



Confluence serves as an intersection where we share events, interests, and important information about our Center and the state's all-hazard emergency management pathway programs.

February 2020 / EDITION / VOL 17



The Centers of Excellence Adventure on the State Capital!

The Centers of Excellence (CoEs) for Homeland Security Emergency Management, Agriculture & Natural Resources, and Clean Energy met with Legislative Assistants for State Rep. Debra Entenman (47th District) and State Rep. Larry Hoff (18th District). Our goal was to help expand the knowledge of the CoEs to people on "the hill" and how the Centers are a great resource.

Simrun Chhabra, Legislative Assistant to Rep. Debra Entenman was able to sit down with Center Directors Lindsey Williams (Agriculture & Natural Resources) and Linda Crerar (Homeland Security Emergency Management) to learn more about the Centers

What are the Centers of Excellence? The Centers were established in 2004 by the State Board for Community and Technical College to help with economic and educational development. By 2009, the Centers of Excellence were codified into legislation. This was a groundbreaking achievement as Washington became the first state in the nation to legislate Centers of Excellence.

It was shared with Ms. Chhabra that as industry standards become more rigorous and continue to change, employees must keep up with those demands. Working with partners in industry and colleges, CoEs are often introduced the credentials and certifications – both benchmark and required – for students to stay up-to-date with professional requirements. CoEs help provide insight into developing trends, industry partners, and labor market data to support the development of Bachelor of Applied Science, Associates, and Certifications degrees that are focused on regional needs.

Overall, the CoEs work to help promote professional development to students and employers in maintaining an economically resilient and educationally innovative state of Washington.

HB 2228 Passes in the House and Moves on to the Senate



Bill History 2020 REGULAR SESSION
Dec 11 - Prefiled for introduction.

Jan 13 - First reading, referred to Housing, Community Development & Veterans. ([View Original Bill](#))

Jan 15 - Public hearing in the House Committee on Housing, Community Development & Veterans at 8:00 AM. ([Committee Materials](#))

Jan 17 - Executive action taken in the House Committee on Housing, Community Development & Veterans at 10:00 AM. ([Committee Materials](#))

HOUS - Majority; do pass. (**Majority Report**)

Jan 20 - Referred to Appropriations.

Feb 6 - Public hearing in the House Committee on Appropriations at 3:30 PM. (**Committee Materials**)

Feb 8 - Executive session scheduled, but no action was taken in the House Committee on Appropriations at 9:00 AM. (**Committee Materials**)

Feb 11 - Executive action taken in the House Committee on Appropriations at 9:00 AM. ([Committee Materials](#))

APP - Majority; do pass. (Majority Report)
Minority; do not pass. (Minority Report)
Minority; without recommendation. (Minority Report)
Referred to Rules 2 Review.

Feb 14 - Rules Committee relieved of further consideration. Placed on second reading.

Feb 18 - Floor amendment(s) adopted.
Rules suspended. Placed on Third Reading.
Third reading, passed; yeas, 98; nays, 0; absent, 0; excused, 0. ([View 1st Engrossed](#)) ([View Roll Calls](#))

IN THE SENATE

Feb 21 - Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections at 1:30 PM in anticipation of other legislative action.



Diversity within the Community and Technical Colleges System

By Kellie Hale

The Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) has a new vision statement that was unanimously approved on June 27, 2019. The new vision statement for the SBCTS reads as follows:

“Leading with racial equity, our colleges maximize student potential and transform lives within a culture of belonging that advances racial, social, and economic justice in the service to our diverse communities.”

Jan Yoshiwara, Executive Director of the SBCTC, has always had the desire to make sure diversity, equity and inclusion are included in the forefront of the organization’s agenda. Danny Marshall, Program Administrator for Workforce Education for the SBCTC recently said, “We are always working towards inclusion and making sure our system is providing opportunities for the diverse communities.” It is important to note that the 34 community and technical colleges in the state of Washington may have their own vision statement for diversity and inclusion that they follow. Unfortunately, diversity and inclusion does not happen unless the development of opportunities are provided for those in our diverse communities.

By making the effort of really engaging with students of color or of different cultural backgrounds will allow them to feel more comfortable, which can result in them being open to engage within the program and college system.



