

Tacoma Community College

ANNUAL REPORT
2015–2016





“

THE ART OF STONE IN A JAPANESE GARDEN IS THAT OF PLACEMENT.

A photograph of a traditional Japanese garden. In the foreground, there is a gravel path. To the left, a large, gnarled tree trunk stands prominently. In the center-right, a stone lantern with a tiered, curved roof sits on a pedestal. The garden is filled with large, dark rocks and clusters of pink flowers. The background is a dense wall of green foliage.

ITS IDEAL DOES NOT DEVIATE FROM THAT OF NATURE.

”

– ISAMU NOGUCHI





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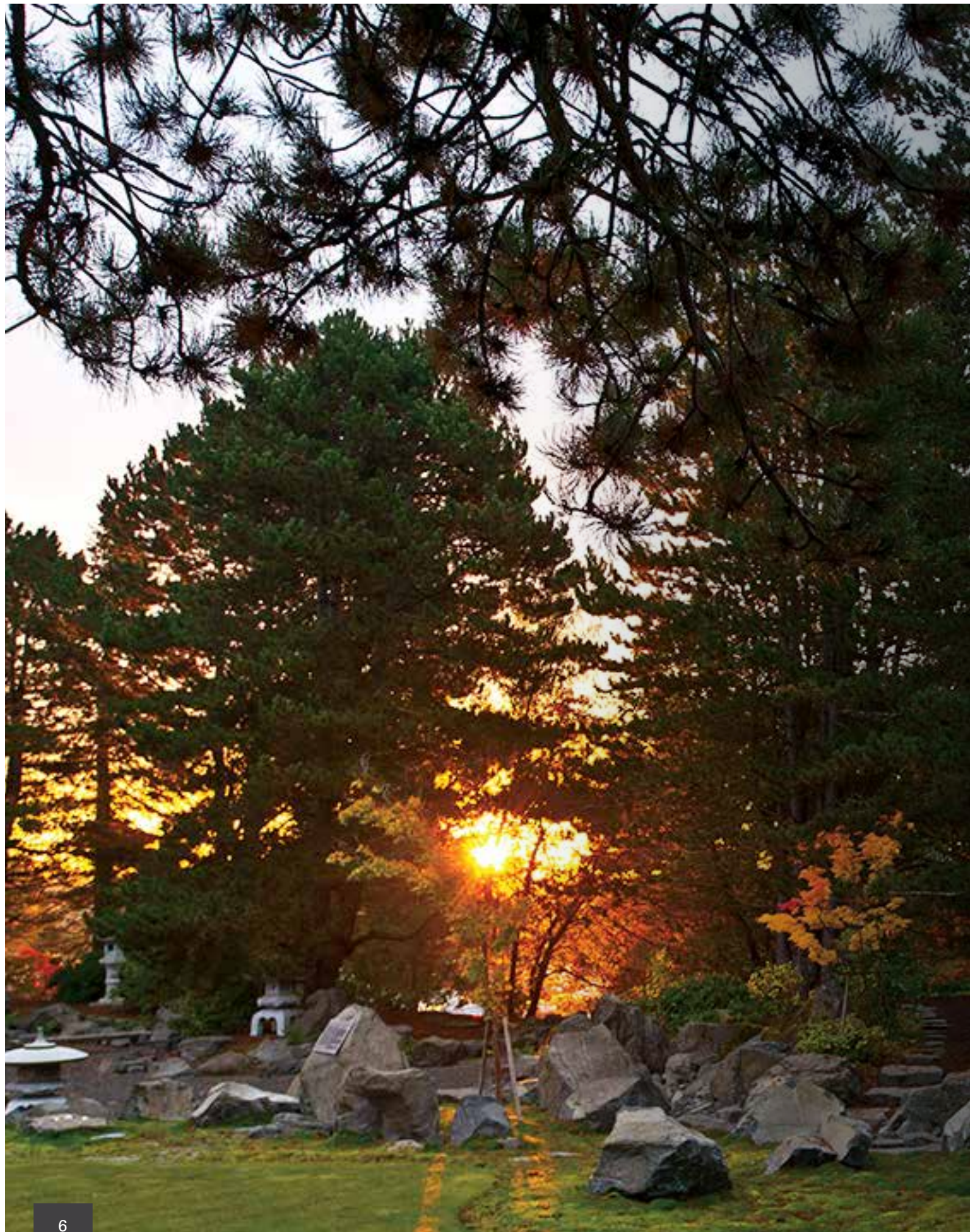
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A message FROM THE COLLEGE

Tacoma Community College is a place of study and ambition, of hard work and hustle, and of positive collaboration between students and staff. But tucked into the quieter part of campus, the Babe and Herman Lehrer Japanese Friendship Garden offers a different invitation: Come in. Sit a while. Explore. Restore yourself.

