



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating **50 years** of youth education and economic development across Washington...

www.wbw.org

WELCOME TO WBW



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Washington Business Week (WBW) provides a hands-on, experiential environment that educates, empowers, and inspires diverse high school students to recognize and achieve their potential. WBW unleashes passion for entrepreneurship and leadership, empowering business teams of tomorrow.





Message From The Executive Director

WBW: Shaping Washington's workforce for 50 years.

As Washington Business Week enters our 50th year, I'm profoundly grateful for the tens of thousands of volunteers, donors, and community members who have made this organization a pillar in Washington's workforce for nearly half a century.

Each year of the last fifty has brought its own stories and this year was no exception. Together, we welcomed an extraordinary community of business leaders into WBW, giving students direct access to professionals shaping Washington's economy. We renewed and forged partnerships across the state, including the return of our Eastern Washington program, expanding our geographic reach and deepening our ability to serve youth where opportunity is often limited.



What's Ahead

Our new strategic plan reflects a clear vision: Washington Business Week as a sustainable organization serving a meaningful portion of students statewide, supported by a strong and engaged community. Over the next three years, we aim to double both the number of students we serve and the resources that support them, while continuing to strengthen the foundations that make our work possible.

Today, WBW is well positioned to carry our mission forward, together with you, for the next half century.

NICK QUINLAN
Executive Director



Message From The Board President

WBW positively impacts education, employment and the economy in Washington.

Common wisdom would say that a 50th anniversary should be a time to reflect on all the changes that have happened in the past half century. As I think about Washington Business Week this year, though, I can't help but think about what has stayed the same – the educational, transformational experiences our organization has brought to students every year since 1976.

Though our alumni (*80,000+ students and counting!*) are entering the workforce with job titles that didn't exist fifty years ago, Washington Business Week's core message to those students has changed very little: communication, collaboration, and confidence can set you up for success no matter where you work or what you do.

I welcome you to join us as Washington Business Week spends 2026 celebrating our past as well as charting out our future.

Whether you choose to volunteer, donate, inspire, or collaborate, you can provide a life-changing experience to students across the state... and maybe to yourself as well!

IAN FARRELL
Board President



50 YEARS OF WBW

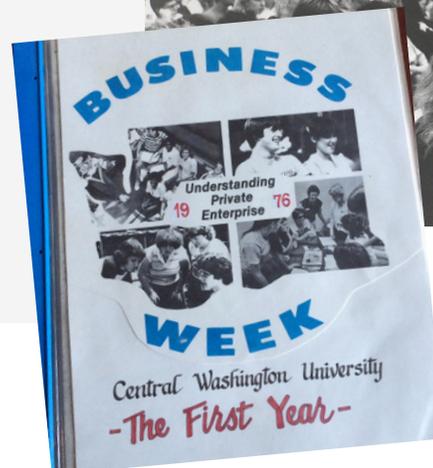


HISTORY

In 1976, Jim Brooks, president of Central Washington University, hosted Business Week serving 225 students on a single campus.

Today, Washington Business Week serves more than 1,000 teens across the state through summer camps and in-school community programs annually. Each year, dozens of businesses and hundreds of professionals participate, providing teens with real-world experiences in a variety of careers.

With more than 80,000 alumni emerging from WA, WBW inspired a global movement. Now, there are more than 25 offshoots worldwide—as far as Australia.



Celebrate with us!
SEE INVITATION
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HIGH-LEVEL IMPACT



STUDENTS SERVED

More than 1,000 students experienced WBW in 2025 during in-school or summer programs.

Students agree that participation in WBW will help them:





Positive Perceptions Lasting Impact

Business Week builds student optimism and changes how youth see themselves. WBW students report increased Generalized Self Efficacy and Entrepreneurial Self Efficacy, which have long-term impacts.

Generalized Self Efficacy (GSE)

- Increases school persistence.
- Increases school performance.
- Increases career exploration.
- Increases goal persistence.

