

November 30, 2021

Everett Community College
Attn: Board of Trustees
2000 Tower Street
Everett, WA 98201

RE: Potential Early Learning Center Closure

Dear Board of Trustees:

We recently heard the disappointing news that Everett Community College has come to a decision to close the accredited Early Learning Center and plans to replace it with a limited-service daycare from a non-union outside contractor. We are writing today to respectfully request that you put an immediate reversal to these proceedings.

This closure would be a huge loss to the families who rely on the ELC for services, the staff whose jobs and livelihoods are reliant on these positions, students reliant on this department for practicum needs, and the local children who receive critical emotional, educational, and social skills from the ELC to maximize their potential. A closure will send a tidal wave of impacts across the region.

As members of the Board of Trustees, you know first-hand how important early childhood education and intervention is to the trajectory of success for a young person. Our local city, state, and federal government all have a vested interest in providing equitable access to programs that ensure children have the social and educational tools needed to thrive. A closure of the ELC without stakeholder, community, and union engagement lacks transparency and seems a reactionary measure to claims of financial unsustainability. Hastily moving ahead without consultation would counter the values, passion for community, and thoughtful leadership at the college we have come to appreciate.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. The Early Learning Center provides vital services to families in our area, quality education for students, and living-wage careers for college staff and faculty.

Sincerely,

Mary Fosse
Councilmember-Elect for Everett City Council, District 1

Paula Rhyne
Councilmember-Elect for Everett City Council, District 2

Don Schwab
Councilmember-Elect for Everett City Council, District 3

cc: AFSCME/WFSE 1020 and AFT Local Everett 1873, AFL/CIO