



# CAREER CONNECT NW

Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties

Hosted at  **Northwest Educational Service District 189**

*Together We Can*



Catalyst.



Connections.



Careers.



### Register Now! Third Annual High School & Beyond Convening May 21

As we continue working together to improve college and career readiness systems, this convening offers a chance to connect, share strategies, and learn from one another.

Whether you're a seasoned leader or just getting started with High School & Beyond Plans, this day is designed to inspire and inform. Join us for a full-day event focused on strengthening High School & Beyond Plans across our region!

This year's convening will feature:

- Updates on the HSBP Online Platform SchoolLinks
- Legislative Changes Impacting High School & Beyond
- Best Practices from Schools & Districts Leading the Way

Date: Wednesday, May 21

Time: 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Registration & Event Details [here](#).



### About Us

The Career Connect NW Network connects industry, education, and community partners to collectively meet the career development needs of Northwest Washington's youth in an equitable and accessible way.

Our Network creates a coordinated effort with planning partners and local stakeholder organizations in Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom communities to serve as a catalyst for initiatives, leveraging resources and programs and building community.

The Career Connect NW Network has three goals:

- Catalyze Regional Stakeholder Partnerships, Collaborations, and Strategies
- Increase Equity and Access to High Wage/High Demand Career Opportunities
- Support Coherent Career Pathways and Workforce Readiness



Attending the bill signing from left to right: Legislative Assistant Rachel Campbell; Myle Tang from Stand for Children; Orlando Cano, Rep. Dave Paul, Jayme Shoun from Washington STEM, Gov. Ferguson, Arlen Harris and Sam Herriot from Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges; Sienna, a student from University of Washington Bothell, and Jenny Veltri and Sinead Plagge from Career Connect NW.

### Expanding Opportunity Through Dual Credit: HB 1273 signed into law!

Gov. Bob Ferguson signed into law 25HB 1273 (sponsored by Representative Dave Paul),

We are dedicated to equity through attention to data and focus on those historically underrepresented in STEM fields, including students of color,

which will expand a successful pilot program, increasing access to CTE dual credit courses and aligning those courses with our state's high-demand, high-wage jobs.

HB 1273 highlights:

- Extends the NW regional pilot led by the [Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges](#) for 2 more years
- Focuses on increasing CTE dual credit participation and credential attainment
- Aims to recommend future improvements to statewide dual credit policy

Key actions include:

- Cataloging available CTE dual credit courses
- Aligning courses with career pathways and apprenticeships
- Improving how credit is awarded and transcribed
- Supporting educators with professional development
- Helping schools with course alignment and outreach

That's a big win for students and the workforce. [Read more here: Expanding Opportunity Through Dual Credit: HB 1273 signed into law – NWESD 189](#)



## **ECHO Tour<sup>SM</sup> events allow students to get close-up look at healthcare career options**

While students in one room practiced CPR and other life-saving techniques, others figured out how to use a wheelchair and saw what exercises they could do to help increase someone's mobility. Others considered court cases involving people experiencing mental health challenges and others took a look at what art therapy can tell about the minds of children.

Across three days, hundreds of students from throughout the Northwest region received hands-on experience with many different facets of the healthcare industry as part of the ECHO Tour<sup>SM</sup>.

The Exploring Careers & Healthcare Opportunities Tour is organized by Career Connect NW (CCNW), hosted at the Northwest Educational Service District 189, in partnership with organizations across the region. This spring, they brought the ECHO Tour<sup>SM</sup> to Skagit and Whatcom counties, welcoming students from 14 high schools across the NWESD 189's region as well as the cohort of students Cascade Job Corps pursuing a Medical Assisting credential.

Read more [here](#).

women, students living in rural areas, and students living in poverty.

We foster and promote innovation in approaching how to connect young people to careers, exploring new ways to advance opportunities for students and make them accessible and relevant in their world.

