

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, technical colleges advance economic opportunity by creating accessible pathways to gain in-demand credentials that lift individuals and families out of poverty for students of all backgrounds, including working adults, first-generation college students, veterans, and displaced workers; and

WHEREAS, through strong partnerships with employers, labor organizations, apprenticeship programs, K-12 systems, and community-based organizations, technical colleges strengthen Washington's talent pipeline and ensure graduates are prepared to meet current and future workforce challenges; and

WHEREAS, Washington's technical colleges play a critical role in preparing Washingtonians for family-wage careers by equipping students with the practical skills, certifications and real-world experience needed to succeed in high-demand skilled trades and technical professions; and

WHEREAS, Bates Technical College, Bellingham Technical College, Clover Park Technical College, Lake Washington Institute of Technology, and Renton Technical College were formally recognized by the State of Washington's 52nd Legislature in 1991; and

WHEREAS, collectively, these five colleges offer instruction in 690 programs and degrees and serve 34,000 students annually; and

WHEREAS, 2026 marks the 35th anniversary of these five colleges joining the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges; and

WHEREAS, these five technical colleges deserve recognition and thanks for the outstanding work they are doing for this state, their communities and the students who have enrolled and graduated from their campuses across Washington state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim October 1, 2026, as

Technical College Day

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in recognizing and celebrating the vital role technical colleges play in building a skilled workforce, expanding economic opportunity and strengthening communities across Washington state.



Signed this 17th day of September, 2026

Governor Bob Ferguson