



CELEBRATING
60
1965-2025

TACOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Annual Report 2024-2025

Celebrating 60 years as the community's college

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“Every milestone we celebrate is the result of years of commitment, collaboration, and care — from faculty, staff, students, and community partners alike.”

Dear TCC Friends,

It is my honor to welcome you to Tacoma Community College’s 2024–2025 Annual Report. As you turn these pages, I hope you feel what I feel every day when I walk our campus: a deep sense of pride in what this institution stands for and what it accomplishes for the community.

This was a year of exceptional achievement. Behind every program launched, every building opened, and every student who crossed the stage is a team of dedicated people who put in the work long before the ribbons were cut. There is always a “tip of the iceberg” quality to progress — what the community sees is the celebration, but what makes it possible is years of quiet, committed effort.

Among this year’s highlights, I am especially proud to share:

- The celebrations of our **60th anniversary in Tacoma** and our **30th anniversary in Gig Harbor**.
- The grand opening of the **Center for Innovative Learning and Engagement**, a transformative space for student success.
- A new **Emergency Medical Services Lab** that strengthens our healthcare training programs.

None of these achievements could have happened without you. Whether you are a student, a faculty or staff member, an alumnus, a community partner, or a supporter from across the region: you are part of this story. I want to offer my sincere gratitude to everyone who has done the work, who continues to do the work, and who shows up as a champion for student success every single day.

As we look ahead to an equally inspiring 2026–2027, I invite you to read on, celebrate with us, and know that the best of TCC is still ahead.



Ivan L. Harrell, II, Ph.D.
TCC President



2025: 60th Anniversary



Read the stories, view photos, watch videos and more: tacomacc.edu/60



2025 marked TCC's 60th anniversary in the community. TCC began to plan events to celebrate this important milestone in the fall of 2024. With community members, alumni, donors, retired TCC employees, students and staff members ready and engaged, the TCC team worked to create memorable events that commemorated the long-standing legacy of the college. Events included:

- The grand openings of the new Center for Innovative Learning and Engagement and Emergency Medical Services Lab
- The 60th Anniversary Community Open House
- The TCC Foundation's Empowering Dreams Gala
- The Gig Harbor Campus also celebrated its 30th anniversary in June – three decades of serving the Peninsula community.

2025 was a remarkable year - the community truly rallied to celebrate TCC!



Gig Harbor's 30th Anniversary

In 1995, Gig Harbor Campus opened its doors to the community. Now Gig Harbor's central location for higher education, the campus offers Fresh Start and Running Start programs, Continuing Education, and classes for students to get ahead – without crossing the bridge.



TCC's Legacy Through the Decades

60 STORIES: TCC collected stories from current and former students, faculty and staff.

PANELS: The TCC Archives created a five-panel display focused on the history of TCC – from 1965 to today – centered around the college's Strategic Plan, and how its core themes have developed through its history. The panels were displayed at the TCC 60th events, including the Community Open House and Gala, and other TCC community events.

VIDEO: Past and current TCC leadership, faculty and students shared their thoughts about the legacy of TCC.



2025: 60th Anniversary



Grand Opening of Two New Facilities

In March of 2025, after several years of collaborating, designing and building, the new **Center for Innovative Learning and Engagement (CILE)**, and the **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Lab** opened.

TCC first held an open house for employees, who worked hard over the years to launch the CILE, followed by a ribbon-cutting event for the community, donors, legislators and more.



PHOTOS L-R:

- Live music at the employee open house
- Ribbon cutting at the grand opening
- CILE staircase
- EMS Ambulance
- EMS students at the new lab
- CILE second floor
- Sustainability wall



2025: 60th Anniversary



Community Open House Celebrates TCC Legacy

On the exact date that TCC opened its doors and held its first classes in 1965, TCC commemorated that historic day and held its 60th Anniversary Community Open House.

The once-in-a-decade event was a family-friendly affair, from face-painting to free doughnut treats to a bouncy house to a photo booth. Live musical performances by TCC Alumnus Kye Alfred Hillig and TCC faculty and staff Las Molas and Los Piscodelicos were featured, along with campus tours by Tacoma-owned Pretty Gritty Tours. TCC's programs and services were showcased throughout the campus with tours of the CILE, EMS lab, the Health Care building and more. The TCC Café and Bookstore sold 1960s-themed drinks and special retail items.



