



**SFCC Hosts Successful GenCyber
Summer Camp, Funded by National
Security Agency (NSA)**



Participating students and faculty at the GenCyber 2024 Summer Camp gathered around the Foucault Pendulum in Building 18.

SFCC was selected to host the GenCyber 2024 Summer Camp, sponsored by the NSA and hosted the previous year by Eastern Washington University. Open to 9-12th grade students in the Inland Northwest, GenCyber Summer Camp is an excellent opportunity to learn cybersecurity skills through gamification challenges from high school, college, and university faculty. SFCC collaborated with local high schools to recruit attendees as well as the Girl Scouts of America, YWCA, and local tribal organizations to attract students from underrepresented groups in the industry. Subjects covered this summer through hands-on activities included social engineering, OS hardening, wi-fi attack and defense, cryptography, and digital forensics.

Mark Neufville, Computer Science Professor and Principal Investigator (PI) for this project, says the camp "was successful at engaging local students on cybersecurity activities." He also teased plans for the next GenCyber event: "[We] partnered with Eastern Washington University and Boise State on the grant submission process and have been awarded funds to support a Spokane-based July 2025 camp." This partnership between colleges to secure the funding necessary to host and participate in these camps has been a remarkable feat, but more remarkable still are the skills young students will take into their adult lives, including how to protect their digital footprints from malicious entities on the internet.

"The grant writing process had its challenges," Neufville added, "but with a very engaged, knowledgeable, and collaborative grant writing team, the proposal submission was seamless." We certainly enjoyed this opportunity to collaborate with multiple institutions of higher learning to make these exciting activities possible and we hope this lucrative partnership lasts for many years!

SCC Corporate and Continuing Education Department receives Energywerx Funding



Community partners who lent their support to our application for this grant include Spokane Workforce Council, Resource Synergy, Impact Washington, Heat and Frost Insulators Local 82, University of Washington Dept. of Electrical & Computer Engineering, and Measure Meant Consulting, LLC.

SCC was awarded \$180,548 from the Department of Energy to support the Inland Northwest Industrial Assessment Centers (IAC) and Clean Energy Expansion Project, the purpose of which is to develop accessible career pathways for students and incumbent workers leading to careers in the Facility Energy

Management Roles (FEMR) cluster. Jobs in this category include energy auditors, HVAC technicians, industrial electricians and insulators, and plumbers/pipefitters. On average, these careers are projected to grow in our neck of the woods by 11% over the next 10 years, with wages averaging 18.6% higher than comparable jobs nationally. Naturally, training workers to fill these roles is going to require enhanced investments to meet demand.

"This is a very exciting opportunity for Spokane Colleges and our local manufacturers," says Alissa Muñoz, Executive Director of Corporate and Continuing Education and Principal Investigator for this grant.

"Receiving these funds allows us to explore training opportunities in sustainability, green energy, and decarbonization especially in our technical education division. Additionally, it allows us to work with local partners to provide assessments to our small-to-medium sized manufacturers on how their facilities can be more efficient and sustainable to bring their cost savings down and utilize less energy."

These assessments will be invaluable to industry leaders as Washington makes the necessary adjustments to meet our clean energy goals as outlined in the Clean Climate Act (CCA), Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), and Clean Buildings Performance Standard (CBPS), among others. As our standards change, so too will expectations for infrastructure and equipment. FEMR workers deserve top-notch training to prepare them for these changes, which will put them ahead of many other workers in similar fields nationally. All eyes are on Washington to see if we meet our climate goals and grants like these allow institutions like ours to contribute to them while also positively impacting our workforce. Thanks to Alissa and everyone else involved in putting this application together and implementing this project! Go Sasquatches!

Washington State Awards SCC's Nursing Program with Expansion Funding



A hands-on practice skills lab in Building 7 for nursing students. Multipurpose mannequins and a medication dispensing machine allow students to practice a variety of skills in a safe environment.

Spokane's healthcare sector is listed by Spokane Workforce as the county's top industry, with over 47,000 employees as of 2023, beating the second-largest industry (Government, including Public Education) by about 11,500 workers. Within this apex, growing industry, the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) is in high demand, with internal resources estimating a 5% growth in demand over the next decade. Demand for LPNs was already looking rosy prior to 2020, but the pandemic accelerated our country's need for qualified healthcare professionals exponentially. Wage growth has gone up alongside this demand and LPNs in Spokane can expect a median salary that is nearly 15% higher than the median LPN salary nationally.

SCC currently admits 128 new Nursing students each year, making ours the 3rd largest educational program to train nurses in Spokane County. With an annual investment increase from the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), that number is set to rise by 32 (or 25%) by Fall 2026. These new students will be admitted as part of SCC's brand new Practical Nursing program, which is set to launch this Spring! This newest round of funding from SBCTC will accommodate these new students by

allowing the Nursing program to hire a new full-time instructor this Summer.

