

# SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE Currents

September 2011

ALL-WASHINGTON ACADEMIC TEAM

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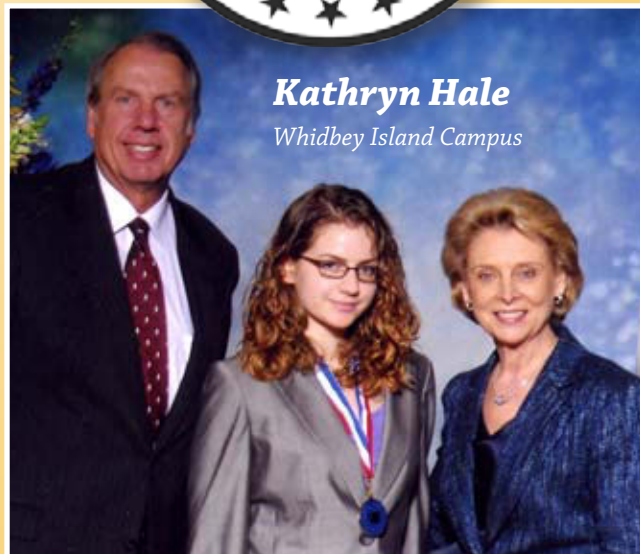
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**Jeramy Harstad**

Mount Vernon Campus



**Kathryn Hale**

Whidbey Island Campus



PHI THETA KAPPA  
HONOR SOCIETY

# Currents

September, 2011

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### *SVC is the Pathway to a Brighter Future*

**W**hile the state of Washington and the nation continue to experience the effects of the "great recession," Skagit Valley College remains dedicated to creating pathways to a brighter future within the communities we serve. By providing low-cost access to high quality education and

industry-aligned workforce programs, we help students gain improved job skills that move them toward the fulfillment of their dreams.

Our commitment is built upon the contributions of people whose dedication and vision have shaped SVC as a center of learning excellence. These individuals are our exceptional faculty who are passionate about active engagement and academic success. They are our students who demonstrate excellence in the classroom and the community. And, they are our supporters and donors who make student dreams a reality with their quiet generosity. Collectively, the contributions create a culture and a spirit of service that are uniquely Skagit.

In this edition of Currents, we are pleased to share several remarkable accomplishments and milestones with you. As our cover story, we will showcase our two All-Washington Academic Team members, Jeramy Harstad, from the Mount Vernon Campus, and Kathryn Hale, from the Whidbey Island Campus. I am also delighted to announce that Skagit Valley College has been selected as one of 30 community colleges nationwide to participate in the Achieving the Dream network, colleges that are committed to improving student success and completion. In addition, we will celebrate a tremendous year of fundraising by the SVC Foundation—a year that saw more than a million dollars raised—that will help Skagit Valley College and its students!

On behalf of the faculty, staff, administration, and Board of Trustees, I trust that you will find meaningful inspiration in Currents and continue to help us make Skagit Valley College an important and accessible pathway for all who dream of a brighter future!

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary Tollefson  
President



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John Stephens

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Currents is published by the  
Skagit Valley College  
Public Information Office,  
2405 East College Way,  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
email: pio@skagit.edu

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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. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Executive Director of Human Resources  
2405 E. College Way  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
360.416.7794

COLLEGE MISSION

*Skagit Valley College exists to expand opportunities and horizons for students and to improve the communities in which they live.*

*We achieve this by welcoming and valuing diverse learners, providing quality education and support, and contributing community leadership and service.*



# All-Washington Academic Team

## SVC students, Jeramy Harstad and Kathryn Hale, named to the All-Washington Academic Team 2011



PHI THETA KAPPA  
HONOR SOCIETY

**T**wo Skagit Valley College (SVC) students, Jeramy Harstad, of Mount Vernon, and Kathryn Hale, of Oak Harbor, were honored at the 16th Annual All-Washington Academic Team ceremony held March 24th at South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia. Both students are members of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the official honor society for two-year colleges.

With more than 300 people in attendance, the ceremony provided an opportunity for community and technical college students to be recognized for their academic achievements and community involvement. This year's team was comprised of 63 students representing 33 community and technical colleges from throughout Washington. Many legislators, college trustees, and family members also attended the celebration. Governor Chris Gregoire was on hand to recognize each team member and their accomplishments. In addition, each student received a commemorative medallion from his or her college president. Helping to honor Ms. Harstad and Ms. Hale were SVC President Gary Tollefson and Whidbey Island Campus PTK chapter advisor Jeff Stady. All team members received a \$750 scholarship from the Northwest Education Loan Association and KeyBank of Washington.

