



SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE Currents

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NCMPR

SVC is the recipient of a Gold Medal Award
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SVC Hosts Powwow



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Access | Achievement | Community

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Skagit Valley College
Public Information Office
2405 East College Way
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email: pio@skagit.edu

Editors/Writers:
Arden Ainley, Carl Young, Brad Tuininga,
Anne Clark, and Pam Davis

Design/Production:
Don Cairns

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COLLEGE MISSION
Skagit Valley College provides opportunities for students in pursuit of their educational and employment goals, while contributing to the economic and cultural enrichment of our communities.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



FOCUSED ON EXCELLENCE *Access, Achievement, Community*

Fall Quarter is that special time of year when we welcome students to our campuses and centers where they will pursue their educational goals. It is important that every student — whether they are a new student or a returning student — has a vision for their career and a meaningful academic plan. In turn, our commitment is to provide a learning environment that is focused on excellence and the College's core themes of access, achievement, and community.

Our focus on excellence is the result of a dedicated community that places student achievement at the heart of its work. These individuals are exceptional faculty who engage and inspire, devoted staff who support teaching and learning, and generous donors who make student dreams a reality. Collectively, they are creating innovations that expand **access** to education, developing new resources that support student **achievement**, and celebrating cultural enrichment that builds **community**.

As our cover story in this edition of Currents, we are proud to highlight the beauty and grandeur of Native American culture that took place at SVC's Fall Powwow. It was truly a broad community event, drawing Native American dancers in full regalia from across the United States and Canada. Also in Currents, we are excited to share how \$6 million in new grant funds are helping the College implement student success initiatives. And, in the pages that showcase the SVC Foundation, we will share how strong community support makes a difference in our students' lives.

So, as we begin the academic year, we do so at a very special time for the College. On behalf of the faculty, staff, administration, and Board of Trustees, thank you for all you do in support of Skagit Valley College and the students we serve.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas A. Keegan
President



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Kathryn Bennett
Vice Chair



Lindsay Fiker



Megan Scott O'Bryan



John Stephens

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Access ~ Achievement ~ Community

POWWOW

Bringing people together in a spirit of respect, friendship, and celebration



Hundreds of community members experienced the beauty and grandeur of Native American culture at the Skagit Valley College Fall Powwow held on October 9 - 11 at SVC's Mount Vernon Campus. The Powwow was truly a multicultural event, drawing performers of all ages from across the United States and Canada.

Skagit Valley College has a long history of friendship and collaboration with its Native American neighbors, including hosting Powwows on campus in previous years. In 2012, famed Swinomish Master Carver Kevin Paul created the beautiful Story Pole featured on some of the artwork for this year's Powwow.

For intermission entertainment, the Powwow welcomed two Seattle dance groups. *CeAtl Tonalli* are traditional Danza Azteca dancers who organize ceremonies, dance presentations, cultural workshops, and artistic projects. *Naakw* is a Tlingit dance group that offered song, dance, and cultural presentations to celebrate ancestry and community empowerment. Other activities featured vendors with traditional Native American foods, crafts, and artwork. In addition, families enjoyed an educational arts and crafts Kid's Corner.



Access ~ Achievement

New grants support strategic planning at SVC

Since July, Skagit Valley College has been awarded more than \$6 million in multi-year grants. These funds help SVC focus on access and student achievement efforts outlined in the College's strategic plan.

Title III (Department of Education) – \$2.1 million over 5 years

- Restructures the student's first-quarter experience, support services, and advising;
- Integrates student-centered instructional strategies and culturally responsive practices;
- Decreases the achievement gap between Latino and non-Latino students while improving the retention and completion rates of all students;
- Adds additional staff, including bilingual staff, to help students navigate the College.

Health Professional Opportunity Grant (Department of Health & Human Services) – \$1.75 million over 5 years

- A partnership with Edmonds Community College and Everett Community College;
- Provides a learning community to move TANF recipients and other low-income individuals toward high-demand healthcare careers;
- Offers wraparound support and work-based experiences to strengthen the student's training and expand employment opportunities.

