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esident	Ivan L. Harrell II
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e President for Academic Affairs (Interim)	Krista Fox
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Coordinator, Organizational Learning	Melisa Ziegler
Program Director, Institutional Research	Kelley Sadler
Manager, Grants Research	Walter Chien
Director, Correctional Education	Sultana Shabazz
······································	Sultana Shabazz Christopher Soran
Director, Correctional Education	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Director, Correctional Education Director, eLearning	Christopher Soran
Director, Correctional Education Director, eLearning Director, Library	Christopher Soran Candice Watkins
Director, Correctional Education Director, eLearning Director, Library President for Administrative Services (Interim)	Christopher Soran Candice Watkins William Saraceno
Director, Correctional Education Director, eLearning Director, Library President for Administrative Services (Interim) Executive Assistant	Christopher Soran Candice Watkins William Saraceno Vacant
Director, Correctional Education Director, eLearning Director, Library President for Administrative Services (Interim) Executive Assistant Director, Financial Services	Christopher Soran Candice Watkins William Saraceno Vacant Clifford Frederickson Nermalyn Edwards Vacant
Director, Correctional Education Director, eLearning Director, Library Per President for Administrative Services (Interim) Executive Assistant Director, Financial Services Assistant Director, Financial Services	Christopher Soran Candice Watkins William Saraceno Vacant Clifford Frederickson Nermalyn Edwards
Director, Correctional Education Director, eLearning Director, Library Ee President for Administrative Services (Interim) Executive Assistant Director, Financial Services Assistant Director, Financial Services Manager, Procure to Pay	Christopher Soran Candice Watkins William Saraceno Vacant Clifford Frederickson Nermalyn Edwards Vacant
Director, Correctional Education Director, eLearning Director, Library President for Administrative Services (Interim) Executive Assistant Director, Financial Services Assistant Director, Financial Services Manager, Procure to Pay Manager, Budget	Christopher Soran Candice Watkins William Saraceno Vacant Clifford Frederickson Nermalyn Edwards Vacant Julianna Dunbar
Director, Correctional Education Director, eLearning Director, Library President for Administrative Services (Interim) Executive Assistant Director, Financial Services Assistant Director, Financial Services Manager, Procure to Pay Manager, Budget Director, Facilities and Capital Projects	Christopher Soran Candice Watkins William Saraceno Vacant Clifford Frederickson Nermalyn Edwards Vacant Julianna Dunbar Greg Randall
Director, Correctional Education Director, eLearning Director, Library EPresident for Administrative Services (Interim) Executive Assistant Director, Financial Services Assistant Director, Financial Services Manager, Procure to Pay Manager, Budget Director, Facilities and Capital Projects Manager, Capital Projects	Christopher Soran Candice Watkins William Saraceno Vacant Clifford Frederickson Nermalyn Edwards Vacant Julianna Dunbar Greg Randall Brent Palmason
Director, Correctional Education Director, eLearning Director, Library President for Administrative Services (Interim) Executive Assistant Director, Financial Services Assistant Director, Financial Services Manager, Procure to Pay Manager, Budget Director, Facilities and Capital Projects Manager, Capital Projects Manager, Custodial Services	Christopher Soran Candice Watkins William Saraceno Vacant Clifford Frederickson Nermalyn Edwards Vacant Julianna Dunbar Greg Randall Brent Palmason Colin Turner
Director, Correctional Education Director, eLearning Director, Library President for Administrative Services (Interim) Executive Assistant Director, Financial Services Assistant Director, Financial Services Manager, Procure to Pay Manager, Budget Director, Facilities and Capital Projects Manager, Capital Projects Manager, Custodial Services Supervisor, Campus Public Safety	Christopher Soran Candice Watkins William Saraceno Vacant Clifford Frederickson Nermalyn Edwards Vacant Julianna Dunbar Greg Randall Brent Palmason Colin Turner Will Howard
Director, Correctional Education Director, eLearning Director, Library President for Administrative Services (Interim) Executive Assistant Director, Financial Services Assistant Director, Financial Services Manager, Procure to Pay Manager, Budget Director, Facilities and Capital Projects Manager, Capital Projects Manager, Custodial Services Supervisor, Campus Public Safety Executive Director, Human Resources (Interim)	Christopher Soran Candice Watkins William Saraceno Vacant Clifford Frederickson Nermalyn Edwards Vacant Julianna Dunbar Greg Randall Brent Palmason Colin Turner Will Howard Stephen Smith
Director, Correctional Education Director, eLearning Director, Library Period President for Administrative Services (Interim) Executive Assistant Director, Financial Services Assistant Director, Financial Services Manager, Procure to Pay Manager, Budget Director, Facilities and Capital Projects Manager, Capital Projects Manager, Custodial Services Supervisor, Campus Public Safety Executive Director, Human Resources (Interim) Manager, Benefits, Leave, and Accommodations Manager, Employment Services, Development,	Christopher Soran Candice Watkins William Saraceno Vacant Clifford Frederickson Nermalyn Edwards Vacant Julianna Dunbar Greg Randall Brent Palmason Colin Turner Will Howard Stephen Smith Vacant
Director, Correctional Education Director, eLearning Director, Library President for Administrative Services (Interim) Executive Assistant Director, Financial Services Assistant Director, Financial Services Manager, Procure to Pay Manager, Budget Director, Facilities and Capital Projects Manager, Capital Projects Manager, Custodial Services Supervisor, Campus Public Safety Executive Director, Human Resources (Interim) Manager, Benefits, Leave, and Accommodations Manager, Employment Services, Development, and Talent Acquisition	Christopher Soran Candice Watkins William Saraceno Vacant Clifford Frederickson Nermalyn Edwards Vacant Julianna Dunbar Greg Randall Brent Palmason Colin Turner Will Howard Stephen Smith Vacant Vacant

College Administrative Staff

e President for Student Affairs	Mary A. Chikwinya
Executive Assistant	Christine Young
Dean for Enrollment and Student Success	Vacant
Director, Advising Services (Interim)	April Reid
Coordinator, Career Center	Natalie Wilkerson
Coordinator, Running Start	Christy Perotti
Registrar	Vacant
Director, Entry Services (Outreach, Assessment, Testing & Certification Center)	Sam Morgan
Coordinator, Assessment Services	Kathryn Held
Dean for Retention and Student Success	Vacant
Director, Center for Academic Support and Achievement and Multi-Ethnic and Cultural Affairs (CASA/MECA)	Matthew Smith
Director, Math Advising Resource Center and Business Education Center	Shannon Pressley
Coordinator, Supplemental Instruction	Elmira Utz
Director, Writing & Tutoring Center, Reading & Study Skills Lab, CAL Lab	Heather Urschel
Director, Student Engagement	Sonja Morgan
Coordinator, Conference Services	Mikhail Goncharuk
Department Chair, Counseling	Mary Pedersen
Director, Athletics	Jason Prenovost
Director, Community Standards	Dolores Haugen
Coordinator, Fresh Start	Stephanie Rock
Manager, Access Services	Monica Olsson
Director, Educational Talent Search	Deborah Walker
Executive Director, Gig Harbor Campus	Janine Mott
Manager, Continuing Education	Janice Tayler
Coordinator, Student Affairs	Melody Griggs
Director, Financial Aid	Kimberle Matison
Assistant Director, Financial Aid	Lorena Saucedo
Executive Director, International Student Programs	James Newman
Asst. Director, Global Outreach, Marketing & Admissions	Katie Van Wyk
Asst. Director, Intl. Program Support Services	Ndeye Penda Sow
Asst. Director, Intl. Housing & Short-Term Programs	Namiko Bagirimvano

Vice President for College Advancement, and Foundation Director Coordinator, Foundation Operations Oirector, Marketing and Communication Director, Development William A. Ryberg Vacant Tamyra Howser Lynette Crumity

Jared Abwawo

Mathematics

B.A., Egerton University; M.S. University of Washington

Melissa Adams

Library

B.A.Ed., Washington State University; M.L.I.S., University of Washington

Bridgette Agpaoa Ryder, Ed.D.