Entrepreneurial Self Efficacy (ESE)

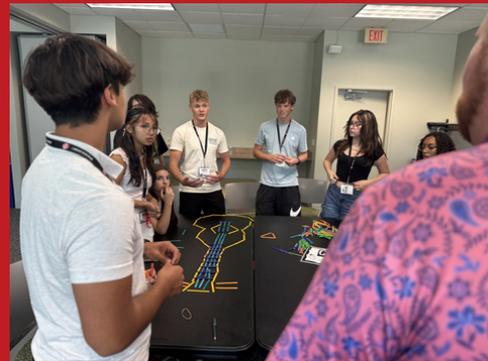
- Increases likelihood of starting and sustaining a business.
- Increases performance of founded companies.

56%

WBW students report an increase in GSE.

77%

WBW students report an increase in ESE.



Combining experiential education curriculum and career exposure, WBW students' gains in GSE and ESE improve statewide workforce and economic outcomes.

IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS



OUTCOMES

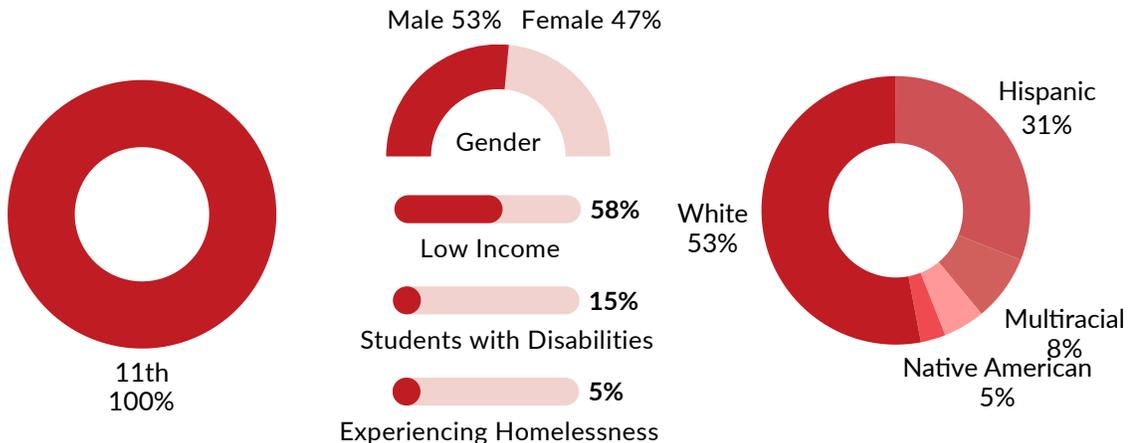
In 2025, **836 students** participated in WBW's in-school programs, which are community led and locally responsive, delivered primarily in schools that serve rural, low-income youth.

Thank You, High School Partners!

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| Aberdeen | Omak |
| Hoquiam | Raymond |
| Montesano | South Bend |
| Okanogan | Willapa Valley |



Student Demographics



Student Spotlight

HARMONY ADAMS



○ “My big takeaways from the summer program was that networking is crucial to success.”

I learned what it meant for **communities** to come together to see **youth thrive**. With over 50+ volunteers in action, it made my heart swell for Grays Harbor. I also learned how to **work as a team** in a professional setting, working with people I normally didn't interact with to begin with. It was a lot of fun and really opened my eyes. WILE also helped my **business literacy** and gave me **skills to succeed**. Ultimately, I would say WBW helped shape my **confidence**. ”

WBW Story

- Harmony attended WBW at Hoquiam High School.
- She loved the program and what it taught.
- She later enrolled in WBW summer programs at Northwest University.



SUMMER PROGRAMS

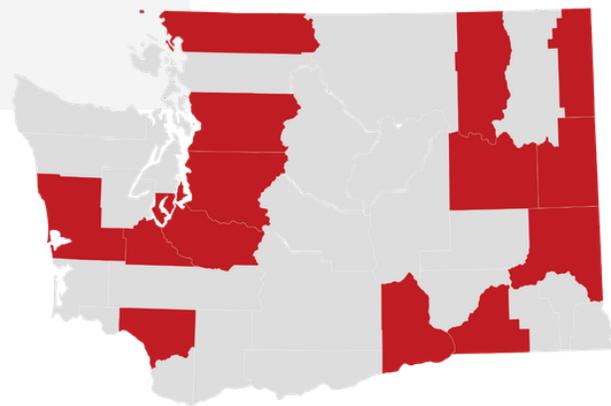


OUTCOMES

In 2025, WBW was pleased to host **261 students** at summer programs, delivering curriculum, building camaraderie and providing college exposure. Overnight attendees nearly doubled compared to 2024!