2025: 60th Anniversary



TCC Foundation Holds an Elegant Gala – and Breaks Fundraising Record

The TCC Foundation transformed the Health and Wellness Center into a starry-themed venue for their TCC 60th Anniversary Empowering Dreams Benefit. More than 500 guests attended the evening event, which featured a silent and live auction, dancing and live music. The event raised nearly \$500,000 – double its goal – to support TCC students and their dreams.

"The work of the TCC Foundation is vital to support our students, and the community that night really showed their commitment to remove barriers and keep dreams alive and keep students moving forward to their future," said TCC President Dr. Harrell.

Missed the event? Watch the video, view photos and donate to the TCC Foundation. tacomacc.edu/empoweringdreams



TCC Campus Provides Food Distribution for Tlingit & Haida Washington Chapter

TCC has begun serving as a distribution point for the Washington Chapter of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. During the pandemic, the Washington Chapter used ARPA and CARES Act funds to create a traditional foods program in which traditional Alaskan foods are frozen and shipped from Alaska for distribution in Washington. TCC is the distribution center for the Tacoma area.

The foods distributed through this program are culturally significant, and some cannot be sourced in Washington state. Some tribal elders who have received these foods have said that they haven't eaten them in decades, since they were children in Alaska.

Former Director of Planning & Land Use for the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and current TCC Board of Trustee member Andrew Strobel provided a statement:

"We don't have much of an operational budget and are purely voluntary as a group of Tribal citizens, so we aren't particularly a sophisticated operation. However, despite that, we provide a key connection to our traditional lands to our people down here. And we are thankful for TCC being an integral part of making that happen."



Access Services Director Laquida Williams demonstrates the use of assistive technology to a student.

Leading with Accessibility

Accessibility shouldn't be an afterthought. It should be built into everything the college does, from the images chosen for web pages to the color contrast on a print flyer. That's the message that TCC employees have been getting through accessibility training.

In the spring of 2025, the college completed a Civil Rights Self-Audit centered around digital accessibility. An all-college accessibility training was presented in the fall, and as we move into 2026, employees are invited to delve deeper into topics such as "Understanding Disabilities and Inclusive Design," "Creating Accessible Documents and Multimedia," "Testing and Evaluating Accessibility" and other workshops.

TCC Develops Partnership with Interamerican University of Puerto Rico – Ponce

TCC has begun developing a relationship with the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico – Ponce (IAUPA-Ponce) to enrich the academic experience for both students and faculty. Opportunities being explored include virtual co-teaching ventures as well as the more traditional student and faculty exchanges.

During the 2026 spring quarter, TCC's Dr. Tomas Romas and IAUPR-Ponce's Dr. Virgimarís Nadal Ramos will pilot a "mirror class" initiative in public speaking, integrating three shared virtual class sessions for students at both campuses.

TCC is Committed to Professional Development in EDI

Dr. Harrell and 13 TCC staff and faculty members traveled to New York City in May for the 2025 National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE). This annual conference was designed to provide a significant forum to focus on creating and sustaining comprehensive change in higher education with racial and ethnic relations.

Founded and implemented by the Southwest Center for Human Relations Studies, which has promoted cooperation and understanding among people of different racial, ethnic, religious and economic backgrounds since 1961, NCORE promotes the inclusion of traditionally under-represented groups in higher education.

TCC has been an active conference member of NCORE for years, sending dozens of leaders, faculty members and employees to learn about effective strategies to improve access, communication, social development and understanding in culturally diverse environments.

NCORE was suspended in late 2025, due to policy and political challenges. However, TCC continues to send staff to conferences to enrich their professional development, such as the Faculty and Staff of Color Conference and Women of Color Leadership Conference.