## **Contact Us**

**Career Connect NW  
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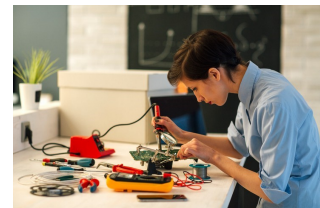
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**Learn more:**  
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## Nominate a STEM Rising Star - Due May 9

Do you know an inspiring STEM Rising Star? Nominate a student today! We are looking for young thinkers, scientists, engineers, inventors, entrepreneurs, and leaders who have inspired others with their STEM experiences, in and outside the classroom. Washington STEM Rising Star Awards highlight those who will become the next generation of STEM leaders.

Washington STEM Rising Stars are high school freshmen, sophomores, or juniors from a priority population (students of color, rural, and/or low-income groups) who identify as young women or transgender/nonbinary and who explore STEM in ways that will support their education, career, personal development, and using STEM as a means of service in their community.

One awardee from the NW Washington and one awardee from Snohomish County will receive a \$250 stipend, virtual professional development opportunities focusing on building their network and telling their story, and a trip for the awardee and a parent/guardian to an in-person event at the Microsoft Bellevue campus Nov. 19. Rising Stars will be featured on the Washington STEM website and in social media campaigns.

To nominate a Rising Star, complete the corresponding form:

- Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties: [2025 STEM Rising STAR Nomination Form](#)
- Snohomish County: [STEM Rising Star](#)

## Building Stronger Computer Science Pathways: Join us in May!

Career Connect NW in collaboration with our regional community and technical college partners and with generous support from the Washington State legislative proviso and the Boeing Foundation, launched a three-part Computer Science (CS) Community of Practice to strengthen and expand CS and IT education in the Northwest region. These sessions are creating space for high school teachers, CTE leaders, and college faculty to work together to align programs, expand opportunities, and build clear pathways from high school to college and career.

Join us: May 14 at Whatcom Community College – Spotlight on Cybersecurity  
Join us for the final session in our series, hosted at Whatcom Community College, where we'll explore cybersecurity education and the tools you can use to introduce it in your high school classrooms.

Date: Wednesday, May 14

Location: Whatcom Community College

Time: 4-6:30 p.m.

Register: [pdEnroller Event #180691](#)

What to Expect:

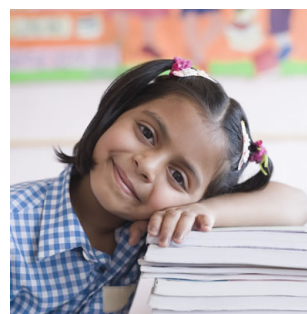
- Learn about the new AP Computer Science Principles: Cybersecurity course and how it fits into high school CS pathways
- Explore free curriculum from RING (Regions Investing in the Next Generation) — a robust online course for schools without existing cybersecurity programs
- Get practical strategies to integrate cybersecurity topics into existing CS and CTE classes
- Learn about Whatcom CC's Cybersecurity program and see how students can continue their learning locally

For recaps on the first two sessions, learn more [here](#)!

## CCNW's Career Spotlight YouTube Video Series: Women in STEM!

This month we are featuring two Women in STEM on Career Spotlight!

Brenda is a Botanist from Skagit River System Cooperative who provides natural resource management services for the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. Watch the 8-minute video to learn more [here](#)!





Jean Horsfall, a student in Skagit Valley College's Dental Therapy program, shares insights on dental careers and SVC's program, which was the first Dental Therapy Education program in Washington State. Watch the 9-minute video [here](#).

To help educators, counselors, and teachers learn more about high wage, high demand careers so they can share information with their students, Career Connect NW is curating a series of short "Career Spotlight" video interviews for the CCNW YouTube channel. Stay tuned for next month, which will feature Construction Trades & Apprenticeship career paths.



### STEM Like ME!® Helps Students in 7th & 8th Grades Explore Future Career Options at Conway Middle School

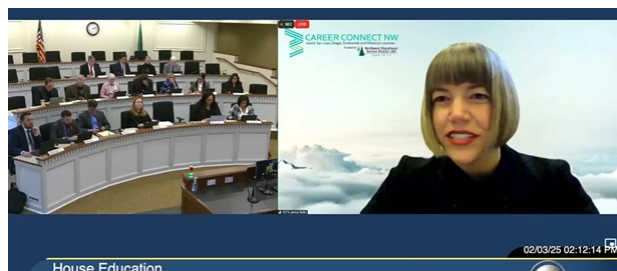
Students huddled around the Electrician Apprenticeship STEM station for a hands-on activity where magnets dropped into copper piping. They uncovered the science behind electricity at Conway Middle School on Jan. 30.

