



# SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE Currents

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NCMPR

SVC is the recipient of a Gold Medal Award  
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## CONNECTED *with* COMMUNITY

*Civic-minded leadership, collaboration, service, and engagement.*

## MULTI - CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



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Skagit Valley College provides a drug-free environment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or age in its programs and employment.

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



John Stephens  
Chair



Christon Skinner  
Vice Chair



Kathryn Bennett



Lindsay Fiker



Megan Scott O'Bryan

### Welcome!

Skagit Valley College is proud to be part of a community that embraces civic-minded leadership, collaboration, service, and engagement. In that spirit, we connect with individuals who give back to SVC — and the community — by supporting the College's mission to provide access to higher education. Not only does their engagement support academic success for our students, it also contributes to the economic vitality of our region and enriches our quality of life.

Throughout Skagit, Island, and San Juan counties, many individuals have joined our commitment to students and community. They are key leaders in government, business, and economic development who help our region prosper and grow. They are dedicated educators who mentor tomorrow's leaders. They are generous donors who support educational opportunities for deserving students. Together, we are creating new learning opportunities that lead to student success, offering industry-aligned training that responds to employer needs, promoting cultural activities that strengthen community ties, and fostering relationships that last a lifetime.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students, we thank all of the individuals who enrich SVC and our community with their dedication, collaboration, and service.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas A. Keegan  
President

# Partnerships with the Community

Connections with our community play an important role in our work throughout Skagit, Island, and San Juan counties. We have formed partnerships with key leaders in education, government, business, healthcare, and economic development. Together, we explore employment trends, emerging technologies, and innovative pathways. These collaborations help us provide industry-aligned job training, prepare our students for academic success, and strengthen the communities we serve.

Everyone enjoyed perfect sunshine on April 9th when Skagit Valley College President Dr. Tom Keegan welcomed business professionals and community leaders to a special Multi-Chamber Business After Hours. The event took place on the beautiful rooftop terrace of Lewis Hall, located on SVC's Mount Vernon Campus. Sponsored by the following Chambers: Anacortes, Burlington, Concrete, LaConner, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley.

Linda Fergusson, Andy Mayer, and Jeremy Kindlund to draw winning raffle ticket for SVC gift basket.



(L to R) Linda Fergusson, President & CEO of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce, Andy Mayer, President & CEO of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, and Jeremy Kindlund, Administration and Communications with the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce. Photo: Burlington Chamber of Commerce



Anacortes Brewery owners Allen and Lisa Rhoades with SVC President Dr. Tom Keegan at the Multi-Chamber After Hours event, featuring Anacortes Brewery. Photo: SVC Public Information Office



Dr. Tom Keegan welcomes business professionals and community leaders to Skagit Valley College for a special Multi-Chamber After Hours event. Photo: Burlington Chamber of Commerce



## Charting a Course of Success

Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing and Technology Celebrates 10 years!

Skagit Valley College's Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing and Technology is celebrating 10 years of innovation, collaboration and the development of a skilled workforce. From its location in Anacortes, the Center ensures that leading edge thinking, best practices, and technologies are introduced into the curriculum to support student achievement and to meet employer needs in the local marine trades industry.

[www.marinecenterofexcellence.com/](http://www.marinecenterofexcellence.com/)

## Looking Ahead— the Tech future is Bright!

In partnership with the City of Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon Chamber, Skagit Regional Health, Mount Vernon School District, and the Port of Skagit, SVC hosted the Skagit NextTech Forecast Spring luncheon in McIntyre Hall, featuring keynote speaker John Cook, the founder of Seattle's GeekWire.

<http://choosmountvernon.com>

<http://www.skagitnexttech.com>

<http://www.geekwire.com/about-geekwire>



# Partnership Spotlight

Welding project with the Mayor of Mount Vernon enhances City signage



**I**n celebration of National Community College Month, the American Association of Community Colleges Facebook page highlights SVC's Welding program and its work with Mount Vernon Mayor Jill Boudreau to enhance signage in and around the City. [www.skagit.edu/AACCsnapshot](http://www.skagit.edu/AACCsnapshot)

For Mount Vernon Mayor Jill Boudreau, working to create a positive and memorable City identity is an important component of her leadership. Part of her focus in this area includes enhancing signage in and around the City. With a theme of native birds, Mayor Boudreau hopes to reflect the region's natural beauty and convey a heartfelt welcome to all who live here or who visit. "I'm a strong believer in first impressions and creating meaningful visuals that showcase our City in very positive way," said Mayor Boudreau.

