WA-CCER

Fall 2026 Newsletter

Washington Association for Career Counseling & Employment Readiness

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome Back, WA-CCER Members!

We hope you had a wonderful summer and that the new school year is off to a successful and exciting start. As we begin another year of supporting career and college readiness across Washington, we want to take a moment to thank each of you for your dedication to students and the important work you do every day.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for the WA-CCER Summer Conference in Spokane, WA. The conference provided a fantastic opportunity to connect with colleagues, share best practices, learn from one another, and strengthen our statewide network. Your participation, enthusiasm, and commitment helped make this year's event a tremendous success.

We would also like to extend a very special thank you to Kris Neal and Debbie Smith for their outstanding work coordinating and supporting the book fair. Their countless hours of planning, organization, and attention to detail helped create a valuable and engaging experience for conference attendees. We are grateful for their leadership and dedication in making this opportunity possible.

As we settle into the school year, we look forward to continuing our collaboration and supporting one another through the opportunities and challenges ahead. Be on the lookout for details regarding our upcoming virtual WA-CCER meeting later this September. We are excited to reconnect, share updates, celebrate successes, and continue the important conversations that help advance career and college readiness for students across our state.

Thank you for being part of the WA-CCER community. We wish you a rewarding, impactful, and successful school year, and we look forward to seeing you online later this month.

Dana Newsom, WA-CCER President

Book Fair

New this year, WA-CCER sponsored a book fair in partnership with Scholastic Books during the WA-ACTE Summer Conference.

We received $4,852.00 in book donations, totaling about 500 books. Using our $1,270.00 donation money and Buy One, Get One promotion, we were able to make those funds go even further.

Scholastic confirmed that we can keep everything they sent us — including pencils, erasers, bookmarks, pens, markers, posters, highlighters, toys/gifts, and additional books. What a wonderful donation!

For the Northeast Community Center Christmas Project, we collected $2,699.91 in toys and gifts. The community center was incredibly thankful for our support.

Nice job, everyone! Thank you for all your hard work and for making such a positive impact.

Total Donations: $7,551.91

Kris Neal & Debbie Smith

Congratulations to our 2025 - 2026 Award Winners

WA-ACTE

WA-ACTE Counseling and Career Development Professional Award
Dana Newsom
Vancouver Public Schools

WA-ACTE Lifetime Achievement Award
Tim Knue
WA-ACTE Executive Director (retired)

State Employer of the Year
Sheldon Gragun
Yoke's Fresh Market

WA-CCER

WA-CCER Lifetime Achievement and Hall of Fame
Laurie Price
Richland School District

WA-CCER Counseling and Career Development Professional Award
Jenn Miller
Battle Ground Public Schools

CTE Director of the Year
Mark Wreath
Vancouver Public Schools

New Teacher of the Year
Eric Ogden

WA-CCER TEAM

Purpose

The purpose of the Washington Association for Career Counseling and Employment Readiness shall be to promote and recognize Career Counseling, Work-Site Learning, Career Choices and over-all Career and College Readiness, as integral and important to the total education program in the State of Washington; to work with other organizations to provide professional development in the alignment of CTE standards in programs through in-service activities; to pledge active assistance and support to all members of this organization.

Our Officers

President - Dana Newsom
President Elect - Pending
Secretary - Pending
Treasurer - Robyn Quiett
Past President - Nora Zollweg

Committee Members

Legislative – Dana Newsom
Professional Development – Pending
Membership/Marketing – Pending
Awards – Laurie Price, Marie Miller, Kris Neal and Deb Smith
Scholarship – Shelley Jellison
Newsletter – Jenn Miller
Website – Nora Zollweg

Interested in joining the team? Reach out to Dana!

Visit us: waccer.org

Questions? Email your president: 6200@vansd.org

ALL MEMBER MEETING:

Monday, September 21 · 5:30 – 6:30pm
Google Meet joining info
Video call link: https://meet.google.com/dob-cpnr-ebh

Washington ACTE

WA-ACTE C.O.O.L. Fall Conference

C.O.O.L. | Cultivating Opportunities, Optimizing Leadership

EMPOWER THE NEXT GENERATION OF WORKFORCE LEADERS, EDUCATORS, AND INNOVATORS!

Bringing together middle and high school teachers, CTE professionals, counselors, and industry partners to explore cutting-edge strategies for student success. Discover actionable tools, collaborate frameworks, and gain vital insights into compliance, financial literacy, and modern workforce pipelines to help every student navigate the journey from classroom to career.

CONFERENCE TRACKS & POTENTIAL TOPICS

EDUCATOR COLLABORATION: BUILDING BRIDGES CTE & TEACHER COLLABORATION
Transitioning from industry experience to classroom instruction.

STUDENT AGENCY & ADVISING: YOUTH VOICE & FUTUREREADY
Advising strategies for student-driven futures.

TOOLS, TECH & COMPLIANCE: FINANCIAL EDUCATION STANDARDS & RESOURCES
Using Schoolinks in the classroom;
Ensuring Child Labor Provision compliance.

EARLY EXPLORATION & WORKFORCE PIPELINES:
Core Plus Construction Starts in Middle School;
MORE Design Thinking: FROM Data to Action

REGISTRATION OPEN!

OCTOBER 15-16, 2026
GREAT WOLF LODGE
Grand Mound, WA

Click to Register Here

Download the **SCHED** App for the full schedule!