Women Artists Exhibition

The Women Artists Exhibition featured work by four outstanding artists:

- **Leonie Castelino**, an American Fine Artist and Curator, celebrates the strength of the feminine and their emancipation issues.
- **Bella Kim** is a Korean American artist who transforms recycled plastics and fabrics into breathtaking works inspired by Korean Jogakbo.
- **Patsy Surh O'Connell** is a Korean American painter and founder of Tacoma's Asia Pacific Cultural Center. Her art represents her personal journey of cultural identity and growth, and the blending of Korean and American influences in her life.
- **Irene Osborn** is a sculptor who was born and raised in postwar Germany and emigrated to Canada as a young adult. She uses sculpture to express feelings that can't be described in words.



TCC supports EDI artistic expression through several exhibitions at The Gallery on the Tacoma campus and at the Gig Harbor campus, as well as through artwork by multicultural artists displayed throughout the new CILE.

TCC hosts Black Artists Exhibition

With pieces selected by a panel of jurors and exhibition-associated activities including multiple artist talks, TCC's annual Black Artists Exhibition offers a yearly opportunity for South Sound residents to engage with the exceptional work being created by Black artists in our region.

Learn more at tacomacc.edu/blackartists.



TCC Alum Paige Pettibon Holds Solo Exhibition at TCC Gig Harbor

"Two Sides of the Same Chip," an exhibition of art exploring the positive and negative community impacts of Native-owned casinos by Native artist and TCC alum Paige Pettibon, was displayed at TCC Gig Harbor during fall quarter 2024.

Pettibon's work can be viewed at the Tacoma campus. She created the signs displayed in the TCC Sustainability Garden, including a "Welcome" sign and a land acknowledgement sign written in Lushootseed and English.

The TCC Gig Harbor campus hosts an exhibition by an artist or group of artists each quarter. Community members are invited to stop by and view the current exhibition any time the campus is open.



TCC DIGITAL MUSIC AA PATHWAY AT TACOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The new **Digital Music Specialization** is a degree pathway at Tacoma Community College designed to offer students in our community formative experiences in contemporary technology while earning an AA degree.

The key focuses of study include: songwriting, audio engineering, and applying technology in live performances. These experiences are strengthened with essential music theory skills, and collaboration with other student musicians in performing ensembles.



BEa Program Recognized as "Model of Excellence and Equity-Focused Education"

The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges gave TCC's **Basic Education For Adults (BEa)** program high marks for commitment to student success, equitable instruction, and innovative pathways. With commendations including "High employment outcomes for students after program exit," "Exceeding performance targets across most educational functioning levels" and "Strong instructional support, with students praising faculty and the overall classroom experience," the State Board recognized the TCC BEa team as "a model of excellence and equity-focused education."

TCC Health Care Graduates Pass Credentialing Exams

More than 90 percent of the students who graduated from TCC's Health Careers programs passed the credentialing exams in 2024-25:

- Registered Nurse: 93.10 percent passed the NCLEX-RN
- Respiratory Care: 94 percent* passed the NBRC-TMC
- Radiologic Sciences: 94 percent passed the AART, RT(R)
- Paramedic: 100 percent passed the NREMT-PM

*4 graduates have not yet taken the exam.



TCC Music Professor Dr. Anne Lyman Named Collegiate Educator of the Year, Elected President of Northwest American Choral Directors Association

Dr. Anne Lyman, who teaches vocal music and conducts the choral ensembles at TCC, has been elected President of the Northwest Region of the American Choral Directors Association. During her six-year term, which starts in July of 2026, she will support more than 700 organizational members located in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Alaska at the regional and national level.



The Washington Music Educators Association also named Lyman "Collegiate Educator of the Year." The bi-annual award was bestowed at the annual WMEA conference in Yakima in February.

"I feel very lucky to be at an institution that not only recognizes the importance of music education for our students and faculty, but also fosters a work environment that has allowed me to balance my work at TCC with service to the wider industry."

TCC Learning Centers Achieve Recertification

TCC's Learning Centers have renewed their Levels 1, 2, and 3 certification through the International Tutor Training Program Certification (ITTPC) from the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). To achieve recertification, the Learning Centers demonstrated that they continue to meet CRLA's high standards for tutor selection, training, service, and program evaluation. The recertification completed was thanks to the outstanding work of the employees in TCC's Writing and Tutoring Center, Science, Engineering and Math Tutoring Center, Business Education Center, Dedicated Tutoring Center, and Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement Center.



