

## Statewide Targeted Sectors

### Washington State Office of Economic Development and Competitiveness Department of Commerce

Our sector-based economic development strategy is a reflection of the fact that we face intense international and interstate competition for good jobs. **Sector Leads** – people with deep industry expertise and connections who can provide the essential links to align business, local organizations, and government entities on economic development initiatives.

These sectors were targeted based on the answers to two questions: Which sectors drive the state’s economy? Which sectors have significant growth potential or strategic value? Sectors with large employment bases, positive growth potential, and those that are traded outside the state headline our sector-based economic development strategy. They are:

- Aerospace
- Agriculture & Food Processing
- Clean Technology
- Life Sciences & Global Health
- Information Communication Technology
- Maritime
- Military & Defense

### Centers of Excellence Community and Technical College System

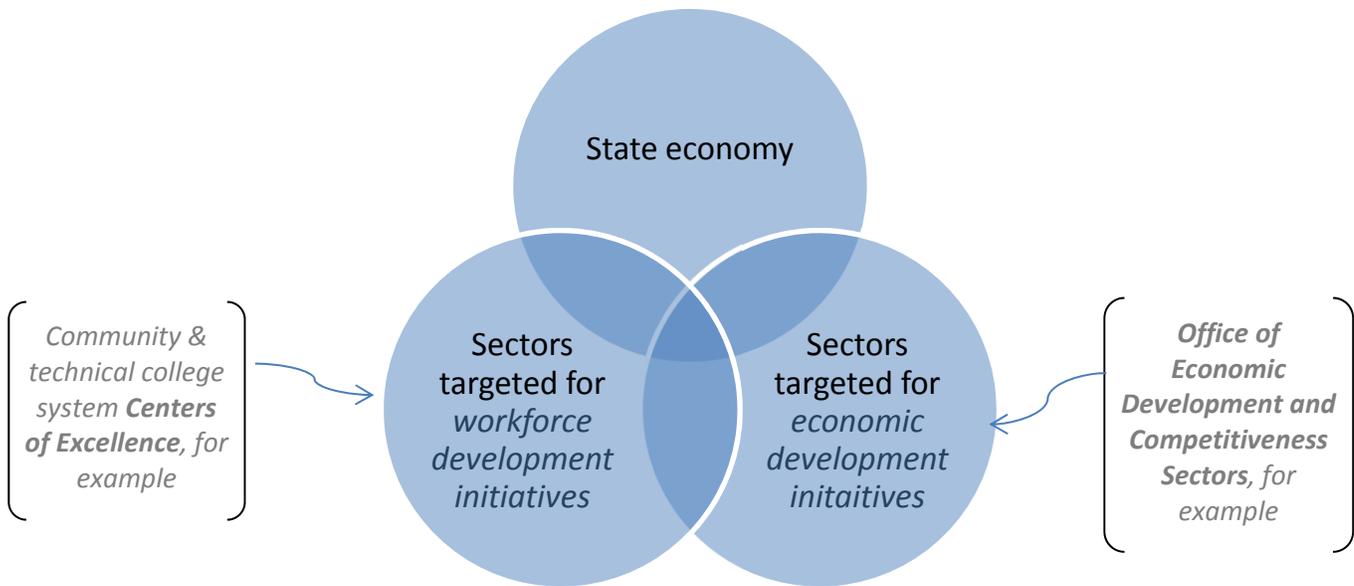
Sectors supported by the community and technical colleges’ Centers of Excellence were identified through data analysis and discussions with business groups and state agencies involved in workforce and economic development. Analysis included consideration of key export sectors as well as service sectors with projected growth and living wage jobs. Centers support the development of workforce education programs which prepare middle-skilled workers through professional/technical certificates and associate degree programs. As such, the State Board and its partners also sought to ensure selected sectors’ labor market gaps included an increased need for middle-skilled workers who could receive training through the community and technical college system.

The work of each Center is guided by an active and engaged industry-led advisory board. The Centers are regularly reviewed to ensure that their sector continues to show labor market demand and that emerging labor needs are being addressed by the community and technical colleges.

The ten Centers of Excellence are:

- Center of Excellence for Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing --- Everett Community College
- Agriculture Center of Excellence --- Walla Walla Community College
- Center of Excellence for Allied Health – Yakima Valley Community College
- Construction Center of Excellence – Renton Technical College
- Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy – Centralia College
- Center of Excellence for Careers in Education – Green River College
- Center of Excellence for Homeland Security and Emergency Management – Pierce College
- Center of Excellence for Global Trade and Supply Chain Management – Highline College
- Center of Excellence for Information Computing and Technology – Bellevue College
- Northwest Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing and Technology – Skagit Valley College

## Making sense of statewide sector-strategies



### Explanation

Workforce development programs tend to focus on sectors with substantial job opportunities now and into the new future. Economic development efforts, however, also include support for what we think will be the state’s strategic sectors of tomorrow. Thus, statewide sector strategies often, but not always, overlap depending upon the nature of the investment decisions and desired outcomes at hand.