



SEATTLE JOBS INITIATIVE RELEASES TWO NEW TOOLS FOR THE COMMUNITY TO HELP PEOPLE PREPARE FOR, ACCESS and PERSIST in COLLEGE

FOR THE COMMUNITY – BY THE COMMUNITY -

Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI) is pleased to announce the release of **two new tools** designed to advance the efforts of community-based providers in assisting low-income and low-skill residents to prepare for, access and persist in college on their way to obtaining a credential and a better-paying career. SJI developed these tools over the course of the past year with **significant input from the community** on what information was needed to help practitioners succeed in their work within the emerging field of college navigation.

THE TOOLS –

[ABC's of College Navigation Guide](#)

The ABC's of College Navigation Guide is a tool intended to put important information and resources at the fingertips of college navigators and others supporting low-income individuals in accessing and completing community college programs. It provides comprehensive information organized in sections that reflect the typical steps a college navigator would take to help an individual become a successful community college

student: **PREPARATION, PROGRAM SELECTION, ENROLLMENT** and **PERSISTENCE**, along with a section on **CAREER**. Each “how-to” section sets out **key points** and links to **resources** that are available in the community to help ensure the navigator’s success.

SJI Community College Program Matrix Tool

The **SJI Community College Program Matrix** is an Excel-based tool intended to help college navigators and other community-based organization staff guide students through the local community college system by streamlining information from various websites into one source. The Matrix quickly and easily directs navigators to the most pertinent information needed when working to help students learn more about, compare, select and connect to programs at the colleges within four key local industry sectors.

Sectors Included: Business Information Technology, Healthcare, Manufacturing, Transportation

Colleges Included: Central/North/South Seattle Community Colleges, Highline Community College, Renton Technical College, Shoreline Community College

The **User’s Guide for the Matrix Tool** can be found [here](#).

Training & Technical Assistance

SJI has developed a workshop series based on **The ABC’s of College Navigation Guide** that can help your organization’s staff increase their practical knowledge of the best practices and available resources related to helping low-income/low-skill residents prepare for, access and persist in college and connect to living-wage jobs. This highly-rated training can be customized to meet your specific needs. Please call **206.628.6975** or **e-mail Rosanna Stephens** at rstephens@seattlejobsinit.com for more information.

ABOUT SJI’S COLLEGE ATTAINMENT WORK -

SJI is working to increase the rates of college attainment among low-income residents as a critical part of our mission to help these individuals secure living-wage jobs while also meeting the demands of the local economy for skilled workers. Through our program strategy, SJI supports our participants’ advancement toward college credentials, and we know that the challenges faced by those we serve are the same as those faced by low-income and low-skill residents throughout Seattle/King County and elsewhere in obtaining college credentials.

We strive to provide leadership to the community in a ground-up, collaborative approach to identify and develop solutions to these challenges, which include:

- Limited information within low-income communities about the labor market payoff of specific college programs, or how to prepare for, access and persist in community college;
- The high percentage of low-income residents enrolling in college who are unprepared for college-level work; and at the same time, the low attainment rates among these individuals who require remediation (developmental education), which drains their time and resources;
- Limited knowledge and tools available to the workforce system to help providers better align their training programs with college attainment in growing sectors of the labor market, or to help their clients navigate college (helping clients start as near as possible to college-level, enroll in the best program for their needs, avoid mistakes that equate to lost time and resources, access financial aid and other college-based supports, and balance work, life and school);
- Limited linkages between community colleges and community-based agencies that could provide more disadvantaged students the wrap around supports they need to help them persist toward a credential.

FOR MORE INFORMATION -

SJI has produced other tools relating to college attainment, including the **Dance Steps Brochure and Community College Inserts**, a guide to the basic steps in becoming an enrolled student at a community college. This resource is available for your organization; please contact SJI at (206) 628-6975 to submit your request.

SJI looks forward to continuing to work with partners in the community to identify and develop of additional tools, resources, best practices and partnerships to help significantly increase the number of low-income residents who obtain greater skills and education leading to better-paying jobs. For questions or to share your ideas, please contact us:

Bri Nguyen

Planning & Strategic Advisor

bnguyen@seattlejobsinit.com

David Kaz

Director of Policy & Communications

dkaz@seattlejobsinit.com