

Lower Columbia College Minutes

Operations Council – April 28, 2026

Attending: Kristen Finnel, Magnus Altmayer, Jason Arrowsmith, Merry Bond, Henry Brewster, Stefanie Gilberti, Wendy Hall, Richard Hamilton, Dani Hart, Andie Ingram, Michaela Jackson, Kari Johnson, Mindy Leasure, Donna Myers, Sam Orth, Natalie Richie, Lupe Rodriguez, Dan Ruiz, Laura Sampson, Nichole Seroshek, Sheila Timm, April Tovar Villa, Rheannon Van de Voorde, and Tracy Powell.

Called to order by Interim President Finnel

MEETING TOPICS

- Operations Council Procedural Template: The council discussed and approved the revised template.
- Policies and Procedures
 - Administrative Policy 272 - Complaints: Reviewed for discussion only. Revisions will be incorporated, and policy 272 will advance to UMCC, ELT, and then the campus for review.
 - Administrative Policy 701 - Acceptable Use of Information Systems and Services: Reviewed for discussion only. Revisions will be incorporated, and policy 701 will advance through the approval process.
 - Administrative Procedure 701.1A - Acceptable Use of Information Systems and Services: Sam Orth clarified the procedure's intent. Revisions will be incorporated, and procedure 701.1A will advance through the approval process.
 - Administrative Procedure 720.1A - Ensuring Accessibility of Online Content: Reviewed for discussion only. Procedure 720.1A will advance in the approval process.
 - Administrative Procedure 701.3A - Forms: A new procedure designating Jotform as the college's official forms system due to its accessibility features. Wendy Hall noted the accessibility deadline has been extended to April 2027, but accessibility efforts will continue. Procedure 701.3A will advance through the approval process.
 - Administrative Policy 101 - Shared Governance: The policy was revised in accordance with NWCCU recommendations. Additional revisions will be incorporated, and policy 101 will advance in the approval process.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION (if time allows)

None

The FY26 Q3 Operations Council Quarterly Report begins on the following page.

LOWER COLUMBIA COLLEGE OPERATIONS COUNCIL QUARTERLY REPORT - APRIL 2026

Effectiveness & College Relations

- Accessibility
 - The 2026 Accessibility Race (form and document/materials conversion competition) will be announced in May. The intent is to accelerate compliance with new WCAG accessibility standards that took effect in April 2026.
- Accreditation
 - LCC received a “substantially in compliance but in need of improvement” rating for the one recommendation resulting from the October 2025 visit. That keeps the college on track with its regularly scheduled accreditation cycle. Next up is the mid-cycle report and evaluation in fall 2028.
- Assessment
 - Faculty completed section C of the Curriculum and Program Review instrument and participated in multiple sessions regarding the Global Skill Teamwork during the spring assessment day held on April 2, 2026.
- ctcLink
 - Partnered with Human Resources to complete the HCM pillar security role audit.
 - Conducted a pre-audit review in Campus Solutions for faculty, part-time faculty, CiHS, and continuing education instructors; the instruction security role audit is scheduled for the spring quarter.
 - Audited user access for the SBCTC legacy applications (LegacyLink and Legacy Transcript).
 - Completed user acceptance testing for the automated apprenticeship waiver; now live in ctcLink.
 - Facilitated configuration of the online admissions application portal for apprenticeship application types.
 - Provided PS Query support across departments:
 - Edited: QFS_GL_AR_ACCTG_LINE (Finance), QCS_SR_ENRL_REQ_DTL (Campus Solutions)
 - Created (in development): DEV_GRAD_CHECKOUT_ELIGBL, DEV_SR_STGRP_NO_TA

- Coordinated with Financial Aid to configure new student groups for targeted outreach based on loan status.
- Created a new service indicator for visiting students to streamline registration.
- Enrollment
 - At 2,234 (state) and 2,862 (total), overall winter 2026 enrollments finished well above the prior year.
 - State FTE +5.5%.
 - Total FTE +8.3%.
 - Academic Transfer FTE +11.6%.
 - Professional/Technical FTE +15.3%.
 - Running Start FTE +17.1%.
- Institutional Research
 - Hosted faculty data labs during Winter Assessment Day to support Curriculum and Program Review.
 - Published the 2024-25 LCC Fact Book.
 - Facilitated four Employee Budget forums and sent a budget forum tracking sheet to all employees (January/February).
 - Hosted annual institutional monitoring planning lunches with new protocol (January/February).
 - Conducted eight Student Listening & Feedback Sessions in collaboration with the Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (February) and posted the reports to the LCC website.
 - Launched the annual Student Satisfaction Survey.
- Marketing
 - Direct email campaigns were sent in the winter quarter for the following programs:
 - Medical Assisting
 - BSN
 - BAS-TE
 - BAS-OLTM
 - Fitness Programs
 - Note: Direct messaging for the BSCS program went through Outreach
 - LCC's adult learners 2026 enrollment campaign ran from January 2 to February 16, and the spring 2026 campaign ran from January 19 to March 30. All platforms and campaigns performed above industry average.
 - Adult Learners (cost per contact: \$.76*)
 - META (Facebook and Instagram)
 - English
 - Impressions: 89,142

- Clicks: 2,023
 - CTR: 2.27% (compared to 0.95% industry average)
- Spanish
 - Impressions: 109,041
 - Clicks: 1,616
 - CTR: 1.48% (compared to 0.95% industry average)
- Google
 - Impressions: 9,275
 - Clicks: 1,573
 - Click-Through Rate: 16.96% (compared to 2.00% industry average)
 - Phone calls generated: 43
- Spring Enrollment (figures not final) (cost per contact: \$.77*)
 - META (Facebook and Instagram)
 - Impressions: 128,481
 - Clicks: 3,478
 - CTR: 2.71% (compared to 0.95% industry average)
 - Google
 - Impressions: 19,872
 - Clicks: 3,596
 - Click-Through Rate: 18.10% (compared to 2.00% industry average)
 - Phone calls generated: 42
 - Snapchat
 - Impressions: 26,402
 - Clicks: 850
 - Click-Through Rate: 3.22% (compared to 0.75 industry average)
 - Streaming Television
 - Impressions: 21,453
 - View Completion Rate: 98.31% (compared to 96.00% industry average)
 - Geofence
 - Impressions: 90.668
 - Clicks: 503
 - Click-Through Rate: 0.55% (compared to 0.13% industry average)

*Average cost per contact is \$2.00-4.00 or higher.

