

# WELCOME TO THE WORKFORCE EDUCATION WINTER QUARTER NEWSLETTER

## »» Thank You, Community Partners – Fall 2025 Resource Fair

Workforce Education hosted our fourth on-campus Community Resource Fair in October, and it was another great success! A huge thank-you to all of our Community Partners for your continued support and participation. We were thrilled to welcome many new partners this year and to see the excitement and meaningful interactions between students and community organizations. We look forward to the continued engagement between our community resources and students here at TCC. Thank you for your dedication and commitment!



**Save the date! Our next Resource Fair will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2026.**

## »» Expanded Hours for Titan Food Pantry

At TCC, we want to make sure our students are not going hungry while pursuing their education. The Titan Food Pantry has supported students and their families facing food insecurity for over eight years, serving more than 150 individuals each week, and that number is expected to rise. During this difficult time, we understand that many people are in need of food, and we remain committed to supporting our campus community.

The pantry is available to all students and, beginning Monday, November 10, will have extended hours from Monday to Thursday (hours vary). It is located in Building 17. Our pantry offers more than just food, we sometimes have diapers and other essential supplies as well! [Check out the TCC Titan Food Pantry](#)

The Nourish Mobile Food Bank also visits campus every Tuesday from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM, located in Parking Lot F on the Mildred side of campus.

## »» Explore what TCC has to offer!

TCC offers a wide range of opportunities, including certificate programs, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees, all designed to support career and educational goals. **Winter 2026 quarter open enrollment begins on Monday, Nov 10<sup>th</sup>!** [Check out TCC Programs](#)

## »» Upcoming Job Fair

WorkSource Pierce is hosting a job fair at the [TCC Gig Harbor campus on Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 1 PM](#). The job fair is free and open to the public! Come explore over 350 job opportunities across a variety of rewarding career fields.

Would you like a presentation for your staff or customers?

Please contact our Lead Outreach Navigator, Lorrie Ann @ [lann@tacomacc.edu](mailto:lann@tacomacc.edu), 253-566-5247

### >>> From Incarceration to Inspiration

From a prison cell to a college classroom, Alex Rogers has transformed a story of hardship into one of resilience, empowerment, and hope. His journey is not just about earning degrees, it's about reclaiming a life once thought lost.

While incarcerated, Alex began pursuing education as a path forward, earning an AA in Liberal Arts from Walla Walla Community College and a Small Business Management Certificate from Edmonds Community College. Upon release, he continued his education at TCC, pursuing an AAS in Business Entrepreneurship. But academic achievements are only part of Alex's powerful story.

Reentering society came with a different set of challenges, ones that weren't found in textbooks. "The intangibles," Alex shared, were the hardest understanding social cues, body language, communication. Years of institutionalization had left him disconnected from the social rhythms of everyday life. He felt as though no one could understand what he was going through. Yet, through connecting with fellow students, many of whom carried their own stories of struggle, he found a sense of belonging and strength. He shared that "being at TCC has made me feel whole and like I've reconnected with pieces of me that I thought were lost forever. He credits his success to one life-changing realization: the *power of choice*, "every day, I got to choose who I wanted to be, even during challenges, I still had a choice."

What began as a path toward a business degree shifted when Alex discovered a deep passion for Human Services. With support from TCC and the broader Tacoma community, he found opportunities for career development, stability, and healing. He received help through the Titan Food Pantry, affordable housing, on-campus employment, and Workforce Education funding that made tuition, books, and fees accessible. Now pursuing a career in the Human Services field, Alex is committed to giving back, helping others navigate the same difficult path he once walked.

Alex's story is a powerful reminder of what's possible when determination meets opportunity. His courage to rebuild, his openness to change, and his commitment to choosing growth even in the face of overwhelming obstacles are nothing short of inspiring. We're all rooting for Alex as he continues his journey forward!



### >>> Meet our Workforce Navigator Marisa Mezs



*I began working at Tacoma Community College (TCC) in 2023, but I've spent nearly 15 years in the field of education. I grew up in Lakewood and have lived in Pierce County my entire life. I love the Pacific Northwest and the energy of the City of Tacoma. I enjoy working with our students and helping them navigate their educational journeys, wherever they are at. Tacoma Community College serves students from all walks of life, and I'm passionate about supporting them as they work toward their goals, whether that's a earning one-quarter certificate or a two-year Associate's Degree.*

*Workforce Navigators provide personalized guidance, connecting students with resources, support services, and career-focused opportunities tailored to their area of study.*

*Each Workforce Navigator at TCC serves a specific academic pathway and help students navigate their educational and career paths. I support students pursuing degrees and certificates in Early Childhood Education (ECE), Human Services Professional (HSP), and several of our Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) programs. Additionally, I am the Program Contact for the Early Achievers Grant program that supports ECE students as they gain the necessary education they need to continue as child care providers in our local Pierce County child care centers. In addition to assisting students apply for educational funding, I participate in outreach events in the community and our Workforce workshops to connect students about our services and resources that help guide them during their time at TCC and beyond. [Check out Workforce Education Department at TCC and connect with us!](#)*

# FUNDING APPLICATION WORKSHOPS

## for Winter Quarter are shown below

### Students can scan QR code or visit our website to sign up!

**ZOOM Mondays 10:00am, In-person Tuesdays 2:00pm & Wednesdays 10:00am**

**No Workshops**

NOVEMBER 2025							DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30				
30													

**Winter Quarter open enrollment begins on Monday, November 10, 2025 !**

**Winter Quarter Starts on Monday January 5th, 2026**

#### »» WORKFORCE HAS FIVE FUNDING PROGRAMS

- **WorkFirst Grant**
- **Worker Retraining Grant**
- **Opportunity Grant**
- **Early Achievers Grant**
- **Basic Food Employment & Training Grant**

[Find out More](#)

**Reminder:** [TCC Welcome Center](#) is located in building 8 on campus. They are a one-stop shop for potential and new students to get help with starting at TCC.



SCAN ME

**Workforce Education  
Building 19 Room 70**

**tccworkforce@tacomacc.edu, 253-566-5188**

[Click here to subscribe our quarterly newsletter!](#)

