

YOUR JOB & CAREER CONNECTIONS

We are your Career Center, open to students, alumni, staff, faculty, and community for staff assisted and self-directed services. We are currently serving individuals remotely and in person at Fort Steilacoom and Puyallup. We continue to be available by email or phone. Contact information can be found in our Staff Directory on the next page.

Start Next Quarter

The Start Next Quarter survey is a quick way to find out if you may be eligible for Workforce programs at Pierce College. Go to www.startnextquarter.org to complete the short survey. For Pierce College, once you have completed the survey you'll have the option to sign up for a call from a Workforce staff member between 9am and 11am on a specified day of your choice (Mon-Fri) or an option to submit a request to be contacted. We'll discuss eligibility for Workforce Programs and next steps, which may include support services and funding.

Start Next Quarter is a great tool for new or current students looking at education options and interested in finding out more about eligibility for [Workforce](#) programs.

Helping You Prepare for Employment (HYPE) Events

HYPE is a student employment job fair featuring the Library, Tutoring Center, Writing Center, Student Technology Assistance Teams, Service Learning, and Math Center with workshops facilitated by our campus partners. This event is for you to discover opportunities to gain the necessary experience to thrive in career-level fields through paid student employment. Both days include fun, food, and giveaways! Explore work study and campus job options, a student employee "day in the life", and learn how our Handshake career exploration platform can work for you.

January 12th, Noon to 3pm, Fort Steilacoom – Cascade building 4th floor and Performance Lounge
January 17th, Noon to 3pm, Puyallup – College Center 2nd floor and 1st floor MPR rooms

Further event details at <https://www.pierce.ctc.edu/hype>

Opportunity Grant Eligibility has Expanded!

The Washington Opportunity Grant has expanded to include more Health Based Programs, including some transfer and Bachelor degree options. Check out the [Opportunity Grant](#) page on the Pierce College website to see our full list of Opportunity Grant eligible programs including:

- Vet-Tech
- Pre-Nursing DTA
- Nursing
- Pre-Dental Hygiene
- Dental Hygiene BAS (Dependent on funding availability for Bachelor programs through Opportunity Grant)
- Social Service Mental Health DTA

Contact Roxanne Cassidy about eligibility at rcassidy@pierce.ctc.edu or 253-840-8329.

Funding Eligibility: *Start Next Quarter* www.startnextquarter.org, is a quick survey that identifies possible funding sources for degrees or certificates.

Jobs, Work Study, & Internships: <https://pierce.joinhandshake.com>

Pierce College Job & Career Connections Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/1151589171538211/

Need Help? Find campus and community resource: [Pierce Advocacy and Resource Connections \(PARC\)](#)

Workforce Staff Directory

Diana Baker, Job & Career
Connections Worker Retraining
Manager
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Roxanne Cassidy,
Opportunity Grant Coordinator
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253-840-8329

FS (Fort Steilacoom) Welcome
Center, Cascade bldg. 3rd fl.

PY (Puyallup) Student Success Center,
Gaspard bldg., ADM 106

Hours: In-person and remote service
available Monday – Friday, 8am-11am
for walk-ins and afternoons by
appointment.

Have a question? Email us at
JCC@pierce.ctc.edu

FAFSA/WASFA Application Myth Busters

Do you have questions about completing a FAFSA or WASFA? Here are some common myths that we've busted that may help answer some of your FAFSA/WASFA questions.

Myth: I don't think I should do the FAFSA or the WASFA, I'm pretty sure I won't qualify for anything.

Truth: Everyone should fill out a FAFSA or a WASFA to officially see what they may be eligible for as it may be different each year and at different colleges.

Myth: My information is shared.

Truth: Your information is used only in processing your FAFSA or WASFA.

Myth: It's too late to complete a FAFSA or WASFA this year.

Truth: For Pierce College, the Financial Aid year runs Summer Term (July 1) through Spring Term (June 30). You can fill out a FAFSA or a WASFA even after Spring Term starts for the current year.

Myth: I made too much money in the previous year's tax return that I need to use for the FAFSA/WASFA. I won't be eligible even if I'm making less now.

Truth: Pierce's Financial Aid department has a Professional Judgement form. This form lets Financial Aid know details about how your financial situation may have changed from what you reported on the FAFSA or WASFA application. This is a Pierce College Financial Aid form and is available on their webpage (pierce.ctc.edu/financial-aid) under Forms. It should not be completed until your FAFSA or WASFA has been processed and sent to Pierce.

Myth: If I apply for FAFSA or WASFA I will be forced to take out a loan.

Truth: Loans are optional. When you apply for FAFSA or WASFA you find out what you are eligible for in grants and/or loans. If you decide to accept the loans you are offered, there may be additional steps or documents to complete to accept the loan/s.

Myth: I can only complete one FAFSA or WASFA one year at a time.

Truth: The FAFSA or WASFA for the next school year comes out October 1 every year. For example, we are currently in the 2022-2023 school year. You can complete *both* the 2022-2023 FAFSA or WASFA and the 2023-2024 FAFSA or WASFA now if needed. Please remember you should only complete *either* the FAFSA or WASFA, not both. If you qualify, FAFSA is the one with the most available funding.

Myth: There is nobody to help me complete the FAFSA or WASFA.

Truth: Eleni Palmisano, our Metropolitan Development Council (MDC) Collocated Staff, is available to help students complete their FAFSA or WASFA. Eleni is available to meet with students in person, by phone, or by video. Contact Eleni at 253-722-3429 or epalmisano@pierce.ctc.edu.