



GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE

STTACC 2026

August 12 – 13



**Navigating a New World
in Public Service**

Conference Agenda

Wednesday, August 12

Time	Event	Location
9:00 am	Breakfast and check-in	334X
10:00 am	Welcome	334X
11:00 am	Keynote Presentation	334X
12:00 pm	Lunch	334X
1:00 pm	Business Meeting	334X
2:00 pm	Workshops (Session A)	Various
3:15 pm	Workshops (Session B)	Various
6:00 pm	Banquet	334X

Thursday, August 13

Time	Event	Location
8:00 am	Social, breakfast	334X
9:00 am	Regional Meetings	
10:00 am	Workshops (Session C)	Various
11:00 am	Workshops (Session D)	Various
12:00 pm	Lunch	334X
1:00 pm	Workshops (Session E)	Various
2:00 pm	Closing Meeting	334X

Workshop Schedule

You can find a description of each workshop in alphabetical order in the next section. The workshop titles in the tables below link to their descriptions.

Wednesday, August 12

Session A 2 PM

Title	Room
Meeting Basic Needs	3310
Innovating Through Strengths	3311
How Do We Show Up?	3312
What is STTACC?!	3322
Overview of Digital Accessibility	3244
AI for Improving Productivity	4134
Identifying Edible Plants	334X

Session B 3:15 PM

Title	Room
Opioids and Naloxone	3310
Innovating Through Strengths	3311
What Do You Stand On?	3312
Why Join STTACC?	3322
Making Accessible Word & PowerPoint Files	3244
Protect Your Identity in a Digital Age	4134
Identifying Edible Plants	334X

Thursday, August 13

Session C 10 AM

Title	Room
Wild Edibles of August	3151
WFSE Union Information Session	3310
Leadership from the Inside Out	3311
AI for Improving Productivity	3312
What is STTACC?!	3322
Washington Enrollment Trends	3244
Navigating a New World in Public Service	4134

Session D 11 AM

Title	Room
Meeting Basic Needs	3310
Leadership from the Inside Out	3311
How Do We Show Up?	3312
Why Join STTACC?	3322
Washington Enrollment Trends	3244
Finding Steady Ground	4134

Session E 1 PM

Title	Room
Opioids and Naloxone	3310
Financial Fraud Prevention	3311
What Do You Stand On?	3312
From Chaos to Calendar	3322
WPEA Union Information Session	3244

Workshop Descriptions

AI for Improving Productivity, Efficiency, and Decision-making

Matt Holder, Grays Harbor College

This training will introduce the effective and responsible use of AI in the workplace. We will discuss the benefits of AI for improving productivity, efficiency, and decision-making. Participants will learn about ethical considerations, including privacy, security, and appropriate use of organizational data. The session will also cover common AI limitations and mistakes to avoid when using AI-generated content. Finally, attendees will learn how to write effective prompts to get more accurate and useful results from AI tools.

Financial Fraud Prevention

Nathan Spiecker, Washington Department of Financial Institutions

Technology has come a long way, and every opportunity comes with a related cost. As communication has become easier than ever, we are constantly being bombarded with fraudulent contacts, including scam calls, spam emails, and on social media. Oftentimes, scammers ask us for payment through unconventional payment methods, including gift cards, cryptocurrency, and payment apps, and it can often be difficult to discern what is real, and what isn't. Join us to learn more about why gift cards are a scammer's best friend, what to look out for when receiving unknown contacts, and how to report scams and fraud when you see it.

Finding Steady Ground: Supporting Well-Being in a Changing Public Service Landscape

Carlee Osburn, Washington Department of Enterprise Services

Public service professionals are often called to show up for others, even during times of uncertainty and change. This session offers a supportive space to reflect on the challenges and opportunities present in today's public service environment. Participants will learn tools for managing stress, strengthening emotional resilience, and maintaining a sense of purpose in their work. Practical

strategies for staying connected, setting healthy boundaries, and accessing available supports will also be explored.

From Chaos to Calendar: Organizing Successful Campus Events (Without Losing Your Mind)

Nicci Gooch, Spokane Community College

Whether you are coordinating a campus visit, employee training, open house, workshop, or appreciation event, successful events don't happen by accident. Learn a practical framework that helps you stay organized, communicate effectively, anticipate challenges, and reduce last-minute stress.

How Do We Show Up?

Heather Rane, Bellevue College

Theme: Teamwork Communications and Workplace Culture

This session is designed for classified staff and frontline teams navigating the everyday realities of workplace life. Through honest conversation, practical frameworks, and individual reflection, participants explore how they already influence culture and how to do so more intentionally.

