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.

WOIS 2022 Scholarship Sneak Peak!
The annual WOIS Scholarship is awarded to one or more WOIS or Career Planner users each year. Scholarship amounts range from $500 to $1,000. Up to three scholarships will be awarded.

Funds awarded will be paid directly to the scholarship recipient after they have sent transcripts to WOIS from one term or semester of post-high school education, training, or apprenticeship. The scholarship must be used within one calendar year after it is awarded. Funds may be used for any expenses related to education, training, or apprenticeship.

Pierce College may nominate up to two students for consideration.

Keep an eye out for the WOIS Scholarship form which can be found attached to the Job & Career Connections Spring Edition 1 Newsletter email.

Please contact JCC@pierce.ctc.edu or call 253-964-6265 with questions.

Expanded Eligibility: Worker Retraining

Are you employed, but need training to gain skills to remain employed? To qualify, students must meet two of the following:

• Employed in an occupation identified as “not in demand” (declining) on the region’s Demand-Decline List https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications/occupational-reports/occupations-in-demand.
• Have not yet completed 45 credits toward your degree or certificate.
• In order to remain employed you need to obtain new skills. Students must attest that the minimum qualifications for their position have changed and they are unable to meet the new skills standard without retraining.

What can this program help students do?
• Possible bridge funding for one term of tuition, books, and transportation costs.
• Referrals and assistance with career exploration, job search, applying for Financial Aid (FAFSA/WASFA), career readiness and connect with other school and community resources.

What are some of the student’s responsibilities?
• Working toward completion of a Professional/Technical degree or certificate.
• Apply for Financial Aid (FAFSA/WASFA).
• Notify Workforce of changes to their program or enrollment.

Our Workforce Staff are here to help! Contact Diana Baker at 253-912-3641 dbaker@pierce.ctc.edu or Denise Green at 253-864-3385 dgreen@pierce.ctc.edu with questions on Pierce College’s Worker Retraining Program. Contact information can also be found on the Workforce Staff Directory.
More Ways to be Eligible for Worker Retraining

- Currently receiving or have received Unemployment Insurance in the past 48 months.
- Separated from the Military in the last 48 months or will separate in the next 12 months.
- Are a displaced homemaker.
- Were self-employed but are no longer due to economic reasons.


Explore Pathways and Connect with Employers

There are many great ways students can explore career pathways, connect with employers, and gain valuable job skills. Here are a few:

- **Work Based Learning** is a hands-on learning experience allowing students to apply what they’ve learned in the classroom to real-life situations. Some school programs require a work based learning associated with class credit hours. Not only does it give students experience in the career field, but also can provide opportunities to directly connect with potential employers.

- **Internships** are short-term work experiences that can be paid or unpaid which provide entry-level experiences to a particular industry or career field. An internship can be a great entry point to a specific company, plus help you gain network contacts and experience to add to a resume.

- **Work Study** is part-time work enabling students to earn money to help pay expenses and gain experiences related to the student’s course of study. Work Study is part of a student’s Financial Aid award. Work Study positions can be on or off campus. Find out more about Pierce College Work Study at [https://www.pierce.ctc.edu/sez FAQs](https://www.pierce.ctc.edu/sez FAQs).

- **Job Shadowing** is following and observing a trained and experienced employee to learn more about their job and is typically short term. It can help when choosing a career pathway, gain network contacts, or used for new employees as part of their job training.

- **Volunteering** can be another great way to gain experience while at the same time giving back to your community. One great place to find volunteer opportunities is with Pierce College Service Learning at [https://www.pierce.ctc.edu/service-learning](https://www.pierce.ctc.edu/service-learning).

For help in finding one of these opportunities or creating a resume contact Pierce College Job & Career Connections at 253-964-6265 or at jcc@pierce.ctc.edu.

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

**Jobs, Work Study, & Internships:** [PC Job Connect](https://www.pierce.ctc.edu/jobs-and-careers/)
Pierce College Job & Career Connections Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/1151589171538211/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1151589171538211/)