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Fire Grant – \$537,370 over 4 years

- A partnership with Skagit County Fire Districts 6, 13, 14, and the Mount Vernon and Burlington Fire Departments;
- Provides 12 annual scholarships that include tuition, books, fees, uniforms, and testing fees, for SVC Fire students. Students will volunteer at one of the partnering fire agencies for 96 hours per month for hands-on experience. This program also provides the fire agencies with more consistent staffing.

TRIO (Department of Education) – \$1.7 million over 5 years

- Serves first-generation college students, economically disadvantaged students, and individuals with disabilities;
- Provides one-on-one counseling and support, program improvement, and financial aid;
- Since 1981, thousands of SVC students have achieved their educational goals with the support of TRIO;
- TRIO students are twice as likely to complete a program of study, compared to similar students not served by the program.



Community



SVC joins national student success project

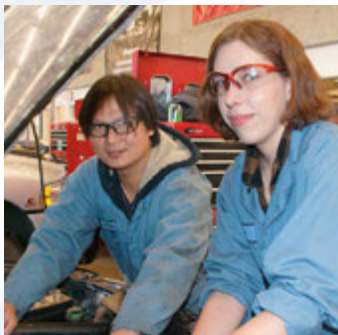
Skagit Valley College has been selected to participate in the *Pathways Project* led by the American Association of Community Colleges. The College is one of only 30 colleges nationwide

- and only three from Washington - chosen to participate in the project after a highly competitive selection process. The project is funded through a \$5.2 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It will provide the College with expertise and other resources as we pursue student achievement and success. It will also put the College in a leadership position nationwide as it relates to this important student success initiative.

SVC Automotive program among Top 20 schools nationwide

SVC's Automotive program was recently named among the Top 20 automotive schools nationwide by Tomorrow's Tech and its partners WIX Filters and O'Reilly Auto Parts. After a competitive selection process, SVC was selected as the only program in Washington to receive the honor. Program recognition means that SVC students excel in the classroom and succeed in the workplace.

www.skagit.edu/automotive



Meet Dr. Laura Cailloux Vice President of the Whidbey Island Campus and Centers

After a nationwide search, Skagit Valley College selected Dr. Laura Cailloux as its Vice President of the Whidbey Island Campus, South Whidbey Center, San Juan Center, and the Marine Technology Center. She began her new role in July, succeeding Dr. Mick Donahue who returned to the classroom to teach Psychology.

Dr. Cailloux has been an entrepreneur in information technology as well as a non-profit manager. While at SVC, she served as a faculty member and administrator, progressing from business management faculty to department chair for five years, then Director of Business and Community Development for four years, and most recently Dean of Workforce Education for eight years.

During the last two years, Dr. Cailloux held the additional title of Special Assistant to the President and led efforts in tribal outreach and Latino community engagement.

Laura holds an EdD in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Washington, a Master's of Business Administration from Portland State University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from Lewis and Clark College.

SVC in the News

Skagit Valley College is highlighted in a *U.S. News and World Report* article about why so many students are coming to community colleges like SVC for job skills:

<http://www.usnews.com/news/college-of-tomorrow/articles/2015/10/28/graduates-of-4-year-universities-flock-to-community-colleges-for-job-skills>



From Grain to Glass

Responding to the needs of today's expanding craft and micro brew industry

Beginning in Spring 2016, Skagit Valley College will launch its Craft Brewing Academy, a 35-credit academy-style certificate program. SVC's program is the first to be offered among Washington's community and technical colleges.