- Advertising with all local radio stations, The Daily News, and the Wahkiakum County Eagle is ongoing (focusing on quarterly enrollment).

- Media Coverage

- [Following a heart attack, financial struggle, Kelso 1989 grad to earn college degree](#) - Thirty years ago, Castle Rock resident Dember Martin left Lower Columbia College with failing grades and an incomplete degree. | The Daily News | Mar 14, 2026
- [Lower Columbia College extends interim president's contract](#) - The Lower Columbia College Board of Trustees voted unanimously on Wednesday to extend interim President Kristen Finnel's contract through Aug. 31. | The Daily News | Mar 13, 2026
- [Over \\$5 Million in Capital Funding Proposed for Washington's 19th District](#) - The funding would go towards improvements at Lower Columbia College, upgrades to emergency response systems, affordable housing preservation, veterans housing support, and other critical local infrastructure across the rural communities in the district. | Aberdeen Today | Mar 05, 2026
- [Longview civil engineers, LCC class team up to train future land surveyors](#) - From hands-on demonstrations with state-of-the-art equipment to expert guidance on topographic maps, Lower Columbia College engineering students got a glimpse into the lives of land surveyors and the ways civil engineers rely on their work. | The Daily News | Feb 08, 2026
- [Lower Columbia College board votes to end president contract without cause](#) - The Lower Columbia College Board of Trustees voted unanimously to end President Matt Seimears' contract for convenience during a special meeting Monday evening. | The Reflector | Jan 28, 2026
- [LCC Fighting Smelt finish third in speech and debate tournament](#) - The Lower Columbia College Fighting Smelt Speech and Debate Team finished third of 21 schools at the Fred Scheller Invitational online tournament hosted by Pacific University. | The Daily News | Jan 27, 2026
- [Lower Columbia College board votes to fire president without cause](#) - The Lower Columbia College Board of Trustees voted unanimously to fire President Matt Seimears for convenience during a special meeting Monday evening. | The Daily News | Jan 27, 2026
- [LCC alumnus says donor recruitment paused during Seimears leave](#) - A longtime donor threatened to pull a planned \$2 million donation, and an alumnus who recruits donors fears additional withdrawals, following the Lower Columbia College board's decision to place its president on administrative leave earlier this month. | The Daily News | Jan 23, 2026
- [Lower Columbia College appoints interim president](#) - The Lower Columbia College Board of Trustees voted last week to officially appoint Vice President of Instruction Kristen Finnel as interim president. | The Columbian | Jan 18, 2026
- [LCC Foundation names Richard Nau Benefactor of the Year](#) - The Lower Columbia College Foundation named Richard Nau as its 2025-2026 Benefactor of the Year. | The Daily News | Jan 16, 2026
- [Lower Columbia College appoints interim president](#) - The Lower Columbia College Board of Trustees has voted to officially appoint Vice President of

- Organic Social Media Analytics

- LCC's social media channels are performing well, and engagement rates are above average.

	Followers	New followers since Fall 2024	Page & Profile Impressions	Engagement*
LinkedIn	9,562	+158	14,417	3.19%
Facebook	7,529	+165	437,168	4.62%
Instagram	1,743	+116	74,431	3.75%

*The average engagement rate for higher education is 2.92%.

- Website Analytics

- Visits to the LCC website decreased notably, while visits to the “apply” page increased slightly.

	Winter quarter 2025 (Jan 1 - March 31)	Winter quarter 2026 (Jan 1 - March 31)	Percent change
Visits to the LCC homepage	153,669	93,978	-39.0%
Visits to the Apply page	12,450	12,602	+1.2%

- Top 10 page visits between January 1 and March 31, 2026:

1. Canvas login
2. LCC homepage
3. Academic Calendar
4. Faculty and Staff homepage
5. ctcLink
6. Apply for admission
7. Career Pathways (Programs of Study)
8. Nursing homepage

- 9. Current students homepage
- 10. Class Schedule

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

- Student Programs
 - Films and Chats on Diversity
 - Field Trips with Multicultural Club
 - Hispanic Serving Institution-Emerging-Official registration

Instruction

- Early Learning Center
 - At the national level, child care payment structure continues to be a major topic of discussion.
 - Subsidized families account for approximately 75% of our children served.
 - Federal proposals and ongoing conversations are exploring a shift back toward attendance-based payments, rather than enrollment-based payments.
 - Enrollment-based payments provide more predictable and stable revenue for providers, while attendance-based models can fluctuate when children are absent, creating uncertain revenue streams.
 - Closely watching these discussions, as changes to payment structure could directly impact provider stability, staffing, and the ability to maintain consistent care for families.
 - Celebrated the 100th day of school on Feb 12th.
 - Kids dressed up like they were 100 years old.
 - 78 people attended the hosted dinner and participated in family activities. The children received a free book.
- Head Start
 - Enrollment - 100%
 - **Federal Monitoring Review May 19-22** – A monitoring team will be on campus and visiting all off-campus centers. Interviews will be scheduled for members of the board, ELT, Policy Council, and Head Start staff. Our department's fiscal team will coordinate with the finance office during this week.
 - **Program Planning & Implementation** - Required annual Self-Assessment, Community Assessment, and Program Goals updates were

completed in the Winter quarter and approved by the Board and Policy Council.