Description: "How Do We Show Up?" is a self-reflective and potentially interactive session on teamwork, communication, and workplace culture. Through honest conversation and practical tools, participants explore how everyday moments; a greeting, a hard conversation, a small follow-through, are culture in action. The session covers communication gaps and how to close them, how trust is built and broken in small moments, a simple framework for navigating difficult conversations, and a quick team culture audit.

"Culture is built in small daily interactions." – Heather R.

Identifying Edible Plants (In-Person Only)

Pat Mahoney, Grays Harbor College

This workshop will be a field-based lesson on local edible plants, as well as a discussion of safe foraging practices, broader plant identification skills, and ecological knowledge. Participants will learn to identify specific edible plant species, as well as methods

for use and preservation of edible plants, in a roving lesson around Lake Swano. Lake Swano is a man-made waterbody in the upper watershed of Alder Creek that is surrounded by a relatively diverse forest environment. The hiking trail is approximately one mile, and the trailhead is adjacent to the 3000 building. Some short off-trail hiking may be required. Participants are encouraged to bring hiking shoes or boots with good tread. Long pants are suggested but not required. Workshop will be held outside, regardless of weather conditions, so dress appropriately.

Innovating Through Strengths: Using Appreciative Inquiry in Higher Education for Organizational and Student Success

Dr. Lyn Lanka, Grays Harbor College

This applied and interactive workshop introduces higher education professionals (both educators and professional staff) to the core principles and practical applications of Appreciative Inquiry (AI), a strengths-based approach to organizational development and change. Rather than focusing on problems and deficits, AI helps us to identify what works well within institutions to drive innovation, collaboration, and sustainable improvement.

In the session, participants will explore how AI can be used to:

- Foster innovative problem-solving by reframing challenges through a positive lens
- Enhance team effectiveness and cross-departmental collaboration
- Support organizational change through inclusive, participatory dialogue
- Improve student learning and engagement by applying AI principles in teaching, advising, and co-curricular contexts

The session will guide attendees through the 4-D AI model, providing them with opportunities to explore its application to learning and/or organizational situations. At the end of the session, attendees should expect to understand the 4-D model of AI, and how to apply it to: facilitate appreciative conversations, design inquiry-based initiatives, drive innovation, and lead change

grounded in shared values and institutional strengths. This session is useful to everyone; however, if you aim to teach innovation, foster positive teams, or help students engage with a new model of problem solving, then come along and join me for this session.

Leadership from the Inside Out: Discovering Your Style and Maximizing Your Impact

Jim Sorensen, Catholic Community

What is your leadership style? Knowing how you lead is essential to unlocking your full potential. True leadership effectiveness comes not just from understanding your own natural tendencies, but also from recognizing and valuing the styles of those around you.

Drawing from years of community leadership experience, this interactive, one-hour session moves away from "one-size-fits-all" labels to acknowledge that every leader possesses a unique blend of traits. Through two practical, reflective exercises, you will gain immediate insight into your current leadership style and discover how your personal traits shape your daily interactions. Whether you are leading a small team or a large community initiative, this session will provide the self-awareness needed to communicate more effectively, build stronger collaborations, and elevate your leadership impact.

Key Takeaways

- **Identify Your Core Traits:** Participate in two targeted exercises to map your primary leadership tendencies.
- **Appreciate Style Diversity:** Learn how to recognize and adapt to the different leadership styles of those on your team.
- **Enhance Interpersonal Dynamics:** Gain practical insights to improve daily communication, collaboration, and relationship-building.

Making Accessible Word and PowerPoint Files

Whitney Boswell, Green River College

Learn how to create or remediate Microsoft Word documents to be accessible. This will cover style headings, font type and sizing, use of

lists and tables, spacing, descriptive hyperlinks, and properties title and author. As well as typical issues and how to remediate them. The second half of the session will be learning how to review a PowerPoint file for accessibility. That will cover color contrast, image and graphic alternative text, slide titles, reading order, font type and sizing, and editing the slide master.

Meeting Basic Needs

Madelyn Roy, Grays Harbor College

The Basic Needs Workshop will present on the current status of basic needs insecurity across Washington college campuses, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of community colleges in combating these insecurities, and give a brief overview on programs and resource referrals important to learn about and/or identify within your individual schools to connect the students you are working with to the supports that they need.

Navigating a New World in Public Service: Staying Grounded in Times of Change

Carlee Osburn, Washington Department of Enterprise Services

Public service is evolving rapidly, bringing new expectations, shifting priorities, and increasing demands on employees and leaders alike. This session explores how individuals can stay grounded and resilient as they navigate workplace uncertainty to manage stress, build emotional resilience, and maintain emotional flexibility. Participants will learn practical strategies for managing stress, maintaining perspective during periods of change, and reconnecting with the purpose that draws many people to public service. Through reflection and real-world examples, this session highlights ways to sustain well-being while continuing to serve communities with care and professionalism.

