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CAREER OUTLOOK SEMINAR: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORT SPECIALIST

WELCOME

Goals of Presentation:

- Summarize state workforce trends
- Identify employment sectors for BHSS
- Describe certification rationale
- List employment preparation strategies
- Recognize equity and access needs
- Explain career advancement opportunities
- Support well-being and opportunity to thrive



SUMMARIZE STATE WORKFORCE TRENDS

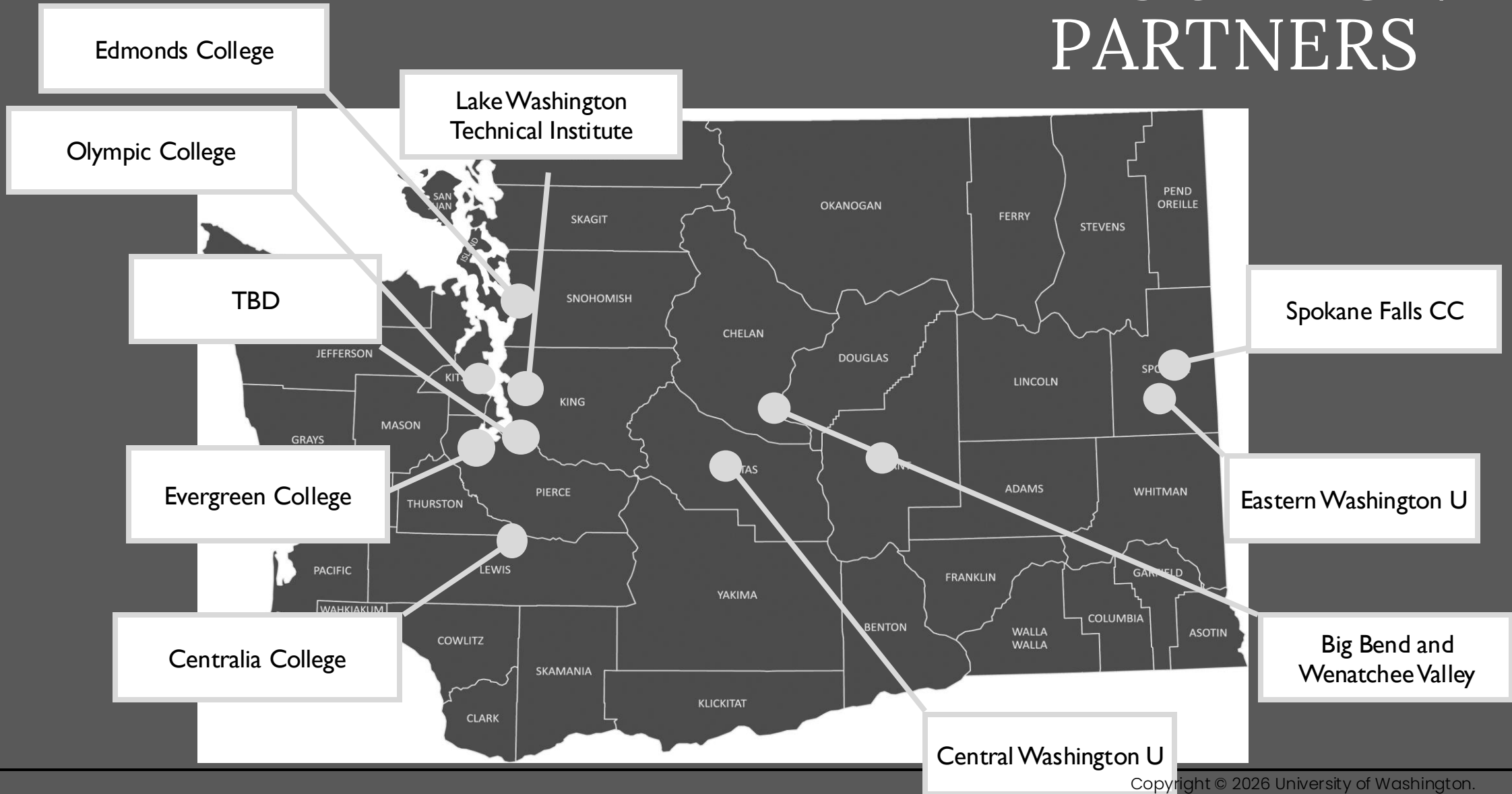
Employment outlook for bachelor level clinicians is strong

Driven by increased incidence of mental and substance use conditions, reduction in stigma for seeking help, and policy changes related to access to care.

INDUSTRY EXAMPLES

COMPANY	JOB TITLE AND DESCRIPTION	QUALIFICATIONS
Discovery Behavioral Health	Full-time Therapist —counseling and treatment planning	Associate license level
Madrona Recovery Washington	Wellness Counselor —implement brief interventions, engage in treatment planning, crisis response	Certified counselor
University of Washington	Mental Health Specialist —biopsychosocial assessments, care planning, therapy sessions	Bachelor's and counselor certification

EDUCATION PARTNERS



THRIVING IN UNCERTAINTY

Adapting to change

Mental and behavioral health services must be able to respond rapidly and effectively to shifts in political, economic, and business trends.

Real-world impact

Bachelor-level mental and behavioral health providers are expanding across the US with an emerging professional identity forming in the next 5-10 years.