Human Services

B.A., University of Washington; M.A., Seattle University; Ed.D., ??

Gavan Albright

Biology

B.S., University of California, Riverside; M.S., California State University, San Bernardino

Mark R. Allen, Ph.D.

Chemistry

B.S., University of Puget Sound; M.S., University of Oregon; Ph.D., University of California, Davis

Matthew Anderson

Education & Psychology
B.A., Hofstra University;
M.A., Columbia University;

Jonathan J. Armel, Ph.D.

Mathematics

B.A., Mathematics;

Ph.D., University of California, San Diego

Megan D. Arzola

Nursing

B.S.N., Weber State University; M.N., University of Washington

Bruno Arzola-Padilla

World Languages

B.A., Utah State University; M.A., New Mexico State University

Carol Avery

Mathematics

B.S., University of Wisconsin; M.Ed., University of Puget Sound

Nigeria Bell

Counseling

B.A., University of Washington; M.A., Pacific Lutheran University; M.Ed., Arizona State University

Marit Berg

Art

B.A., San Diego State University; M.F.A., Washington State University

Alisa Ulferts Birkenstein

Communication & Transitional Studies
B.A., University of California; M.S., Mercy
College; M.F.A., Bennington College

Shea Bower

Diagnostic Medical Sonography
A.A., Centralia Community College;
B.S., Washington State University;
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College

Allen Braden

English & Humanities

B.A., Central Washington University; M.A., M.F.A., McNeese State University

Andrew Brottland

Developmental Studies
B.A., M.A., University of Oregon

Katherine M. Brown

Counseling

B.A., Gonzaga University; M.A., Pacific Lutheran University

Stephen Brown

Physical Education

B.A., M.Ed., Gonzaga University

Delilah Bruskas, Ph.D.

Nursing

B.S.N., Seattle University; M.N., Ph.D., University of Washington

Jeff Calkins

Written Communications, Gig Harbor Campus B.A., M.A.

James Carroll

Human Services

B.A., Eastern Washington University; M.A., Gonzaga University

Gregory S. Carter, RRT

Respiratory Therapy

B.S., Pacific Lutheran University; M.E., Western Governors University

Mary F. Chen-Johnson, J.D.

Written Communications

B.A., Cornell University; J.D., Univ. of Pittsburgh School of Law; M.F.A., University of Montana; R.Y.T., Integrative Yoga Therapy

Andrew S. Cho, Ph.D.

Sociology

B.A., M.A., Ph.D., University of Washington

Sherry A. Cmiel

Library

B.S. and M.S.L.S., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Emilie Coates-White

English for Academic Purposes (EAP)
B.A., Whitman College;
M.Ed., Seattle University

Deanna J. Cole

Drafting & AutoCAD, WCCW / MCCCW A.T.A., Olympic College-Bremerton

Bernard Comeau, Ph.D.

History & Philosophy

B.A., St. Thomas University; M.A., University of Calgary; Ph.D., University of Ottawa

Pamela G. Costa, Ph.D.

Psychology

B.A., M.A., Loyola Marymount University; M.S., Ph.D., Pacific Grad. Sch. of Psych.

Craig R. Cowden, Ph.D.

Psychology

B.A., Oberlin College; M.S., Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University

Linda Cuadra

Business & Logistics

B.A., M.A., University of Washington

Heather N. Cushman, Ph.D.

Biology

B.S., University of Michigan; Ph.D., University of Minnesota

Kenneth Cushman, Ph.D.

Biology

B.S., University of Washington; Ph.D., Oregon Health & Science University

Kimberly Davidson, Ph.D.

Chemistry

B.S., University of Oregon;
M.S., Ph.D., University of Washington

Sellie R. DeMarco

Mathematics

B.A., M.A., Central Washington University

Kyle J. Dillehay

Art

B.F.A., Auburn University; M.F.A., Georgia State University

Brian R. Duchin, Ph.D.

History

B.A., M.A., University of Washington; Ph.D., University of Texas

Terry Scott Earle, Ph.D.

Written Communications

B.A., M.A., Western Kentucky University; Ph.D., University of Arkansas

Jonathan D. Eastabrooks

Health Information Technology
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;
B.S., University of Washington;
M.B.A., Brandman University

Jillian T. Edwards, ARNP

Nursing

B.S., M.S.N., University of Washington

Sabine Endicott

Developmental Education
B.A., University of Rostock, Germany;
M.A., Ball State University

Jeffrey M. Engle, Ph.D.

Chemistry

B.A., B.S., Seattle University; Ph.D., University of Oregon

John P. Falskow, Ph.D.

Interim Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Music

B.A., Washington State University; M.A., University of Puget Sound; Ph.D., Florida State University

Michael Farrow

Web Development, WCCW / MCCCW B.S., University of Washington

Wendi D. Fein

Adult Basic Education

B.A., Univ. of California, Santa Barbara; M.A., California State Univ., Dom. Hills

Kendra Feinstein

Mathematics

B.A., University of Colorado; M.S., Texas A&M University

Lia L. Felizardo

Diagnostic Medical Sonography
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College

Gregory A. Ferencko

Mathematics

B.A., Rutgers University; M.S., Western Washington University

Mike Flodin

Mathematics

B.A., Pacific Lutheran University; M.S., University of Washington

Linda Ford

English & Humanities

B.A., M.A., Western Washington University

Elizabeth C. Fortenbery, Ph.D.

Anthropology

B.A., University of Tennessee; M.A., Ph.D., University of Washington

Kenneth R. Fox, D.A.

Written Communications

B.A., Fresno Pacific College; M.A. Fresno State University;

D.A., Idaho State University

Mary B. Fox

Written Communications
B.A., M.A., Idaho State University

Sheri Gietzen-Olszewski

Written Communications

A.A.S., Tacoma Community College; B.A., M.A., University of Washington

Joanne Gillam

Adult Basic Education, WCCW / MCCCW B.A., M.Ed., Western Washington University

Heather Gillanders

Library

B.A., B.F.A., M.L.I.S., Univ. of Washington; M.F.A., Cranbrook Academy of Art

Mishelle Gillespie

Washington Corrections Center for Women B.A., Hawaii Pacific University; M.A., Western Oregon University

Charlene M. Gore, RHIA, CCS

Health Information Management
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;
B.S., University of Cincinnati;
M.Ed., Western Governor's University

Jacqueline L. Gorman, Ph.D.

Mathematics -

B.A., College of St. Teresa; M.S.Ed., Ph.D., Indiana University

Pattie S. Green, Ph.D.

