The 2017 Legislative Session has continued to be busy for your Workforce Board staff. Career and Technical Education (CTE), Career Readiness, postsecondary student protection, and workforce development are active issues this session, of course along with K-12 funding. You will hear an update from Legislative Director, Nova Gattman, at the meeting. The following outlines other important activities since the March Board meeting:

1. **NGA Work-Based Learning Academy**: Sponsored by Siemens Foundation, and the Upcoming Governor’s Summit: After 18 months, the policy academy will culminate with a Governor’s Summit on Career Connected Learning on May 31, 2017. The summit will involve 28 concurrent sites around the state. The central site is hosted by Microsoft at their Redmond conference center. Colleges, economic development organizations, and chambers of commerce are hosting the 27 regional sites, which will meet from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM, and which will connect virtually to Redmond for a conversation with Governor Inslee. Nova is our staff lead on the academy and the summit. She has prepared a pre-meeting video for you to learn a little more about the academy and the summit. Please review the video at: [https://youtu.be/O9rC_KZdz7Y](https://youtu.be/O9rC_KZdz7Y).

More information on the Policy Academy, including registration details for either the Redmond or regional sites can be found on our website: [http://wtb.wa.gov/WorkBasedLearningPolicyAcademy.asp](http://wtb.wa.gov/WorkBasedLearningPolicyAcademy.asp).

2. **Consumer Protection Services Activities (July 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017)**: This unit oversees private career school licensing and approval of programs for use by veterans, among other responsibilities. The Board doesn’t get to see the phenomenal and important work of this unit very often, so I wanted to provide a brief report of the numbers. This unit has 6 FTE:

There are 290 private career schools approved by the Workforce Board to operate in Washington, and 14 out-of-state schools who do business in Washington. Recent large school closures as a result of actions taken by the U.S. Department of Education have contributed to a slight decrease (3 percent) in the number of private career schools currently operating in Washington. The Consumer Protection Services staff continues to ensure that private career schools—and the educational and training services provided—remain compliant with regulatory standards, and that students are receiving the education promised. With focus on educational outreach and technical assistance, the staff has visited 115 schools within the past nine months. Of the 115 school visits and inspections, 25 were solely VA compliance audits, 59 Private Career School inspections and technical assistance, and 31 a combination of both. Since January 2015, 77 percent of all schools have been visited at least once. On-site reviews and inspections examine a school’s compliance related to the school's educational programs, facilities and equipment,
enrollment procedures, instructors, and student recordkeeping practices. Through these onsite school reviews, inspections, and technical assistance visits, as well as compliance training workshops, filed student complaints have declined from 35 to 21, a 40 percent decrease for the reporting period. Of the 21 student complaints, 7 are pending investigation, 3 were dismissed finding no violation committed by the school, 2 ruled in favor of the student, and 3 complaints mutually settled by the parties through staff assistance. To date, since July 1, 2016, no claims have been submitted for reimbursement from the Tuition Trust Recovery Fund.

The Veteran’s team evaluates and approves programs for eligibility for veterans using GI Bill benefits. Funding comes from the US Department of Veteran Affairs. Last contract year, 910 degree programs were approved at 237 Institutes of Higher Learning (Non-Transfer degrees), and 1,276 non-degree programs were approved at 99 private career schools. The VA team also performs school compliance audits, and has completed 20 out of the 29 required by the contract. The VA team has partnered with the Washington Student Achievement Council to provide quarterly training workshops to ensure that VA-approved schools understand compliance issues, and to encourage more schools to apply for approval of their programs. Our objective is to have a robust catalogue of programs that help veterans meet their educational and career goals.

3. Adult Education Advisory Council (AEAC): The AEAC advises the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, and specifically the Division for Basic Education for Adults (BEdA). AEAC has a statutory requirement to report on progress of BEdA services to the Workforce Board annually. In April, the AEAC met to identify a set of strategic goals for developing the state strategic plan for Basic Education for Adults. The goals discussed align well with Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP), and call for greater coordination and integration with workforce system partners to achieve BEdA goals. Eleni represents the Board on the AEAC, along with representatives from Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Employment Security Department (ESD), and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The Board will hear a presentation about BEdA and its strategic plan once the plan is near completion, unless you would prefer to engage with them sooner. You can also find more information about AEAC at http://www.sbctc.edu/about/task-forces-work-groups/aeac/.

4. Partners for Rural Washington (PRWA): PRWA is a newly created public-private partnership organization dedicated to supporting rural communities across Washington. The group came together as a result of a convening of rural stakeholders two years ago. PRWA held a symposium in April to discuss an agenda for their work going forward. About 80 individuals represent employers, finance, housing, criminal justice, healthcare, higher education, and state and local government. There were many local elected officials, including current and former state legislators. Among such a wide range of stakeholders, it is not surprising that such a cross-cutting issue as workforce development, both from the worker and business perspectives, was a top priority. Within this issue area, access to high-quality Career and Technical Education, and connections to employment opportunities for young people were highlighted. The Workforce Board has periodically discussed creating a rural workforce development agenda. If Board members
are interested in pursuing such a topic, PRWA could potentially emerge as a viable partner. More information can be found at [http://www.partnersruralwa.org/](http://www.partnersruralwa.org/).

5. **CTE Showcase of Skills, March 27, 2017:** Thank you to all the Board members and partner organizations who worked together to make this event a tremendous success. All of the tiny shelters that were built at the event by student teams from across Washington were delivered to Seattle to be used as transitional housing for the homeless. Now the Board must decide what, if anything, to do next. The Board will discuss at the May meeting how it might like to build on the success of the CTE Showcase of Skills. You will watch a video about the event, narrated by the project creator and leader, Terri Colbert, who is retiring on April 30, 2017. We will show the video at the Board meeting, but you can also view it in advance at: [https://youtu.be/puGBcJ5Dl_M](https://youtu.be/puGBcJ5Dl_M).

As always, there will be time on the meeting agenda for Board members to ask for more information or clarification, or to provide comment on this report. Members should also feel free to contact me directly with any specific questions ([eleni.papadakis@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:eleni.papadakis@wtb.wa.gov), 360-709-4600).