Launching in Eastern WA to support the entire state and rural youth. For the first time ever, WBW launched Business Week at Eastern Washington University, serving **49 students**. Among these students, 35% are rural youth and 57% received scholarships.

Thank You,
University Partners!



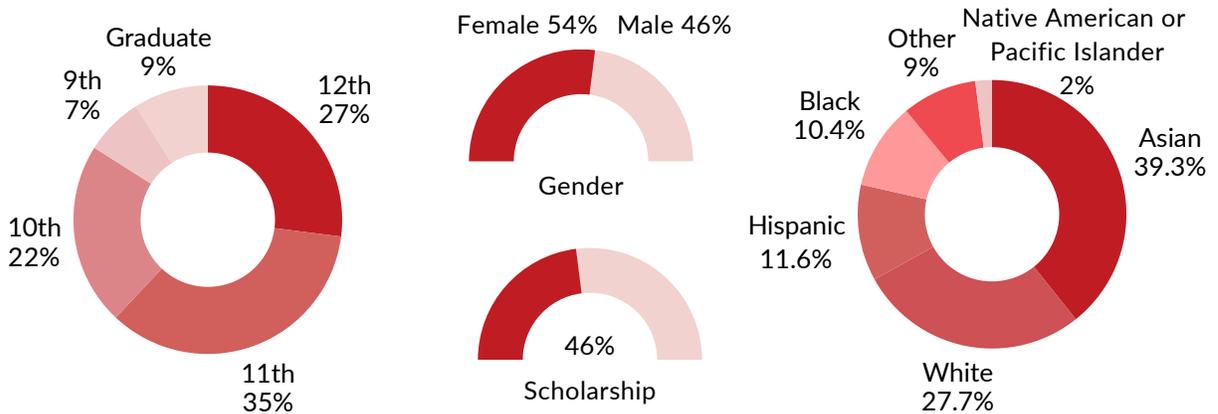


SUMMER PROGRAMS IN ACTION

Each summer, hundreds of high school students engage in Washington Business Week, where they gain business knowledge, financial literacy, leadership skills, teamwork experience, college exposure, professional connections, and so much more.



Student Demographics



Student Spotlight JAKOB THOMAS



○ “It was an amazing experience...
lifechanging.”

WBW is a once in a lifetime opportunity. I have learned so much and it has **expanded my options for my future and path to success**. [I] can't wait to expand and establish my future in the business world.

”

WBW Story

- Jakob was the first student to register in 2025.
- He attended WBW at EWU.
- He attended WBW to learn how to operate his auto detailing business better.
- For his contributions, he won the PEMCO Scholarship.





BUSINESS COMMUNITY VISITS

During summer programs, WBW was honored to have executives from some of Washington’s most notable companies, alongside small business owners and startup founders.



Farah Ali
VP AI, Electronic Arts (EA)



Bela Biro
Former ED, Swedish Medical



Keva Sonderen
Co-Owner, Sonderen Packaging



Yvette White
CHRO, Delta Dental WA



Brenda Morris
Board Member, Boot Barn



Jennifer Liao
President, MiLa



Daren Olson
Partner, Deloitte



Harrison Lewis
Former CIO, Grocery Outlet



Ryan Faucett
VP Sustainability, Boeing

BUSINESS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Thank you to the following companies, including **258 volunteers**.

