



April 14, 2025

*[delivered electronically]*

Dear Legislators,

We are writing to express our strong support for the Career Connect Washington (CCW) initiative. CCW is a vital part of building and sustaining a competitive workforce for our state, and it plays an essential role in ensuring that our young people have the pathways they need to succeed in meaningful careers.

**We are asking you to support the House's funding level for CCW in the 2025-2027 budget.**

CCW funding directly impacts students and employers, who rely on grant-funded support to build and expand the career connected learning programs that they need in the K-12 and postsecondary education systems.

**Cuts to CCW would directly impact the ability to develop programs like The University of Washington-Bothell's Center for Biotechnology and Innovation Training (CBIT), which received funding under CCW to develop industry-aligned curriculum to address industry's need to build a workforce talent pool for high demand jobs in Washington's life sciences sector.**

**We represent life science companies—ranging from small to large—in the Bothell region that are partnering with CBIT to utilize its state-of-the-art STEM facilities, helping participants develop essential hands-on skills for job readiness. This program is critical to growing the life sciences sector here as it addresses the needs of the industry and serves a targeted population that is eager to transition into the workforce.**

Additionally, Washingtonians strongly support these efforts. Recent polling shows that 86% of voters believe it is important for Washington state to support career connected learning programs, and 85% believe students should start learning about career options in elementary and middle school. CCW is integral to helping students, particularly those from historically underserved communities, prepare for the high-paying careers of tomorrow.

As we all know, Washington's economy is evolving rapidly, and the vast majority of future job openings will require postsecondary credentials, including degrees, apprenticeships, and industry-recognized certifications. To be competitive in this changing economy, we must provide our students with the tools and opportunities to develop the skills they need to thrive.

Career connected learning opportunities, such as job shadows, internships, and apprenticeships, offer essential hands-on experience and prepare students for high-demand, well-paying jobs right here in Washington.



CCW leverages Washington's existing strengths and serves as the connective tissue between education, industry, and government, ensuring that all students, no matter their background or geographic location, have access to career connected learning opportunities. This is the current infrastructure CCW has built and supports.

We greatly appreciate the state's investment over the past five years in career connected learning as an effective strategy to connect young people with great careers and employers with needed talent. Washington is a national leader in this effort, and I see the positive impacts in our community daily.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to Career Connect Washington.

Sincerely,

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