11TH ANNUAL WRITE IN THE HARBOR

Celebrates Craft, Creativity and Connection

The Write in the Harbor conference at TCC's Gig Harbor Campus featured writer **Rebecca Brown**.

Though writing is a famously solitary endeavor, her keynote speech focused on how her writing has benefitted from her connections with other people, from friends and mentors to editors, publishers, and others engaged in the business of writing. Brown encouraged attendees to seek out other writers, and to allow their writing to be informed and enriched by their connections.





Deepen your Connection with TCC Natural Area through Interactive Web Page

Part of the ancestral homeland of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, TCC's Natural Area is a 55-acre forest and wetland area that serves as a living classroom for our students and a natural refuge for the community. The college wove these three identities – ancestral homeland, living laboratory, community refuge – into a management plan for the Natural Area that will safeguard the Natural Area as a community resource for decades to come.

A new page on the tacomacc.edu website provides members of the public with a map of the Natural Area's walking trails, invites visitors to share observations about plant, animal, and fungal species identified, provides information about species they might encounter, and gives people the Twulshootseed names and pronunciations of several native species they may encounter.

Visit tacomacc.edu/naturalarea to learn more.



Community Partnerships

Imaging Services Partnership Supports TCC Radiologic Technology Students

In 2025, the TRA Medical Imaging Foundation offered substantial financial support as well as mentoring to several **TCC Radiological Technology students** per quarter. The TRA Medical Imaging Foundation scholarships are awarded to students with financial need and career aspirations. The program aims to support students facing financial constraints while providing mentorship to help them achieve their professional goals. This mentorship involves connecting students with experienced technologists, radiologists, and other healthcare professionals.

TCC Hosts Annual Pierce County Bike Swap on Campus

TCC has begun hosting the Pierce County Bike swap in Parking Lot A each April. The event allows community members to buy and sell bikes and bike parts, consult with bike trail-mapping experts, get fitted for bike helmets, and even try new skills on a practice course.





Titan Athletics Provides Venue and Opportunity for Community Athletes

Since the 2017 expansion of the TCC Gym into the Health and Wellness Center, Titan Athletics has significantly increased its ability to serve not only its own teams, but also youth and high school sports organizations throughout the Tacoma area.

From hosting high-level events like the “Zeke-End” basketball tournament—organized by Isaiah Thomas and featuring NBA players as a fundraiser for his foundation—to welcoming Malachi Flynn for a free youth camp for local future Titans, the facility continues to expand access and opportunity. In addition, Building 20 regularly accommodates futsal tournaments, volleyball clubs and leagues,

and major events such as SPSL Championships, WIAA District tournaments, and taekwondo competitions.

As a result, Building 20 has become a consistent hub for community athletics. The facility sees year-round use, supporting athletes of all ages and levels. Building 20 has recently hosted:

- South Puget Sound League
- Puget Sound Volleyball Association
- Washington Interscholastic Activities Association
- High school summer and fall leagues
- State Tournament shoot-arounds
- Lutheran Elementary Schools Tournament

TCC Launches Tacoma Community Safety Collaborative (TCSC)

TCC, the City of Tacoma, and the University of Washington-Tacoma convened the TCSC in November of 2024. With quarterly meetings focused on using data-driven environmental interventions to deter crime, the Collaborative brings together a network of people from organizations across Tacoma to share ideas, scrutinize data, and implement interventions designed to make our city safer.

Gig Harbor Continues to Serve as a Community Resource

Through active community partnerships, the Gig Harbor Campus has flourished, offering a wide variety of classes, programs and services. Thanks to these partnerships, some of Gig Harbor’s highlights include:

- Annual Write in the Harbor Conference and Poetry in the Harbor event
- Worksource Job Fair (more than 30+ local employers and 100+ participants attended)
- Continuing Education classes combined with academic disciplines: Music and Computer Classes
- Events to attract prospective students, such as Future Titan Night, Educational Planning Day, Fresh Start information sessions and more.
- Ongoing community engagement with multiple partners, including Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Key Peninsula Business Association, KP Housing Coalition, Food 4 All, Harbor Hope Center, YMCA, Harbor Soccer Club, and Red Barn Youth Center.