- Fiscal
 - Received a \$38,000 fiscal sponsorship from PeaceHealth to support nutrition services. We are thrilled by this generosity!
 - Spending is on track based on projections for all grants.
 - Completed applications for the federal Head Start Continuation grant and the federal Head Start Change in Scope grant.
 - Both ECEAP and Head Start are flat-funded. With no funding increases, the program is seeking solutions to cover the cost of employee COLA's, increment increases, and rising costs.
 - Expansion RFA – Began planning for ECEAP for more slots.
- Workforce Stability
 - A strong focus has been on growing the early learning workforce. We recruit part-time center aides and connect them with the LCC ECE department.
 - Staff Wellness Bingo was a success in March. Two sessions were well attended and provided opportunities for fun, connection, and peer support.
- **Parent Spotlight** - In February, staff and three program parents spent the week advocating for ECEAP, Child Care, and Head Start, ensuring that lawmakers understood just how vital these programs are to our community. Here are a few highlights from the trip:
 - Alexia graduated from the Washington State Association for Head Start and ECEAP (WSA) Parent Ambassadors Program. Way to finish strong!
 - Justice was elected the President-Elect of the WSA Board, a massive leadership role that will help shape the future of advocacy in our state.
 - Elizabeth attended for the first time and truly found her voice. After powerful conversations with our legislators, she was selected to the 25-26 WSA Parent Ambassadors Cohort to continue the legacy of parent leadership and advocacy.
 - The most moving part of the week was hearing them speak to lawmakers. All three shared how much their lives—and their children's lives—have been transformed by the care and family support the programs provide.

- Instructional Programs
 - Apprenticeship
 - New and Expanded Apprenticeship Pathways:
 - Developed a new Registered Apprenticeship partnership with C-Tran, aligning with the Diesel Technology AAS degree.
 - Expanded non-registered apprenticeship programs with Weyerhaeuser–Longview Lumber and Westrock-Box Plan, aligning with LCC’s Welding and Automation, Instrumentation, and Robotics programs, supporting hands-on training to meet regional workforce needs.
 - Industrial Technology
 - Automotive and Diesel:
 - Hosted a Snap-on/NC3 “Lunch and Learn” event with regional CTE leaders in automotive and diesel to expand industry certification pathways.
 - Welding:
 - Renewed WABO Accreditation
 - Maintained eligibility as a certified testing site and ensured graduates can earn industry-recognized credentials that enhance their competitiveness in the workforce.
 - Library & Learning Commons
 - Usage Snapshot:
 - Answered over 1,603 questions.
 - Classrooms and teaching areas were reserved 192 times
 - Study rooms and meeting spaces were reserved 327 times.
 - Chromebooks were checked out 25 times.
 - eLearning data:
 - 217 Online Asynchronous courses
 - 9 Online Synchronous courses
 - 98 Hybrid courses
 - 2 Flex courses
 - 169 In-person (web-enhanced) courses
 - 38 In-person (not web-enhanced) courses
 - 14 not designate
 - All courses are credit-bearing courses; for charts and more details, check out the [eLearning Wednesday Report](#).
 - Instruction:
 - Faculty librarians conducted 20 information literacy instruction sessions to over 295 students and facilitated online, asynchronous support in 3 classes.

- Librarians met with 45 unique students over 70 one-on-one appointments at the reference desk.
- Tutoring:
 - Served a minimum of 157 individual students.
 - Supported 366 tutoring sessions
 - 324 in-person and 42 were online
 - 74% of the students receiving Tutoring assistance at the Tutoring Center earned a 2.0 or higher
 - Students utilizing eTutoring:
 - 13 students had Zoom tutoring sessions
 - 9 students had eWriting sessions
 - Renewed Level 1 certification as a tutor training program by the internationally recognized College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA).
- Professional & Continuing Education
 - Professional & Continuing Education will be offering an 8-week Applied Workplace Leadership Program in partnership with four OLTM program faculty members in the fall. The program will focus on leadership in the workplace, self-awareness of leadership strengths, creating cultures that thrive, emotional intelligence and interpersonal communication, leading & influencing teams through change, and networking & mentorship. Information about the program can be found on our [PACE webpage](#).
 - Continuing Education enrollment is strong, with nearly 200 registrations for winter quarter classes
- BAS: Organizational Leadership & Technical Management Programs
 - Strong connections to Industry and Students: LCC's BAS-OLTM program hosted a Leadership After Hours event featuring a guest speaker from Fibre Federal Credit Union, bringing together current and emerging students, alumni, and community members to support networking, leadership development, and career pathway exploration.
 - Redesigned curriculum to reduce student barriers and improve time to completion: LCC redesigned the ENVS 440 curriculum to include a Natural Science with Lab competency, reducing required coursework by 5 credits and improving time to completion for future students while maintaining program learning outcomes.
- Math
 - For Fall '25, 23% of new students took math in their first quarter, up from 18% and 16% in previous Fall quarters. This is a key metric

towards the Guided Pathways goal of 50% of new students completing their math requirement in the first year.

- College and Career Prep

- In Winter Quarter 30 college prep students, 127 HS+ students, 46 GED prep students, and 78 ELL students attended classes with College and Career Preparation.
- 21 HS+ students completed requirements for their high school diploma.
- In Winter Quarter, College and Career Preparation implemented a new managed enrollment model in concert with new mid-quarter start classes. Students who enroll in CCP classes after week 2 could enroll in a COLL 101 class that started week 4, as well as a late-start Math Level C-D (MATH 79/88) class that started week 5. Half of the students enrolled in the mid-quarter start COLL 101 class completed the course with a passing grade, and all of the students in the mid-quarter start math class completed either Level C (MATH 79) or Level D (MATH 88) by the end of the quarter.
- College and Career Preparation hosted a group of students from Kalama High School on February 27th for a presentation on the English Language Learning (ELL) Program. The presentation included information about classes offered through ELL, the enrollment process, and discussed how students could use the additional English language classes to strengthen skills before transitioning into college-level programs, including those that offer I-BEST support.
- In March, CCP completed and submitted the applications for the 2026-2027 Basic Education for Adults (BEdA) Basic and IELCE grants.
- In late January, College and Career Preparation wrapped up a Program Review with SBCTC BEdA staff. SBCTC had several commendations for CCP, including the successful and expansive work on articulation agreements that allow CCP students to transition directly into college-level math and English courses, as well as an overall excellent understanding of BEdA requirements. There were no corrective actions identified.