So, to enhance the entrance to Mount Vernon from the City's west side, Mayor Boudreau reached out to Skagit Valley College Welding instructor and artist Mary Kuebelbeck to talk about partnering with SVC Welding students to create a series of Snow Geese. "These projects are great examples of how the City of Mount Vernon is connected with the community," said Mayor Boudreau.

"Partnerships like this help the College provide industry-aligned training opportunities, prepare our students for success in the workforce, and enrich our community," said Mary Kuebelbeck. "The students were thrilled to be asked to work with Mayor Boudreau and were eager to get started."

Throughout the quarter, the students fabricated four large steel Snow Geese, depicted in flight. When they were finished, the students welcomed Mayor Boudreau to the College for a first look. "They are absolutely amazing!" she said. "I am so appreciative to Skagit Valley College and to Mary Kuebelbeck and her Welding students for creating such beautiful art pieces."

When complete, the Snow Geese were installed at the City's west Mount Vernon entrance, just in time for the annual Skagit Valley Tulip Festival. The event draws visitors from all 50 states and from 85 foreign countries.

"This was Mayor Boudreau's vision," added Ms. Kuebelbeck. "We were her tools."

## Finished signage on display

*(Left to Right, back): Welding students Brian Arellano; Shelby Hanson; Jill Boudreau, Mount Vernon Mayor; Welding students Taylor Forsyth, Jeremy Alonzo, and Brandon Peden. (Left to Right, front): Welding student Michael Schmidt; Michael Baker, Welding instructor; Dr. Laura Cailloux, Dean of Workforce Education; Mary Kuebelbeck, Welding instructor and artist; Dr. Tom Keegan, SVC President; and Dr. Kenneth Lawson, Vice President of Instruction.*





## HS21+ *It's never too late to fulfill your dream*

**S**hannon Fowler's dream of earning her high school diploma is becoming a reality, thanks to SVC's High School 21+, a competency-based high school completion program for adults who are at least 21 years of age.

"I'm so excited that I'm finally able to fulfill one of my dreams, I'm getting an education! I can't wait to see what the future has in store for me!"

### Prep for Success

**S**tudents at the Mount Vernon and Whidbey Island campuses are learning what they need to be successful, thanks to the Student Services team and their Prep for Success program. Just before the quarter begins, the Admissions, Registration, Counseling, and Financial Aid team organizes workshops and information so that every new or returning student gets the help he or she needs to start the new quarter right. There are lots of details to figure out, so the team is available to answer questions and help them work through that Cardinal must-do checklist including getting their textbooks, finding their classes, getting supplies, parking/bus passes, and, of course, a free SVC student planner. **Go Cardinals!**

### Spotlight on Whidbey Island —

**F**or Shelby Lubchuk, it was a great way to share her time, talent, and heart for Island County children who are in foster care.



Shelby is a high school senior attending SVC's South Whidbey Center through the Running Start program. As one of the projects for her Interpersonal Communications class, Shelby was assigned to explore the local non-profit sector and select an organization in which she would focus her efforts.

So, Shelby chose Kids First Island County, an organization dedicated to building partnerships and opportunities for children in foster care. With her sleeves rolled up, Shelby assembled a team of four members. Among their accomplishments, the team strengthened the Kids First Facebook page, developed a survey of children's needs; and promoted partnerships to needs for clothing, shoes, and apparel. **Great job, Shelby and team!**



### Partnership Celebrates Future Readers

**O**n March 14, the Skagit Valley Herald, Puget Sound Energy, and Skagit Valley College welcomed the community to SVC's Phillip Tarro Theatre for the 37th annual Skagit County Regional Spelling Bee.

Mount Vernon Christian 7th grader Julia McCoy correctly spelled the word "friar" for the championship. Lauren Shepard, 6th grader from Island View Elementary in Anacortes, won second place. Trina Alarkon-Desquitado from Oak Harbor Middle School, who won the 2013 competition, took third. The Scripps National Spelling Bee will be May 24-29 in Washington, D.C.

Julia McCoy, the 37th Annual Skagit County Regional Spelling Bee champion. Scott Terrell / Skagit Valley Herald

# SVC | SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE Foundation



Dr. James Ford is honored at the 27th Annual Ford Golf Classic—a scholarship fundraising event.