Photo by Benjamin Benschneider

Award-Winning CILE Building Opens

Since TCC's new **Center for Innovative Learning & Engagement (CILE)** opened to the public in the Spring of 2025, it has become a popular gathering space where students and employees can collaborate on projects and host events.

"We expect this Center to be a gem that will be enjoyed by our community for generations to come," TCC President Dr. Harrell said at the ribbon-cutting event for the new Center. "Future entrepreneurs, paralegals, historians, social scientists and leaders will find a home here, and it will help us keep the doors of opportunity and access open."

Designed by Mithún with extensive input from students and employees and built by Korsmo Construction, the CILE has won awards including the American Institute of Architects Washington Council's Merit Award. The LEED-Gold certified, three-story, 51,325 square-foot building was also granted Salmon Safe certification.



L-R:

- CILE lobby area
- CILE corridor
- Entrance of EMS Lab
- CILE classroom
- CILE Learning Studio



EMS Lab Opens

The Building 13 **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)** lab was constructed and opened along with the CILE. Located beside the Mildred Street entrance to the Harned Center for Health Careers, the lab provides a permanent home for the TCC ambulance and a new interactive lab space for students in TCC's EMT programs.

New Conference Resources Department Brings Community to TCC

TCC launched a new **Conference Resources Department** in 2025, with the goal of tapping a new revenue stream through community rentals of the college's conference rooms, athletics facilities, and other venues. In addition, the new department will take the lead on planning large all-college events, such as Commencement.

Celebrating Our Students



TCC STUDENT STATS

TOTAL STUDENTS ***10,624**
 FULL-TIME **6,170**
 PART-TIME **7,077**

ENROLLMENT STATUS

**DEGREE & CERTIFICATE
 SEEKING STUDENTS **82%**
 ACADEMIC TRANSFER **50%**
 BASIC SKILLS **10%**
 OTHER **9%**
 WORKFORCE TRAINING **35%**

GENDER

Male **31%**
 Female **59%**
 Intersex **1%**
 Unknown **9%**

Median Student **AGE 24**

RACE/ETHNICITY

American Indian/Alaska Native **1%**
 Asian **11%**
 Black/African American **11%**
 Hispanic/Latino **9%**
 Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander **1%**
 Multi-Racial **22%**
 White **40%**
 Unknown **6%**



ENROLLMENT STATUS

- **DEGREE & CERTIFICATE SEEKING STUDENTS **82%**
- ACADEMIC TRANSFER **50%**
- BASIC SKILLS **10%**
- OTHER **9%**
- WORKFORCE TRAINING **35%**

- * Students may be counted in more than one category.
- ** Students may have more than one enrollment status.

RANDY PHILLIPS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES STUDENT ASSOCIATION (USSA)

Returning Associated Students of Tacoma Community College (ASTCC) President Randy Phillips took on a larger leadership role in the summer of 2025, when he was elected President of the United States Student Association (USSA) by the student associations of member schools.

Phillips' goals for the organization includes elevating the student voice and creating a foundation that the organization can stand on and grow from, for years to come.

"A unified voice is more imperative now than maybe ever before," he said.

MEET THE ELLEN PINTO OUTSTANDING STUDENTS OF 2025

Named after a TCC Trustee and civic leader who encouraged students to work towards academic success and service to TCC and the larger community, this annual award recognizes two honorees and one Outstanding Student of the Year.



Ellen Pinto Honoree: Fatimeh Redford

Ellen Pinto Honoree **Fatimeh Redford** came straight to TCC from high school, where she struggled, and wasn't sure she would graduate. At TCC, she met Professors Jennifer Olson and Latoya Reid, who helped her build confidence. "They really helped me feel like I had a place here, and I was smart enough," Redford said.

Ellen Pinto Honoree: Alex Lee Rogers

Ellen Pinto Honoree **Alex Lee Rogers** is a justice-impacted student who accepted a work-release opportunity that included going to school. He felt "less than" and "othered" at first, but started seeking out places he could grow and learn.