- Instructional Operations

- Office of Instruction

- Hosted our annual Faculty Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday, April 2nd, from 11:30-1:00 pm in the STC conference rooms! It was a great success, and four lucky winners solved the trivia to win prizes.

- Instructional Leadership participated in a Leadership Training focusing on Strengthening Supervision & Team Morale in Higher Education back in January. The training provided the team with tools, strategies, and evidence-based practices needed to reimagine supervision and cultivate a workplace culture of engagement, trust, and transparency. Drawing on recent findings from CUPA-HR (College and University Professional Association for Higher Education) and national research, participants explored how intentional leadership, structured communication, and well-being-centered supervision can transform teams and strengthen institutional outcomes.
- Completed our annual review of student program maps for the 26/27AY.
 - Maps outline a student class sequence from start to finish.
 - Available on the LCC website.
- Completed the annual review of student fee proposals for the 26/27AY.
 - The Board will review in the spring
 - Effective date of Fall Quarter 2026.

○ Rose Center for the Arts

- Supported 800 local high school & middle school programs from 25 different schools with the opportunity to both rehearse and perform in RCA for the annual Southwest Washington Music Educators Association Festivals (choir, band, and orchestra).
- Supported 11 visual art performances for Drama, Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Choir
- Managed the box office ticketing through the Ticketsource platform for 1 external event rental, generating \$388 in revenue for RCA
- Hosted 62 external event rentals in the building.

● Workforce & Career Services

○ Basic Needs programs

- Use of the food pantry remained high compared to the same time last year.
 - 309 students checked into the food pantry for support 2,386 times, a 28% increase in student visits.
- Benefits Pilot Outreach: Using data from WSAC and DSHS, Workforce & Career Services staff identified students who were potentially eligible for SNAP benefits and were not currently enrolled.
 - Conducted a targeted outreach campaign to 376 of these students; 43% opened the communication, and many received subsequent follow-up support to apply for public

benefits. Additionally, students were referred to campus resources, including BFET and emergency aid programs.

- Workforce & Career programs

- Met with at least 458 individual students for 951 appointments to provide support for academic and career advising, access to basic needs and public benefits, referrals to resources, and other support.
- 65 students dropped in for assistance with completing applications for book vouchers, emergency aid, workforce funding, or other support requests.
- Enrollment in the Passport to College program, which supports former foster youth and unaccompanied homeless youth, has increased significantly this year.
 - 53 students have received academic, financial, and personal support in the 2025-26 academic year, compared to 34 the year prior (a 56% increase in enrollment).
- WorkFirst Policy Expansion: As a result of state-level policy changes, WorkFirst students are now able to pursue baccalaureate programs, including Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS), Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), and Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSCS) degrees, provided the programs align with the students' specific occupational goals.

Student Services

- Registration
 - Total admission applications decreased by 5% compared to the same period last year (from 1,505 to 1,430), prompting concerns about future enrollment growth. However, the number of applications flagged for potential fraud decreased 29% (from 472 to 333) while our accuracy in detecting fraudulent applications has improved. This more than explains the apparent decrease in real student applications, but this data will continue to be monitored.
 - The sophistication of fraudulent applicants continues to grow, and Registration staff are regularly catching AI-generated fake IDs, selfies, and other documents. In response, a new identity verification was implemented. Students who have been flagged as potentially fraudulent by other colleges, or whose identities cannot be easily verified by reviewing their submitted documents, will now complete a live ID verification in person or via Zoom before they can enroll. Automated Jotform workflows make this process seamless and require little manual intervention, and the verification process can still be completed in a few minutes by a legitimate student.

- Staff co-chairs the SBCTC fraud controls workgroup, which is working with a software vendor to implement advanced fraud-detection controls in the ctcLink online application system. Phase 1 of the project is currently in software development and is on track for deployment by June 1. These new fraud controls will prevent applications submitted by bad actors from ever reaching ctcLink, and this project is a core part of a long-term, sustainable solution to this growing statewide problem.
 - Began awarding foreign language credit to students who earn the Washington State Seal of Biliteracy in high school. Local high school administrators have been enthusiastically promoting LCC as the only nearby college – and one of only a few in the state – to award credit for this achievement.
 - Collaborating with the Testing Center to launch a “preliminary placement” procedure. This will create a new pathway for determining a student’s English and Math placement by utilizing data from unofficial transcripts without requiring students to submit documents to multiple departments or wait for a transcript evaluation to be completed.
 - Registration, Advising, and Financial Aid continue to collaborate on refining the new ineligible coursework procedure. This improved process resulted in fewer errors, clearer communication, and proactive student engagement ahead of the start of spring quarter.
- Financial Aid & Veteran Services
 - While many institutions are seeing a dip in aid applicants, LCC is seeing record-breaking growth compared to two years ago.
 - Comparing Winter 2026 to Winter 2024, the number of students receiving aid increased by 29% (from 988 in 2024 to 1,273 in 2026).
 - 40% increase in federal and state grants awarded, jumping from \$2.7M to nearly \$3.9M in the same time period, comparing Winter 2026 to Winter 2024
 - The VA student population has grown 20% over the last two years, and the 25/26 Academic Year is on track to be another record-breaker.
 - The "Stay on Track" communications continue to remind students that classes must be required for their program to be aid-eligible. Thank you to all campus partners who continue to help reinforce this message.
 - The Washington State Need Grant program is consistently ranked in the Top 3 most generous in the nation.
 - Despite that generosity, Washington usually ranks among the bottom five (45th or lower) for FAFSA filing rates (currently 43rd).
 - However, Washington state is currently 21st in the nation for year-over-year growth, showing the state is moving in the right direction!
 - SW Washington Region (ESD 112) is typically near the bottom of the state for filers. Looking at 2026 High School seniors, ESD 112 is currently at #8 of 9 state-wide ESDs.