AB2 Technology
Adaptive Biotechnologies
Alaska Airlines ★
AllStar Glass Company
Amazon
AppleOne
AssetLab Marketing ●
Avista
B&G Foods ●
BECU
Beyond Pink
BFG Lab
Bioassay Sciences
Blue Origin
Boulder Administration Services
Brantley Janson
Bryant & DaValle PC ●
Cafered
Caliber Consulting
Camp Korey
Central Valley School District
City of Renton
Coldwell Banker Bain
Collins Aerospace
Commercial Brokers Association
Communities in Schools Spokane
Costco Wholesale ★
D2615
DCGone
Delta Dental WA
Downtown Seattle Association
Eastern Washington Area Health Education Center
Eastern Washington University
Electronic Arts
Elles Business Solutions
English Insurance Group ●
EpiThany, Inc.
Eventbrite
Expeditors Cargo Insurance Brokers
Fennemore Craig, P.C.
Flutter Entertainment
Fred Hutch Cancer Center
Foundry10 ★

Gartner ●
Gateway Financial Partners
Gig Harbor Rotary Foundation ★
GitHub ★
Grange Insurance ★
Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce ●
GoWest Credit Union Association ★
Hedlund Tax and Accounting, PLLC
Heritage Triage
Heritage Bank ★
Hoquiam Grizzly Alumni Association ★
IBA
Innovia Foundation
Jacob Meadow Associates
King County
Leadership Spokane
LegalShield
Lembeck Appraisal & Consulting ●
Lexington Law
Liang Pacific Inc. ★
Lindbergh High School
Major League Hacking
Mann Grandstaff VAMC
Mastor Recruiting & Career Consulting
McKinstry
Medina Foundation ★
Microsoft Corporation ★
MiLa
Milgard School of Business
Montana State University-Bozeman ●
Mountain Capital Commercial Lending
Mountain Pacific Bank
National Research Group (NRG)
Nintendo of America ★
Northwest University
OakNorth
Odessa High School
OfferUp
Optum ●
OSPI
PACCAR Inc. ★

PEMCO Insurance ★ ●
Pinterest
Pixel Dust Weddings
Pleasantries
Premera Blue Cross
Print NW ★
Prosperity Denver Fund
Providence Health & Services
Puget Sound Energy
Puget Sound Naval Shipyard
PwC KSDC
Raymond James ★ ●
Realtor.com
Royal Caribbean Group
Ryan James Fine Arts
Hometaste Kitchen
Seattle Housing Authority
Seattle Public Utilities
SmartTalent
Sonderen Packaging
Sound Credit Union ★
Starbucks Corporation ★ ●
SugarPleaseProductions.com
Swedish Health System
Swishonomics
T-Mobile
The Boeing Company ★ ●
The Gates Foundation
The Talent Connection
TikTok
Top Dog Plumbing and Drain
University of Oregon
Valley GMC
Walmart Store #2516 ★
WA Dept. of Transportation
Washington DECA
Washington SBDC
Washington Society of CPAs ★
Wellsaid
Wilder Dentistry
Windermere Real Estate
Woodinville High School
Workforce Snohomish
World Traveler LLC
Xbox Game Studios

★ Donors
● Board Members

WELCOME TO BUSINESS WEEK

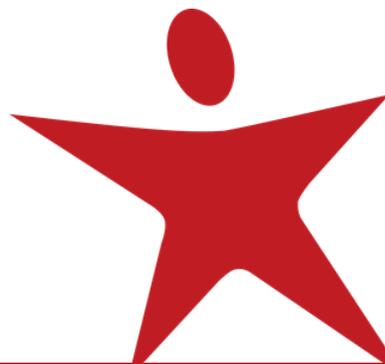


Celebrate with WBW SAVE THE DATE

Spokane: April 20, 2026

South Sound: September 2026

Seattle: October 14, 2026



RSVP Now:



Your Invitation

Thank you for being part of Washington Business Week's journey. As we enter our 50th year, I invite you to join us for a celebration and share your WBW story. Register today at wbw.org/50.

Nick Quinlan
Executive Director



GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER. DONATE. PARTNER.

You can help create a stronger, more diverse, more ethical, and purpose-driven workforce.

2026 Summer Programs

University of Puget Sound: June 21 - 26 - Residential
Eastern Washington University: July 12 - 17 - Residential
Renton Technical College: July 27 - 31 - Day

www.wbw.org/getinvolved



Support Us:



2026

Washington Business Week (WBW)
Foundation for Private Enterprise Education
Tax ID: 91-1048245
www.wbw.org

253-237-3545
info@wbw.org
2226 Eastlake Ave E, PMB #676
Seattle WA 98102