Here, your attention may be drawn to the illusion of a waterfall that cascades down the rocks to the sea. You may explore the path that threads up hills and crosses stone bridges, or discover the pockets of flowering moss growing in the large boulders that anchor this rock garden. You will feel a sense of welcome and mutual pride, understanding and celebration of all cultures.

In our 2015-2016 Annual Report, which also features the TCC Foundation, we share stories that illuminate the heart of TCC and the smart, courageous students who embody our welcoming spirit. You will find we are a healthy, vibrant college that offers a rich variety of opportunities for anyone who wishes to learn.

At TCC, we are proud of our students, and of our faculty and staff. We offer a grounded path toward success. From that beginning, wherever the path leads, we know TCC students will be well-suited for life's journeys. They will stand strong.



Harned Center for Health Careers, Tacoma Campus

MISSION STATEMENT

TCC creates meaningful and relevant learning, inspires greater equity, and celebrates success in our lives and our communities.

2015-2016 LEADERSHIP TEAM

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CREATE LEARNING

ACHIEVE EQUITY

ENGAGE COMMUNITY

EMBRACE DISCOVERY

BASED ON FOUR CORE PILLARS, TCC'S STUDENT-FOCUSED,
LONG-TERM STRATEGY REALIZES OUR MISSION

These pillars support the breadth of our college, including transfer degrees, professional and technical skills certifications and specialty programs that serve our diverse community's educational needs. Students will find that no matter who they are, if they wish to learn, TCC is open and ready.

CREATE LEARNING

- | Providing a launchpad for students to do great things in and outside the classroom
- | Inspiring students to love learning in a challenging, collaborative environment
- | Preparing students to be thoughtful, wise and service-oriented



nick sherwin

RUNNING START STUDENT

Nick Sherwin, 17, is a Gig Harbor High School senior and second-year TCC Running Start student. When he heard about Running Start, he believed he could finish two years of college before high school graduation. Nick has taken many of his classes on TCC's Gig Harbor campus. He is the kind of student who can take on calculus and political science while continuing with his true passion, acting. He has performed in many high school plays and aspires to become a professional actor.

Running Start gave him the confidence boost he needed to pursue an acting career, and helped him decide what path he should take for college.

"Acting is something that people don't necessarily know how to go about and do," he said. "I felt a little lost. But I have trust in myself now. Running Start at TCC has shown I can do it. I have to see now if I can carry that onward."



RUNNING START

is a nationally recognized program that allows eligible high school juniors and seniors to take college-level courses for double credit (high school requirements plus general university requirements).

Running Start Enrollment

- 2013-2014: 740
- 2014-2015: 808
- 2015-2016: 961

ACHIEVE EQUITY

- | Embracing the variety of cultures, learning styles and life experiences of our community
- | Ensuring college remains open, accessible and affordable for all
- | Developing a classroom environment that enhances student learning and readiness for the workforce or for transfer to a four-year university



robin ross

TCC GRADUATE AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT

The TCC and THA partnership was established in 2014 and provides rental assistance to TCC students who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. Data show this program enables students to stay in college and finish their programs:

JANUARY 2014 TO SEPTEMBER 2016	HOMELESS/NEAR HOMELESSTCC STUDENTS RECEIVING HOUSING ASSISTANCE (47)	HOMELESS/NEAR HOMELESSTCC STUDENTS RECEIVING NO HOUSING ASSISTANCE (154)	GENERAL TCC STUDENT POPULATION
GRADUATED OR REMAINING ENROLLED	60%	16%	Not available
GRADE POINT AVERAGE	3.05	2.75	2.97

Robin Ross, 43, was a single mom who attended TCC. Her housing situation was insecure, and she was in danger of dropping out of school. She applied for housing through the College Housing Assistance Program, a new partnership between TCC and the Tacoma Housing Authority (THA), and was accepted.

“I don’t know what I would have done without housing help,” she said. “I didn’t allow myself to go there. I showed THA how serious I was about my education. I knew I needed housing to succeed. I needed a home where my family and I could lay our heads down every night, and be safe and secure.”