Unfortunately, diversity within faculty and classrooms in community and technical colleges are not very broad. For example, at Pierce College, there is only one faculty of color who is on the tenure track. I was talking to another faculty from a college, who is a woman of color, and she expressed that there are only three other faculty of color in her department. She made a comment to her students about “not getting use to this, because it is not the norm.” Which is a sad statement.

I recently attended a meeting where one of the topic discussions was on diversity. It was a great discussion and one that is important to have; however, there are still some people who do not understand the importance of diversity or how to approach it. Not all community and technical colleges offer a diverse community. It is important for colleges to reach out to communities that are often overlooked.

For example, at Highline College, for the past 10 year there is an annual Black and Brown Summit that offers workshops to young men of color at the College. Rashad Norris, Director of Community Engagement at Highline College is a co-founder of the Summit, along with other Highline employees. Mr. Norris said, “We started our first with the theme ‘Reach One, Teach One,’ and we’re at the moment now that we see when you reach one, you can reach many, and it’s a beautiful sight to see,” Norris said. “It’s something that I truly hold near and dear to my heart. “We’re looking forward to seeing where [summit attendees] land,” Norris said. “If not on this campus, then thriving at some other campus, knowing that the Black and Brown Male Summit is where they felt they got connected with what they want to do.”

The College also has a group for women of color called Young Educated Ladies Leading (YELL), which will have its annual Summit on May 16, 2020. The purpose of YELL is “to empower and motivate our young women of color to excel in academics and to accept nothing less than excellence from self.” Diversity starts with helping the majority of the population understand what it really means and how it can enrich their lives. Diversity doesn’t just happen “organically”. There needs to be steps and processes established to help the minority population feel included, empowered, and welcomed in spaces they may not have felt safe or accepted.

Sources:

<https://yell.highline.edu/>

<https://www.highline.edu/black-and-brown-2019/>



It's Dusk in America (Emergency Management Once Removed)

By Jim Mullen

Consider this: "As nightfall does not come at once, neither does oppression. In both instances, there is a twilight where everything remains seemingly unchanged." - William O Douglas

Everything in our nation may seem "normal". The Super Bowl happened. Pitchers and catchers will report for spring training. March Madness will arrive on schedule. Still, as the furor over impeachment fades in the background, there are emergency management and homeland security issues that can't be ignored.

The conflagration in Australia is just one more illustration of the threat climate change poses to humanity; another is the flooding of the City Council chambers of Venice, Italy. Around the world, displacement of populations will create more refugees and more stresses on developed countries, prompting more conflict between nations.



Closer to home: there are valid concerns about the long – term viability of our coastal cities. Epic wildfires and storms have become "normal" in our nation, too. The extreme weather incidents across the US broke over 120,000 daily records. These events have caused communities around the US and the world to declare "climate emergencies." (source: Hagerty Consulting's Feb 2020 Disaster Discourse monthly).

DHS and FEMA leaders feign ignorance despite overwhelming scientific evidence of the threat to the planet climate change poses. Really, is a government job title on one's resume worth neglecting a certifiable public safety threat? We're in trouble when good people cringe from their responsibilities for fear of professional consequences.

The federal administration, acting in our name, thinks it is OK to separate children from parents, and not be overly concerned with court orders to reunite them (Gee, where did we put those kids?). Apparently, "protecting" our border means to some officials that it's OK to put their fellow human beings, even children, in cages. When did we become frightened of infants and toddlers? Perhaps, when they grow up and realize what we have done to them and their families, we should fear their reaction.

Legal asylum seekers are refused admission into the country and consigned to substandard camps just outside our borders for months on end while their petitions are adjudicated. Do we still offer hope and opportunity to those "tired... poor... huddled masses yearning to breathe free"? Can we?

It may be convenient to place blame on one leader, but to lead one must have followers, enablers and willing accomplices. If this is who at least some of us have become, there is no "Easy Button" to push to fix this.

Oh, and there is this: scientists have moved the "Doomsday Clock" to within 100 seconds of midnight. That's the closest to "midnight" in their 73 years of timekeeping. I wonder why.

Everything may seem "normal" on the surface right now, but it's not. After dusk comes the night. I can see night falling rapidly across our country. What I can't see, just yet, is what challenges the light of morning will present to emergency managers and homeland security professionals. One thing is certain: this nightfall isn't "normal".