SVC's Craft Brew Academy is designed to provide students with a foundation of knowledge required for successful employment in today's craft brewing industry. In establishing the program, the College has collaborated with regional craft brewing/distilling industry leaders to create this unique multi-disciplinary training program. Students will learn brew science theory through hands-on experience in the brew lab and at local breweries and distilleries. The program will also include industry professionals in the classroom, industry tours, and internship experiences.

www.skagit.edu/craftbrew



Inspiring Intellectual Curiosity

Remembering Dr. Roger deRoos, San Juan Center Biology Instructor

The San Juan Center community was saddened to lose one of its many engaging faculty members this fall, Dr. Roger deRoos. After spending most of his career teaching at the University of Missouri, Dr. deRoos joined the San Juan Center in the 1990s where he served as a part-time Biology instructor. In 2012, SJC students selected him to be their faculty speaker at the Center's 2012 Commencement. Dr. deRoos was known for his commitment and dedication to students as well as his inspiring intellectual curiosity; and he was looked to for wisdom and advice. His courses were rigorous and built around the integrity of the learning process.



Mount Vernon and Whidbey Island campuses team up to honor Veterans

For Veterans' Day 2015, SVC's Mount Vernon and Whidbey Island campuses teamed up to honor those who have served with some special activities.

The Whidbey Island Campus organized a special photo exhibit in Oak Hall celebrating veterans from around the Whidbey Island community. The display included photos, bios, and where the veterans served. In addition, a special BBQ was held for the community.

At the Mount Vernon Campus, the Veterans Club partnered with the Outdoor Club to host a free BBQ on November 10. Donations were accepted, with proceeds going to support Veterans' Club activities and attendance at the Student Veterans of American Conference, which provides veterans with resources, support, and advocacy they need to succeed in college.

"Skagit Valley College also recognizes the faculty, staff and students who have served in the military and the many contributions they make throughout our community," said Dr. Dave Paul, Vice President for Student Services. "Their work creates a learning environment that is focused on excellence and student success for all students."

www.skagit.edu/veterans



<http://skagitfoundation.org>

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SVC | SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE Foundation



In his own words: Levi Olson

By the time I reached high school, my educational experience had soured. I attended roughly six high schools before I dropped out in the 10th grade in an “alternative” educational program. I know that public education wasn't entirely to blame. I didn't want it enough either. I wouldn't return to school for five years, and that was only to get my GED.

Now at the age of 28, I am finally here for me. My passion for the tech industry has been the fuel for my fire. I know I can have a career and love what I do. During my first year at SVC, I was lucky enough to be able to attend my classes. Now, the remainder of my classes are online, which enables me to work while I follow my ultimate educational goal.

I remember walking on to the SVC campus for the first time. I was headed to the financial aid office, where I said: “Uhhh . . . this is my first time . . . haven't been in school in a long time.” My face turned bright red from embarrassment. The woman behind the counter could see how lost I was and she took me through everything I needed to do in order to get into classes at SVC.

In my first quarter I found myself far too overloaded. I had taken Math, which I struggle with; English, which I love; and the intro to my major - CIS (Computer Information Systems). I had 15 credits total. It was enough to create some sleepless nights. Even though I was warned during the orientation seminar, sometimes you just need to see for yourself. Since then I have learned the balancing act that is college. Sometimes I fall, but I've learned that this

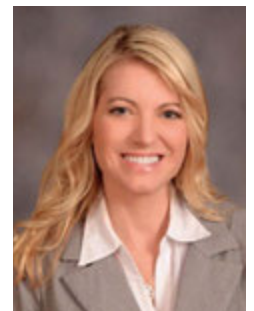
is part of the learning experience. I have loved every second of my college career. And I can't wait to see what's next.

The TRIO program has been a great asset to me. Knowing I have tutoring available for any subject at any time is a great relief. Having those same people invested in my success is like having a second family rooting for me from the sidelines.

There have always been people in my life who want me to succeed, no matter where my aim might lay. What I didn't bank on was finding strangers who were equally supportive of seeing me reach my goals. I found those people at Skagit Valley College.

New Leadership

January 1, 2016, will mark a transition for the SVC Foundation leadership. Carl Young, who has served as the Executive Director of College Advancement for almost nine years, will retire on December 31, 2015. Anne Clark, currently the Assistant Director of SVC Foundation, will assume the role of Executive Director of College Advancement.



