

**WERA is excited to share our breakout session titles and lead presenters for our 2025 Spring Symposium. While largely complete, the program is still under development. Sessions may be removed or added in advance of our event on March 20-21.**



A Case Study in Research and Policy Making: Financial Literacy in Washington State  
Robert de Grouchy, Graduate Student, Washington State University

Achieving in life with Communities In Schools of North Central Washington  
Edgar Salamanca, Program Director, Communities In Schools of North Central Washington

Building Bridges: Strategic Inter-Organizational Collaboration for Equitable and Scalable Youth Apprenticeship Programs  
Christopher Nesmith, Superintendent, Elma School District

Building Bridges for Impact: Designing a Statewide Research-Practice Partnership in Washington  
Kelly Kovacic-Duran, Principal Consultant, Education First

Building Regional Practitioner Partnerships to Increase Postsecondary Enrollment Through Limitless  
Leanne Davis, Managing Researcher, Education Northwest

Bridging the Gap: How DVR Supports Students with Disabilities in Transitioning from High School to College  
Joy Kramer-Miller, Regional Transition Consultant, Department of Vocational Reb Services

Career & Technical Education in Washington State: Collaborate with us to interpret outcome findings from a longitudinal study of student access, participation, and outcomes  
Sam Riggs, Managing Researcher, Education Northwest

College and Career Readiness: The Disproportionate Impacts on Black and Brown Bodies, Long-term Impacts and Why Does it Matter  
Kirsten Thornton, GEAR UP District Coordinator, Renton Schools

Conversation on Data, Research, and Policy for Student Success  
Bonnie Nelson, Board Member, WERA

Defining Post-Secondary Success in Washington  
Tammy Campbell, CEO, The Scholar First

Developing Opportunities for Diverse Career Exploration for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
Bailey Gauthier, Employment Services Coordinator, WSU ROAR

Empowering Equitable Futures...What's Best for the Student  
Anna McLeod, Director of Student Services, Washington State University, Everett

How Change Happens: Use of Street Data's Equity Transformation Cycle  
Nesley Bravo, Sr. Manager of Education Strategy, Community Center for Education Results

How Mentoring Empowers Black Youth  
Kelvin Washington, Executive Director, Mentoring Urban Students & Teens

Leveraging Partnerships to Inform SNAP-Eligible Students About Tuition Free College  
Leanne Davis, Managing Researcher, Education Northwest

Out-of-School, not Out-of-Sight: Creative Pathways to Credentials for Youth Experiencing Disengagement  
Kendra Reiser, Project Coordinator, Industry Engagement, SnoCo Connect

Paving the Way: Improving College and Career Access for Every Student  
Jeanne Willard, Executive Director, College & Career Readiness, Everett Public Schools

Postsecondary Student Mindsets & Transition Research; New Insights  
Guajardo Veronica, SOVA Partner & Project Lead, SOVA

Preparing Students for the Journey Ahead: How Community Partnerships Increase Postsecondary Success  
Rick Goble, Superintendent, Chehalis School District

Reflecting on Past Successes, Envisioning Preferred Futures: A Facilitated Conversation about Meeting Washington's Postsecondary Goal  
Hilary Loeb, Acting Director, Puget Sound College and Career Network, Puget Sound ESD

Research-Practice Partnerships: Getting Started  
Paula Arce-Trigatti, Director of the National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnership

Research-Practice Partnerships: Moving Them Forward  
Laura Wentworth, Director of Research-Practice Partnership Program at California Education Partners

Regional Challenge Grant: A Community Vision for Statewide Attainment  
KC Deane, Associate Director of Research and Program Evaluation, WSAC

Skill Up For Our Future  
Brian Jeffries, Policy Director, Washington Roundtable

State-Level Initiatives and Projects that Involve Postsecondary Data  
Katie Weaver Randall, Director, ERDC