



April 30, 2014

Dear King County Councilmember:

We are as disappointed as you are with the failure of King County Proposition 1, the transit and roads funding package. While we have faith that the Legislature will develop another plan to fund the valuable resource, we, the Presidents of 10 community and technical colleges in King County, are planning for the fall service cuts.

To that end, we are asking that you consider adding a priority area for higher education. It would be added to the existing "employer" category.

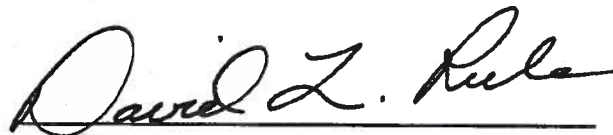
Combined, our institutions serve more than 87,000 students. For many of them, public transportation is the only means of reaching school. Who are these students? They are full-time and part-time. They are moms and dads who need retraining. They are young people who can't afford a four-year degree. They are people who need help with the basic math and English. They are new citizens. They are dedicated Washington citizens who lost jobs in the last recession. They are people who squeeze in retraining outside the traditional 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. hours, some going to class until 10 p.m. and starting as early as 6:30 a.m.

Most of all, they are Washington's future work force who believe that working hard is the path to success. We see it every day as we guide them along that path to success.

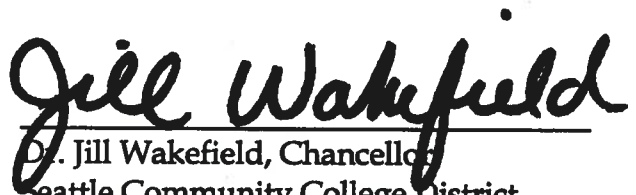
Unfortunately, many can't afford a car or gas. They take the bus to go from work to home to school and sometimes another community college. We would happily step in to buy back our bus service, but, as you know, our state funding was cut 40 percent between 2008 and 2012.

We are major employers in our communities, with more than 6000 faculty/staff of which nearly 3000 are part-time educators. Our faculty and staff do use Metro Transit, but we are most concerned about our students.

We do not envy your jobs right now. You must decide where to cut. We are asking that you consider our colleges as a priority in two categories: employer and higher education. We have always had your support as we serve up the next generation of workers. Please help us continue our mission.



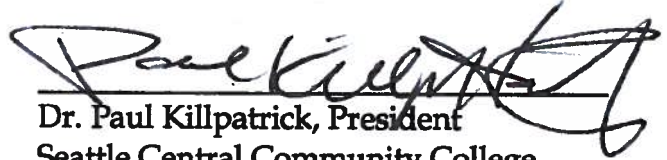
Dr. David L. Rule, President
Bellevue College



Dr. Jill Wakefield, Chancellor
Seattle Community College District



Dr. Eric Murray, President
Cascadia Community College



Dr. Paul Killpatrick, President
Seattle Central Community College



Dr. Eileen Ely, President
Green River Community College



Dr. Mary Ellen O'Keeffe,
Interim President
North Seattle Community College



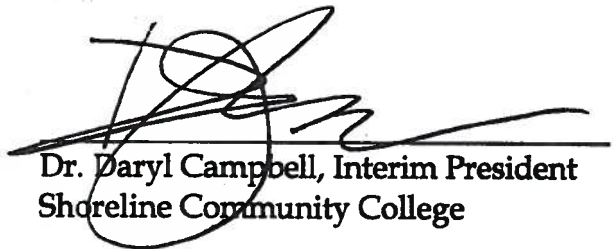
Dr. Jack Birmingham, President
Highline Community College



Gary Oertli, President
South Seattle Community College



Dr. Amy Morrison Goings, President
Lake Washington Institute of
Technology



Dr. Daryl Campbell, Interim President
Shoreline Community College



Steve Hanson, President
Renton Technical College