Anne began work in the SVC Foundation in 2012. As the Assistant Director, she has helped the Foundation achieve unprecedented growth in the number of donors, the amounts of funds raised, the level of endowment assets, and the number of students assisted. Prior to coming to SVC, Anne taught as an elementary school teacher in the Edmonds School District and served as an investigative social worker and supervised staff at Child Protective Services in Seattle.

Carl expresses mixed emotion at retiring: “this has been the most fulfilling work I could imagine. Colleagues at the College have been wonderful and the mission is inspiring. Because of our community's generous support, the Foundation is in very good shape. Anne Clark has been critical to our success the past few years, and she will lead the team to achieve new milestones of service to the College.”

Alumni in Action

Jackie Davison attended SVC's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management program, engaging a life-long passion and creating Potluck Kitchen Studio.



"I never imagined that losing a job would open a door for me to pursue my real passion, but that is what happened." SVC graduate Jackie Davison is reflecting on the 2009 corporate downsizing that led her to Skagit Valley College's Culinary Arts program, and from there to the creation of her own business in a field she loves.

After finding herself unemployed, Jackie considered what her next profession might be. She decided to follow her lifelong interest and leap into the world of food and cooking. SVC's two-year Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management program seemed like a good place to start.

"It was important to me that the program was accredited," she says. "The Skagit program met and exceeded my expectations. I still stay in touch with the faculty and staff there. They are so good!" Jackie gave the program, which is certified by the American Culinary Federation, her full commitment, completing the program in six quarters of perfect attendance and a 4.0 grade point average. "I am," she says, "really into it!"

Two years in SVC's program "gave me the knowledge and confidence to leap into the field." She started her Anacortes business, Potluck Kitchen Studio, more than three years ago. The business plan: Gather, Learn, Create. It is providing all the learning and teaching experiences she hoped for. She is energized by the rich experiences it has already provided and inspired by the opportunities to contribute to her community. On the learning side, she recently savored a two-and-one-half day seafood intensive class in Ireland!

The teaching takes a variety of forms. Jackie hosts cooking classes focused on everything from ethnic cuisine to basic and advanced cooking techniques. She teaches classes at the local senior center and at the Anacortes Middle School via an After School Culinary Arts classes. What's next on her list? Jackie would like to reach out to local care facilities to offer cooking demonstrations to those with certain dietary considerations like diabetes, lactose intolerance and more.

"To work in a profession and in a community that I love," she says, "how could I be more fortunate? "

Craft Brew Celebration



Kraig Knutzen, a Skagit farmer, and Dale Ragan, a member of Mount Vernon City Council, enjoy local craft brews, including Pike Locale Brew using Skagit Valley Alba malted barley grown by Knutzen Farms.

In September, Debbie and Bruce Lisser hosted members of the local Ag community to hear SVC President Tom Keegan discuss the upcoming Craft Brew program. Wayne Carpenter of Skagit Valley Malting described his reasons for starting the malting business, and his excitement about the future of Ag in the Skagit Valley involving "bread and brew."



SVC President Tom Keegan and Skagit Valley Malting founding partner, Wayne Carpenter.

VP Reception in Anacortes



Local realtor, Jim Scott and Foundation staff member, Anne Clark talk with former Skagit Valley College President Jim Ford.



Reception host, Colleen Craig talks with Shell Plant Manager, Shirley Yap and SVC Foundation staff member, Brad Tuininga.

Colleen Craig and Nels Strandberg hosted a reception at their home to introduce the Anacortes community to Dr. Laura Cailloux, SVC's new Vice President of Whidbey Island Campus, South Whidbey, Friday Harbor, and Anacortes Centers. The afternoon included a tour and presentation at the College's Marine Tech Center.



Fresh crab caught by Nels Strandberg was on the menu. Pictured are Nancy Gentry, Jim Scott, JoAnn Yoshimoto, Susan Ragan, Sue Krienen, and Pam Allen.