Biology

B.S., Ph.D., University of Florida

Ella B. Guilford

Nursing

A.D.N., El Paso Community College; B.S.N., University of Washington, Tacoma; M.A. Antioch University, Seattle

Katie M. Gulliford

Chemistry & Pathways Coordinator B.S., University of Puget Sound; M.S., Cornell University

Anne Hafer

Mathematics

A.B., Smith College; M.S., University of Washington

Kimberly A. Harrington

Biology

B.S., Walla Walla College;M.S., University of Washington

Kristen Harrison

Biology

B.S., Marquette University; M.S., Oregon State University

Gina Y. Hatcher

Business & Logistics

B.S., Colorado State University; M.Ed., University of Louisville

Shaun D. Henderson, Ph.D.

Biology

B.S., M.S., Auckland Univ., New Zealand; Ph.D., Otago University, New Zealand

Len Heritage, J.D.

Business Transfer

B.A. M.B.A., University of Puget Sound, J.D., Seattle University School of Law

Sergio Hernandez

Networking & Cyber Security

B.A., University of Washington;

M.Ed., Western Governors University;

M.S., University of Washington

Ralph B. Hitz, Ph.D.

Earth Science

B.A., Colorado College; Ph.D., Univ. of California, Santa Barbara

Martin Hock

Computer Science

B.S., Carnegie Mellon University; M.S., University of Wisconsin

David W. Howard, Ed.D.

Counseling

B.A, SUNY at Potsdam;

M.Ed., Alabama A & M University;

Ed.D., George Washington University

Michael Huffman

Written Communications

B.A., University of Washington;

M.A. University of Oregon

Blaine J. Hunt

Developmental Education

B.A., Claremont McKenna College;

M.A., Western Washington University

Philip L. Hunter

Chemistry & Physics

B.S., Pacific Lutheran University;

M.S., University of California, Berkeley

Joanne Iverson

Nursing

B.S., Seattle University;

M.N., University of Washington Tacoma

Corinne D. Jarvis

Health Information Technology

A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;

B.S., University of Cincinnati;

M.Ed., Western Governors University

Kristen Jenkins

Anthropology

B.A., Western Washington University; M.A., University of Minnesota

Stephen Johns

Written/Oral Communications

B.S., Southeast Missouri State University;

M.A., Southern Illinois

Jennifer Karshna

Early Childhood Education

M.A., Antioch University, Seattle

Stephanie Khan

English as a Second Language

B.A., The Evergreen State College;

M.A., King's College, University of London

Min K. Kim

Mathematics

B.S., M.S., Washington State University

Keith King

Physics & Engineering

B.S., Ohio Northern University;

M.S., University of Minnesota

Tamara Kuzmenkov

English & Humanities

B.A., Wheaton College;

M.A., California State Univ. at Sacramento

Meredith LaFlesh

Mathematics

B.A., University of California, Berkeley;

B.A., M.A., Univ. of California, Santa Cruz

Paul Landry, J.D.

Paralegal

B.S., Stonhill College;

J.D., University of Puget Sound

Y. Wendy Larsen

English as a Second Language (ESL)

B.A., Fu Jen University;

M.A., California State Univ., Sacramento

Robert W. Larson

Business Transfer

B.S., Indiana University;

M.A., University of Missouri, Kansas City

Kimberly L. Lee, RHIT, CCS-P, CPC

Health Information Management

B.A., The College of St. Scholasticia;

M.Ed., Western Governors University

Yi Li, Ph.D.

History

B.A., M.A., Peking University;

M.A., New Mexico State University;

Ph.D., University of Washington

Edwin Lim, Ph.D.

Engineering

B.S., Institut Teknologi Bandung;

M.S., Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology

Sonia Llacer

World Languages

B.A., Shawnee State University;

M.A., Montana State University

Ruth A. Lopes

Nursing

B.S.N., Union University;

M.N., University of Washington, Tacoma

Anne E. Lyman, D.M.A.

Music

B.M., The College of Wooster;

M.M., University of Cincinnati;

D.M.A., University of Iowa

Richard Mahaffey

Art

A.A., City College of San Francisco;

B.A., California State Univ. at San Jose;

M.F.A., University of Puget Sound

Teresa Marshall

Nursina

M.S.N., Gonzaga University

Matthew I. Mburu

Business Transfer

B.Comm., University of Nairobe,

M.S.A., Grand Valley State University

Rachelle L. McGill

Developmental Education

B.S., University of South Dakota;

M.Ed., Southwest Minnesota State Univ.

Sopang Men

Written Communications

B.A., Washington State University;

M.F.A., Michigan

James A. Mendoza, Ph.D.

Counseling

B.A., B.A., Washington State University;

M.S., San Francisco State University;

Ph.D., Oregon State University

John S. Miller

Nursing

A.D.N., Yakima Valley Community College;

B.S.N., University of San Francisco; M.N., University of Washington

Michael A. Mixdorf

Radiologic Sciences

A.S., B.S., M.Ed., University of Nevada at Las Vegas

Monica A. Monk

English for Academic Purposes (EAP)

B.A., Carleton College;

B.A., M.A., M.A.T., Univ. of Washington

Valerie K. Morgan-Krick

Mathematics

B.A., M.A., Gonzaga University

Amber Mozeleski

Mathematics

B.S., University of North Florida;

M.S., University of Washington;

M.A., University of Florida

Allison B. Muir

Adult Basic Education

B.A., Indiana University;

M.Ed., University of New Hampshire

Mary Jane Oberhofer

Business & Logistics

B.S., University of Calgary;

M.A., Seattle University

Robert Olsen

Business & Logistics

B.A., Western Washington University;

M.S., Eastern Washington University

Maricris Orama

Engineering

B.S., B.A., Oregon State University;

 $M.S.,\,University\,\,of\,Washington$

Joyce Oswald

Business, WCCW / MCCCW

B.S., San Francisco State University; M.Ed., Northern Arizona University

Mary K. Pedersen

Counseling

B.A., University of Washington;

M.S., Western Washington University

Barbara A. Peterson, Psy.D.

Human Services

A.T.A., A.A.S., Tacoma Comm. College;

B.A., Western Washington University;

M.A., M.S., Chapman University;

Psy.D., Southern California University

Kenneth R. Pimpleton

Human Services

A.A.S., Seattle Community College;

B.A., Northeast Louisiana University;

M.S.W., Eastern Washington University

Donovan Ramage

English for Academic Purposes (EAP)

B.A., Brigham Young University;

M.A., University of Utah

Ivan Ramirez Carrascal, Ph.D.

Astronomy & Physics

M.A., Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin

Tomas E. Ramos, Ph.D.

Written/Oral Communications

 $B.A.,\,M.A.,\,Univ.\,of\,Texas-Pan\,American;$

Ph.D., University of the Incarnate Word

LaToya Reid

Developmental Education

B.A., Hampton University;

M.F.A., Farleigh Dickinson University

James Reisdorf, CPA

Business Transfer

B.A., Siena College,

M.B.A., City University of Seattle

Danielle A. Ritter

Developmental Education

B.A., Niagara University;

M.A., Pacific Lutheran University

Polly Robinson, Ed.D.

Written/Oral Communications

B.A, University of Wisconsin,

M.A., California State University;

Ed.D., Eisner College of Education,

California State University

Darlene K. Rompogren, Ph.D.

English for Academic Purposes (EAP)

B.A., M.Ed., M.A.T., Ph.D., University of Washington

Annalee Rothenberg

Accounting & Business

B.A., San Diego State University;

CPA, Retired, State of California

John Sandin, Ph.D.