The Construction Trades employer presenters were one of six stations at STEM Like ME!® for 7th and 8th graders to learn about in-demand careers in our region. Local employer partners participated in the event from Electricians IBEW/JATC for apprenticeships/trades, PeaceHealth United General Medical Center, Didgwalic Wellness Center IT Department, Northwest Educational Service District 189 I.T. Services, Silfab Solar, and Aspen Power Catamarans.

Every 12 minutes, teachers and students rotated through stations to learn about careers in NW Washington that offer a livable wage and are crucial in our communities:

- Boat building in maritime/marine trades
- Robotics/green energy in advanced modern manufacturing
- Nursing and healthcare career options
- Networking in digital technology/IT services
- Apprenticeships in construction trades

### Career Connect NW in the community



#### Feb. 3 and March 20: CTE Dual Credit support in the legislature

Career Connect NW's Jenny Veltri testified before the legislature on the importance of Career & Technical Education (CTE) Dual Credit and progress toward regional alignment.

With 52% of the Class of 2023 completing a CTE graduation pathway, it's critical to ensure that earned college credits are accessible, transferable, and lead to high-wage careers. Through the CTE Dual Credit Proviso, Career Connect NW has partnered with SBCTC, OSPI, high schools, and community colleges to expand opportunities and streamline processes. Proviso workgroup recommendations include dedicated administrative support, centralized technical tools, and stronger statewide credit transfer policies to ensure equitable and seamless student transitions from high school to college and beyond.

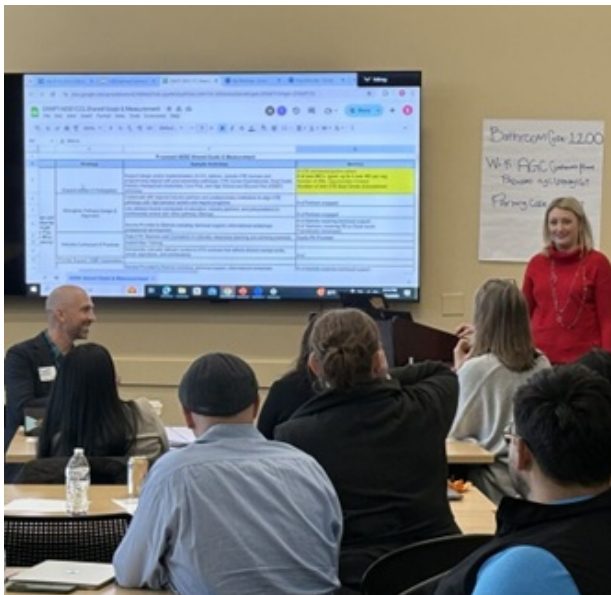
Learn more about the bill [here](#).





#### Feb. 4: Apprenticeship 101

Donovan Tate, Career Connected Learning Specialist with Career Connect NW, hosted at the Northwest Educational Service District 189, gave an Apprenticeship 101 presentation to students at Burlington-Edison High School. The nearly 20 students who attended learned about the history of the apprenticeship model, things to keep in mind when considering an apprenticeship program, and how to locate registered apprenticeships in our local area.



#### Feb. 11-12: CCW Statewide Convening

Sinead Fitzpatrick Plagge, Career Connect NW Career Connected Learning Coordinator and Administrator, presents regarding shared measurement at the CCW Regional Network & Learning Community Gathering.