- Financial aid applicants for the 2025/2026 are 4,220, compared to 3,617 at this time last year (2024/2025) (+16.7%).
 - The Department of Education is finalizing rules for the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OB3), effective July 1, 2026. The Financial Aid Team is preparing to assist students and campus partners in navigating upcoming changes
 - Loans will now be prorated based on "enrollment intensity." Students attending less than full-time will likely see a reduction in their loan eligibility.
 - If a student receives a loan but fails to complete all attempted credits, their eligibility may be recalculated at the end of the quarter based only on successfully completed credits.
- One Stop
 - The One-Stop Center implemented a new kiosk self-check-in system that allows students to check in independently without waiting in line. The self-check-in model allowed frontline staff to shift from intake to answering phone calls.
 - While the One Stop Center saw a 7.4% increase in traffic compared to last year, improved triage, new efficiencies, and an “all hands on deck” approach during peak times significantly reduced student wait times by 54%.
- Advising
 - Continued expansion of advisor access during priority registration
 - Two additional advisors are shifting to full drop-in advising.
 - Winter-to-spring retention rate of 81%, a 5% improvement over last year.
 - Implemented a new Red Devil Welcome Canvas course for new students, giving them a valuable first-quarter resource that connects them to financial aid information, technology support, emergency funding, and other critical resources to help them navigate their first quarter successfully.
 - The Health Sciences advising team improved its hold removal process during priority registration, doubling the number of holds removed for students with academic plans on file and clearing holds for 280 students. This increased access to advising for students with higher needs and reduced appointment wait times during peak registration by 40%.
 - The STEM advisor collaborated with 12 STEM faculty to host a new STEM Night event. The event was attended by 34 students, some of whom brought their families. Students received advising support, and they had access to connect with STEM faculty and network with peers.

- Testing

- Began administering CASAS exams in January 2026 and built a new process that improved access, strengthened customer service, expanded options for students with disabilities, added remote testing, and created a self-scheduling flow for students. The transition was seamless, with an improved student experience, and the work was absorbed using existing resources.
- Proctored 2,119 LCC course exams during Winter quarter, for 580 unduplicated students, compared to 1,915 exams and 466 students in Winter 2025. In addition, the Testing team supported faculty proctoring needs by processing 173 proctoring and lab reservation requests.
- Evaluated 144 Multiple Measures placements and processed 322 Math Directed Self Placement submissions and 356 English Directed Self Placement submissions, including 37 English Directed Self Placement opt-in submissions. The team also proctored 67 Math Directed Self Placement exams in person and 12 via Zoom.
- Administered 268 PearsonVUE exams, 12 Measure exams, 396 employment exams, 117 pesticide exams, 19 Kryterion exams, and 6 CLEP exams.

- TRIO

- Completed intake appointments with 35 new students.
- Submitted the annual performance report to the Department of Education and met and exceeded all required grant outcomes.
- Took 12 students to the Hopscotch interactive art exhibit in Portland, OR on Friday, Jan. 23rd.
- Took 12 students to OMSI in Portland, OR on Friday, Feb. 13th.
- Participated in the LCC Transfer Fair on Tuesday, March 3, where we met with potential students and completed 5 new student intakes into the program.
- Took 10 students to The Evergreen State College on Friday, March 6, for an admissions presentation and campus tour.
- Took 13 students on a three-day/two-night campus tour trip from March 24th to 26th to visit Central Washington University, Washington State University (Pullman), University of Idaho, and Eastern Washington University, where they received admissions presentations and campus tours.

- Running Start

- Spring Enrollment WA Running Start:
 - 512 Running Start students started the Spring quarter
 - New Schools for Spring Quarter:

- Chehalis School District: WF West High School
 - Montesano School District: Montesano Jr-Sr High School
 - Adna School District: Adna Middle High School
 - Snoqualmie Valley School District: Mount Si High School
- Spring Enrollment for Oregon Dual Credit
 - Rainier, Oregon, Dual Credit:
 - 12 students started the Spring quarter
 - Retained 12 of 17 from Winter to Spring, 71% Retention
 - Average GPA Winter 3.299
 - Clatskanie, Oregon, Dual Credit:
 - Retained 2 of 3 from Winter to Spring
 - Average GPA Winter 3.983
- **Running Start Book Loan Program Growth:** Students supported through the book loan program persisted at over 96% from Winter to Spring 2026. At the same time, the program expanded by nearly 23% compared to last year, demonstrating both increased demand and a meaningful impact on student continuation.
 - **Winter 2026:** 107 students → **Spring 2026:** 103 students (93% persistence)
 - **Spring 2025:** 84 students → **Spring 2026:** 103 students (+23% increase) indicates an increase in demand and awareness.
- **Student Engagement:** Interviews with current and former students, content filmed in classroom settings
 - Visit LCC Running Start Instagram & Facebook to view student interviews
 - Kelso/Longview Chamber of Commerce Community Growth & Local Impact March Newsletter Volume 18, Issue 3: From Running Start to the Classroom and Beyond: Local Student Success Stories: <https://www.kelsolongviewchamber.org/2026/03/03/february-2026-copy/>
- Academic Standing Outcomes from Winter 2026
 - 73 Academic Standing for Winter quarter
 - 14 did not register for Winter 2026
 - 59 Enrolled Winter 2026
 - 34 went to Good Standing Spring 2026
 - 25 went to the Academic Notice Spring 2026
 - Academic Standing for Spring 2026
 - 66 Academic Standing for Spring 2026
 - 19 did not register for Spring 2026
 - Suspensions: 0 students
 - 47 Enrolled Spring 2026
 - Notice: 9 students
 - Concern: 38 students
 - Average Winter GPA: 3.274
 - Good Standing: 465