Jeramy Harstad is a non-traditional student at the Mount Vernon Campus and plans to become a homicide detective. She will receive her third degree in three years from Skagit Valley College next spring. She served as President of the Theta Upsilon Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa for 1.5 years and as a Vice-President of the Greater Northwest Region for one year. Currently, Jeramy works in the SVC Student Life office as an event programmer. This fall, she will be dually enrolled at SVC and in Central Washington University's distance education program. In addition to her own studies, Jeramy home-schools the oldest of her two children and operates a not-for-profit charity in Mount Vernon.

Kathryn Hale is a Digital Imagery major at SVC's Whidbey Island Campus in Oak Harbor. As an active member of Phi Theta Kappa, Kathryn has been provided with an outlet for one of her passions in life...being an active community volunteer. Currently, Kathryn is working to help establish a volunteer program for the Life Skills program at her local middle school that assists moderate to severely handicapped students. After graduation, Kathryn plans to utilize her photography skills to capture some of the earth's beauty to emphasize the necessity of protecting and celebrating the planet.

Congratulations to Jeramy Harstad and Kathryn Hale for their outstanding accomplishments inside the classroom and within their communities!



*Phi Theta Kappa members Kathryn Hale of Oak Harbor (top) and Jeramy Harstad of Mount Vernon were selected for the All-Washington Academic Team 2011.*

Skagit Valley College joins

## Achieving the Dream

The leading national community college reform network of 160 colleges is committed to improving student success and completion.



# Achieving the Dream™

## Community Colleges Count



**S**ignifying its strong commitment to student success and completion, Skagit Valley College (SVC) is one of 30 community colleges nationwide selected for the Achieving the Dream (ATD) 2011 cohort. SVC's selection was the result of a competitive grant application process and includes a \$250,000 grant award over the course of five years.

Achieving the Dream, a national non-profit organization, is the leading national community college reform network of 160 colleges committed to improving student success and completion, particularly students of color and low-income students. The organization works on multiple fronts — including efforts on campuses and in research, public engagement, and public policy — and emphasizes the use of data to drive change.

“Skagit Valley College is honored to be selected to join the Achieving the Dream network of community colleges,” said Dr. Gary Tollefson, President

of SVC. “Each student enters our doors with a dream, yet many encounter barriers that delay their success. With new data-driven strategies and leadership from the Achieving the Dream grant, those barriers will be transformed into bridges, allowing more of our students to achieve academic success.”

“Closing achievement gaps and improving student outcomes is extremely difficult

work. The ambitious commitment of Skagit Valley College is commendable,” said William Trueheart, President and CEO of Achieving the Dream.

As an Achieving the Dream institution, Skagit Valley College will use this opportunity to bolster its efforts to help students succeed in completing their degrees and programs. This will include coordinating student success efforts across different college departments, effectively using data to identify and prioritize barriers to student success, and broadening efforts to help more students who may be struggling academically. Much of this work will build on and align the effective initiatives currently in place at the college.

The college has committed to assessing the effectiveness of these policies and practices, institutionalizing the approaches that prove successful, and sharing the findings widely. Through Achieving the Dream, SVC will have the opportunity to learn from other Achieving the Dream institutions, and receive assistance from experienced practitioners in building a culture of evidence campus-wide, using data to identify problems, setting priorities, and measuring progress toward increasing student success.

The all-college introduction to Achieving the Dream will occur during SVC'S fall in-service in September where Governance Institute for Student Success (GISS) data will be presented. Following the presenta-

*“Each student enters our doors with a dream, yet many encounter barriers that delay their success. With new data-driven strategies and leadership from the Achieving the Dream grant, those barriers will be transformed into bridges, allowing more of our students to achieve academic success.”*

tion, faculty and staff will explore additional data at their tables. The goal is to move beyond the initial data—the “what”—to determining what other information might be useful in understanding why the data looks as it does so that new or expanded strategies can be considered.