Developmental Education

A.A., Lakewood Community College;

B.A., Augsburg College; M.A.,

Ph.D., New Mexico State University

Stephen Sandweiss

Political Science

B.A., University of Michigan;

M.A., San Francisco State University

Suzan J. Schenk

Physical Education

B.S., Boise State University;

M.Ed., Weber State University

Steffi A. Schrepfer, Ph.D.

Psychology

M.A., Goethe University;

Ph.D., University of Southern Mississippi

Steven Simpson

Networking and Cyber Security

B.S.EET, Oregon Institute of Technology;

M.S.S.E., Regis University

Adrian A. Singh, Ph.D.

Chemistry

B.A., Cardinal Stritch University;

Ph.D., University of Wisconsin

Brinda Sivaramakrishman

Community Health

B.S., The Evergreen State College;

M.P.H., Mailman School of Public Health

Lee D. Sledd

English for Academic Purposes (EAP)

B.A., M.Ed., Pennsylvania State University

Rebecca N. Sliger, Ph.D.

Engineering

B.S., University of Utah;

M.S., Ph.D., University of Washington

Jeanette M. Smith-Perrone, CISSP

Networking & Cyber Security

A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;

B.S., M.B.A., University of Phoenix

Jennifer Snoek-Brown

Library

B.A., West Texas A&M University;

M.L.S., University of North Texas

Staci Snyder

Adult Basic Education

B.S., University of Central Oklahoma;

M.Ed., SW Oklahoma State University

Jennifer A. Sorensen, J.D.

Paralegal

B.A., University of California, San Diego;

J.D., Brooklyn Law School

Mary Stobie

Certified Nursing Assistant

B.S., Western Washington University;

M.N., University of Washington

Melissa J. Stoddard, MICP

Emergency Medical & Health Services
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College

David H. Straayer

Mathematics

B.S., M.S., Michigan Technological University

Mary Anne Tagulinao, CRRN

Nursing

B.S.N., Far Eastern University; M.S.N., University of Phoenix

Katrina D. Taylor

Political Science

B.S., Michigan State University; M.S., Northern Arizona University

Edward T. Tharp

Horticulture/Landscape, WCCW
A.A., Clover Park Technical College

Trung G. Tran

Mathematics

B.S., M.S., California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Alexia Valdes

English & Adult Basic Education, WCCW / MCCCW

B.A., University of California; M.F.A., Otis College of Art and Design

Richard P. Wakefield, Ph.D.

English & Humanities

A.A., Fullerton Community College; B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Univ. of Washington

Christopher B. Willett, Ph.D.

Mathematics

B.A., The University of the South; Ph.D., University of Illinois

Rebekah C. Williams

Library

A.A., Seattle Central Community College; B.A., M.L.I.S., Univ. of Washington, Seattle

Yolanda Williams

Business & Logistics

A.A.S., Tacoma Community College; B.A., University of Washington; M.A., Chapman University College; M.A., DeVry University

Joshua Wright

Emergency Medical & Health Services

Kristina Young

Humanities & Literature
B.A., University of California, Davis;

M.Ed., Evergreen State University

Exempt Staff

Elizabeth L. Abts

Dean, Entry & Enrollment Management Services/Registrar

B.A., Cornish College of the Arts; M.A., Western Washington University

Iyad A. Al-Aqrabawi

Lead Application Developer/Software
Engineer, Information Technology
B.S., University of Washington, Tacoma

Robert Andren

Floriculture Coordinator, WCCW/MCCCW

Lorrie F. Ann

Navigator, Workforce Education
Health, Business & Professional Services
A.A., Monroe Community College;
B.S., Cornell University;
M.S., Amberton University

Namiko Ochi Bagirimvano

Assistant Director, International Housing & Short Term Programs, International Student Services & Programs

B.A., Ehime University, Japan; M.A., SIT Graduate Institute

Edward Barry

Outreach & Recruitment Specialist
B.A., Central Washington University

Mary Bassett

Enrollment Coordinator, Washington Corrections Center for Women

Julie A. Benson

Associate Dean of Nursing
Health, Business & Professional Services
B.S.N., Minor State University; M.H.A.,
Chapman Univ.; M.N., Univ. of Wash.,
Tacoma; A.R.N.P., Univ. of Wash., Seattle

Igor Beschieru

Media Production Specialist, eLearning
B.D., College of Theology & Pedagogy in
Moldova

Analea Brauburger

Dean, Organizational Learning & Effectiveness B.S., Arizona State University; M.S., Pennslyvania State University

Ivy E. Brent

Analyst - Business Systems, Information Technology

Soyeon Bush

Navigator, International Student Services & Programs

B.A., Korea University; M.A., University of Michigan

Rebecca E. Callahan

Retention and Recruitment Specialist, Nursing Program B.S.N., Oakland University; M.S.N., University of Michigan

Kevin Cantwell

Database Developer & Administrator, Information Technology B.S., University of Washington

Thomas J. Caughell

Advisor/Head Men's Basketball Coach, Enrollment & Student Success B.S., M.A., Southern Oregon University

Tina Celentano

Educational Planner, Running Start
Enrollment & Student Success
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;
B.A., University of Puget Sound

Iulia Cheptea

Admissions & Customer Service Specialist, International Student Services & Programs A.A.S., Tacoma Community College

Walter Chien

Grants Research Manager,
Organizational Learning and Effectiveness
B.A., M.A., University of Northern Iowa

Mary Chikwinya

Vice President, Student Affairs

B.A., M.A., Slippery Rock State University

Lynette Crumity

Director of Development,

College Advancement and TCC Foundation

B.A., Duquesne University

Jayme L. Crumpton

Retention Specialist, Fresh Start Program B.A., Washington State University

K. Katherine Disney-Kantner

Analyst - Business Systems, Information Technology

Linda Downing

Administrative Operations Coordinator, Health, Business & Professional Services B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Exempt Staff

Julieanna R. Dunbar

Budget Manager, Financial Services
A.A., Columbia Basin College;
B.S., Central Washington University

Emily Dykstra Jones

Navigator, New Chances Program, Transition Services, Retention & Student Success B.A., Antioch University

Nermalyn S. Edwards

Assistant Director, Financial Services
B.A., B.S., University of Santo Tomas

Carroll Ferguson, CAP-OM

Administrative Operations Coordinator,
Academic and Student Affairs
Certified Administrative Professional in
Organizational Management

Christie L. Fierro

Instructional Designer/Open Education Resource Coordinator, eLearning B.A., Murray State University

Krista K. Fox

Interim Vice President, Academic Affairs
B.A., M.P.A., University of Washington

Clifford Frederickson

Director, Financial Services
B.S., Portland State University

Mikhail Goncharuk

Coordinator, Conference Services, Student Engagement, Retention & Student Success

Renee Hernandez Greenfield

Director, Early Learning Center B.A., Occidental College; M.S., University of Phoenix

Melody A. Griggs

Coordinator, Student Affairs
Gig Harbor Campus
B.A., M.A., Seattle University

Danah Haley

Advising, Enrollment & Student Success
B.S., Portland State University

Ivan L. Harrell II., Ph.D.