She graduated with an associate’s degree from TCC in winter 2016 with a 3.96 grade point average (GPA). The first in her family to earn a degree, Ross has transferred to The Evergreen State College for the remainder of her undergraduate studies. She aspires to earn her master’s in psychology or sociology and later, her doctorate.

“My motto has been it’s now or never,” she said. “I returned to school 20 years after I left. I’m going to go all the way to the top, until I can go no further.”

She proudly says her son has a 3.5 GPA. “He vows to beat my GPA one day,” she said. “He says, I’m going to TCC next year, Mom. Just like you.”

CASA

stands for the Center for Academic Support and Achievement.

At the center of this program is MECA, which represents the Center for Multi-Ethnic and Cultural Affairs. CASA/MECA offers a rich variety of support services for students with diverse experiences and backgrounds.

CASA/MECA programs:

- MECA
- Passport to Promise scholars
- Undocumented and 1079 students
- Men of Distinction
- College Bound



justin francisco

TCC GRADUATE, STUDENT LEADERSHIP PARTICIPANT,
CASA/MECA MEMBER

When Justin Francisco was a young teen, he and his mother moved from the Philippines to Washington. Justin entered eighth grade speaking little English and writing at the first-grade level. Feeling hopeless and a failure in school, he yearned for his family and friends. But when he arrived at TCC, he discovered he was a natural leader – and found people who nurtured and supported him.

“Coming here, the staff and faculty saw something in me I didn’t see in myself,” he said. “They gave me the opportunity to grow individually and discover skillsets I didn’t know existed. I found a person I’ve never met, and I’m embracing that person now.”



CASA/MECA
OFFERS PROGRAMS
WITH NEARLY

900
STUDENTS

MORE STUDENTS
WHO ACTIVELY
PARTICIPATE IN
CASA/MECA
GRADUATE FROM
TCC THAN OTHER
STUDENTS

80%
STAY AND COMPLETE
THEIR PROGRAMS

Justin was an active student leader at TCC, leading conferences and serving as president of several student clubs. CASA/MECA gave him tools and resources. He graduated with a 3.6 GPA and transferred to Central Washington University, where he is studying communication and aspires to earn his master's and doctoral degrees. He wants to work in higher education.

"TCC provided me more than great academics – it made me more resilient and strong," he said. "TCC taught me that resilience is stronger than being smart."

ENGAGE COMMUNITY

- | Fueling community and college growth by continuously building partnerships
- | Inspiring students to support the community through economic or cultural contributions
- | Partnering with local employers to respond to workforce needs



TCC STUDENTS DONATE THOUSANDS OF ITEMS TO HOMELESS COMMUNITY

In January 2015, 1,283 people were classified as homeless* in Pierce County. More than one-quarter of those individuals slept under bridges, in alleys or other areas not meant for human habitation. This number has doubled since 2010.

In winter 2016, TCC nursing students began collecting items for the homeless, and soon, student cohorts of the Human Services program joined in the effort. What became a friendly competition soon became a

mission of the heart: Human Services students donated more than 2,800 items and nursing students donated 500 items. All were given to Nativity House, a homeless center in Tacoma.

“Our students wanted to give back to the community,” said Dr. Barbara Peterson, Human Services professor. “We work to instill this in the Human Services field, that it’s not about just the paycheck, but a lifestyle of giving back and helping our disadvantaged populations. It’s a pay-it-forward philosophy.”

This drive was so successful, Dr. Peterson added, partly because many students had a personal connection to it.

“About 40 percent of my students have been homeless, so they have been in their shoes,” she said. “Our students have a heart to help people.”

**Pierce County Community Connections Point-in-Time Count, published July 2015*

Workforce: Connecting TCC Students to Jobs

Workforce Education helps low-income individuals train for employment success.

The program meets people where they are, whether they need to obtain a high school credential or a two-year degree.

Workforce has four different state and federal funding sources— Worker Retraining, Basic Food Employment and Training, Workfirst and Opportunity Grant—and works with students to connect to the program best designed for the individual's current needs and future success.

Workforce partners with community agencies, such as the state Department of Social and Health Services, the state Employment Security Department, Courage360 and Tacoma Community House to serve populations who need employable skills. Workforce also supports people who have been laid off and are pursuing different fields.



hailey lunsford

WORKFORCE RECIPIENT

WHO HAS BENEFITTED FROM WORKFORCE?