Spring is in the air at Skagit Valley College. While many of our students are excitedly working toward graduation — writing essays, completing projects, taking tests, and making final presentations — our continuing and incoming SVC students have diligently completed scholarship applications.

Anyone who has been involved in the College's scholarship selection process

knows that scholarship season is a special time of year. The students' stories serve as a clear reminder just how important education and scholarships are to countless individuals and families in our community. Thanks to the generosity of so many community members, SVC students will receive almost \$400,000 in scholarship support next year through the Skagit Valley College Foundation.

SVC Foundation was formed in 1978 to serve as the not-for-profit arm of the College — accepting, processing, and disbursing scholarships and other donations for the College. The SVC Foundation has grown significantly since the early days. Today the Foundation includes 3.5 full-time staff, and our activities closely align with the College's strategic goals. In addition to growth in staffing and sophistication, the SVC Foundation's impact in student's lives has grown exponentially in the last 21 years alone!

Here are some figures that highlight this point:

- In 1994 the Foundation's scholarship endowment was just \$1.33 million and we gave only \$53,000 in student scholarships. Today our endowment has increased to more than \$9.1 million and we are giving almost \$400,000 in scholarships for students attending next year. This represents a 590% increase in our endowment and a 632% increase in scholarship disbursements!
- In total, we have disbursed more \$3.5 million in student scholarships and provided an additional \$3.1 million to support programs through cash and in-kind donations.

This kind of success does not come without our many generous supporters who have stepped forward with an endowment gift or with annual gifts to support students and our community. Our supporters are diverse but the one thing every donor has in common is that they recognize the importance of a strong educational institution in the communities we serve. Thank you for making a difference in our students' lives.

[www.skagit.edu/foundation](http://www.skagit.edu/foundation)

## Board of Governors

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## Foundation Staff

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KAREN KOTASH <i>Accountant</i>	

## Mark Casey Memorial Fund



**O**n Wednesday, May 6th 2015 Skagit Valley College lost a rising star. Mark Arno Casey, SVC Alum and son to Jeff Pleet and Cindy Casey-Pleet, passed away suddenly leaving an irreplaceable hole in the lives of his family, his coworkers at

Janicki Industries, and everyone at the college. Mark's family and friends have created a way to honor his spirit and memory by establishing the Mark Arno Casey Scholarship Endowment.

Mark entered SVC in the Marine Technology program, where he learned to work with composites, with an eye toward a cutting edge industry and a booming local employer. It didn't take long after graduating that his passion for quality work and knowledge of composite

technology allowed him to land a job working in aerospace composites with Janicki. Mark progressed to a full time position in short order and his endearing personality earned him the admiration, respect, and friendship of his colleagues. Following Mark's passing, his friends at Janicki and the company itself quickly stepped forward to support Mark's scholarship.

The Endowment begins the healing and hope for the family and friend's Mark left behind. As his family remarked, "Through the work of the Foundation, Mark's smile and laugh will live on forever." Mark will be deeply missed, but his memory will live on in the lives of students touched by the scholarship that bears his name.

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*To make a contribution to the Mark Arno Casey Scholarship Endowment, please select "Give Now" at [www.skagitfoundation.org](http://www.skagitfoundation.org), then select "Mark Casey Memorial Fund." Thank you.*

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## SVC's Carl Young Receives ACT Award



**E**ach year, the Washington State Association of College Trustees (ACT) recognizes trustees, presidents, college partners and equity leaders in Washington's Community and Technical College system. This year, for the first time,

ACT created a category for Professional Staff Members, and it was given to Skagit Valley College's Executive Director of College Advancement, Carl Young. Young was selected from among nominees from the 34 Community and Technical Colleges.

In his nominating letter, SVC Board Chair John Stephens said, "Carl accomplishes his work with a grace and competence that is rare. Whether it is communicating

SVC's legislative priorities, expanding the college's international partnerships, or growing the Foundation's assets, Carl Young is the guy you want on your team. We are extremely proud, and very fortunate, that he is on ours."

SVC President Dr. Tom Keegan, who introduced Carl at the trustees' awards ceremony in Spokane, said "Carl genuinely cares about our students and believes in the mission of the College. In his role as Executive Director of College Advancement, he has collaborated with his colleagues to develop programs that help attract new students and support their educational journey."