- Outreach
 - Outreach completed the following:
 - 2 – FAFSA at partner sites
 - 3 - FAFSA/Scholarship events at LCC
 - 7 – College Fairs
 - 2 – Application Days
 - 21 – Partner high school visits; tabling and office hours
 - 4 – Faculty presentation
 - 2 – Dual credit presentations
 - 13 – Senior Success events
 - 7 –Tours
 - 1 – Community event
 - Interacted with 1013 students. In March, Outreach began its Senior Success program, which prepares students for college by assisting with admission applications, onboarding, and FAFSA/scholarship completion, culminating in our Senior Success NSA day in May. Outreach is currently working with 104 high school seniors.
 - Hosted the 4th annual Brothers in Power Conference (formerly Men of Color) on March 27. Twenty-nine students attended. The event included 3 breakout sessions, a student panel, and an employer panel.
 - In partnership with Red Canoe Credit Union, taught a course on Financial Literacy to 66 Woodland Middle School AVID students.
 - The new rural navigator began on March 2, following the previous navigator's departure on Dec 31.
- Disability & Access
 - Conducted 78 new student intakes Winter Quarter 2026, which is 31% increase over Winter 2025 (54).
 - Provided accommodations to 170 students, which is a slight increase over the previous year (162).
 - Provided accommodations to 20 ELL students and 18 Title IX students, both a slight increase over the previous year.
 - Purchased 6 adjustable tables for nursing classroom locations. The goal is to make the nursing classrooms more accessible for students, particularly in lab settings.
 - Began proctoring the CASAS placement exam for CCP-seeking students approved for DAS accommodations. This ensures students have greater access to and support when taking this exam.

International Programs

- Student Achievement & Enrollment
 - Academic Achievement
 - In Winter 2026, 9 of our 28 international students (67.86%) were on the Honors List, with 14 students (50%) on the President's List, and 5 students (17.86%) on the Dean's List.
 - 13 of our 28 international students (46%) are on track to graduate in June 2026. We are thrilled to celebrate their academic achievement!
 - 8 out of 13 graduating students intend to continue their education in the U.S. Many have begun accepting admissions to universities, including but not limited to Washington State University and the University of Oregon. Other offers received include California Baptist University and Union University.
 - Enrollment
 - In Winter, we had 28 international students enrolled in 427 credits.
 - For Spring 2026, we welcomed one new student! For the last three years, we have welcomed one student in the Spring term.
 - Spring is the start of peak application submission for the Fall term. We look forward to receiving applications. Have a referral? Send them to us!
 - Marketing
 - Published 28 posts and reels to our Instagram ([international lowercolumbia](#)) and gained 26 followers! From December 30 to March 30, we had 21,100 views, of which 49.5% were from non-followers.
 - Published 20 blog posts (not counting translations). With the hiring of new student ambassadors (the authors of the blog), we now have posts in Vietnamese. See all the great posts at: lowercolumbia.edu/international/newsletters
 - In collaboration with ECR, we refreshed our website (check out the new home page) and created a brochure for global partners.
 - Built an "Introduction Packet" for new global partners, including our introduction presentation, history of the IP office, and answering foundational questions that cause pause to international audiences (what is a community college, what is the meaning of our name, Lower Columbia).
- Campus Internationalization & Global Partnerships
 - COIL – Through the Steven's Initiative, we offered one COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) course in Winter 2026 and will offer two courses in Spring 2026. The partners for these projects are based in Morocco and the United Arab Emirates. All colleagues have been

communicative and understanding of adaptations due to the war in the region.

- Dana Cummings and Andie Ingram presented the LCC COIL Expansion Strategy to mentors and peers of the Stevens Initiative and PNW-MENA Consortium. We will share with VPAL in Spring 2026.
- Short-Term – We welcomed eight students for a three-week, short-term program with Atomi University from February 13 to March 8, 2026. This was our 11th year and 13th cohort of short-term students with Atomi University. This cohort was repeatedly described as the most willing to engage. The cohort visited local Longview businesses and was featured on mylongview.com. See the article at <https://mylongview.com/m/NewsFlash/home/detail/1273>.
- Short-Term – Moved to the next phase of conversations for hosting a short-term program from a Japanese high school in Summer 2027.
- Study Abroad (outbound)
 - Participating in a one-year initiative from the Forum for Education Abroad and CIBER Consortium for Education Abroad (CC/FEA), which provides training and mentorship to enable us to expand LCC's study abroad capacity. The team attends monthly virtual workshops and receives year-long mentorship. We are developing the infrastructure to enable LCC to host our own faculty-led short-term and global service-learning programs. We have a pilot program proposal that will be reviewed in Spring 2026 for a 2027 launch.
 - LCC students are applying for Summer and Fall study abroad programs. One LCC student has been admitted to the Fall 2026 program in Japan! Applications are open for [Summer in South Korea, Summer in Costa Rica, and Fall in Dublin](#).
 - We polished our campus policies and procedures for study abroad credit with the Instruction and Registration offices.
- A few Student Stories (of soon-to-be graduates): These snapshots include inputs from campus supervisors and IP staff.
 - Maritza, who came to LCC from China via Mexico, has taken on new challenges with great determination. When she first arrived in the U.S., cooking was completely new to her, but she's been bravely trying recipes and discovering local foods, especially while working at the food pantry. She's now driving and even giving rides to fellow
 - international students, helping them get around with her new wheels. She has been the big sister, helping new students navigate LCC systems and U.S. requirements, such as tax filing. Her English has grown so much, and her kindness and confidence continue to shine.
 - Jin, who came to LCC from South Korea through an exchange program at an Oregon high school, recently accepted an offer of admission from the University of Oregon with a \$25,000 annual scholarship. While at LCC, he has worked at the Men's Basketball Team since Fall 2025, and has been an active member of the Pickleball Club and International Club. Jin may

seem reserved at first, yet talk to him, and you'll see his personality shine, including how he is quick to help others.

- Yuika, from Japan, has made exciting strides toward independence. She just got her driver's license, rides her bike to campus almost every day, and recently went on a nature-filled adventure to Hawaii with friends. On top of that, she's a proud member of the LCC choir, sharing her love of music with the campus community. Her energy, independence, and adventurous spirit make her shine both on campus and beyond.

