges, private career schools, or apprenticeship programs will only meet 85 percent of that demand. They will be short 4,600 workers annually.
- **To close the gap** the state will need more than 1,170 additional students FTEs above participation rate increases (for a total increase of 1,480) annually between 2004 and 2010. This is in addition to the increased need for academic transfer and basic education students.

Solid Outcomes for Workforce Education

Cost-Benefit for Job Preparatory Training

	Student	Public
Earnings	\$90,455	
Fringe Benefits	\$18,091	
Taxes	-\$15,603	+ \$15,603
Program Costs	-\$3,869	-\$7,560

FACT

- The average newly trained worker from a community and technical college workforce education program can expect his or her lifetime earnings to increase by over \$90,000. Generating tax revenues that far exceed the cost of the program.

The Workforce Board advocates for the training of individuals to fill the over 75 percent of jobs not requiring a four-year degree.

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