While it came as no surprise to those of us who work with him, Carl said he was "surprised and humbled to receive this recognition. I have remarkable colleagues and it's a pleasure to work with them on a mission that makes a difference for students."

## Alumni in Action



Detective Sergeant Michael J. Marken  
Washington State Patrol

**H**ad it not been for the opportunity to play basketball at Skagit Valley College, obtaining my Bachelor's degree would have been more challenging. Having Coach Quall take an interest in me, first as a person and secondly as a basketball player, made all the difference.

During my time at SVC, I enjoyed the tight-knit campus community, as well as the support given to the players by the fans of Cardinal basketball. One fan in particular, has become a lifelong friend, Mr. Dallas Wylie of Fir Island.

Academically, the courses offered by SVC were both interesting and challenging. I was well prepared for the rigors of attending Western Washington University after SVC.

Playing basketball for the Cardinals was both exciting and fun. I have great memories of playing in the annual Turkey Tournament each Thanksgiving, as well as trips to California and Florida. I recall we finished the 1982-83 season at the NWAAC Tournament in Burlington with a 3rd place win over Tacoma Community College.

The 1983-84 season was one for the books. Coach Quall took a group of players with average talent and formed them into an outstanding team. On paper, we were outmatched against any team we played that season. It seemed as if every team in the NWAAC had a least one player from a four year school. Yet, under the guidance of Coach Quall and his able assistant, Roger Valentine, we found a way to win. Winning the NWAAC Championship in 1984 is one of my fondest basketball memories.

I have been employed with the Washington State Patrol for nearly 22 years. I am currently a Detective Sergeant supervising the Marysville Criminal Investigation Unit.

### SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE

# ALUMNI

and Friends



To become a member of our free SVC Alumni and Friends Association, or to make a donation, please contact Anne Clark at 360.416.7821, or visit [www.skagitfoundation.org](http://www.skagitfoundation.org) and click **Give Now**.

**"If you have ever taken a class at SVC, you are one of us!"**

# FOCUS on STUDENTS



## ON TRACK & GIVING BACK

**W**hen Kyle Von Stroberg goes to the Skagit County jail these days, he isn't staying. He's there to talk to young men who have made some of the same mistakes he made.

"Years ago, when my folks separated, I went off the tracks," he says. "I had a chip on my shoulder, messed around with drugs, and ended up spending a year in jail. I'll never forget how the people at the Life Transitions and the Community Integration programs helped me start over when I got out."

Entering Skagit Valley College is one of the critical steps for those in our community who want to have a second chance at a good life. For those who may have been victims of abuse or suffered health or financial crises, the Life Transitions program is a good first start. The program Director, Margo Grothe and her staff conduct a curriculum meant to build life skills and self-knowledge. For those still financially on the edge, occasional emergency assistance from the SVC Foundation also helps.

"It's never too late to start making the right decisions," Kyle says, "I know that now. Margo and lots of other folks at Skagit helped me figure that out."

Since the beginning of 2014, Kyle has been doing well at the SVC Marine Technology program in Anacortes, building skills for a productive future. Meanwhile, he generously expresses his gratitude by giving back. He visits the jail to speak directly to those in the same situation he was in a few years ago.

He is passionate about the message: "If I can help one person off the street and get them pointed toward college, this is all worth it."

## Focus on Community

**SVC Foundation Joins Non-Profit Impact Month Proclamation Signing**



Commissioners Ken Dahlstedt and Lisa Janicki host community non-profits

**O**utstanding community support of the SVC Foundation has helped make Skagit Valley College a premier educational institution. In recognition of the many ways that non-profits enrich our community, SVC Foundation was pleased to be invited by the Skagit Community Foundation to attend a ceremony held by the Skagit County Commissioners on April 14. The Commissioners signed a resolution in support of Governor Jay Inslee's proclamation of April as Non-Profit Impact month. Many Skagit County non-profits were in attendance, representing key areas of community need, including healthcare, land and environmental conservation, social services for the disenfranchised, and animal welfare. SVC Foundation staff are proud to serve alongside these outstanding non-profit organizations. SVC Foundation Assistant Director, Anne Clark commented, "By collaborating with other non-profits, we all become stronger. We can continue to raise Skagit County to its highest potential while celebrating philanthropy in this generous community."

*Through the commitment of our generous donors, caring friends, and enthusiastic volunteers, deserving SVC students are able to achieve their educational dreams and goals.*