Career Connect NW leadership had an incredible two days in Seattle at the CCW Regional Network & Learning Community Gathering connecting with regional and sector leaders, exchanging insights, and strategizing for the future of Career Connected Learning. Key takeaways:

- AI is rapidly shaping workforce development—our discussions explored its potential and challenges.
- Collaboration across regions and sectors is critical; peer learning sessions surfaced valuable best practices.
- The importance of shared measurement in highlighting statewide outcomes and success.
- Sinead Fitzpatrick Plagge, Career Connect NW Career Connected Learning Coordinator and Administrator, presented as part of the team developing tracking metrics!
- Centering community voices remains at the forefront; we explored ways to ensure underserved communities are prioritized.





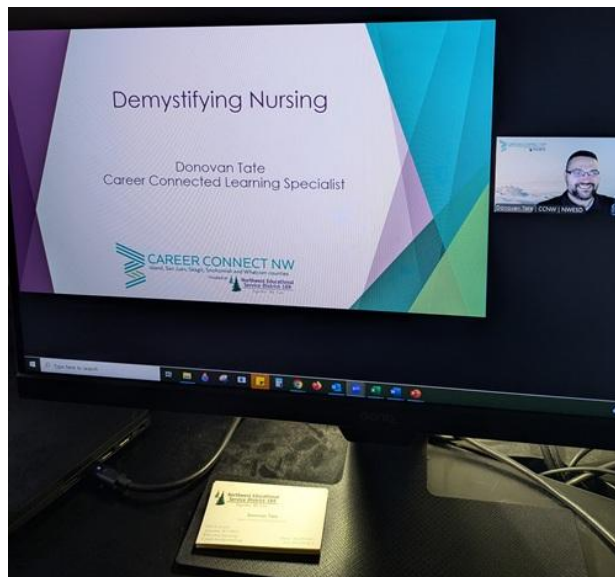


### **Feb. 12: Anacortes Adulting 101**

Donovan Tate, Career Connected Learning Specialist with Career Connect NW, hosted at the Northwest Educational Service District 189, served as the Moderator for an Adulting 101 Seminar for Juniors and Seniors at Anacortes High School.

Students were given options, including the Adulting 101 Seminar to select as a component of their 2025 College Fair event. After reviewing student feedback collected in Fall 2024, our panel of experts covered topics like Credit and Debit Cards, Investing and Savings, Debt and Student Loans, Taxes and Insurance. Panelists included: Elliott Johnson, President of Haven Financial Partners; Heather Ladd, Owner and President of Heather Ladd State Farm Insurance; and T.J. Fantini, Assistant Branch Manager of People's Bank - Anacortes Branch. For more information about the community impact of the Adulting 101 Seminar event, please check out our [Stats-at-a-Glance](#) document.

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### **Feb. 21: Demystifying Nursing Zoom event**

Career Connected Learning Specialist Donovan Tate gave a “Demystifying Nursing” seminar to students from Lynden High School and Sehome High School via Zoom.

Pulling from his past experience as a Nursing Advisor in Washington’s Community College system, Donovan outlined the levels/types of nursing, the required schooling for your desired nursing level, things to keep in mind when pursuing a nursing program and explanations around student funding implications when considering nursing as a pathway.

For more information about the community impact of this virtual, Demystifying Nursing Seminar event, please check out our [Stats-at-a-Glance](#) document. If you would be interested in hosting a Demystifying Nursing Seminar event at your school, please don’t hesitate to reach out to Donovan Tate at [dtate@nwesd.org](mailto:dtate@nwesd.org).

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**February 21: Whatcom Agriculture Career Fair- Students Build Confidence for their Future Job Search!**

Career Connect NW's Career Connected Learning Specialist Mary Powers created a Mock Interview Experience for students at the Whatcom Agriculture Career Fair at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds in Lynden.

Students opted to do an 8-minute mock interview session to get feedback on what they did well and what they could improve. Students participating from schools in Skagit and Whatcom counties attended the event to help plan their futures, network with agricultural industry professionals, learn about summer job options, and explore all the diverse career options related to agriculture in the region. Students also received "7 Things to Bring to an Interview" lists in their program agenda so they could assemble their "interview kits" ahead of time.