President

B.A., Wittenberg University; M.Ed., Vanderbilt University; Ph.D., Florida State University

Theresa W. Harris

Academic Advisor,
Enrollment & Student Success
B.A., Western Washington University

Dolores Haugen

Director, Community Standards

B.A., University of Puget Sound;

M.A., Univ. of North Carolina, Greensboro

Kathrine P. Heizenrader

Advisor, HS 21+, Transitional Studies
B.A., Western Washington University;
M.A., Miami University

Kathryn S. Held

Coordinator, Assessment Services, Enrollment & Student Success A.A.S., Tacoma Community College; B.A., University of Washington, Tacoma

Seth A. Hill

Application Developer, Information Technology B.S., University of Washington

Tamyra J. Howser

Director, Marketing & Communications B.A., University of Oregon; M.S., Gonzaga University

Samantha E. Hutchinson

Advisor, Enrollment & Student Success
B.S., Western Washington University

Victoria N. Ichungwa

Senior Research Analyst, Institutional Research, Organizational Learning & Effectiveness

B.B.A., M.B.A., Grand Valley State Univ.

Rebecca J. Jayasundara

Adult Basic Education Director,
Communication & Transitional Studies
B.A., Central Washington University

E. Leigh Jewett

Workforce Education Advisor, Enrollment & Student Success B.A., Western Washington University

Brian C. Johnson

Digital Marketing Specialist,
Marketing & Communications
B.A., M.C., University of Washington

Kelli Johnston

Director, Workforce Education Programs
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;
B.A., M.Ed., Western Washington Univ.

Austin Keever

Financial Literacy Navigator, Retention & Student Success B.A., East Carolina University

Jennifer Keyes

Advisor/Head Women's Basketball Coach, Enrollment & Student Success B.A., Whitman College; M.A., Northweatern University

Ma Pwint Koko

Navigator, Workforce Education B.S., University of Maryland

Clay Krauss

Director, Information Technology
B.S., University of Puget Sound;
M.B.A., University of Washington, Tacoma

Tanya Losey

Assistant Manager, Early Learning Center B.S., Central Washington University

Wayne Mask

Administrative Operations Coordinator, Academic & Student Affairs B.A., Columbia Southern University

Steven Patrick Mathews

Manager, Facilities

Kimberle A. Matison

Director, Financial Aid

B.A., University of Washington

Kelly L. Maxfield

Executive Office Assistant, Presidents Office A.A.S., Pierce College

Marybeth McCarthy, NCWP

Resource Navigator, Transition Services
B.A., The Evergreen State College

Shawn McRavin

Executive Assistant, Human Resources

Alexa A. Mercado-Curtis

Admissions Specialist, International Student Services & Programs A.A.S., Tacoma Community College

Adam Meyers

Workforce Education Navigator, Worker Retraining B.A., Evergreen State College

La Toya Miner Fryer

Educational Planner, Running Start B.A., Seattle University

Exempt Staff

Sam H. Morgan

Director, Entry Services,
Enrollment & Student Success
B.A., Washington State University;
M.Ed., Central Washington University

Sonja C. Morgan

Director, Student Engagement,
Retention & Student Success
B.A., Oberlin College;
M.A., University of Washington

Janine Mott

Executive Director,

Gig Harbor Campus and Continuing Education B.A., University of Washington, Tacoma; M.Ed., University of Washington, Seattle

Ryan T. Mummert

Gym Manager/Head Men's Baseball Coach, Athletics

B.S., Western Washington University

James R. Newman

Executive Director.

International Student Services & Programs

B.S., University of Phoenix;

M.B.A., New York Institute of Technology;

M.P.M., Keller Grad. Sch. of Management

Deborah A. Olson

Manager, Bookstore

Jennifer S. Olson, Ph.D.

Coordinator, Art Gallery
B.A., Portland State University;
M.A., Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University

Monica M. Olsson

Manager, Access Services
B.A., University of Washington

Debra S. Padden

Support Specialist, eLearning
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;
B.A., Washington State University;
M.B.A., Western Governors University

Brent J. Palmason

Manager, Capital Projects, Facilities B.A., University of Washington

Rachel P. Payne

Senior Communication Specialist,
Marketing & Communication
B.A., Western Washington University

Christy Perotti

Coordinator, Running Start,
Enrollment & Student Sucess
B.A., University of Arizona;
M.A., Pacific Lutheran University

Hannah M. Peterson

Coordinator for Assessment, Washington Corrections Center for Women B.A., Western Washington University

Troy Peterson

Adaptive Technology and Retention Specialist, Assessment & GED Final Testing, Enrollment & Student Sucess

A.A.S., Tacoma Community College; B.A., University of Washington-Tacoma; M.S., Capella University

Daniel M. Pratt

Network Engineer, Information Technology B.A., St. Martin University; M.S., University of Southern California

Jason L. Prenovost

Director, Athletics

A.A., Highline Community College; B.S.B.A., Hawaii Pacific University; M.A.O.L., Chapman University

Shannon S. Pressley

Program Director, Math Advising Resource Center and Business Education Center, Retention & Student Sucess B.A., University of Puget Sound; M.I.T., Whitworth College

Theresa Ramos, D.Ed.

Career Pathways Navigator,
Communication & Transitional Studies
B.A., St. Louis University;
M.A., University of the Incarnate Word
D.Ed., University of Washington, Seattle

Greg Randall, CEFP

Director, Facilities and Capital Projects

Jonny Ristow

Media Production Specialist, eLearning
A.A., Grays Harbor College;
B.S., Full Sail University

Sharon A. Rivera, Ph.D.

Director, MESA Program,
Math, Science & Engineering
B.S., State University of New York at
Porchase; Ph.D., Syracuse University

Valerie Y. Robertson, Ph.D.

Dean, Student Development and Success
A.A., Tacoma Community College;
B.A., M.S., University of Washington;
Ph.D., Oregon State University

Margaret A. Robinson

Coordinator/Retention Specialist, Multi-Ethnic Cultural Affairs and Achievers Scholars, Retention & Student Sucess A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;

A.A.S., Tacoma Community College; B.A., University of Washington, Tacoma; M.A., Chapman University

Stephanie M. Rock

Coordinator, Fresh Start Program
B.S., Michigan State University;
M.A., Adler University;
Ed.S., Seattle University

William A. Ryberg

Vice President, College Advancement;
Director, TCC Foundation
B.M., Western Washington University;
M.M., Indiana University

Kelley D. Sadler

Program Director, Institutional Research, Organizational Learning & Effectiveness B.A., Western State College; M.S., University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Jason Sandusky

Manager of Technology Support,
Information Technology
B.S., University of Idaho;
M.B.A., Touro University International

William Saraceno

Interim Vice President, Administrative Services
B.S., Eastern Oregon State University;
M.B.A., Nova Southeastern University

Lorena M. Saucedo

Assistant Director, Financial Aid B.A., Saint Martin's University

Sultana Shabazz, Ph.D.

Director, WCCW / MCCCW
B.B.A., M.Ed., University of Georgia;
Ph.D., University of Tennessee

Joseph Shannon, Ph.D.

Dean, Math, Science and Engineering B.A., M.S., Rutgers University; Ph.D., University of Washington

Exempt Staff

Shirley E. Siloi

Outreach Specialist, Entry Services, Enrollment & Student Success B.S.W., University of Washington, Tacoma

Kimberley A. Smith

Workforce Education Navigator, Workforce Education

A.A.S., Tacoma Community College; B.S., University of Phoenix; M.S.W., University of Washington

Matthew J. Smith, Ph.D.

Director, CASA/MECA
B.A., M.A., Hampton University
Ph.D., University of Nevada

Stephen Smith, J.D.