Human Resources & Foundation

- Foundation

- Accomplishments & Campaign Updates

- Alumni Membership grew to 1,363 members in the first quarter of 2026.
- The Opportunity Can't Wait Campaign successfully concluded as the largest fundraising initiative in LCC history, raising \$15,655,837 (104% of the goal). Key outcomes include 35 new scholarships, 14 new planned gifts, and 483 new Alumni Association members.
- The Campaign Impact Report was printed and mailed out to top donors, Industry partners, community leaders, and campaign volunteers
- Financial Audit: The FY 2024-2025 financial statement audit was completed in January with no major errors found.
- Annual Report to the Community: Over 10,000 copies were printed and mailed to the community in February.
- Year-End Appeal: Concluded in January, raising a total of \$64,393.53 for the College Success Fund.
- Students in Need Campaign: Launched March 14 with a goal of \$50,000; as of late March, \$22,285 has been raised, with a \$15,000 matching gift challenge from Pat Martin.
- Applications for 2026-27 Exceptional Faculty and Foundation Grants opened March 17, with over \$147,000 in projected funding available.
- Gifts & Pledges for January, February, and March totaled \$856,699.

- Scholarships

- 2025-26 Cycle 2: All 119 awards (totaling \$224,000) were distributed by the end of January. Student biographies and thank-you letters were mailed to donors in March along with the Annual Scholarship Booklet.
- 2026-27 Main Cycle: Opened March 1st (closing April 30th) with nearly \$717,000 available. The Foundation is currently recruiting reviewers for the May scoring period.

- Scholarship Workshops: Ongoing sessions held on campus and at local high schools throughout March to assist students with the 2026-27 application process.
 - 2026-27 Solicitations: Annual scholarship renewal requests were sent to over 70 scholarship representatives in early February.
- Human Resources
 - The Talent Acquisition Specialist position remains vacant due to budget cuts. Duties have been redistributed to the HR team.
 - HR is serving on the management team for the 27-29 WFSE HE bargaining and has begun preparation with the team. Formal bargaining days with the union begin in April.
 - Onboarding
 - New Hires and Internal Moves
 - Rosalia Basurto-Caballero, Head Start Center Aide (01/16/2026)
 - Rachel Cox, Nursing Simulation Technician (01/16/2026)
 - Bryanna Doumit, Rural Outreach Navigator (03/02/2026)
 - Tashauna Kilmer, PT Exempt Foundation Specialist (03/02/2026)
 - Kristen Finnel, Interim President (01/09/2026)
 - Edwin Reyes-Ramirez, Payroll Specialist (transfer) (03/16/2026)
 - Rickie Son, Head Start Lead Teacher (02/02/2026)
 - April Vitzthum, Fiscal Analyst 1 (3/16/2026)
 - Winter Quarter awards will be announced at the April all-staff meeting since the winter all-staff meeting was delayed.
 - Winter Quarter Professional Development Offerings for faculty & staff:
 - Life-ing Without Substance (presented by our EAP); 2/10/2026
 - Financial Education Workshop with Red Canoe! A crash course with Carey Mackey from Red Canoe, offering a multi-part series covering topics like building a budget and a rainy day fund, getting out of debt, and more!
 - Supervisor Workshop - Guidance for Immigration Requests; 3/25/2026
 - Quarterly trainings:
 - Hazing Awareness & Prevention (Vector)
 - Preventing Harassment & Discrimination (Vector)
 - Building Supportive Communities: Clery Act & Title IX (Vector)
 - Recruitment
 - Data: We ran reports for a preview of our HR demographic data for the 25-26 FY year. The following highlights some of our race data for July 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025:
 - Applicants of color: 28.2%

- Hires of color: 35.33%
 - Current employees of color: 21.45% (as of Feb. 2026)
- Here's how this data compares to FY 24-25:
 - Applicants of color: 30.02%
 - Hires of color: 26.27%
 - Employees of color: 20.60% (ba
- Nearly completed two tenure track recruitments and are in the midst of a third that will be completed in spring quarter.
- Beginning in winter quarter, job postings are advertised on Governmentjobs.com and [Studentjobs.com](https://studentjobs.com), which are intended to reach a more diverse applicant pool.
- Anne Gillies, former Search Advocate Program Director at OSU, has agreed to facilitate a search advocate workshop for LCC employees during spring quarter. This will be a great opportunity for our current search advocates to have refresher training and for interested employees to be trained as search advocates.
- Red Devil Wellbeing Events & Activities
 - Blood Drive with Bloodworks NW: Hosted Bloodworks NW again and assisted them in saving lives here in our community!
 - LCC's Got Hobbies: Welcomed staff and faculty to come share hobbies they enjoy outside of the workplace! We saw origami art, quilts, and so much more!
- Jotforms: Moving forward, the summer schedule form will be processed through Jotforms to streamline the process.

Administration

- Enterprise Services
 - Bookstore
 - Partnered closely with Deans and faculty to receive textbook requisitions, resulting in 95% on-time submissions. This allowed the textbook buyer to source textbooks in bulk, receiving larger discounts for the Bookstore, and resulted in exponentially fewer "out of stock" or "backordered" items ordered by students online.
 - All winter quarter online orders were processed and mailed, or confirmed ready for pickup within 1-2 business days.
 - Held Winter Buyback event for a total of 6 days
 - Partnered with MBS to launch an online buyback portal, where the bookstore earns commission, for students unable to attend in-person buyback events

- 126 courses used Inclusive Access with a 98.2% student participation rate.
- Food Services
 - Expanded sizing options in the Grab & Go cold case to provide students with more variety at lower prices.
 - Partnered with the Juice Bar to provide cookies and breakfast sandwiches in the fitness center
 - Health Inspection was completed, with zero violations
 - Maintained steady sales levels, completing 5,859 cafe orders
 - Provided catering to over 46 events on campus.
- Fitness Center & Juice Bar
 - 122 “First Time” visitors checked in at the front desk
 - 17 New employee/alumni memberships were added
 - 14 Auto Belay certifications were earned
 - Auto Belay Certification Card was redesigned with the College logo
 - 8 New climbing routes were set
 - New static rope for 9 climbing runs was added
 - Hosted an Atomi School group climb
 - 13 Tanita Scale readings were completed for students/staff
 - Sold 1,011 items in the Red Devil Juice Bar
 - “Welcome Back Week” - daily drink specials and activities were provided
 - Health Inspection was completed, with zero violations
- External Event Rentals
 - 81 events were held on campus
 - 23 future events were scheduled
- Finance
 - Financial Statement Audit was completed 3/23/26 with a clean audit. Statements are posted online
 - Finance Resources & Contact List are updated on the Finance webpage—<http://internal.lowercolumbia.edu/departments/finance/index.php>. The Contact List identifies the appropriate contacts for each finance area during the current staffing shortage
 - Q3 Stats by Sub-Module—
 - AP processed 1,886 vouchers
 - 1,501 AP vouchers entered
 - 168 SF & 217 Payroll vouchers processed
 - AR processed 332 billings
 - Student Financials
 - Departmental receipts—processed 168

