
TITLE:	Regional Planning Agreement Between Whatcom Community College, District 21 and Bellingham Technical College, District 25
NUMBER:	1025
APPROVED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES:	2/11/92
ADOPTED JOINTLY BY BOTH BOARDS OF TRUSTEES:	3/19/92

Whatcom Community College and Bellingham Technical College do hereby establish the following Planning Agreement.

Mission, Scope and Purpose

Bellingham Technical College exists with the sole mission of conducting occupational education, basic skills, literacy programs and programs which meet specific community, business and industry needs. Whatcom Community College is charged with the responsibility to offer comprehensive educational, training and service programs for purposes of basic skills, academic transfer, occupational education and community service. Overlap of mission exists between the two colleges in the areas of basic skills and vocational/occupational course offerings though none exists in the area of academic transfer courses.

Bellingham Technical College has an historically important role in Whatcom County as a major provider of a full range of occupational education programs. That important service to Whatcom County will continue. While occupational education is also a part of Whatcom Community College's role, it will not be the major purpose of the institution.

Occupational Education

1. Each college may continue to offer any and all courses or programs offered prior to this agreement.
2. Neither college will duplicate occupational programs in existence at the other college which were not already duplicated at the time of this agreement, and cooperative attempts will be made to reduce any unnecessary duplication should it exist.
3. Whatcom Community College will place primary emphasis upon initiating new occupational programs which offer opportunities for baccalaureate transfer. Bellingham Technical College will place primary emphasis upon initiating occupational programs which lead to terminal certificates of associate degrees with employment at the conclusion of training as the primary goal.
4. Representatives of the two colleges will meet and confer on a regular basis in an attempt to maximize resources and service to the community and to avoid program duplication. Such discussions will include determining which college is best suited to offer a particular program or considering any opportunities for offering programs cooperatively.

Academic Transfer Education

Whatcom Community College has the sole authority and responsibility to offer academic transfer, transfer level academic support courses and academic transfer general education for the students of Districts 21 and 25. In order to meet that responsibility:

1. Whatcom Community College will include, in its planning, opportunities for Bellingham Technical College students to enroll in any transfer level academic support or academic transfer general education courses necessary for graduation from Bellingham Technical College programs requiring such courses.



2. Whatcom Community College will, whenever sufficient student need and funding exists, offer "bridge courses" which, when requested and offered, will supplement appropriate Bellingham Technical College courses in order to provide the supplemental content necessary for course transferability through Whatcom Community College to baccalaureate degree-granting institutions.

Adjudication of Issues

It is the intent and expectation of both Bellingham Technical College and Whatcom Community College to resolve issues of potential conflict through open communication and mutual respect. The general system for such resolutions shall be:

1. Interpretation of Law:

In the event that either or both colleges desire an interpretation of the law, such interpretations may be referred directly to the State Director or college officers may elect to get advice or opinion from the Office of the Attorney General.

2. Resolutions of Disputes:

- A. The Deans for Instruction of the two colleges will meet periodically to coordinate planning and to attempt to reach resolution concerning any areas of potential program conflict. If such matters of concern cannot be resolved, they shall be referred to the Presidents of both colleges.
- B. The presidents will meet periodically to coordinate and communicate regarding program planning and other topics of mutual concern. The Presidents of Districts 21 and 25 will also meet within 15 days of receiving a request from either for the purpose of resolving matters referred as the result of Step "A" above.
- C. In the event that the College Presidents are unable to resolve a matter of mutual concern, either party may request a mediator. The third party mediator may be anyone, including a member of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges' staff, upon whom both parties agree. In the event that agreement cannot be reached, either or both parties may request that the Executive Director of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges appoint someone to serve in that role.
- D. If step "C" above fails to resolve the concern within 30 days, to the satisfaction of either President, the decision may be appealed to the Director of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. The Director, after meeting with both Presidents for the purpose of hearing both points of view, will issue a decision within 90 days.

3. Non-waiver of Legal Rights and Responsibilities:

Nothing in this agreement shall preclude the Board of Trustees of either district from pursuing a resolution to a problem through legal channels available as the result of local Board responsibilities and authority as designated within state law or regulation.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of District 21 and 25 on this 19th day of March, 1992.

Whatcom Community College
District 21

Bellingham Technical College
District 25

(signed) _____
Fielding Formway

(signed) _____
James Freeman



Chairman, Board of Trustees

Chairman, Board of Trustees

(signed) _____

Harold G. Heiner
President

(signed) _____

Desmond P. McArdle
President

