

# CURRENTS

THE SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE PREMIER MAGAZINE • SUMMER 2021



Focused on Equity: Access • Achievement • Community



**A**s we know, this past year was a very difficult one with COVID and the impact it had on our lives. I am so proud of the many ways that Skagit Valley College responded and maintained its focus on our Core Themes of Equity in Access, Achievement, and Community. We quickly pivoted our instruction, resources, and support to a remote delivery model. Our students responded with great determination and they thrived! Despite the unprecedented challenges this year, I am inspired by what they have accomplished.

Among the highlights in this edition of Currents, we are pleased to share how a generous donor provided the latest technology that helped our Nursing students advance their skills when interactions with actual patients was not possible. In addition, we will showcase the creative innovations taking place in SVC's Welding program. Our rigorous curriculum is preparing the next generation of exceptional welders with a unique blend of traditional instruction, artistic expression, and community service.

On behalf of the SVC Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff, thank you for supporting our commitment to students. The success we have enjoyed this past year illustrates the resilience of our students and your ongoing support of their success.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas A. Keegan  
President

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# SVC is Back!

Returning to face-to-face operations  
this Summer and Fall

## Summer classes begin July 6 Fall classes begin September 21

Skagit Valley College is a leader among Washington's community and technical colleges with its commitment to Equity in Access, Achievement, and Community. Thanks to student feedback during this past year, we learned what best supports their success. So, as we continue to enhance our services, we are pleased to offer multiple options: Online, Hybrid, and In-Person, including:

**Academic Transfer** — For students starting their first college experience, class sizes are small and are taught by exceptional faculty who care about their students' success. Learn more: [tinyurl.com/wwd2n7fv](https://tinyurl.com/wwd2n7fv)

**Basic Education for Adults** — The BEaA office is pleased to offer classes for High School Completion, GED Prep, and English Language Acquisition. There are a variety of resources available to students, including laptop loans, funding, and advising support.

**High Wage, High Demand Job Training** — More options this fall with six programs designed to prepare students for high wage, high demand jobs. [skagit.edu/higher](https://skagit.edu/higher)

- **Manufacturing - Associate Degree:** Expanded lab and curriculum will create a unique on-the-job experience as students produce, test, and roll out their own product.
- **Web Development - Applied Associate in Science, Transfer:** Students will implement websites, apps, databases, and interactive interfaces.
- **Information Management and Data Science - Associate Degree:** Focuses on theory, organization, and process of data collection, transmission, analysis, and utilization used in today's cloud-based industry.
- **Engineering - Associate in Science, Transfer:** For those considering a bachelor's in Engineering, this program provides recommended courses to complete an Associate in Science, Transfer degree.
- **Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Environmental Conservation:** A career-oriented BAS program with learning experiences in Skagit Valley's unique ecology of temperate forests, shorelines, and mixed-use wilderness areas and in our fully accredited lab.
- **Bachelor of Applied Science in Applied Management:** Earn a BAS in General Management or in our new Healthcare Management program. This two-year, 90-credit workplace-oriented program is designed for those who have completed an associate degree, including those that typically do not transfer to four-year universities. ■

# Something prehistoric is coming to Mount Vernon



Shown from left to right: Mary Kuebelbeck, Welding Technology Department Chair, Karl Grotzke, Shannon Hodgín, Sabitri Dolson, and Jordan Piazza

**T**he Skagit Valley College Weld Club has created an eight-foot-tall and 20-foot-long Allosaurus sculpture for the Mount Vernon Arts Commission's permanent Art Collection. It represents the seventh piece in an agreement between the Club and the Commission.

Mary Kuebelbeck, the Welding Technology Department Chair and Club Advisor, says that each piece gets more and more complicated. The Allosaurus, which the club affectionately calls "Big Al," began as a small model in the summer, which was scaled up to a four-foot-tall and nine-foot-long model over the winter. This medium model allowed the club to work out the engineering issues for scaling up to the full-size piece. According to Kuebelbeck, there are four key club members who volunteer two to three hours after each class and most of their Fridays to work on this specific piece. Those students are Jordan Piazza, Sabitri Dolson, Karl Grotzke, and Shannon Hodgín.

These commissioned projects allow students to transfer what they learn in the classroom into a practical application. With every Weld Club sculpture, there is strict adherence to the American Welding Society's Weld Procedures. This experience allows club members to develop teamwork, take ownership of fabrication projects, and demonstrate reliability. "They had to convince me that they could fabricate to this scale and that they would be dedicated through completion," said Kuebelbeck. "By doing that, it became their project... they bring the motivation; I give them the opportunity."

**K**uebelbeck says that every year the club asks the Mount Vernon Arts Commission to consider putting their work on the SVC Mount Vernon Campus. "Dinosaurs have been part of everyone's childhood, most people know something about dinosaurs... having the sculpture on the college campus will continue that curiosity to learn." That wish might finally come to fruition.



The Mount Vernon Arts Commission has agreed to site the sculpture at Reeves Hall near the Welding Technology facility, and the SVC Administration is likely to grant their request.

Learn more about SVC's Welding Program [skagit.edu/welding](http://skagit.edu/welding). ■



# Incredible donor gift brings top-of-the-line manikin to SVC's Nursing Program

**A** generous gift in 2016 was the spark that changed how nursing is taught at SVC and led to the Nursing Program being able to continue instruction during a global pandemic. Through this gift, SVC was able to procure two \$100,000 simulation manikins for the Mount Vernon and Whidbey Island campuses. These manikins, “do pretty much everything – sweat, cry, seize, pulse, bleed, blink,” according to Shelley Price, Dean of Instruction for Nursing.

Nursing faculty member, and Mount Vernon Campus Simulation Manager, Andrea Dryden says the manikins allow every student to have the same clinical experience, set to their skill levels, while providing tangible practice in a lab setting. According to Dryden, 50% of clinical hours can now be replaced with simulation without any lost experience for the student. During COVID operations, being able to gain such experience without having to go into hospitals or homes is invaluable. These manikins provide a safe place to learn at a high level. Students can make mistakes, observe, learn, and debrief before working with actual patients. “Students are usually very anxious when they first come into simulations, but they walk out of the sim days feeling like they learned so much over a small amount of time,” says Dryden.

One of these students, Joanna Wilkens, is the current Nursing Club President and a member of the first cohort of nursing students to have

classroom instruction delivered in virtually. According to Wilkens, it was challenging at first, navigating instruction in a different way, while not being able connect with classmates. However, the labs remained in-person and according to Wilkens, they are actually better: “The groups are smaller, so you get more instructor interaction.” The manikins allow the instructor to throw her realistic curveballs that make the students walk through all the physical and mental steps expected in the real world. Joanna also says the program is very demanding and because of that, work opportunities are limited. As a recipient of the **Bojan M. Kuure Nursing Scholarship** and the **Katherine V. Cowles Nursing Scholarship**, she says the financial support from SVC scholarships allows her to focus more on academics.

**W**ith generous donors helping purchase top-of-the-line equipment and the College’s commitment to having well trained faculty, SVC’s Nursing Program is growing during this incredible time of need for nurses. “We’re very thankful that the College has supported us in fully integrating these manikins,” Price said. “None of this would have been possible without the donation of these manikins. This has allowed us to lead the pack, not just at the community college level, but in Nursing education in general.”

Learn more about SVC's Nursing Program, [skagit.edu/nursing](http://skagit.edu/nursing). ■

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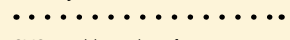
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