1. Community and technical colleges make up the largest sector of Washington’s higher education system, serving 60 percent of students enrolled in public colleges and universities.

2. Each year, almost 470,000 Washingtonians attend a two-year college to train for careers, earn certificates and degrees, and earn credits toward bachelors’ degrees.

3. National acclaim for cutting edge initiatives that promote student success is routine – our open course library drastically reduces textbook costs, a performance-based funding system rewards colleges as more students achieve academic milestones, and the I-BEST program teaches basic literacy and workforce skills at the same time, allowing students to move through school and into work quickly.

4. Community and technical colleges have an “open door” policy so everyone has a chance to learn and move up in the world.

5. Washington’s two-year colleges offer classes 24/7, on campus and on line.

6. Tuition at community and technical colleges is a fraction of the cost of four-year institutions, and high school students earn college credits tuition-free in Running Start.

7. Forty percent of all bachelors’ degree graduates and 32 percent of all STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) degree graduates in Washington start at community and technical colleges.

8. Seven community and technical colleges offer applied bachelors’ degrees in radiation and imaging sciences; interior design; health care technology and management; applied management; applied design; nursing; behavioral science; and hospitality management.

9. A typical community and technical college student is a 26 year old working parent; 37 percent are students of color and many are the first in their families to go to college.

10. Community and technical colleges and their former students add $11 billion annually to Washington’s economy.