

Everett High School and Community Partners Support Future Caregivers

Earlier this year, Everett High School students took a meaningful step toward their futures through the Career and Technical Education program. The school offers training for students to become certified Home Care Aides, giving them a head start on both college and career pathways.

The hands-on program builds real-world skills and prepares students for Washington's Home Care Aide certification exam. This year, 23 out of 27 students passed, demonstrating both the quality of the training and the dedication of the students.

To celebrate their progress and strengthen ties with local employers, Everett High School hosted an open house in June to connect students with community care agencies. Students demonstrated caregiving skills, shared career goals, and spoke about their interest in health care. Some plan to pursue nursing, others are exploring broader health care careers, and many see caregiving as a meaningful way to begin.



(L-R) Naomi Spector, Carly Seagren, Danielle DeLuca, and Stacy Graff

Three local home care agencies attended and were impressed by the students' professionalism and preparation. Many students came ready to network, bringing résumés and engaging directly with potential employers. As a result of the event, one student was hired and is now working as a Home Care Aide. This early success highlights the program's impact.

The event was a collaborative effort between Everett High School, local home care agencies, and the Home and Community Living Administration Workforce Development Team. Carly Seagren, Workforce Development High School Liaison, and Naomi Spector, Long-Term Care Workforce Navigator, worked closely with school staff and employers to connect students with career opportunities and build a pipeline of support for the High School Home Care Aide program. This model of collaboration will be replicated in other regions of Washington where the program is active.

Students who complete the training earn high school credit and can take the Home Care Aide certification exam. Once certified, they are eligible to begin working as caregivers across Washington. Some students can start as early as age 16 or 17, depending on the setting and Labor and Industries guidelines for hiring minors.

To learn more about the High School Home Care Aide Training Program, visit [DSHS website](https://www.dshs.wa.gov/education).



Washington Association for Career and Technical Education

Summer Conference 2025, Spokane

The annual Washington Association for Career and Technical Education summer conference is a gathering place for Career and Technical Education professionals, offering comprehensive programming covering high-quality CTE in secondary and postsecondary environments and emerging trends in the field to help career and technical educators thrive in their careers. The conference provides attendees with a rich array of networking opportunities, an Exhibitor Trade Show, hundreds of concurrent program sessions, and numerous networking opportunities.

Home and Community Living Administration Workforce Development high school liaison Carly Seagren partnered with Home Care Aide teachers Heather Gamache from Selah High School and Ashley Undag from Everett High School to deliver a session about the High School Home Care Aide Program for educators and district Career and Technical Education staff. The session was recorded for attendees unable to be there live, and for virtual conference attendees to watch on replay.

Heather and Ashley shared about their experiences teaching the HCA training in the classroom and what it looks like in each of their schools. They shared insights into their course structure, daily flow, classroom activities, and teaching resources, along with practical ideas and tips. Their contributions brought the training to life and offered valuable inspiration for fellow educators and staff to learn directly from those already leading the work.



(L to R) Heather Gamache, Carly Seagren, and Ashley Undag

Caregiver Careers Website Is Getting an Upgrade

Exciting updates are coming to the Caregiver Careers Washington website. This fall, the site will relaunch with easier navigation, clearer information, and helpful resources for anyone interested in becoming a caregiver or growing in the field. The URL will stay the same: [CaregiverCareersWA.com](https://www.CaregiverCareersWA.com).

Whether you are just starting out or ready to take the next step, the refreshed site will offer added support throughout your journey.

Caregivers help people live independently in their own homes and remain part of their communities.



The new platform is designed to guide and connect more individuals with rewarding caregiving opportunities.

Check back this fall to explore how the updated Caregiver Careers Washington website can help you make a difference.

Connecting with Tribal Nations and Diverse Communities

Yan, the Long-Term Care Workforce Navigator with the Home Community Living Administration, has spent the summer building relationships with Tribal nations and diverse communities in Pierce County and Southwest Washington. She is actively learning from these communities while raising awareness about caregiving as a meaningful and accessible career path.

With support from Lisa Pemberton, DSHS Tribal Affairs Administrator, Yan was invited to several Tribal and community events.

- Quileute Tribe's Health and Wellness event 'Success Community Resource Gathering' at the Nisqually Tribal Center.
- Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe's resource fair.
- Health and Wellness Fair at the Hoh Tribal Nation.
- Elders' Supports and Services event at the Lucky Eagle Casino. Hosted by the South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency.

Her most recent engagement was with the Elwha Tribe during their canoe journey, *Paddle to Elwha 2025*. Yan staffed an outreach booth, connected with attendees, and took part in creating and sharing gifts with Tribal members.

"The rhythm of the drums and the grace of the dancers stirred something deep within me. It was beautiful, powerful, and a true celebration of spirit and tradition." -Yan



Yan with Lisa Pemberton from the Elwha Tribe, which hosted the Canoe Journey "Paddle to Elwha 2025"



This young man participated in the Makah tribal protocol at the Canoe Journey "Paddle to Elwha 2025"

In addition to her outreach to Tribal nations, Yan engaged with other diverse communities by participating in the Diverse Community Festival in Federal Way.

Through her presence, active listening, and participation in local events, she's fostering meaningful relationships that strengthen and sustain this vital mission.

Workforce Navigators

Have questions about becoming a caregiver? Get support on your journey to becoming a caregiver. Discover caregiving resources, upcoming events, benefits, and job openings.



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Connect with Us

Have an event, need a presentation, or inquires about Caregiver Careers? Reach out to learn more!



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Introducing: Caregiving in Action Newsletter

We're excited to introduce *Caregiving in Action*, a monthly newsletter created for caregivers across Washington state.

Each issue features real stories, practical tips, and helpful resources to support caregivers in their work. Whether just beginning or bringing years of experience, caregivers are celebrated through *Caregiving in Action*. The newsletter shares tools to make their jobs easier and provides updates to keep them informed.

Caregiving can be demanding, and staying connected to a supportive community makes a difference. Prioritizing your own wellness helps you continue showing up with strength and compassion.

Stay connected. Stay inspired. Thank you for all that you do.

Join our email list to receive *Caregiving in Action* in your inbox. [Subscribe today!](#)

Resources

[DSHS Long-Term Care Services & Information](#)

[Fundamentals of Caregiving PDFs](#)

[Long-Term Care Worker Orientation Training PDFs](#)

[Long-Term Care Worker Safety Training PDFs](#)

[Residential Care Online Incident Reporting](#)

[Report Concerns Involving Vulnerable Adults](#)

[Alzheimer's Association](#)

[DSHS Family Caregiver Handbook PDF](#)

[Family Caregiver Alliance](#)

[CareLearn Washington](#)

[Caregiver Support Groups](#)



Caregiver Job Fair – You're Invited

Whatcom WorkSource is hosting a Caregiver Job Fair on Wednesday, September 11, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. at 101 Prospect St., Bellingham.

Meet local employers, explore caregiving careers, and listen to our presentations at 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM.

Please email caregivercareerswa@dshs.wa.gov for questions or comments.