"Faculty, staff, and administration in the nursing department are grateful to receive the Nursing FTE Expansion grant through SBCTC," said Brittany Heidenreich, Nursing Instructor and Principal Investigator for this application. "We would also like to thank the Grants Team for all their guidance in securing this funding."

It was a pleasure to negotiate this increased allocation, which we hope will pave the way to further expansions down the road. A few more like these, and we might one day take 2nd place from Gonzaga University.

Grant Roundup

Recent grant and allocation awards handled by the Office of Grants & Sponsored Research*

The Department of Labor has awarded Spokane Colleges a \$5,570,000 grant to improve our colleges' capacity to meet the skill development needs of regional employers in the Advanced Manufacturing sector. As part of the DOL's Strengthening Community Colleges program, this funding is contingent upon equitable support and recruitment of students that we train for the workforce, particularly minority and female students that are underrepresented in the industry. An estimated 1,432 students will be trained or upskilled for Advanced Manufacturing jobs by the time this grant is concluded.

Last year, Washington State awarded our colleges the funds to purchase an emergency contraception vending machine for the SFCC campus, and this year they awarded SFCC an additional \$10,000 to keep the machine stocked with birth control products. We are proud to announce SCC will be getting a brand new emergency contraception vending machine as well! Nearly one in four women will rely on emergency contraception at least once in their life, according to the CDC, and this vending machine will be stocked with affordable emergency over-the-counter contraceptives as well as condoms and other forms of birth-control. Pregnancy tests, menstrual products, and other over-the-counter medications may also be available. All products will be offered at a reduced price for students and the vending machine will be placed in a discreet location near a high-traffic area.

Nursing Expansion wasn't the only allocation SCC received from SBCTC this last quarter. As part of the Climate Solutions initiative, SCC was awarded \$26,500 to revise curricula and create new materials,

resources, modules, and assignments across campus focused on climate justice topics. Climate change is a global problem, but it does not impact everybody equally, and moving from climate anxiety to climate activism is key to resolving this impending catastrophe before the damage becomes irreversible. It is refreshing to see Spokane Colleges continuing to be a local leader in meeting climate goals in economically sustainable ways.

Finally, SCC received a Tribal Stewards subaward from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The goal of this award is to strengthen our institution's partnerships with the Spokane Tribe and Colville Confederated Tribes through case management, career prep, and wraparound support for Tribal students. The award also allows SCC to award five \$5,000/year scholarships to select Tribal students and provides opportunities for Tribal Scholars and Tribal Partners to provide seminars, subject matter expertise, mentorships, and consultation services at SCC. The NOAA subaward covers travel expenses for select SCC faculty to attend meetings, seminars, and other important events on Tribal lands as well as government summits where future fundraising, grant, and partnership opportunities will be presented.

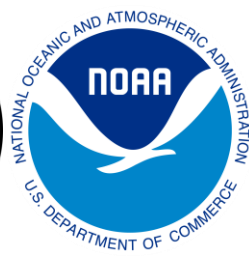
CASE Conference



This November, Sandy Reed (2nd row, middle, polka-dots) and Ben Divis (back row, center, beard) of the Grants Team spent 3 days attending the CASE Federal Funding Task Force (FFTF) annual conference in Washington D.C. alongside dozens of community college representatives from across the country! Each day, FFTF members broke into groups and visited federal funders at the Departments of Education, Energy, Justice, Transportation, and Labor as well as other State agencies like SAMHSA, the EPA, and National Science Foundation to learn about exciting new funding opportunities over the next year. Funders gave advice on successful applications, shifts in funding priorities, and more.

It was inspiring to be surrounded by so many other excited fundraisers! Our job is competitive by nature, but we all want to see education enhanced in our communities, and that shared passion made for a supportive and collaborative environment. Speaking directly to program officers at these departments was also informative. It was a treat to visit our nation's capitol on such a gorgeous week and spend our days meeting fellow grant writers and conversing with the grant makers who fund so many exciting educational projects nationwide.

We hope to attend again next year and provide Spokane Colleges a front-row peek into the state of federal funding opportunities for 2026.



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The [Grants Management Handbook](#) has the answer to just about every question you may have about managing your grant after its been awarded. Contact our Managing Director of Grants, Lupito Flores at Lupito.flores@ccs.spokane.edu or 509-434-5248 with any questions about your grant project, as well as how to navigate the program requirements, state or federal guidelines of your award. The Grants Office can support you every step of the way as you navigate the entire grants lifecycle.

Check out our [webpage](#) for more information and interesting articles about the amazing work SC faculty and staff are doing in the community.



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