Interim Executive Director, Human Resources
B.A., The Evergreen State College; J.D.,
University of Washington School of Law

Christopher T. Soran II

Director, eLearning
A.T., Bates Technical College;
B.S. University of Washington, Tacoma;

M.B.A., Brandman University

Ndeve Penda Sow

Assistant Director, Support Services
International Student Services & Programs
B.A., Western Washington University;
M.S., Walden University

Chris Stancich

Academic Advisor,
Enrollment & Student Sucess
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;
B.A., University of Puget Sound

Elizabeth Stewart

ESL Pathway Navigator, Transitional Studies
B.A., Eastern Washington University

Janice Tayler

Manager, Continuing Education B.A., University of Winnipeg; B.F.A., Concordia University

Amunoo N. Tembo

Academic Advisor,
Enrollment & Student Sucess
B.A., Eastern Washington University;
M.A., University of Delaware

Stephanie Thompson

Health Sciences Coordinator, Health, Business & Professional Services B.A., B.S., Washington State University

Colin L. Turner

Manager, Custodial Services, Facilities B.A., University of Ulster

Heather Urschel-Speir

Director, Writing & Tutoring Center,
Cooperative Learning Center, Dedicated
Tutoring Program, CAL Lab,
Retention & Student Success
B.A., B.F.A., Western Washington Univ.;
M.A., Colorado State University

Elmira H. Utz

Coordinator, Supplemental Instruction, Retention & Student Sucess B.A., Western Washington University

Katie Van Wyk

Assistant Director, Global Outreach, Marketing & Admissions, International Student Services and Programs B.S., M.S., University of Wisconsin

Riabelle Vivas

Educational Planner, Talent Search B.A., M.A., University of Washington

Deborah Walker

Director, Educational Talent Search
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;
B.A., Central Washington University

Kimberly M. Ward

Dean, Communication and Transitional Studies
B.A., Washington State University;
M.Ed., Seattle University;
M.P.A., The Evergreen State College

Candice Watkins

Director, Library
B.A., M.S., University of North Texas

Natalie Wilkerson

Coordinator, Career Center,
Enrollment & Student Success
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;
B.A., University of Washington, Tacoma;
M.Ed., Concordia University, Portland

Bethel G. Wolfe

Workforce Education Navigator,
Workforce Education
A.A., Pierce College;
B.A., The Evergreen State College;
M.S., Brandman University

Cristy C. I. Yanos

Academic Advisor,

Enrollment & Student Success

B.A., University of Northern Colorado;

M.A., University of San Diego

Christine D. Young

Executive Assistant, Vice President for Student Affairs

Melisa Ziegler, Ph.D.

Coordinator of Organizational Learning, Organizational Learning and Effectiveness B.B.A., Gonzaga University; M.A., Seattle University; Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University

Barrett Dean Allred

IT Systems Specialist 4, Information Technology A.A.S., Austin Community College

Juan Anduaga Munoz

Custodian 1, Custodial Services, Facilities

Marlynn E. Arndt

Custodian 1, Custodial Services, Facilities

William T. Ballard, Jr.

Information Tech Specialist 3, Information Technology

Elena Banfield

Early Childhood Specialist 3,

Early Learning Center

A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;

B.A., Mari State Teachers Training Institute

Susan L. Bennett

Instruction & Class Technician 2,
Math, Science & Engineering
B.S., Williams College;
M.A., University of Washington, Tacoma

Patricia L. Berge

Program Specialist 2, Enrollment & Student Sucess A.P.A.S., Pierce College

Katja Berghammer

Custodian 1, Custodial Services, Facilities

Christopher D. Betz

Office Assistant 3,
Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College

Steven C. Biber

Maintenance Mechanic 2, Facilities & Grounds

Alejandra Bicknell

Office Assistant 3, Enrollment & Student Success

Benjamin Bogaev

Administrative Assistant 3, Information Technology B.A., University of Maryland University College

Eleanor Boice

Fiscal Technical Supervisor, Financial Services
M.A., Faith Evangelical College & Seminary

Kathleen Boll

Customer Service Spec 1, Gig Harbor Campus A.A., Everett Community College

Peter Brickner

Information Tech Specialist 3, Information Technology

Chau Bui

Custodian 1, Custodial Services, Facilities

Kristin Bulala

Program Assistant, Outreach & Recruitment, Entry Services, Enrollment & Student Success B.S., Pacific Lutheran University

Patrice Bunge

Administrative Assistant 3,
Math, Science & Engineering
B.A., Western Washington University

Randy Calhoun

Custodian 1, Custodial Services, Facilities

Loo Moy Y. Call

Administrative Assistant 3, Organizational Learning & Effectiveness

Laura J. Chipman

Lead Graphic Designer,
Marketing & Communication

Vickie Christensen

Custodian 1, Custodial Services, Facilities
A.A.S., American InterContinental Univ.

Susan Cochrane

Bookstore Buyer, Bookstore

Kimberly R. Cordova

Program Support Supervisor 1, Facilities

Doris Couch

Custodian 1, Custodial Services, Facilities

Anita L. Cucchiara

Program Assistant, Educational Talent Search A.A.S., Pasco Hernando Comm. College

Tabitha A. Curtis

Early Childhood Specialist 1, Early Learning Center

Starla Danh

Office Assistant 3,
Organizational Learning & Effectiveless

Ronda L. Daub

Custodian 1, Custodial Services, Facilities

Zachare Daugharty

Program Coordinator, Continuing Education A.S., B.S., City University of Seattle

April Davis

Administrative Assistant 3, Health, Business & Professional Services B.S., University of Nevada Reno

Beth Davis

Program Support Supervisor 2, Testing & Certification Center, Entry Services, Enrollment & Student Success A.A.S., Green River Community College

Tammy Davis

Early Childhood Specialist 3, Early Learning Center A.A.S., Tacoma Community College

Jacque W. Dear

Administrative Assistant 3, Communication & Transitional Studies

Gene Donaldson

Custodian 1, Custodial Services, Facilities

Charlene Dudley

Early Childhood Program Specialist 3, Early Learning Center A.A., Pierce College

Karen D. Ebert

Fiscal Analyst 3, Financial Services
B.A., Central Washington University

Marla S. Elmquist

Fiscal Technician 3, Financial Services B.A., Washington State University

Kelly L. Farr

Fiscal Analyst 2, Inst. Advancement & Foundation A.A.S., Mendocino College

Paige N. Fichter

Fiscal Analyst 3, Financial Services B.B.A., University of Oklahoma

Kristi Finley

Cashier 2, Cashiering, Financial Services B.A., California State University

Theri J. Flood

Custodian 1, Custodial Services, Facilities

Ruth Fritz

Administrative Assistant 3, CASA MECA, Retention & Student Success

Edwina S. Fui

Program Assistant, Student Engagement, Retention & Student Success B.A., University of Washington, Bothell

Joseph E. Fyfe

Grounds & Nursery Spec 2, Facilities & Grounds

Emily Gourlie

Early Childhood Spec 1, Early Learning Center
A.A., Rasmussen College;
B.A., University of Arizona

Sherrie L. Graham

Fiscal Analyst 1, Financial Services
B.S., University of Washington, Seattle

Rachel M. Guckel

Early Childhood Spec 1, Early Learning Center A.A., Pierce College

Misty D. Hadfield

Campus Security Officer, Campus Public Safety

Molly A. Hagan

Secretary, Math, Science & Engineering
A.A.S., Pierce College;
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;
B.A., Eastern Washington University