# Northwest Higher Education Coalition

To learn more about NWHEC, visit <http://www.nwhec.org>



From left: Patricia McKeown, President, Bellingham Technical College, Cheryl Crazy Bull, President, Northwest Indian College, Bruce Shepard, President, Western Washington University, David Beyer, President, Everett Community College, Gary Tollefson, President, Skagit Valley College, David Mitchell, President, Olympic College, and Kathi Hiyane-Brown, President, Whatcom Community College. Not pictured: Thomas A. Keegan, President, Peninsula College.

**T**he Northwest Higher Education Coalition (NWHEC) was formed in the fall of 2009 to address a growing set of issues in higher education that are best served through a collaborative approach.

NWHEC is comprised of eight institutions, including Bellingham Technical College, Everett Community College, Northwest Indian College, Olympic College, Peninsula College, Skagit Valley College, Whatcom Community College, and Western Washington University.

The consortium meets regularly to identify areas of possible collaboration. Two topics have been identified for further development: services to veterans and international initiatives.

## MISSION

The Northwest Higher Education Coalition is a consortium of public two-year and four-year colleges and universities in Clallam, Island, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties that fosters regional partnerships to better serve the educational needs of the north Puget Sound region and the people of Washington state.

## VISION

The Northwest Higher Education Coalition will be a leader in collaborating to:

- Serve the Puget Sound with quality, seamless education;
- Provide essential educational resources for communities, businesses and government;
- Drive economic, cultural, and community vitality throughout the region and the state.





# Go Green and Save Big

Energy grant will help reduce college energy costs and carbon footprint

**S**kagit Valley College (SVC) is making several energy efficiency upgrades and retrofits at its Mount Vernon and Whidbey Island campuses this year, thanks to a \$305,000 energy

grant through the Washington State Department of Commerce. Ameresco Quantum, a leading national energy efficiency and renewable energy company, was selected by SVC to do the energy audit, design the energy savings program, and to oversee the project.

“We have a number of older facilities, so Skagit Valley College was thrilled to be chosen by the Washington State Department of Commerce to receive funding,” said Dave Scott, Director of Facilities and Operations at SVC. “Now, we can implement new energy options that otherwise would not be possible.”

The grant is helping SVC improve the lighting systems at its Mount Vernon Campus, Whidbey Island Campus, and at the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program in Oak Harbor. Specifically, older style bulbs and magnetic ballasts are being replaced with the latest technology in fluorescent bulbs and electronic ballasts in the college’s Automotive Technology program and in the Dave DuVall Pavilion, a facility used by SVC as well as the community year-round. In addition to lighting, several water systems are being retrofitted. Low flow sink aerators and low flow flush toilet valves will help reduce water usage.

When completed by the end of the year, these upgrades will add up to big savings for SVC and result in a smaller carbon footprint. It is estimated that the lighting improvements alone should reduce the college’s annual energy consumption by 389,877 KWh and demand by 1,575 KW, a yearly savings of \$25,397. In addition, reducing SVC’s water consumption by 1,768 ccf will save approximately \$7,734 per year.

## SVC’s Commitment to Green is Ongoing

- Of particular note, Laura Angst Hall on the Mount Vernon Campus was the first higher education building in Washington state to achieve the highest energy certification by U.S. Green Building Council, receiving LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum Certification in 2010.
- Skagit Valley College is a signator on the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment initiative. ([www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/](http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/))
- SVC’s Sustainability Committee supports best practices throughout the college. Faculty, staff, students, and the community have embraced SVC’s annual Sustainability Fairs at both the Mount Vernon and Whidbey Island campuses.
- Whidbey Island Campus students purchased a number of new/replacement recycle bins for the campus in Oak Harbor. Recycling and sustainability have been long-standing traditions at Whidbey.
- SVC’s Culinary Arts program continues to buy locally for the Cardinal Café from area producers including Hedlin Farms and Northwest Homegrown Meats, among others. In addition, composting and recycling efforts continue — all disposables are corn-based and are compostable!
- Mount Vernon student government has funded storm drain filters for the campus that help prevent oil sediment and other pollutants from flowing into local streams. SVC’s Environmental Club changes the filters each year.
- Three new parking spaces have been designated on the Mount Vernon Campus for vehicles with a green score of 40 or higher ([www.greencars.org](http://www.greencars.org))
- Students have worked with the college to expand the number of carpool spaces available. We also now offer a \$25 per quarter bus pass to students, a significant discount from the retail cost.
- And, Currents continues to be an online magazine, saving paper and resources!



# Foundation

Skagit Valley College



Donors Joyce and Svend Knudsen with Dan Nelson, Skagit Valley College Welding Dept. Chair.

