

ICW UPDATE ICRC Spring 2022 Meeting

Independent Colleges of Washington is an association of 10 private, not-for-profit universities that call the state of Washington home including:

[Gonzaga University](#)

[Heritage University](#)

[Pacific Lutheran University](#)

[Saint Martin's University](#)

[Seattle Pacific University](#)

[Seattle University](#)

[University of Puget Sound](#)

[Walla Walla University](#)

[Whitman College](#)

[Whitworth University](#)

These campuses offer students **high-quality, academically rigorous learning** grounded in the **liberal arts**, with an emphasis on **critical thinking, lifelong learning, ethics, leadership, and community service**. Our member campuses educate students from each of Washington's 39 counties and offer more than 135 years of service to Washington. Approximately 33% of students have transferred credits to our campuses and our member campuses award one in five of the baccalaureate and graduate degrees earned in the state of Washington.

ICW is working to increase upward transfer in the state of Washington, especially among underserved and low-income students. Our recent focus (2020-21) has been particularly in encouraging transfer to bachelor's degree programs in the social sciences and humanities with planning grant funding from The Teagle Foundation and The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations. **ICW's Strengthening Transfer Pathways to the Liberal Arts** in Washington initiative has the potential to affect students who do not currently see transfer to a four-year liberal arts college or university as a viable option. By creating clearer pathways and shoring up administrative, cultural, and financial support for transfer students, we hope to increase the number of students who successfully transfer upwards to complete a four-year degree, thus enhancing their social and economic mobility. Students most likely to benefit from this work are those who have earned some credits but have not enrolled in a bachelor's program. For these students, a liberal arts degree may be the shortest path.

ICW represents Washington's private, not-for-profit colleges and universities on a number of boards and organizations and is proud to volunteer with our higher education partners and community-based organizations to support students on their postsecondary journeys. One such effort is **Aim Higher Washington**. Aim Higher is a coordinated effort to help more students in Washington apply for financial aid. The initiative focuses on increasing equity in educational attainment for students of color and other marginalized groups. Aim Higher programs provide students with early financial aid information and application support. The initiative's partners

help carry out this work and foster a college-going culture in communities across the state. ICW is represented on the Aim Higher Steering Committee.

ICW also serves on the **Washington Council for High School to College Relations** (WCHSCR), another statewide effort to assist Washington students to access and engage in post-secondary opportunities at its member institutions. As part of our commitment to WCHSCR and high school students across the state, we regularly participate in college fairs, financial aid workshops for school counselors and college advisors, and one-on-one consultations with students and their families.

ICW is committed to supporting transfer students and serves on the **Joint Transfer Council**, a multi-sector standing committee that works to improve and advance student transfer in Washington. In collaboration with other state partners in JTC, ICW supports the development of new transfer pathways, the monitoring, and updating of existing transfer pathways and degrees, as well as the development of multi-sector transfer policies. We are also engaged in the JTC Computer Science Work Group to support the review and revision of the Computer Science DTA/MRP.

If you have any questions, about our work or would like to connect with any of our 10 member campuses, please contact:

Dr. Shea Hamilton
Director of Policy and Public Affairs
shea@icwashington.org