Leona Hall

Information Tech Specialist 3,
Information Technology
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;
B.S., Western Governors University

Jon S. Hardy

Maintenance Mechanic 4, Facilities & Grounds

Brian J. Harris

Custodian 2, Custodial Services, Facilities

Patricia G. Hermoso

Office Assistant 3, eLearning & Media Services B.A., DeVry University

Shannon L. Hight

Help Desk Coordinator, Information Technology B.S., DeVry University

Chhoeungsaheng Hing

Data compiler 1, Access Services
B.A., University of Washington

John M. Housden

Campus Security Officer, Campus Public Safety

Fred D. Howard

Simulation Technician,
Health, Business & Professional Services
A.A.S., Pierce College;
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;

B.S., Central Washington University

Willie C. Howard

Campus Security and Safety Supervisor, Campus Public Safety

Timothy Humbert

Customer Service Specialist 1, Enrollment & Student Success

Sadia Ikram

Office Assistant 3, Human Resources B.Com., M.A., University of Punjab

Wendy Jackson

Campus Security Officer, Campus Public Safety A.A., Olympic College; B.S. Kaplan University

Michael S. Janke

Campus Security Officer,
Campus Public Safety
A.S., Madison Area Technical College

Melanie A. Johnson

Administrative Assistant 3, Gig Harbor Campus B.A., Union Institute and Technology

Michael K. Jones

Custodian 1, Custodial Services, Facilities B.A., Central Washington University

Tatyana S. Jones

Program Assistant, Fresh Start Program A.A.S., Tacoma Community College

William A. Jones II

Custodian 1, Custodial Services, Facilities

Claire A. Jordan

HR Consultant 3, Human Resources
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;
B.A., Seattle University

Shannon P. Kelly

Custodian 1, Custodial Services, Facilities

Chae Son Kim

Custodian 2, Custodial Services, Facilities

Chad Kinlow

Campus Security Officer, Campus Public Safety

Mary A. Knutson

Credentials Evaluator 3, Enrollment & Student Success B.S., California State University

Hyuk Kwon

Custodian 1, Custodial Services, Facilities

Richard M. Langhorn

Safety Officer 1, Facilities & Grounds
A.A.S., Community College of Denver

Lawrence D. Larsen

Information Tech Specialist 4,
Information Technology
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;
B.S., City University; M.S., TUI University

Sandra L. Larson

Program Specialist 2, Financial Aid
A.A., Highline Community College;
B.A., University of Washington, Tacoma

David Laughlin

Custodian 1, Custodial Services, Facilities

Nadezhda I. Lavochina

Program Coordinator, Adult Basic Skills

Sung M. Lee

Office Assistant 3, Faculty Support
B.A., Washington Theological Seminary

William P. Leon-Guerrero

Maintenance Mechanic 2, Facilities & Grounds
A.A.T., Clover Park Technical College

Denise Levine

Administrative Assistant 3, Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences B.A., Rutgers University

Sarah Lewandowski-Noble

Retail Clerk 2, Bookstore

Deborah R. Lewis

Secretary Senior, Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences A.A.S., Pierce College

Kelly Lieske

Office Manager, Campus Public Safety
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College

Mark A. Linder

HR Consultant 1, Human Resources
A.A.S., South Seattle Community College;
A.A.S., Pierce College

Shawn M. Locke

Info Tech Specialist 3, Information Technology

Leana Lorentzen

Cashier 2, Financial Services

Viktor A. Lukyanov

Maintenance Mechanic 2, Facilities & Grounds

Hailey M. Lunsford

Customer Services Specialist 2, Financial Aid A.A.S., Tacoma Community College

Tanjagay Martin

Office Assistant Lead, Enrollment Services
Enrollment & Student Success
A.A.S., Olympic College

Sharon McBride

Program Specialist 2, Financial Aid B.A., University of Washington

Frank C. McDougald

Program Specialist 2,
Financial Aid/Veteran Services
B.S., University of Phoenix;
M.A., Argosy University

Patricia R. Mede

Retail Clerk I, Bookstore

Nelly Melgar Barragan

Custodian 1, Custodial Services, Facilities

Jill Merritt

Library & Archives Para 5, Library
B.A., California State Univ., San Bernardino;
M.L.I.S., San Jose State University

John P. Michel

IT Technician 2, WCCW/MCCC

A.A.S., Clover Park Technical College

Brennan P. Miller

Help Desk Program Assistant, eLearning & Media Services B.A., Utah Valley University

Mike J. Miller

Grounds & Nursery Specialist 4, Facilities & Grounds

Rebecca Montgomery

Payroll Coordinator, Human Resources A.S., Utah Valley Universiyt

Susan Mooi

Program Specialist 2, Financial Aid

Natalie M. Moreau

Cashier 2, Cashiering, Financial Services

Sakura E. Moses

Publications Support Coordinator/Graphic
Designer, Marketing & Communication
B.A., University of California, Santa Cruz

Oleh Niemiets

Custodian 1, Custodial Services, Facilities
A.A., Dnepro Medical Technical College

Kevin X. Nguyen

Custodian 1, Custodial Services, Facilities

Laurie A. Nicks

Fiscal Technician 2, Bookstore
A.A.S., Univ. of North Dakota, Williston;
B.A., Moorhead State University

Cathy Nordstrom

Program Specialist 2,
Health, Business & Professional Services
B.A., George Fox University;
B.S., University of Washington

Dana M. Nystrom

Electrician, Facilities & Grounds
A.A., New Mexico Military Institute

Lora J. Oas

Instruction & Classroom Support Technician 2, Math, Science & Engineering A.A., South Puget Sound Comm. College; B.A., Evergreen State College

Robin L. Olson

Office Assistant 3, WCCW

Tatyana P. Orabey

Program Assistant, Financial Aid
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College

Carlos Otero

Information Technology Specialist 3, Information Technology A.A.S.-T, Olympic College

Agnieszka Pederson

HR Consultant 4, Human Resources
A.A.S., A.T.A., Tacoma Comm. College;
B.A., University of Puget Sound

Angela Peiffer

Printing & Mail Services Supervisor

Scott W. Perkins

Program Assistant, Writing & Tutoring Center, Retention & Student Success

Kourtney Peyton-Pringle

Administrative Assistant 3, Enrollment & Student Success B.S., Western Governors University

Edward Phipps

Procurement and Supply Specialist 2, Purchasing/Receiving, Financial Services A.A., Pierce College; B.A., Western Washington University

Kristen S. Pleasant

Early Childhood Specialist 2,
Early Learning Center
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;
B.A., University of Washington Tacoma

Nora M. Price

Customer Services Specialist 2, Access Services A.A.S., Tacoma Community College

Kathryn Ray

Program Specialist 2, Counseling/Advising, Enrollment & Student Success B.S., Boise State University

Nicholas J. Ritter

Grounds & Nursery Spec 2, Facilities & Grounds

Tamara T. Roberson

Program Assistant, Assessment.