**Feb. 25: Education pathways LEADER and CSTP Regional Gathering**

Facilitated by the Center for Strengthening the Teaching Profession and in partnership with the NWESD 189 and the LEADER initiative, Career Connect NW was thrilled to support this gathering at Skagit Valley College which focused on the journey of aspiring educators. By leveraging collective expertise in our community and identifying pathway options as well as gaps, this event aimed to foster a collaborative space to address regional needs and expand impact.



**Feb. 26: FuturesNW's Learning with Leaders at Bellingham Technical College**

Career Connect NW's Mary Powers assisted partners at Learning with Leaders/FuturesNW career exploration event series by volunteering at Bellingham Technical College (BTC).

Students from 12 high schools in the region participated in hands-on activities to learn about careers in Diesel Technology, Information Technology, Machining, Radiologic Technology, Business, Mechatronics, Surgery Technology, Process Technology, Nursing, and more. Informative sessions and tabling about Scholarships and Financial Aid, Northwest Career & Technical Academy, and BTC admissions helped students experience a well-rounded, interactive event.

Learn more about it [here](#).



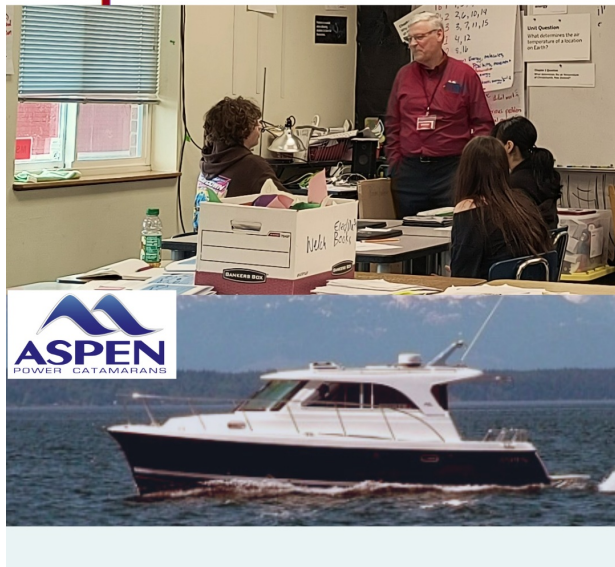
**March 12: Strengthening Regional Dual Credit Pathways**

At this High School and Beyond Community of Practice session, college partners from Bellingham Technical College, Everett Community College, Skagit Valley College, and Whatcom Community College shared exciting progress on the CTE Dual Credit Proviso Pilot Project.

The discussion highlighted promising outcomes from the pilot and emphasized the value of strong regional collaboration between K-12 and higher education. Partners explored ways to enhance student access to dual credit opportunities by streamlining systems and removing barriers. A key highlight was the collaborative development of a regional approach to establishing CTE dual credit articulation. This includes a standardized process and shared tools designed to align procedures across institutions, making the system more efficient and transparent for educators and students. Washington STEM also provided timely legislative updates, underscoring the connection between local innovation and state-level policy efforts.



# Coupeville Middle School



## March 27: "Future Forward" Class in Coupeville learns about maritime careers

Aspen Power Catamarans shared boat building career knowledge with Coupeville Middle School's 8th Grade career exploration class. Students put questions about boat building and career interests on Post-Its so guest speaker Berry Zimmerman could help them learn how it takes many people with different skills to operate a boat building company, including finance, sales, construction build, engineering, and Computer-Aided-Design (CAD) technology.



## Upcoming Student Opportunities and Career Exploration Events

### May 7, 2025: Blue Tech by the Bay Maritime Career Exploration event at the Fishermen's Pavilion in Bellingham

Students should contact their counseling office or career center to register to attend  
For more info, contact Donovan Tate at [Dtate@nwesd.org](mailto:Dtate@nwesd.org)

### May 9, 2025: Rising STAR Nomination Due

Do you know an inspiring STEM Rising Star? Nominate a student today! We are looking for young thinkers, scientists, engineers, inventors, entrepreneurs, and leaders who have inspired others with their STEM experiences, in and outside the classroom. Washington STEM Rising Star Awards highlight those who will become the next generation of STEM leaders.