IDENTIFY EMPLOYMENT SECTORS FOR BHSS

TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT SETTINGS

Healthcare & Clinical	Educational	Government and Public Sector	Community-based Orgs	Private and Group Practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals • Outpatient • Integrated care • Collaborative care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career centers • K-12 • College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public health • Corrections • Detention Centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-profit agencies • Shelters • Youth programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervised practice • Telehealth
Workplace and Corporate	Specialized Treatment	Family and Social Services	Faith-based	Telehealth and Digital
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee assistance programs • Wellness programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential treatment • Rehabilitation • Recovery clinics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child welfare • Family counseling • Parent support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral care • Faith affiliated counseling centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online therapy • Remote crisis lines • Text and chat based

DESCRIBE CERTIFICATION RATIONALE



BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION

- Defined scope of practice in law
- Inclusion in State Medicaid Plan
- Opportunity for inclusion in commercial payor networks
- Recognition as a clinical provider
- Core competency framework for academic preparation
- State issued certificate to practice under supervision

LIST EMPLOYMENT PREPARATION STRATEGIES

EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES

- Build resume ([See resume example](#))
- Create LinkedIn profile or other online profile (e.g. Indeed)
- Look broadly for job descriptions ([See job description example](#))
- Include description of BHSS in cover letter ([See cover letter example](#))
- Prepare for interviewing ([See UW Bothell resource](#))
- Recall BHSS competency framework ([See UW BHSS website](#))
- Demonstrate willingness to learn and grow



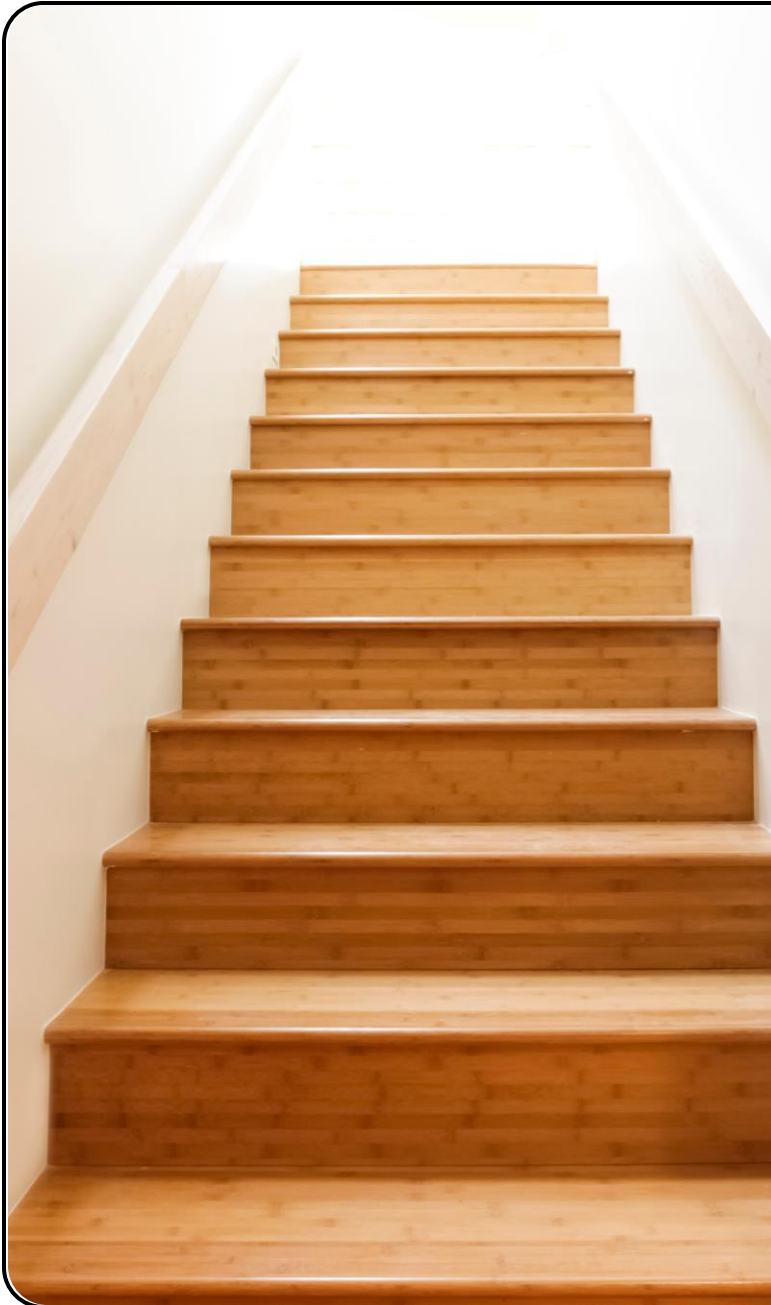
RECOGNIZE EQUITY AND ACCESS NEEDS



WHO WILL YOU SERVE?

- How will your work address the needs of people who struggle to access mental and behavioral healthcare?
- How does your background (personal, volunteer, professional) influence your interest in serving persons who have been marginalized due to a variety of factors (e.g. location, income, age, race, and other identities)?
- What kind of expertise would you like to acquire (e.g. intellectual disabilities, perinatal mental health, youth mental health, family services, etc.)?

EXPLAIN CAREER ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



CAREER ADVANCEMENT

- Continuing Education
 - NWATTC
 - Professional Associations
 - University-based education
 - State of Washington CE
- Employment-based Training
- Graduate School
 - Counseling
 - Psychology
 - Social Work
 - Marriage and Family Therapy
 - Nursing
 - Medical School

SUPPORT WELL- BEING AND OPPORTUNITY TO THRIVE

“Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.”-Albert Einstein



STAY WELL

- Supervision
- Consultation
- Peer Support
- Education
- Wellness Counseling

WHERE DO WE GO
FROM HERE?

GET INVOLVED WITH UW BHSS

- BHSS Workforce Development Project
- Professional Groups
- Department of Health Updates
- Alumni Association





Q & A

Email: bhsswa@uw.edu

[UW Website](#)

[Graduated Student Survey](#)

[DOH Website](#)