



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

February 26, 2026

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in support of Cascadia Technical Academy (CTA) and their long-range facility plan that will be submitted this Spring. As the Local Workforce Development Board for Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum Counties, Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW) envisions a region where economic prosperity and growth exist for every person, and CTA significantly contributes to this vision. The graduates of CTA infuse our local workforce with highly trained technical and professional skilled employees, and WSW is committed to supporting the needs of the school to ensure that this continues.

CTA enjoys strong community support with more than 400 business and industry leaders serving on 20 advisory committees that guide and direct the programs to ensure they remain industry relevant and meet the needs of our growing community. CTA currently serves more than 1,650 students from the Clark County area, and we anticipate this number will only continue to grow as CTA adds new programs to their offerings.

As evident in their long-range facility plan, CTA's three original buildings were constructed in the 1980's. Even with perfect maintenance, it would be difficult to expect 40+-year-old facilities, with outmoded learning spaces, to fully meet the technological requirements and needs of CTA's current and future students. It is crucial for CTA's long-range facility plan to be approved so CTA can continue to offer high-quality, preparatory training that mirrors industry standards and supports the labor needs of Southwest Washington businesses.

The Southwest Washington region is in high need of talent in the high growth and in demand sectors of Construction, Advanced Manufacturing, Clean Energy, and Healthcare. CTA offers a clear pipeline of emerging talent to ensure that we meet the current and emerging workforce needs. WSW urges you to strongly consider CTA for this investment in our future.

Sincerely,

Miriam Halliday

Miriam Halliday
Chief Executive Officer



Joan Huston, Director
Shaun Campbell, Assistant Director
Tami Oppliger, Assistant Director
Paul Huddleston, Dean of Students

February 27, 2026

Letter of Support


I am writing in strong support of Cascadia Technical Academy and its Long-Range Facility Plan, scheduled for submission this spring. Cascadia Tech's three original buildings, constructed in the early 1980s, have reached a point where even exceptional maintenance cannot compensate for aging infrastructure and outdated learning spaces that no longer meet the technological and instructional needs of 21st-century education.

Cascadia Tech currently serves more than 1,600 students from across Clark County—a number that continues to grow each year. In the 2024–25 school year alone, Cascadia Tech students earned 3,002 college credits, achieved 6,586 industry-recognized certifications, and maintained an impressive 94 percent attendance rate. According to the graduate follow-up data, 96 percent of graduates were employed or enrolled in postsecondary education or training after high school. For decades, Cascadia's graduates have strengthened the regional workforce by supplying highly trained, technically skilled professionals who contribute millions of dollars in economic value to Southwest Washington.

Cascadia Technical Academy also plays an essential role in addressing Washington's high-demand workforce needs. Programs in healthcare, advanced manufacturing, transportation, construction trades, and public safety consistently align with sectors experiencing critical labor shortages. Cascadia's ability to train students on industry-standard equipment and modernized technology directly supports the region's economic vitality and ensures employers have access to a job-ready talent pipeline.

The Academy benefits from exceptional community engagement, with more than 400 business and industry partners serving on 20 advisory committees. These partnerships ensure each program remains responsive to evolving workforce requirements and industry best practices.

Approval of Cascadia Technical Academy's Long-Range Facility Plan is essential to sustaining this level of high-quality, industry-aligned training and to ensuring students continue to have access to modern, innovative learning environments that prepare them for future careers.

Sincerely,


Jeremy Liu, Kaiser Permanente
General Advisory Committee Chairperson



Serving the needs of local high schools

Cascadia Tech Academy • 12200 NE 28th Street • Vancouver, WA 98682 • (360) 604-1050 • FAX (360) 604-1052

Building 100 proposal for Paul R Huddleston



Hunter Nitschke is a 2022 Construction Technology I & II graduate. Currently working at Cascadia Tech Academy as the Construction assistant.

Hunter was in the Construction technology program where he learned about the construction industry. In his first year, Hunter learned about safety, construction math, and how to safely use a variety of tools and equipment. In addition, Hunter designed a set of building plans and built a scale model based on his design. During the second semester of his first year, Hunter was given the opportunity to be a crew leader for the shed building project. This opportunity helped develop his leadership skills. In the second-year program, Hunter was selected as a crew leader for the student house project. The house project lasted for the duration of his senior year. In addition, Hunter received certifications in forklift, OSHA-10, and first aid / CPR.

“I began my love for construction long before Cascadia. Cascadia was the most valuable class I ever took. I would not have the friends or the experiences I have now without the wonderful construction program. The amazing teachers, Bill Draper and Lance Landis, are the sole cause I am where I am today. I would not have the confidence or the knowledge of how to do the various projects if I hadn't attended the construction program. I have built my own studio at my parent's property and am building a 30' x 50' shop for my friends. My future goal is to enter the elevator's union as an elevator technician”.



CASCADIA
TECH ACADEMY
FOUNDATION
Clark County's Skills Center

March 17, 2026

RE: Letter of Support for Cascadia Technical Academy's Facility Needs

To Whom It May Concern,

Cascadia Technical Academy Foundation is a 501-C-3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the life-changing programs and students at Cascadia Technical Academy. On behalf of our entire Board of Directors, we are writing this letter in support of Cascadia Technical Academy and its Long-Range Facility Plan which will be submitted this spring.

We have experienced firsthand the limitations that the schools' current facilities experience. More and more, young people want to take advantage of the educational programming offered at Cascadia Technical Academy and our industry partners are pleading for more Cascadia Tech students to meet their hiring needs. Sadly, each year Cascadia Tech is turning away more students than the year before because their 40 plus-year-old facility is at capacity.

Cascadia Technical Academy is the largest and most successful Skill Center in Washington State. The school has 20 programs, with the desire to increase programs, serving over 1,650 Southwest Washington area students. Cascadia Graduates on average earn \$14,455 more per year than their untrained counterparts and generate \$82 MILLION in economic activity annually. Our students are job-ready before graduating. This appeals to the needs and values of our community. Cascadia Technical Academy provides a direct pathway for students needing to join the workforce upon graduation and provides a head start with college credits for those students with a longer academic journey.

Despite these accomplishments, we continually say, *"Just think what we could do if we had improved facilities!"* **We are asking that you fully support Cascadia Technical Academy's need for new facilities.**

Sincerely,

David Cole
Executive Director
Cascadia Tech Foundation
360.604.1098
David.Cole@evergreenps.org

Cascadia Tech Foundation
12200 NE 28th St.
Vancouver, WA 98682
360.604.1050
Cascadiatechfoundation.org

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