Nominations must be submitted by Friday, May 9

To nominate a Rising Star, complete the corresponding form:

Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties: [2025 STEM Rising STAR Nomination Form](#)

Snohomish County: [STEM Rising Star](#)

### May 11: STEM Signing Day Application Due

For high school seniors in Washington who are planning to study science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) after graduation - STEM Signing Day is a chance to be recognized and celebrated! Just like athletes celebrate their next steps on signing day, STEM Signing Day honors students who are committing to their STEM dreams. Students selected as honorees will participate in a special ceremony on June 6 at the Seattle Seahawks

Training Facility in Renton, where they'll sign a letter of intent recognizing their pursuit of education or training in a STEM field after high school.

Application: [Washington State STEM Signing Day 2025](#)

Educator Services	District Services	Student & Family Services
Career Connect Resources		



+ Career Interest Inventories & Career Maps

+ Career Exploration Videos

+ Robotics: Virtual Tour of Amazon's Fulfillment Center + Meet the Employees

+ Apprenticeship/Trades Resources for the Classroom

+ CNW Canvas Courses for Clock Hours

## Professional development and grant opportunities

### May 14: Information Technology/Computer Science Community of Practice

Join us for the final session in our series, hosted at Whatcom Community College, where we'll explore cybersecurity education and the tools you can use to introduce it in your high school classrooms.

Date: Wednesday, May 14

Location: Whatcom Community College

Time: 4–6:30 PM

Register here: [May Community of Practice Convening](#)

### May 21: 3rd Annual HS&B Community of Practice In-Person Convening

Date: May 21

Location: NWESD 189, Anacortes, WA

Time: 9 AM – 3:30 PM

Registration & Event Details: [2025 High School & Beyond Community of Practice In-Person Convening](#)

### July 15-17: Field-Based Teacher Training Opportunity

Skagit Conservation District, Washington Dept of Natural Resources, Sierra Pacific Industries, Hampton Lumber, and the Pacific Education Institute are offering 15 STEM Clock Hours for this 3-day event.

They provide lodging, meals, and curriculum guides all free of charge.

For teachers who work with grades 6-12.

If interested, fill out this [pre-registration interest form](#).

If questions, contact Clare Sobetski, [clare.sobetski@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:clare.sobetski@dnr.wa.gov)

### Asynchronous Educator professional development in support of healthcare careers

Careers in healthcare are in high demand. How do educators support students in learning more about these opportunities?

This 2-hour asynchronous Healthcare Careers Overview course will help educators, paraeducators, counselors, teachers, and advisors in 7-12 grades (middle/high school) gain awareness around career paths to better support students interested in pursuing healthcare careers. Participants will work at their own pace on Canvas to explore high wage, high demand healthcare career options, including the education needed to access these careers. Participants will gain insight on emerging healthcare careers, with a focus on equity, and discover how ever-evolving technology is changing healthcare career options for future healthcare workers.

Course completion offers an opportunity to purchase 2 clock hours in Equity or STEM.

Register here: [Exploring Healthcare Careers: Student Pathways](#)

Check out [Career Connect NW's webpage](#) to find resources such as free Career Interest Inventories, Career Exploration Videos, a Virtual Robotics Tour of Amazon, Career Connect

NW's Canvas Courses for Clock Hours, and information on High School & Beyond Planning! The webpage is also the perfect place to request services and connect with the CCNW team.

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### Upcoming professional development events

#### Looking for online clock hours?

Use our QR code to easily search for upcoming STEM clock hour opportunities. The classes are online via Canvas, asynchronous (so you can take them when and where you want, at your own pace), and between 1 and 10 hours long.



For more information contact: Polly Myers, Online Learning Coordinator, [pmyers@nwesd.org](mailto:pmyers@nwesd.org), 360-299-4031.

Check out all the Professional Learning events [here](#)

Check out all of events that offer clock hours [here](#).

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**Sign up for the Career Connect NW e-news [here](#).**

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**To learn more, connect and get involved: [www.CareerConnectNW.org](http://www.CareerConnectNW.org).**

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