2015 spring enrollment: 434
2015 fall enrollment: 507
2016 spring enrollment: 457
2016 fall enrollment: 576

Plus, Workforce serves about 650 students per quarter with other needs, such as child care access, resource referrals and college navigation services.

"I received an Opportunity Grant and Workfirst funding. It's been a huge blessing. It has helped pay for transportation, gas, toll fees, books and more. It helps fill in the gaps with financial aid."

Lunsford came to TCC through the Fresh Start program, which allows students up to 21 years of age to complete their high school degrees.

"I have a big passion to help people – it makes me feel fulfilled. People suggested I go into the

Human Services field. I feel fortunate I chose this path ... I will graduate at the end of winter quarter with a prof/tech certificate in Human Services, with a focus on chemical dependency and counseling. My goal is to get a job at Western State Hospital, so I can help others."

Health Care: Responding to Industry Needs

TCC recently launched its first bachelor's degree program in Health Information Management (HIM). TCC is one of only two schools in the state approved to offer this degree, and the only community college.

The specialized field of Health Information Management offers many career options, including medical records management, coding and billing, and data analysis. The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) anticipates an estimated 50,000 new jobs in this field by 2017.

"A two-year HIM degree will help students land a job in the field, but a four-year degree will advance you forward," said Char Gore, Health Information Technology chair and professor.

EMBRACE DISCOVERY

- | Exploring innovative solutions to enhance learning, equity and collaboration
- | Investing in faculty and staff growth to enhance institutional capacity and improve student achievement
- | Encouraging risk-taking in the classroom to maximize learning



antonyo gibson and grace sullivan

BIOLOGY 222 STUDENTS

Bringing Real-World Genomics Research to TCC Students

TCC students such as Antonyo Gibson and Grace Sullivan carried out a research project in which they developed protocols and carried out the sequencing and analysis of a part of the genome of a bacteria that fights the wheat disease Take-all. This research is part of the ComGen Research Initiative funded by

the National Science Foundation and run in collaboration with a research group at Washington State University. ComGen brings hands-on, real-world research experiences in genomics to community college students, which prepares them to excel at the university level.



rebecca sliger

Prepping students for math, science and engineering success

TCC received funding from the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges to support expansion of its high-demand engineering program, which has grown 133 percent since 2005. Grants of approximately \$200,000, awarded in 2014-2015, and again in 2015-2016, allowed the college to hire two full-time faculty positions and a part-time engineering mentor, a working professional who visits classrooms and clubs to talk to students about TCC's programs.

"This has been a significant investment with our faculty," said engineering professor Dr. Rebecca Sliger. "Our new engineering mentor, Michael Hale, certainly was an exciting addition. His role as a mentor is to help students help make connections in the field, as well as increase diversity, and work with women and underrepresented groups."



With the new faculty, TCC can offer more of the classes that traditionally had long wait lists. It also boosts resources for the new engineering mentor to do outreach with potential engineering students. And it reinforces the quality of education students receive at TCC.

"Our goal is to take everybody where they are and help them get where they want to go," Dr. Sliger said. "We are teaching university-equivalent courses. Our students go in their junior level ready to compete with the students who started at the universities. They do as well or better."