Entry Services, Enrollment & Student Success
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;
B.A., The Evergreen State College;
M.B.A., University of Phoenix

Aaron Robertson

Custodian 1, Custodial Services, Facilities

Emily Roska

Program Specialist 2, Financial Aid B.A., Pacific Lutheran University

Kara Rundquist

Program Specialist 2, Financial Aid A.A., Everest University

Janae Ryan

Customer Service Specialist 1,
Counseling & Advising
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College

Lisa L. Sanchez

Cashier 2, Cashiering, Financial Services

Richard A. Schneider

Warehouse Operator 2,
Purchasing & Receiving
A.A.S., St. Leo College;
B.S., University of Maryland

Allison Southard Hood

Early Childhood Specialist 1, Early Learning Center

Colleen Spezia

Credentials Evaluator 3, Enrollment & Student Success A.T.A., Tacoma Community College

Theresa M. Stach

Administrative Assistant 2, Health, Business & Professional Services A.A.S., Tacoma Community College; B.A., Evergreen State College

In Suk C. Stenstrom

Data Compiler 2, Access Services A.A., Kyeong Won College

Patrick Stoment

Grounds & Nursery Specialist 2, Facilities & Grounds

Maria Sultan

Program Assistant, Enrollment Services, Enrollment & Student Success A.A., Tacoma Community College

Aaron Tran

Program Specialist 2, eLearning & Media Services B.S., University of Washington, Tacoma

Anh T. Tran

Library & Archives Para 2, Library
B.A., University of Washington, Tacoma

Hoang Oanh Tran

Library & Archives Prof 1, Library
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College

Leonard P. Treanton

Program Assistant, Math Advising Resource Center, Retention & Student Success A.A.S., Tacoma Community College; B.S., Evergreen State College

Kari Twogood

Program Assistant, Campus Public Safety B.A., Western Washington University; M.Ed., Central Washington University

Diane Valdez

Instruction & Classroom Support Tech 4, Math, Science & Engineering B.S., University of Puget Sound

Linda Van Doren

Secretary Lead, Faculty Support Secretaries

Sean D. Vandommelen

Secretary Senior,
Health, Business & Professional Services
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College;
B.A., Evergreen State College

Kaisha J. Vonnagel

Early Childhood Specialist 3, Early Learning Center A.A.S., Tacoma Community College

Natasha H. Walton

Early Childhood Spec 1, Early Learning Center

Jerome T. Ward

Program Specialist 2, Financial Aid

Rachel J. Ward

Bookstore Buyer, Bookstore

David W. Wellsbury

Maintenance Mechanic 2, Facilities & Grounds

Angela M. Wheeler

Program Assistant, Early Learning Center

Richard E. Wilsie

Maintenance Mechanic 2, Facilities & Grounds

Angela Wright

Customer Service Specialist 2, Financial Aid

Timothy A. Wright

Campus Security Officer, Campus Public Safety
A.A.S., Tacoma Community College

Regini D. Yanson

Early Childhood Spec 1, Early Learning Center
Diploma, Canadian International Career
College

Definitions

Accredited: Certified as having fulfilled minimum standards established by regional accrediting agencies. Indicates that course work is accepted by other colleges and universities.

Advisor: A member of the college faculty or staff designated to assist students in planning their programs of study.

Audit: Take a class without receiving credit.

Commencement: An annual graduation ceremony held in June.

Common Course Numbering: The Washington Community and Technical College system has adopted common course numbers, prefixes and titles for courses that are equivalent at many two-year colleges. These changes go into effect summer quarter 2008. The courses and their descriptions are not changing, just the course number and in some cases the prefix and/or title. There are changes to both common courses and non-common courses. Common courses are identified by having an "&" character at the end of the prefix, for example ENGL& or ANTH&.

Concentration: The subject or field of study to which the student devotes concentrated attention.

Counselor: A member of the college faculty who has special training in guidance and who assists students who have problems of an academic or personal nature.

Credit/Quarter Credit Hour: A

measurement of college work. Ordinarily, one credit hour is given for one clock hour of attendance each week for a period of one quarter (11 weeks). In some cases such as laboratory courses, however, two or three clock hours of attendance each week are required to earn one credit or credit hour. A specified number of credits or credit hours must be earned for a degree.

Definitions

Curriculum: The complete list of courses offered by the college. Also, a group of courses required for a specific degree.

Deficiency: Lack of credit in a course required for a specific program, graduation, or a degree. Also, a status imposed on a student because of low grades. See the Academic Review Policy.

Degree: A diploma awarded by the college which signifies a student has successfully completed a program of study.

Directory Information: The only information authorized for external release by the college without the student's written consent shall include student name, degrees and awards received. The college may confirm dates of attendance, date of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized sports and activities and the most recent previous educational institution attended.

Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA): The college has agreements with most of the public and private four-year colleges and universities in the state for the direct transfer of its students under guidelines developed by the Inter-College Relations Commission of the Washington Council for High School-College Relations.

Discipline: A branch of knowledge or of teaching, such as Art, History, English, etc.

Distinction Pathways: Themed or skill-based clusters of courses and experiences recommended for meeting general degree requirements.

Distribution Requirements: A range of courses required for graduation with an associate degree, in addition to the major department requirements.

Division: An area within the college which is devoted to a group of related subjects e.g., Business, Humanities, Allied Health, etc.

Drop: When a student drops a class before the deadline, nothing shows up on their transcript. See Withdraw.

Elective: A course which is not required for a particular program.

General Educational Development

(GED): A program designed to meet the needs of adults who have not graduated from high school and who want to earn a certificate of high school equivalency. Passage of the GED examinations generally is accepted in lieu of high school graduation.

Grade Point: A numerical value assigned to a grade, as follows: each credit hour of A equals 4 points; B, 3 points; C, 2 points; D, 1 point; E and other grades, 0 points.

Grade Point Average (GPA): The numerical average obtained by dividing total grade points earned by total credit hours completed in a quarter. A cumulative grade point average is obtained by dividing the total grade points on a student's record by the total hours he or she has completed.

Honors/High Honors: A designation at graduation for students who graduate with a cumulative GPA of 3.33 or higher for Honors and 3.66 or higher for High Honors.

Incomplete: An incomplete is a grade given only when a student has done satisfactory work in a class but for some unavoidable reason has been unable to complete the course or take the final examination. Incompletes must be converted to a traditional letter grade within one year of their issuance or they revert to an 'E' grade.

Non-Resident Student: See Resident Student.

Pre-Professional: A program designed to prepare students for later specialization in a particular field upon transfer to a senior college or university.

Prerequisite: A course which must be taken before a student is allowed to take another course. For example: MATH& 141 and MATH& 142 are prerequisites for MATH& 151.

Quarter: A term of instruction consisting of approximately 11 weeks. The regular academic year consists of fall, winter and spring quarter.

Quarter Hour: See Credit/Quarter Credit Hour.

Registration: The process of becoming officially enrolled in a college. Registration usually is required at the beginning of each quarter. It includes the selection of courses and payment of fees.

Resident Student: A resident student is one who is financially independent and has had a domicile in the State of Washington for at least one year immediately prior to the first class day of the quarter for which he or she is registering and who has established a bona fide domicile in the state for other than educational purposes. A financially dependent student is also classified as a resident if one or both of his or her parents or legal quardians have maintained a bona fide domicile in the State of Washington for at least one year immediately prior to commencement of the quarter for which he or she has registered. See Admissions Procedures section for more information.

Specialization: Set of courses in a major field of study recommended to prepare for successful transfer into bachelor program at junior level in same discipline. Specializations are offered for the Associate of Arts and the Associate of Science degrees.

Withdraw: To officially stop taking classes before the 55th calendar day of the quarter. This must be done with an Add/Drop form. Withdrawals show up on a student's transcript.