

Dr. Dave Pelkey

With 25+ years of higher education experience, Dr. Dave Pelkey has served as a visionary, collaborative, and equity-focused leader with an unquestionable commitment to increasing successful outcomes for WA State's community and technical college students.

Dave's experience, across four different community and technical colleges in WA State, include executive level roles at South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC) and Renton Technical College (RTC) where he led extensive strategic planning efforts and implemented college-wide reform initiatives that culminated in national recognition as a Top 10 recipient for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence in 2015 (RTC) and 2023 (SPSCC).

Dave implemented critical student success interventions, including the equity-centered Guided Pathways framework, that increased retention and completion rates of low-income, first-generation, students of color. Dave is a key member of the Strategic Enrollment Taskforce that created a statewide SEM plan; played a key role in creating and implementing a student-centered, case management structure that serves as a statewide model for supporting students experiencing homelessness and food insecurity; and currently serves as a member of the Strategic Technology Advisory Committee for the WA State community and technical college system.

In his leadership roles, Dave successfully collaborated with multiple business, industry, and community groups to create critical partnerships, resulting in enrollment growth and additional fiscal investments. Examples include the construction of a new branch campus that serves as a co-location site for the Veterans Services Hub and Economic Development offices; establishing multiple College in the High School and International Partnership programs; creating college programs at tribal education centers; and launching SPSCC's new Brewing and Distilling program. In addition, he developed numerous cases and support statements for SPSCC's recently completed \$13 million student success campaign.

Dave enjoys spending time with his partner, Ha, and their family as they explore great restaurants and wine bars, practice their novice golf swings, collect vintage records, and travel to new places together.