campus profile

2015-2016 academic year

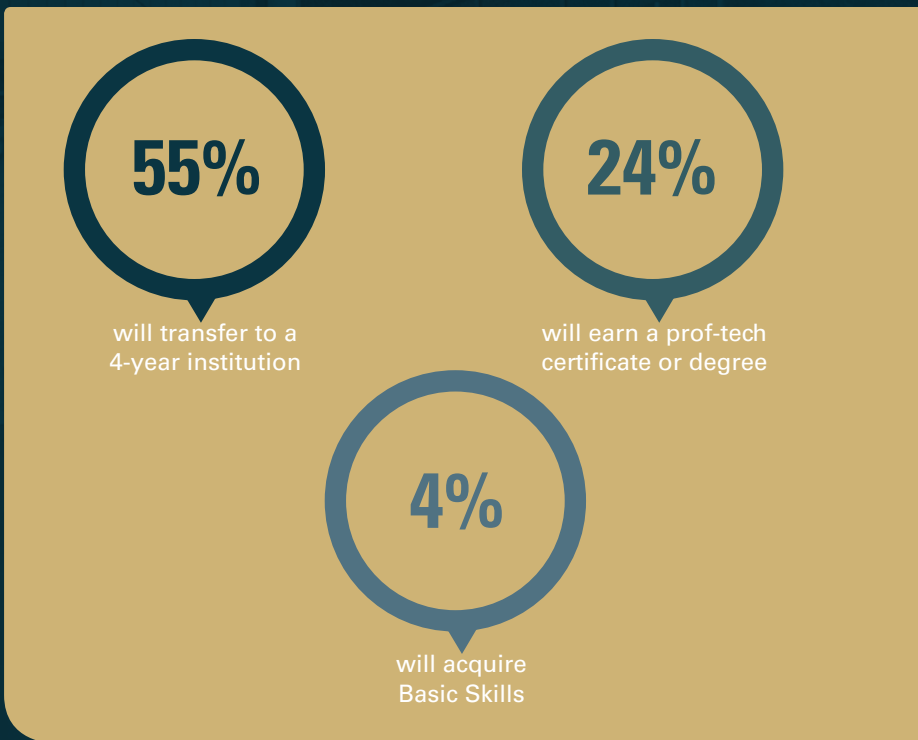
Total number of students served

13,734

FULL-TIME: 5,895

PART-TIME: 7,839

Out of 13,734 students ...
9,755 are seeking
a degree or certificate



NUMBER OF TCC PROGRAMS

29

ASSOCIATES DEGREES

52

PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL CERTIFICATES

1

BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE - HIM

428

FULL-TIME TCC EMPLOYEES

(151 FULL-TIME FACULTY • 293 ADJUNCT FACULTY)

56%



32%



33%

students of color

26

median student age

1,076+
VETERANS

961+

Running Start students

642

international
STUDENTS FROM 40 COUNTRIES

1,124

Continuing Education students

Student Success



GRADUATING CLASS OF 2016

Number of degrees & certificates earned

$$997 + 323 + 475 = 1,795$$

Associate degrees Certificates High School diplomas

166

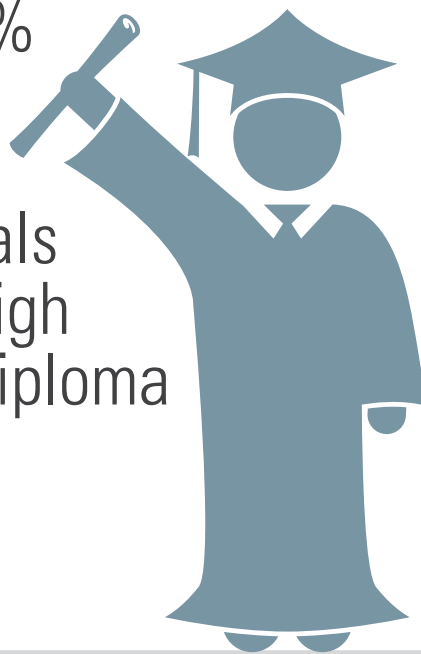
Number of Running Start students who earned their Associates degree in 2016

THE MEDIAN ANNUAL INCOME of the typical associate degree graduate in Washington

\$37,293* 

* Source: U.S. Census Bureau
2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

That's 8%
higher
than
individuals
with a high
school diploma



The All-Washington Academic Team

recognizes and honors our state's finest two-year higher education students. The students who make up the All-Washington Team reflect the diversity of the state, maintain high standards of excellence, and contribute positively to the community.



daniel phung

TCC ALL-WASHINGTON ACADEMIC TEAM

ALL-WASHINGTON SCHOLAR

A first-generation student from Vietnam who currently studies chemical engineering, Daniel Phung draws inspiration and motivation from his hard-working parents.

"In 2009, the economic recession impacted my parents' business," said Phung. "My parents did not have enough financial support for me to go to college. I have been working part-time and studying full-time since."

Phung hopes to obtain his master's degree in chemical engineering. He'd like to manage water quality for a local company, then apply that knowledge and experience to creating water-quality solutions for developing nations.





tyler thurber

TCC ALL-WASHINGTON ACADEMIC TEAM

ALL-WASHINGTON SCHOLAR

When Tyler Thurber started at TCC as a Running Start student in 2007, he discovered that he wasn't ready for college. After struggling for a couple of quarters, he dropped out.

He found success in the workforce, and was on track for a promotion. But one day, he realized that he wanted more from life. Thurber decided to give college another chance. He re-enrolled, and his GPA

soared. He's majoring in mechanical engineering and hopes to make a difference in the field of renewable energy.