"All the challenges of not knowing how to use a computer or a phone ... every one on the team were not just nice, but kind. Every time I kept coming back, Tamara (of the team) would look at me and say, 'You got this, kiddo'"

Ellen Pinto Outstanding Student of the Year: Charles Schuelke

Ellen Pinto Outstanding Student of the Year **Charles Schuelke** came to TCC from Clallum Bay Corrections Center. At Clallum Bay he discovered that he could excel at education.

"I have recently gotten accepted to the University of Washington Seattle in Computer Science Engineering, and I owe it all to this community here at TCC," Schuelke said.

2025

CLASS OF 2025

BACHELOR DEGREES	69
ASSOCIATE DEGREES	1,311
CERTIFICATES	674
HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS	118
TOTAL GRADUATES	2,160



TCC Foundation

TCC Foundation Helps Students to Reach Higher

The TCC Foundation had another amazing year of supporting students through donor support—including the successful Reach Higher Luncheon, the ongoing Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Lab Campaign, the Annual TCC Scholarship Reception, and it's TCC 60th Anniversary Empowering Dreams Benefit (see page 7).

The TCC Foundation also supports student and the college in securing major grants, including the Names Family Foundation grant for resurfacing Minnitti Field.

"We are incredibly grateful to our amazing community," said Emily Mendez-Bryant, Executive Director of the TCC Foundation. "Our students continue to inspire us to reach even higher to support their dreams."

In 2024-25, the TCC Foundation:

- **Granted \$321,125 in scholarships to 218 students**
- **Raised more than \$147,000 at its annual Reach Higher event, which supports the Max and Margi Harned Titan Food Pantry, student emergency fund and scholarships. More than 380 donors and 35 sponsors supported the event.**

The TCC Foundation is proud to have awarded scholarships to 3,384 students since 2007.

To donate and to learn more about the Foundation, visit:

tacomacc.edu/foundation



Our Employees

"Our wonderful group of employees make me proud every day. From helping a student navigate their pathway to ensuring our campus is beautiful and safe to their active displays of caring and dedication in the classroom – our employees are one-of-a-kind. This past year, we held several significant events, such as the Open House and Gala, and the opening of the new CILE and EMS Lab. All of this work took immense, committed and collaborative planning by our team, who were so proud to share the magic of TCC with our community. We had a blast celebrating this year, and I applaud our team for making our anniversary a memorable legacy." –Dr. Harrell



2024 CLASSIFIED-EXEMPT STAFF BREAKAWAY

*TCC Employee RACE/ETHNICITY 2024-25

American Indian/Alaska Native	3%	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2%
Asian	12%	Other	1%
Black/African American	17%	White	68%
Hispanic/Latino	9%		

*An employees can report more than one race/ethnicity

** EMPLOYEES may be counted in more than one category

FULL-TIME FACULTY

141

PART-TIME FACULTY

307

EXEMPT STAFF

170

CLASSIFIED STAFF

289

PART-TIME/HOURLY STAFF

182

1,134
TOTAL
EMPLOYEES**



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Tacoma Community College values diversity and is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Educator. Tacoma Community College provides equal opportunity in education and employment and recognizes its responsibility for investigation, resolution, implementation of corrective measures, and monitoring the educational environment and workplace to stop, remediate, and prevent discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, perceived or actual physical or mental disability, pregnancy, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, creed, religion, veteran or military status, or use of a trained guide dog or service animal. To this end, Tacoma Community College has enacted policies prohibiting discrimination against and harassment of members of these protected classes. Any individual found to be in violation of these policies will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the college or from employment. Prohibited sex discrimination includes sexual harassment (unwelcome sexual conduct of various types). Tacoma Community College provides reasonable accommodations for qualified students, employees, and applicants with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Federal Rehabilitation Act. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Stephen Smith, Title VII and Title IX, Building 14, ssmith@tacomacc.edu, 253-566-5055; Kathryn Held, Section 504 Officer, Student Affairs Administrative Office, 253-566-5115.