Opioids and Naloxone

John O'Brien, Aberdeen Rotary Club

Learn about opioid pharmaceuticals and street drugs, about how to recognize an opioid overdose, and how to use Naloxone to reverse an overdose and save a life. Receive a free Naloxone inhaler to carry with you.

Overview of Digital Accessibility

Whitney Boswell, Green River College

This session will show why it's important that we make things accessible by showing examples of assistive technologies like a screen reader, zoom tools, keyboard navigation, text-to-speech, speech-to-text and speech controls, closed captions, and color and contrast themes on a Windows device. Then it will cover the basics of the WCAG 2.2 AA standards as they apply to everyday life such as descriptive hyperlinks, style headings, spacing, image alternative text, tables, font type and sizing, and language and tone.

Protect Your Identity in a Digital Age

Nathan Spiecker, Washington Department of Financial Institutions

Your personal information is valuable. That's why hackers and scammers try to steal it. Join Nathan Spiecker of the Department of Financial Institutions for a step-by-step guide to building a robust defense against identity theft. Learn about monitoring your credit reports, managing your digital footprint, safely using social media, and what services can help you recover if your identity is stolen.

Washington Enrollment Trends Or Enrollment, Then and Now

Matt Edwards, Grays Harbor College

Enrollment is at the core of the Allocation Model that determines how state funds are distributed to the Washington Community and Technical Colleges (WA CTCS). Many colleges continue to experience enrollment challenges. This informational session will cover state-level enrollment trends, definitions (so you know what Cabinet is talking about), growth of dual enrollment, WA population projections, and how we can use American Community Survey data to understand our service areas and identify potential opportunities.

WFSE Union Information Session (Virtual Only)

Theresa Sullivan, Washington Federation of State Employees

What your union does for its members. Your union exists to protect you, advocate for you, and ensure you have power, fairness, and a

real voice at work — something no worker can achieve alone. You can't spell Union with a "U".

What Do You Stand On? Building a Foundation of Core Values

Elysee Kazadi and Debbie Joyner, Spokane Community College

Leadership does not begin with a title; it begins with a foundation. When we do not know what we stand on, our foundation becomes unstable. Core values are that foundation. They are the deeply held beliefs that guide how we show up in the classroom, in our communities, and in the moments that test us most.

This workshop invites participants to do the inner work of identifying, defining, and committing to their core values because self-awareness is the first act of courageous leadership. Knowing your values is not enough, however. You are the only person responsible for living them. No one else can do that work for you.

At the same time, we do not exist in isolation. Our values are shaped by the environments, cultures, and communities that have influenced us. Those same communities can play a critical role in keeping us grounded. When we surround ourselves with people who know what we stand for, we give them permission to remind us of our values when we drift.

A foundation held alone is fragile. A foundation strengthened by community is resilient. Through reflection, discussion, and connection, participants will leave this workshop with a clearer understanding of what they stand on—and how to stand firmly in it.

What is STTACC?!

Nicci Gooch, Spokane Community College

New to STTACC or curious about what we do? Learn about the history, mission, and purpose of Staff Training for Technical and Community Colleges (STTACC) and discover how we support classified professionals across Washington State through connection, professional development, and leadership opportunities.

Why Join STTACC?

Nicci Gooch, Spokane Community College

Discover the benefits of getting involved with STTACC! From professional development and networking to leadership opportunities and statewide connections, learn why classified professionals should engage with STTACC and how you can become part of our community.

Wild Edibles of August: Foraging in Grays Harbor County

Nina Urioste, Grays Harbor College

Join us for an introduction to the edible plants, berries, mushrooms, and other wild foods that can be found in Grays Harbor County during August. This presentation will cover the fundamentals of safe and sustainable foraging, including proper identification, ethical harvesting practices, and recommended locations for gathering wild foods.

Participants will learn about common edible species as well as invasive plants that can be harvested freely and responsibly. The presentation will also feature practical culinary applications, including recipes for enjoying wild foods fresh and techniques for preserving them through drying, pickling, fermenting, freezing, and canning. Whether you are new to foraging or looking to expand your knowledge of local wild foods, this session will provide useful information for safely bringing the flavors of the Pacific Northwest to your table.

WPEA Union Information Session

Judy Lumm, Washington Public Employees Association

What your union does for its members. Your union exists to protect you, advocate for you, and ensure you have power, fairness, and a real voice at work — something no worker can achieve alone. You can't spell Union with a "U".

Non-Discrimination Statement

Grays Harbor College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, creed, religion, marital status, veteran status, genetics, or age in its programs, activities, and employment. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Title II/Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator

Erin Tofte, Associate Vice President for Human Resources

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