"I've gone full-force into my college career and aspire to a prestigious university after I receive my associate's degree," he said. "I have always been interested in energy, the fundamental idea that everything is built on, especially in our modern age."

FINANCIALS

2015-2016 OPERATING REVENUE

STATE ALLOCATION	\$ 21,614,312
LOCAL REVENUE	
Running Start Program	4,445,050
Building Fee from Excess Enrollment	515,668
General Fees / Overhead	690,610
Tuition/Operating Fees	18,410,162
Sub-total	24,061,489
TOTAL	45,675,801

2015-2016 OPERATING EXPENSE

Salaries	27,662,308
Benefits	9,183,291
Goods & Services	4,750,850
Equipment / Leases	637,440
Travel	217,818
WorkForce / Worker Retraining Fin. Aid	431,323
TOTAL	42,883,030

2015-2016 PROGRAM EXPENSES

Instruction & Academic Support	25,854,867
Library Services	891,384
Student Services	4,811,772
Institutional Support	6,835,810
Plant Operations & Maintenance	4,057,874
WorkForce/Worker Retraining Fin Aid	431,323
TOTAL	42,883,030

The 2015-2016 financial numbers were provided by TCC Financial Services.
The numbers are not final and are not based on audited financial statements.





TCC FOUNDATION

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Vice President for College Advancement
Executive Director, Foundation

The TCC Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit. Every year, the Foundation raises money for student scholarships, the Student Emergency Fund and other college initiatives.

1,039

Total number of
scholarships awarded to
students from 2007-2017

207

The number of
2015-2016
scholarships
awarded

195

The number of
2014-2015
scholarships
awarded

**\$2.037
million**

Awarded from 2007-2017



dawn williams

TWO-TIME TCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

After several attempts, Dawn Williams, 50, decided to return to college for good. For more than 30 years, she had raised three children – two are in college – and worked full-time at World Vision.

But after seeing some of her friends and family members go through painful divorces, and while experiencing struggles with her own marriage, Dawn found her calling: to become a marriage and family counselor. So she went back to school.

“To be honest, it’s a bit overwhelming and intimidating to go back to school at this age,” she said. “But I think my life experience will be relevant to what I learn in this field, and will help

me relate to my future clients. And I would love to create programs for teens and young adults on marriage and relationships to better prepare them for success.”

Dawn is on her way: She will graduate from TCC next spring and transfer to the University of Washington, Tacoma. She was the recipient of the Drs. Les & Estelle Reid Annual Scholarship and the Margaret Oldfield Endowed Scholarship.

“When I was awarded these scholarships, I knew it was my opportunity to get back in school and pursue a new career,” she said. “I will succeed because others have invested in me, and I want to make them proud and give back to my community.”

thank you to our 2015-2016 donors

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Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. If we have misspelled or omitted your name, please accept our most sincere apology and let us know by contacting the office of Development and Alumni Relations at 253.566.5003 or FoundationInfo@tacomacc.edu.



WHAT'S AHEAD?

New Health & Wellness Facility will open spring quarter 2017

Amid classes, exams and off-campus jobs, college students may have difficulty prioritizing their own health and wellness. The students of TCC recognized that self-care is critical, not only for physical health, but also for spiritual and mental well-being.

In 2013, a group of TCC students gathered a wish list of legacy projects for the campus. After seeking feedback, students

nominated their top project: expanding the college's current gym and athletic building to the new Health and Wellness Center.

"Students wanted to expand access for fitness opportunities, with a focus on healthy lifestyles," said Mary Chikwinya, Vice President for Student Services. "It was about taking care of yourself and being healthy." The project was approved, paid for by student fees and TCC capital funds.

"It's going to be a wonderful place not only for our students and athletes, but for our community," Chikwinya said. "The community can attend high-quality sporting events, without the high costs, but with the same level of fun, suspense and thrills."

The other bonus? TCC will bring commencement back on campus – for the first time in years. "Commencement will come back home to our campus, where it was meant to be," Chikwinya said.



The facility will feature:

- 32,000 square foot new addition
- 16,000 square foot renovation
- Gym/event center with 2 NCAA-sized basketball courts
- 3,000-seat event capacity
- New restrooms, concessions, offices, training room
- New student lounge area
- Renovation of existing restrooms and locker rooms
- Expansion and renovation of existing fitness center
- Code-required building upgrades



Babe and Herman Lehrer Japanese Friendship Garden



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