- Book Vouchers—processed 148 (173 including TPCs)
 - Collections—13 students sent to collections
 - Repayments processed—83
 - Payment Plans
 - 49 active ctcLink payment plans, 24 new
 - Outside Scholarships—143 active students
 - 283 scholarships received YTD
 - Travel
 - 12 cash advances
 - 103 employee reimbursements
 - Purchasing
 - Purchase Orders—processed 145 POs
 - P-Cards—processed 1,489 transactions
- Athletics
 - Soccer - Spring off-season workouts have begun and there will be two to three scrimmage outings.
 - Volleyball - Spring workouts are also underway and there will be some scrimmage events during spring quarter.
 - Women's Basketball - The team made it to the NWAC Final Four, where they lost a close game to top-ranked Clackamas. LCC was the only school to have both the women's and men's basketball teams make the Final Four.
 - Men's Basketball - For the second straight season, the Red Devils advanced to the Championship Game, but this year fell just short in the quest for back-to-back titles. Skagit Valley held off LCC in the final game.
 - Baseball - The Devils are ranked #1 in the NWAC and have reeled off 10 straight victories, including an 8-0 West Region record.
 - Softball - The defending champion Red Devils are on a 22-game winning streak and lead the South Region with a 16-0 record. Traci Fuller recently won her 400th game as the Red Devil head coach
- Campus Services
 - Capital Projects
 - Center for Vocational and Transitional Studies (CVTS)
 - Neeley Construction is working with the current schedule and the project has been delayed by approx. 45 days.
 - Building completion date is estimated for March 2027
 - 20 Inch waterline relocation down 15th is complete
 - Telephone poles were removed, which caused a delay in the schedule
 - Geopiers - 90% complete. The north section, where the telephone poles were removed, still needs to be finished.
 - Making great progress on the footings.

- Mark Morris asphalt and concrete replacement is scheduled for summer break
- Baseball Grandstand and Field Lighting Project
 - Architects have completed the construction drawings, and they have been submitted to the City of Longview for Plan Review.
 - The project cost estimate has increased and is scheduled to be advertised soon.
 - Project construction schedule is estimated at 10 to 12 months.
- Replace Transformers, Electrical lines, vaults, and switchgear
 - This project is 95% completed. The contractor needs one more power outage (approx. 2 hours) to replace a faulty part in the switchgear
- Softball Batting Facility
 - The project is nearing completion in May 2026
- Retro-commissioning Grant
 - Received a \$107,000 grant to complete retro-commissioning on the Health & Science building and Gymnasium/Fitness Center to improve building performance, extend the life of building systems, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Minor Improvement Projects in Various locations 25-27 (scheduled for summer 2026)
 - Applied Arts Building- Renovation
 - Admissions Building- new boiler
 - Main Building- lower roof replacement
 - Student Center fire door replacement
 - Student Center- hot water heater tank replacement
 - Home & Family Life- fire system upgrades
- Information Technology
 - Annual Planning cadence completed with FY2026-2027 IT projects defined and prioritized; Working with the Technology in Education Committee (TEC) and LCC Foundation to finalize project priorities and to coordinate resource management and project dates.
 - Resolved longstanding software licensing issues with Microsoft and Adobe products used by both employees and students.
 - Closed 721 IT helpdesk tickets (Jan–Mar 2026, excluding calls and projects).
 - Completed first phase of new campus 5G WiFi wireless network upgrade and expansion in MAN; Beginning phase 2 for AAR, LIB, HSB.
 - Worked with CMS to complete full technology inventory for submission to the State for new CVTS building.
 - Worked with eRate and Head Start to identify additional Tier 2 technology (hardware – switches and uninterruptible power supplies (UPS)) that will

be purchased with eRate funds that were previously being left “on the table”.

- Updated Motorola Avigilon access control interface to fix automatic door lockdown and reset errors.
 - Completed a service and support contract with Ednetics for Access Control Management (ACM).
 - Conducted successful campus-wide Informacast and Avigilon emergency notification/access tests.
 - Secured Public Records Request (PRR) software platforms (NextRequest and CasePoint) to assist with intake, approval, responsive document review and management, and dissemination for greater service to the public.
 - Co-chaired the Ethics, Governance, and Privacy workgroup under the auspices of the LCC AI Task Force; Created a draft AI Policy for LCC for taskforce and ELT review over the next quarter.
 - Spec'd, received, and testing new A/V equipment for ADM100; Still testing with anticipated install in FYQ4.
 - Began providing monthly IT training (first topics including Ethical Use of AI and Google Suite Tips & Tricks) for campus employees.
 - Retired the @lcc.ctc.edu email domain that had been slated for removal since 2016.
 - Fostered expanded communication with the Office of Instruction and select Deans to increase understanding, collaboration, and better technology planning and decision-making.
 - Transitioned from US Cellular to AT&T hotspots for remote checkout.
 - Conducted a 3-month Zoom proof-of-concept (PoC) to replace aging and unsupported current Cisco VOIP phone system across campus; Secured heavily discounted Zoom licenses for education; Rollout anticipated over summer quarter as an FY2026-2027 Q1-Q2 project
- Environmental Health & Safety
 - Began new CERT team cohort and continued with CERT team training
 - Completed Intermediate Investigator training for Title IX
 - Hosted staff/faculty Active Threat training with Jesus Villahermosa
 - Held safety training with VOC and DTV faculty
 - Relocated the hazardous waste central accumulation area to the VOC building.
 - CERT team members participated in a cribbing class offered by Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue