

23 Ways we Prevailed in 2023

By Center of Excellence - Homeland Security Emergency Management

Thank you Message

As the year comes to a close, we hope you take some time to recharge, and we eagerly anticipate continuing our journey together next year, with the same energy and enthusiasm.

Our mission is to deliver support and cultivate environments within the Community and Technical Colleges (<https://www.sbctc.edu/>) to help grow capacity and talent that create jobs in the expanding market of All Hazard Emergency Management.

The Center, working with its Advisory Board, provides leadership, guidance and actions that aligns with the State Board's diversity, equity, inclusion, and access (DEIA) vision of eliminating racism and implicit bias and supports the elements of a "Resilient" Washington.

We are collaborating with community, government, corporate, and education entities. We want to empower individuals and communities to enrich our state by fostering, leading, and promoting activities throughout the entire state.

We are immensely grateful for the dedicated individuals who generously give their time as Advisory Board Members to our sectors pathway programs at our 34 community and technical colleges. We want to take this opportunity to say **THANK YOU** for your dedication and hard work.

Wishing you a safe and festive season with your loved ones.

Linda Crerar, Director



Thank
You

A Thanksgiving Message of Gratitude

Community Resilience Building and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness

“Thanksgiving Day is a good day to recommit our energies to giving thanks and just giving.”

- Amy Grant

*Please take a few minutes of your day to listen to the City Club’s panel on emergency preparedness and community resilience building: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xv5HifitQWA>

To view the Seattle City Club’s Resource Guide, visit: <https://seattlecityclub.org/wp-content/uploads/Seattle-CityClub-Resource-Guide-Civic-Cocktail-NOV-2023-1.pdf>

There’s a widely held assumption that gratitude leaves us feeling complacent. We’re comfortable in life and have no need for goals, right? The opposite is true. Gratitude increases our efforts in the pursuit of goals. There are several reasons for this, all of which have to do with resiliency. There are three ways gratitude keep us resilient:

1. Gratitude keeps us hopeful. Gratitude keeps us optimistic and enables us to keep showing up when life throws obstacles in our way.
2. Gratitude reminds us we have influence. We have the power to act and effect change in our lives. We express our gratitude when we’re good stewards of what’s given to us and put it to use.
3. Gratitude expands our possible responses. When we operate from a scarcity mindset, we’re more likely to be reactionary, closed off, tightfisted or even mean. Gratitude moves us from that into a place of abundance where we are resourceful, creative, generous, optimistic, and kind.

Society needs resilient people and communities. People joining together help to achieve stronger shared goals, strengthen trust and relationships as bonds are forged to help communities organize, set priorities, and take ownership of local needs creating strategies for managing risks. Community volunteers, organizations, and businesses work together with our first responders in a crisis or disaster. They know their communities and can be flexible, responsive in real time, and more readily adaptive to changing local conditions.

Emergency Management and Business Resilience professionals are on the front lines and we need to remain focused, resilient, and hone our skills in three distinct areas:

- Situational Awareness – How to get it and what to do with it
- Effective Crisis/Emergency Management Education/Training Programs – Teams and Process
- Crisis Communication – What you say to all your key identified stakeholders

We are all in this for the long haul. Please don’t forget to take care of yourself and your team. Thank you for “building your personal and communities’ resilience.”



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New Permanent Staff!

For the first time since the Center was codified, two permanent positions were established. On August 16, 2023, Jasmine May (pictured right) became the Center's new Program Manager and Nancy Aird (pictured left) became the Center's new Program Specialist. Congrats to Jasmine and Nancy!



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This Year's Rising Star Recipients

At our Advisory Board Meeting on March 6, 2023, the Center celebrated the recipients of our Rising Star Award. The Rising Star Award recognizes individuals in the all-hazard emergency management profession who have assisted their community and have positively changed members of the community's lives. These individuals have also contributed to their profession through demonstrating leadership and responsibility.

"It is an honor to recognize two outstanding people with our Rising Star Award this year for their accomplishments and contributions to the all hazard emergency field," said CoE-HSEM Director, Linda Crerar. "Brandon Baker (pictured left) and Wyatt Godfrey (pictured right) reaching senior-level positions in their careers. They have gone above and beyond in their service this past year."

The CoE-HSEM has always been focused on student success and helping people to positively change the trajectory of their lives and those who have demonstrated excellence in their professional endeavors working for the advancement of people in education and public service. The Rising Star Award recognizes these emerging leaders and their contribution to their profession and organizations.

New coehsem.com Translation tool

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In order to make our information more accessible, we have installed a new translation plug-in called GTranslate, which has the option to provide translation in over 100 languages.

Jim's Blogs

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Jim has continued to share his thoughts on Emergency Management in society. His blog promotes readers to think about actions that occur and possible future paths in emergency management to meet the latest challenges.

COEHSEM at PIEPC

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In April 2023, Jasmine May attended and set up the Center's booth for Partners in Preparedness Conference in Tacoma, WA.

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Building Pathways for Success Supply Chain Summit

The Securing the Supply Chain Summit hosted at Columbia Basin College on June 7, 2023, was a highly informative event, featuring several prominent speakers who shared their expertise on supply chain security. The conference also provided valuable insights into emerging technologies and approaches to improving supply chain resiliency. It was clear from the discussions that the supply chain is a complex and ongoing process, requiring ongoing vigilance and collaboration across all levels of industry and government.