## Keeping Johnny's "Machine Shop Dream" Alive

Johnny Regan of Sedro-Woolley always dreamed of having his own machine shop. Through the years he collected a myriad of machine shop tools, gauges, motors, measuring and tooling equipment. Unfortunately, Johnny was not able to open a machine shop, and he passed away a few years ago.

In memory of her late husband, Joyce Knudsen generously donated approximately \$50,000 worth of Johnny's machine shop tools and equipment to the Skagit Valley College Foundation for use in the college's Welding and Manufacturing programs. Joyce and her new husband Svend Knudsen wanted the equipment to go to a learning institution. "We were very interested in supporting students in our region and know that they will put the equipment and tools to good use in memory of Johnny," Svend Knudsen explained.

"We are extremely grateful to the Knudsens for this generous and timely gift," Dan Nelson, Skagit Valley College Welding Department Chair, said. "Students will use these tools to hone their precision measurement and machining skills in our new Manufacturing program and computer-controlled machining courses."

*Skagit Valley College Foundation accepts in-kind gifts that are approved by the receiving SVC department. For more information on supporting Skagit Valley College educational programs, contact Jennifer Fix at 360.416.7870 or [jennifer.fix@skagit.edu](mailto:jennifer.fix@skagit.edu).*

### **Board of Governors 2010-2011**

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David Strong  
Susan Scripps Wood  
\*Deceased

## Skagit Valley College Foundation Accepts \$500,000 Bequest From Alums



Wade and Frances Schroeder

The Skagit Valley College Foundation has received a \$500,000 bequest from the estate of Wade Schroeder who passed away in April 2010, and his wife Frances, who passed away in October 1999. Proceeds from the bequest—the second largest bequest in the history of the SVC Foundation—will fund a scholarship endowment arranged years ago by the donors.

“Words cannot adequately describe the gratitude we feel for Wade and Fran Schroeder’s gift,” Megan Bray Wise, former SVC Foundation Board President, said. “Skagit Valley College and the community will forever be touched by the gift itself and by the inspirational example of generosity toward future generations.”

This scholarship will provide financial support to graduates of SVC who pursue a baccalaureate degree, master’s degree, doctorate, or teaching certificate to become an educator.”

Dr. Gary Tollefson, Skagit Valley College President, expressed deep appreciation for the gift. “As someone devoted professionally and personally to the value of higher education, I truly feel honored by this vote of confidence in our college and foundation by two of our long-ago alumni,” Tollefson said.

Born in Bow, Wade Schroeder grew up on several dairy farms in the area. He graduated from Burlington-Edison High School in 1942 and entered military service in 1943. In 1944, Wade married his high school sweetheart, Fran.

The Schroeders placed a high value on education and both attended Skagit Valley College. After graduating from SVC in 1947, Wade Schroeder earned a bachelor’s degree from Washington State University, a master’s degree from Western Washington University, and a Ph.D. from Stanford University. Early in his career, he taught vocational agriculture in Ridgefield and La Conner, Washington. He later returned to Burlington-Edison High School as a counselor.

Originally from Montana, Fran Schroeder began her college years at SVC, studying pre-education. She worked on the Cardinal student newspaper and was the Bulb Bulletin editor. She graduated from SVC in 1955 and pursued a career in education, serving as a teacher and then a librarian for 27 years in the Santa Clara Unified School District. The Schroeders lived many years in Los Altos Hills, California.

*The Skagit Valley College Foundation has been making student dreams a reality and supporting exceptional educational programs since 1978. All gifts to the SVC Foundation are managed in accordance with donor wishes. To learn more, contact 360.416.7717 or visit [www.skagit.edu/foundation](http://www.skagit.edu/foundation).*

### Leaving Your Legacy with the SVC Foundation

Why should you have an estate plan? The plan you make today can enable you to take care of your family in the future and support the organizations that express your values—while minimizing the loss of assets to taxation.

The Skagit Valley College Foundation has more than 33 years of professional leadership. If your passion is sharing the value of higher education, the SVC Foundation is well-prepared to make your gift live on in perpetuity.

Endowments managed by the SVC Foundation are invested for long-term growth, accounted for with transparency, and allocated according to donor wishes to support students and programs.

