Education and Workforce Development

- **Strengthen STEM education in the state K-12 education system.** Many high paying jobs of the future will require workers with STEM education. Partnership for Learning supported a bill to ensure that Washington students are more prepared for higher education by improving high school graduation requirements.

  *Partner: Partnership for Learning*
  - Passed SB 6552 (Senator Rolfes) Improving student success by increasing instructional hours and raising high school graduation requirements to 24 credits to better align with higher education admission requirements.

- **Support a more sustainable and accountable state higher education system that meets industry needs for STEM and other high demand fields.** Washington’s higher education system needs to keep up with the demands of local industry, with a curriculum that reflects the skills of the jobs of today and tomorrow.

  - Added capacity in the state’s higher education system for STEM education, with $1 million for Computer Science at Central Washington University and $1 million for Engineering at Eastern Washington University.
  - $410,000 for the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) to provide additional STEM opportunities for underrepresented students.

Business Climate

- **Secure final assembly of the 777X and associated composite wing fabrication in Washington.** Boeing recently went through a citing decision process for the location of the 777X final assembly and wing fabrication, creating a significant economic boon to the region selected to do this work.

  *Partners: Washington Aerospace Partnership, Washington State Office of Aerospace*
  - Boeing will locate the 777X and wing fabrication in the central Puget Sound region.
  - $750,000 in matching funds to create the Washington State University Aviation Biofuels Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Center of Excellence.

- **Adopt a sustainable funding model to promote state tourism.** Tourism is significant contributor to our state and regional economy. In 2011, the legislature eliminated funding for the state tourism office and the Washington Tourism Alliance is seeking a strategy to continue funding state tourism promotion activities. The Washington Tourism Alliance introduced legislation in 2014 to establish an industry-funded, self-assessment model which they have vetted with their members. Additional legislation will have to be passed in 2015 to finalize the tourism assessment model.

  *Partner: Washington Tourism Alliance*
  - Passed HB 2229 (Representative Morris) Concerning long-term funding for a state tourism marketing program.