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Pharmacy Supply Chain Preparedness Summit

On October 10, 2023, the Center collaborated with the Washington State Pharmacy Association and other Centers for the highly anticipated Pharmacy Supply Chain Preparedness Summit at Highline College. During this event, professionals, and stakeholders in the pharmaceutical, emergency management, and supply chain industries came together to discuss strategies and pathways to address emergency situations where access to medications, drug supplies, and healthcare is impacted due to a natural or man-made disaster situation.

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Acknowledgement for Volunteers

We want to acknowledge the work and service of the many dedicated volunteers, advisory board members and senior fellows who have been so instrumental in supporting our Center. Thank you for all of your time and efforts!



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Continued collaboration with COEs

The Center directors and staff have continued to hold bi-monthly meetings to further expand and enhance their collaborations and partnering with State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) staff and college leadership.

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Success with Handshake

Handshake was adopted last year by several CTC Colleges with the support of our Center and has proven to be successful and thriving! For more info on Handshake, visit: <https://joinhandshake.com/>

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Increase in Email Subscribers

Our number of subscribers have increased again, which allows the Center to continue to reach a wider audience. This year, we have over 4,600 subscribers for our newsletters and blogs. Our re-issuance of our Veteran's Confluence from November 2022 had the most amount of views this year with 62% readership!

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PC3 Partnership Continuation

The Center has continued working with Pierce County Careers Connection (PC3) to provide updates to their website. More updates are underway. PC3 helps students and parents navigate dual credit between high schools and colleges.

For more info, visit: www.pc3dualcredit.org

EMS Demo at March Adv. Board Meeting

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At the Center's Advisory Board meeting in March, Pierce College's EMS students provided a demonstration on what a service call would look like.



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Center's 2023-2024 Work Plan

The Center submitted its 2023-2024 work plan to the State Board. The work plan consists of focus areas in economic development, sector strategy, education innovation/efficiency, along with supply and demand. Our annual work plan comprises of activities in areas such as partnerships/collaborations with other Centers of Excellence, career connected pathways, women in leadership, and public safety/criminal justice program enhancement. Each of our activities are required to meet certain expectations and outcomes for our stakeholders, workforce development and industry.

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Site Review with SBCTC Planned

After discussions with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), the Center has identified and finalized the date for our site review which will be held online. The purpose of the site review is to learn about how each Center works to understand and improve relationships between their industry sector and community technical colleges and find ways to help promote the Center as well as encourage adoption of similar practices by other Centers. Our site review will be held on January 16, 2024.

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CHMURA JobsEQ Participation

Our Center is continuing efforts with other Centers to support our Workforce Data Pilot which identifies, extracts, formats and delivers workforce and related data, using the Chmura JobsEQ RTI platform. This project demonstrated the use and effectiveness of occupational, industry and other data to the workforce education and training system. Ten Centers of Excellence are participating in the pilot project and will engage in the development of the project rubric, collection of data, and the report of findings and recommendations at the end of the pilot. Data was sent to Deans and Fire Chiefs/Fire Marshalls, and individuals in Occupational Safety and Health, and Criminal Justice.

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Fire Service Surveys Created and Sent out

The Center collaborated with instructors from Pierce College, Columbia Basin College, and Spokane Community College to create industry and educational surveys which were sent out to fire chiefs and educators within the state.

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Partnership with SBCTC/Fire Marshall's Office

The Center is working together with SBCTC and the Fire Marshall's office to combine efforts and participate in the Fire Service Training and Education Workgroup.

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Renaming the Center

The Center has existed for 15 years and was established after 9/11, when the federal Homeland Security Department was established. People often hear our name and assume we are affiliated with the federal government, although we are a part of Washington State's Community and Technical Colleges Centers of Excellence. Building community resilience has always been our mission and we believe that **resilience** needs to be part of our new name. Our advisory board has been working to identify a new name and we will be sharing that as part of our 2024 anniversary celebration.

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Continuation of CJ Workgroup

The Center continues to work with the CJ Program workgroup to re-establish it in order to identify current programs and faculty/staffing changes. The meeting for the workgroup has not been set up as of yet, but will take place virtually to receive updates on current pathway programs at each college.

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Planning for 2024 Women's Leadership Symposium

Planning has already started for the new Women's in Leadership Symposium dated for May 2024, which will also include the celebration of the Center's 15th anniversary.



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Continuing the Jamye Wisecup Scholarship

Center Advisory Members continue to provide the leadership that supports the Jamye Wisecup Scholarship endowment fund which has raised \$11,976.11. The fund supports students in the all-hazards emergency management career pathway programs. Celia Taylor (advisory board co-chair) will be one of the leads along with Jasmine May and Kellie Hale in developing an agenda with the advisory board to continue our efforts to raise funds for the scholarship.

BONUS

Volunteer Resources



Volunteers are so instrumental in keeping communities strong and help organizations thrive. The need for volunteers has never been greater, and the time to get involved has never been better. This year we have published a variety of volunteer resources that are currently available. The Center also has the Volunteer Resource Guide that was published back in 2020 that has information on Washington Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (WAVOAD) and how you can be a member.

Here are a list of a few of our Volunteer resources that we have put together:

<https://www.coehsem.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Volunteer-Resource-Guidebook-New.pdf>
<https://www.coehsem.com/national-volunteer-month-volunteers-supporting-community-resiliency/>
<https://wa211.org/>

Want to volunteer? Check out a few of these organizations where you can get started:

<https://www.habitat.org/>
<https://www.citizenscience.gov/catalog/#>
[Find Fire Service Volunteer Opportunities \(makemeafirefighter.org\)](#)
[Volunteer Opportunities | Serve Washington](#)
<https://goodsammy.com.au/volunteer>

Visit our website for more information at: <https://www.coehsem.com/workmarketplace/>