

# **Pullman 2040**

## **Education Task Force Report**

A core value in the City of Pullman is our support for a high quality education system. Vision 2040's polling data affirmed that Pullman citizens highly value our outstanding education programs; including early learning programs, PreK-12 education, Washington State University and other adult learning opportunities.

The Education Task Force has identified three core objectives crucial to ensuring Pullman continues to have an outstanding education system. More detailed projects have been categorized to achieve these objectives, each of which are identified as a small, medium or large project depending on the difficulty and time necessary to achieve each project.

Below, I have summarized the Education Task Force's goals and the projects designed to achieve each goal.

Goal #1. Facilitate Exposure of Learners to Community Members with Expertise in Specialized Fields.

**Details:** Pullman is blessed with citizens who are experts in their respective career and technical professions, including employees at Schweitzer, WSU and other employers throughout the region. It is the Task Force's consensus that Pullman learners benefit from exposure to community members with expertise related to their business or area of study.

**Projects:**

1. Strengthen interaction between WSU Center for Civic Engagement and PSD through quarterly meetings with PSD Superintendent (or his designee) and Center for Civic Engagement for the purpose of facilitating interaction between WSU employees and Pullman learners [**Small Project**];
2. Hold a yearly community education event at the Neill Public Library where educators have a platform to network and speak to community members about their programs and areas of expertise [**Small Project**];
3. Create a database of professionals/experts willing to speak or provide presentations to PSD learners by area of expertise/area of study [**Medium Project**]; and
4. Publicize to educators the availability of the database, and accessibility to it through the use of computers in classrooms and the Neill Public Library, to match educator's curriculum with

experts who are willing and available to volunteer and/or provide presentations to learners [**Large Project**].

Goal #2      Provide More Career/Technical Training on the Palouse.

**Details:**      An important focus of the educational system in Pullman (and an area in which it excels) is college readiness. Though Pullman schools expose students to career/technical classes (such as welding, culinary programs, computer sciences, etc.) students who are not “college bound” and adults in the community do not have access to broad-based vocational training sufficient to transition these students into well paying, technical fields.

**Projects:**

1.      Work with Spokane Falls Community College to bring vocational curriculum currently offered at its main campus to Pullman [**Small Project**];
2.      Encourage WSU to offer non-degree certificates and vocational training as part of its mission [**Medium Project**]; and
3.      Create a community “skills center” where PHS learners and members of the community can obtain vocational training in areas such as automotive repair, carpentry, heating and cooling repair, electrical and plumbing. [**Large Project**].

Goal #3      Continue and Enhance Support For Education.

**Details:**      The Pullman community has always highly supported public education. For our educational system to maintain its excellence, the community must continue to, and increase support for, educational programs.

**Projects:**

1.      Increase the prominence of PHS and the Greyhound logo around Pullman, including “Welcome to Pullman” signage, display Greyhound flags along with WSU, and encourage businesses to display such signs [**Small Project**].
2.      Encourage volunteerism that benefits educational programs. This includes continued coordination between the Center for Civic Engagement, WSU groups (such as fraternities and sororities),

SFCC and expanding partnerships with groups such as WSU retirees, etc. [**Medium Project**].

3. Encourage community wide support for Boosters, PTA groups, Pullman Education Foundation, Friends of Neill Public Library and other groups that raise money for educational programs. Use existing methods of communication, such as Chamber email and newsletters, to make it easier for such entities to reach out to Pullman businesses. Encourage Pullman businesses to join these groups and make contributions to them as part of their business culture [**Large Project**].