

YOUR JOB & CAREER CONNECTION

-Funding Resources Edition

We are your Career Center, open to students, alumni, staff, faculty, and community for staff assisted and self-directed services.

We are serving individuals remotely and can be contacted by email or phone. Contact information can be found in our Staff Directory on the next page. *In-person service is temporarily closed.*

Find college updates due to COVID-19 on the Pierce College website, www.pierce.ctc.edu.

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

PY (Puyallup) Student Success Center, Gaspard Administration bldg., A106

Washington State Opportunity Scholarships (WSOS) are available for Pierce College students

Pierce College was informed by Washington State Opportunity Scholarship, a public-private partnership between the State of Washington and some of our region's largest employers, that scholarships of up to \$1,500 a quarter are still available for students enrolled in career and technical programs.

This program offers up to \$1,500 each quarter for the duration of your associate degree, certificate or apprenticeship program. These scholarship funds are flexible and can be used to cover tuition, fees and other costs of attendance such as housing, transportation, food and more.

This is a different program than the Opportunity Grant scholarship, providing another avenue for funding support for students.

Eligibility: You must enroll in an approved STEM program, at one of Washington's 34 community and technical colleges

Apply: Don't wait! **The application deadline is June 4, 2020 at 11:59 pm.** The application is short, but the gain is long. Apply at: <https://www.waopportunitiescholarship.org/students/applicants/cts/>. If you have questions about this opportunity, contact awards@waopportunitiescholarship.org.

CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act

Pierce College students who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak can now access emergency funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Funding is now available through the Pierce College Financial Aid office to assist students with expenses related to disruptions to their education due to the pandemic. Below are details about how these funds will work, and how you can apply:

- Students apply for funding via a [CARES Act application process](https://www.pierce.ctc.edu/cares-act) that can be found at <https://www.pierce.ctc.edu/cares-act>, where you will explain how you have been impacted and your overall financial need.
- All students who have been financially impacted by the coronavirus outbreak are encouraged to apply for funding – even if you have never applied for Financial Aid before.
- These funds are similar to grants, and do not need to be repaid.
- Although there is no standard award amount for these grants, Financial Aid representatives will look into all funding options available to each student to fill in any gaps in your financial need.
- We anticipate a high volume of applications, but expect to process them quickly.

Students must be Title IV eligible for funds and are encouraged to complete a [FAFSA application](#). Please submit your CARES Act funding application to financialaid@pierce.ctc.edu.

Workforce Staff Directory

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Workforce Programs

Workforce programs may be able to assist with funding for tuition, books, transportation, childcare, referrals to resources, and other related support services for those that qualify. To see if you qualify, take the Start Next Quarter survey at www.startnextquarter.org used for identifying possible funding sources for those pursuing a Professional/Technical degree or certificate. Students may be eligible for one or more Workforce program. Workforce staff can help students see if they qualify and can be reached remotely through email or phone. Find Workforce staff contact information to the left in the Workforce Staff Directory.

Worker Retraining may be able to provide financial support to cover the cost of tuition and books for students who are enrolled in certain professional/technical programs and also meet one of the following qualifications:

- Currently receive or have received unemployment benefits in the past 48 months
- About to or have separated from the military in the past 48 months
- Are underemployed in an occupation considered “not in demand”
- Displaced homemaker
- Or meet other eligibility

<https://www.pierce.ctc.edu/workforce-worker-retraining>

Basic Food Employment & Training (BFET) supports students receiving SNAP benefits who are enrolled in certain professional/technical programs. The BFET program may link students in professional-technical programs of study with food assistance, childcare assistance and resources for basic needs. Tuition, fees, books and transportation assistance may also be available.

<https://www.pierce.ctc.edu/workforce-bfet>

Opportunity Grant supports student who meet income guidelines (per FAFSA/WASFA) and are in enrolled in approved professional/technical programs. Opportunity Grants may provide financial and support services to low-income students in high demand career pathways. Financial assistance may be used toward tuition, fees, and books.

<https://www.pierce.ctc.edu/scholarships-opppgrant>

WorkFirst supports students who are parents of children under 18, receiving TANF (cash assistance), and are enrolled in certain professional/technical programs. WorkFirst may have assistance for tuition, fees, and books for eligible TANF parents.

<https://www.pierce.ctc.edu/workforce-workfirst>

Funding Eligibility: Take the **Start Next Quarter** online survey at www.startnextquarter.org, which is used for identifying possible funding sources for those pursuing a Professional/Technical degree or certificate.

Jobs, Work Study, & Internships:

www.myinterfase.com/pierce_ctc/student

Pierce College Job & Career Connections Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/1151589171538211/