



# Adapting to Create Meaningful Connections to Industry

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# **APPCONNECT NW**

A COLLABORATIVE NETWORK OF SEVEN  
COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
PROGRAMS IN SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

# APPCONNECT NW CONSISTS OF:



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# A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

- A network of 7 community and technical colleges with BAS degrees in Software/App Development provided for:
  - Making a bigger impact
  - Multiplying opportunities
  - Amplifying our voice with Industry

# WHAT IS A BAS DEGREE?

- +2 additional years after the completion of an associate degree
- Responsive to regional workforce demands
- Hands-on, technical programs
- Career preparation
- Serve a wide range of students
- Part of the talent pipeline in high-demand fields

# EFFICIENTLY WORKING WITH THE TECH INDUSTRY

- Demand for workers locally is exceeding supply
  - Has helped make us less competitive and work as a team
- Industry has limitations on their time and capacity-so we become a one stop for them to connect with hundreds of students
- Companies need employees now
- Desire for a diverse workforce-which we can provide

# HOW WE GOT STARTED

- NSF Funding
  - Division of Undergraduate Education, Advanced Technological Education (two-year college focus)
  - Coordination Network
  - 4 year project
- Faculty leadership- desire to regularly connect and collaborate



# FIRST TWO YEARS FOCUS

- DACUM | Industry curriculum review
- High school engagement
- Industry participation on campus
- Meetings with major tech companies
- Growth mindset training
- Added two colleges to network
- Adjunct instructors



# ENROLLMENT SNAPSHOT | 20-21

**440**

total students

**51%**

age 30 & over

**36%**

students of color

**19%**

Pell Grant

**300+**

graduates to date

**25%**

female



# LIMITATIONS

- Consistent Connections to Industry
- Turn Over in Staffing
- Availability and ability of Tech Industry
- Difficulty building relationships and outreach to High Schools



# GAPS

- Students have limited connections to industry
- It is difficult to find Industry partners for Capstone projects
- Students feel unprepared for job search process

# MOVING FORWARD

- Collaboration with Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA)
  - Provided Industry Representatives that helped guide curriculum
  - Always ready to collaborate and introduce
  - Set up Job Fair
  - College and Tech Council currently being developed



# MOVING FORWARD

- Collaboration with Mentors in Tech (MinT)
  - Having immediate and practical ways industry can get involved
  - Minimizing their time and effort with maximum reward
  - Fills the gaps that students are experiencing



# MOVING FORWARD



CONTINUING TO BUILD ON PAST  
RELATIONSHIPS



FINDING OUT WHAT IS POPULAR  
IN TECH- CLUBHOUSE



# DISCUSSION

- Do you all have any experience or success stories in collaborating with Industry partners?
- How did you keep them engaged?



# QUESTIONS?

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