

## Dr. David Pelkey

For over 25 years, Dr. Dave Pelkey has served as a visionary, collaborative, and equity-focused higher educational leader with a deep commitment to increasing access and success for WA State's community and technical college students.

Dr. Pelkey's experience spans across four different community and technical colleges in WA State, including senior executive level roles at Renton Technical College (RTC) and South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC) where he led extensive campus reform efforts culminating in national recognition as a Top 10 recipient for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence in 2015 (RTC) and 2023 (SPSCC).

During his tenures, Dr. Pelkey implemented critical student success interventions that increased retention and completion rates of low-income, first-generation, students of color; served as a key member of the Strategic Enrollment Taskforce in developing a statewide strategic enrollment plan; played a lead role in creating and implementing a student-centered, case management structure that serves as a statewide model for supporting students experiencing homelessness and food insecurity; and currently serves as a member of the Strategic Technology Advisory Committee for the WA State community and technical college system.

Dr. Pelkey has successfully collaborated with multiple business, industry, and community groups to create critical partnerships, resulting in enrollment growth and additional fiscal investments. Examples include the construction of a new branch campus that serves as a co-location site for the Veterans Services Hub and Economic Development offices; establishing multiple College in the High School and International Partnership programs; creating college programs at tribal education centers; and launching SPSCC's new Brewing and Distilling program.

Dr. Pelkey is the adopted son of two educators, his mother taught elementary school and his father served as the Vocational Director for the New York School for the Blind and Genesee Community College in New York. His parents instilled in him the transformational nature and love of technical education, and he continues to follow in their footsteps.

Dr. Pelkey enjoys spending time with his partner, Ha, and their family as they explore great restaurants and wine bars, practice their golf swings, collect vintage records, and travel to new places together.