In your estate plan, you have the opportunity to create a lasting legacy:

- Make a meaningful impact on the lives of students and educational programs
- Invest in the economic vitality of your community

The SVC Foundation encourages you to seek guidance from a tax or legal advisor regarding the best way to express your personal requirements through an estate plan. The SVC Foundation does not give tax advice, but as a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, the Foundation can become part of your plan. As an organization with sound policies and practices and more than \$7 million in endowments, the SVC Foundation can help ensure your legacy.

For more information on leaving a legacy with the SVC Foundation, call 360.416.7717 or email [foundation@skagit.edu](mailto:foundation@skagit.edu).



Thanks to the amazing generosity of community donors and volunteer fundraisers, the Skagit Valley College Foundation raised \$1,050,656 in cash, stock and in-kind gifts during the 2010-2011 fiscal year (ending June 30).

Overall highlights include:

- 58 percent increase in total donations from the prior year
- 38 percent increase in total donors from the prior year
- 284 new donors who gave \$639,573

Donation highlights include:

- Wade and Fran Schroeder Bequest (\$500,000)
- Earl Settlemyer Bequest (\$80,000)
- Marine Technology Scholarship Campaign (\$65,558)
- Nursing Scholarship Endowment (\$50,000)
- In-kind Machinery donation (\$50,000)



Thank you donors for providing critical support to Skagit Valley College students and programs! We would also like to thank Shell Puget Sound Refinery and Whidbey Island Bank for support of our annual golf tournaments. Your investment in education will continue to enhance our region with an educated workforce.

## SAVE THE DATES

**SEPTEMBER 22, 2011**

### *Breakfast For Champions*

**7:30 a.m., McIntyre Hall, 2501 East College Way, Mount Vernon**

Join us for a fundraising breakfast to support the SVC Champions of Diversity program. Call 360.416.7821 or email kelli.tolf@skagit.edu for your breakfast reservation.

**FEBRUARY 9, 2012**

### *SVC Globalfest Kickoff Keynote Speaker Lisa Shannon*

**5:30 p.m., International Dinner, McIntyre Hall**

**7:30 p.m., Lisa Shannon Keynote, McIntyre Hall**

Keynote speaker Lisa Shannon, author of *A Thousand Sisters: My Journey into the Worst Place on Earth to be a Woman*, and founder of *Run for Congo Women*, was the first national grassroots activist in the United States to raise awareness of the forgotten humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She recently appeared in *O, The Oprah Magazine's 2010 Power List* ("some of the world's most powerful women in politics, business, the arts and academia"), *Shape Magazine's* "2010 Women Who Shape the World", and Nicholas Kristof's piece on women social entrepreneurs for the *New York Times Magazine, DIY Foreign Aid*.

## Join Us...

Skagit Valley College Foundation invites you to help students and educational programming at Skagit Valley College! Fill out your contact information and we will let you know all the different ways you can help.

## Links





## A Note from Sunny Vanderboll to SVC Running Start Counselor Rose Brierley

*You helped my sister Kit and I enroll in the Running Start program at SVC full-time beginning in 2005 — and I just want to say thank you again! The classes at SVC helped prepare me for Stanford, and the instructors wrote letters of recommendation for me to gain admission to Stanford. I graduated this past Sunday with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. I am back in Washington until late August, when I leave for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to begin a Master's of Science in Transportation, focusing on mass transit issues. Kit will be starting her senior year at Stanford; she is currently studying abroad at Oxford University and will be working in northern England in an archeological site during the summer, before heading back to California in September to write her honor's thesis in history.*

*I am so grateful to Skagit for its dedicated faculty and staff, and excellent science and math classes that prepared me for Stanford's engineering curriculum.*

*Thank you again, and take care,*

*Sunny Vanderboll*

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*Please join us and meet our Skagit Valley College*

## **PRESIDENTIAL FINALISTS**

Community members are cordially invited to attend Open Forums for each of the final candidates applying for the position of President of Skagit Valley College. Each candidate will appear at a breakfast forum on the Mount Vernon Campus and at a luncheon forum on the Whidbey Island Campus on the following day. Please feel free to attend any or all of the forums, as your calendar permits.

### **Mount Vernon Campus: Cardinal Café in the Gary Knutzen Cardinal Center**

**October 5, 6, 10, 11, & 12: 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.**

*A complimentary continental breakfast will be provided.*

### **Whidbey Island Campus: Oak Hall 306**

**October 6, 7, 11, 12, & 13: Noon - 1:00 p.m.**

*A complimentary lunch will be provided.*