

# Currents

THE SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE PREMIER MAGAZINE • FALL 2018



*Honoring a Legacy:*  
**Dr. Ernest Tutt**  
The Power of Speech

SVC Foundation  
Annual Report

Focused on Excellence: Access • Achievement • Community



Skagit Valley College is making a difference in our community by opening the doors to higher education for all who seek a better future. With the commitment of our outstanding faculty and staff, we continually work to create a diverse learning environment where all are valued. Students from many backgrounds and perspectives, and with various skill levels and life experiences, are welcomed with open arms and receive the support they need to succeed.

What makes our College special is that we are deeply committed to equity as our framework for providing access, supporting achievement, and strengthening community. With this focus, we are meeting students where they are, and providing education, support, and inspiration that helps them achieve their goals.

It is through teaching and learning that important connections are made and lives are transformed.

As our cover story in this special edition of Currents, we honor the legacy of an exceptional faculty member, Dr. Ernest Tutt, who passed away in June. Ernest touched many lives at SVC and throughout the community. He was quiet, yet strong. A model of love, caring, and intelligence. Fierce, but respectful. He was also an advocate for those who haven't had a voice or who haven't found their voice yet. The passion he brought to us, and the words he left us with, will continue to impact us all.

In the pages that feature the SVC Foundation Annual Report, we are proud to celebrate you, our generous donors and supporters. Many students reach their goals because of your leadership and philanthropy. Your thoughtful gifts – whether they provide scholarships, help meet unforeseen expenses, or support the integration of classroom and career experiences – help students take the next step toward a successful career. With your help, it has been a year of incredible new milestones.

On behalf of the SVC Board of Trustees, Foundation Board of Governors, faculty, and staff, thank you for joining our commitment to students. With your support, many lives in Skagit, Island, and San Juan counties are being transformed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas A. Keegan  
President

## SVC BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Kathryn Bennett



Flora Perez-Lucatero



Megan Scott O'Bryan

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Currents is published by SVC College Advancement

**Editors/Writers:**  
Arden Ainley, Anne Clark, Pam Davis, Kelly Reep, & Brad Tuininga

**Design/Production:**  
Don Cairns & James Walters

# 1,109

Students who care for dependents living with them (FALL 2016)



# 67%

Degree seeking students who are the first in their family to attend college



## Enrollment By Intent



40% ACADEMIC TRANSFER

40% WORKFORCE EDUCATION

13% BASIC EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

7% COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Average Class Size



# 15

# \$4,800

Estimated annual cost of tuition and fees for a Washington resident

# 4800



# 87%

Students with significant need who apply for financial aid



2% AFRICAN AMERICAN

4% ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER

64% CAUCASIAN/WHITE

22% HISPANIC

1% NATIVE AMERICAN

3% INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

6% OTHER/NO RESPONSE

May not add up to 100% because students might be counted in more than one ethnicity.

SVC served

# 9,767

students last year



# 42%

SVC students who transfer to a four-year institution



### The Ken Thiessen/Shirley Hansen Scholarship Award



Plans for the new college location on College Way



It was during Skagit Valley Junior College's 25th Anniversary year of 1952 when Ken Thiessen began his career at SVC. Those early days were exciting and challenging for the College's faculty. Classes were taught in buildings located at Mount Vernon High School and faculty were expected to pitch in wherever their talents were needed.



Ken Thiessen and staff helping students with registration

## SVC Foundation's Legacy Society

*For most of us, a legacy gift can significantly increase your ability to help more students at SVC. It's simple to donate stock, include SVC in your will, or make the College a beneficiary of an IRA or life insurance policy. Contact SVC staff and talk with your financial or estate planning advisor. Join SVC's Legacy Society today!*

Ken was certainly up for the challenge. He had earned his teaching certificate by age 20, served in the US Army (including a tour of duty in Italy), and received his master's degree from Western Washington University, using the GI Bill. With a broad resume in hand, Ken wore many hats at SVJC and later SVC: Math and Science Faculty, Night School Director, Intramural Basketball Advisor, Registrar, Dean of Students, and Veterans' Counselor. Each of those roles placed Ken exactly where he always wanted to be, supporting students. In 1998, the College was proud to induct him into the SVC Hall of Fame, an honor bestowed to individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the College.

Ken Thiessen's longstanding commitment to students will continue for generations, thanks to the vision and generosity of his family. This year, the Skagit Valley College Foundation received one of its largest scholarship donations ever, when Ken's sister, Shirley Hansen, left a bequest of \$1.9 million to The Ken Thiessen/Shirley Hansen Scholarship Award. The estimated allocation will be approximately \$75,000 annually, recognizing leadership, local and global community service, and veterans.

Ken's sons, Scott and Kyle Thiessen, share their family's vision of helping students. "This is going to enable my dad's scholarship to lift the burden of the increasing cost of education for many students," said Scott. "Our goal is to help students finish college without all the debt and loans."



*Ken Thiessen*



*Shirley Hansen*

Kyle, who was student body president when he attended SVC added, "I am just excited that his scholarship will help out as many students as possible."

Ken's sister June Allison recalled one day in the 1960s when she was a student at SVC. Ken told her to come to Sunday dinner at their parent's farm and said, "Mom said you should wear a dress." They knew something special was going to happen. That evening, June and Ken met for the first time their older sister, Shirley, who had been placed for adoption as an infant. From that moment, Ken, June, and Shirley formed a strong family bond over the years. Shirley worked full-time at a hospital to help pay for college and earn her nursing degree. June reflected, "Both Ken and Shirley believed in the power of education and understood how hard it can be to pay for it all."

This new scholarship that bears Ken and Shirley's names, will forever honor that belief and will ease the financial burden for SVC students.

"The SVC Foundation is forever grateful to the Thiessen and Hansen families for their incredible gift," said Anne Clark, Vice Present of College Advancement and Executive Director of SVC Foundation. "They are passionate about supporting the College's core themes of access, achievement, and community and we are thankful for their commitment to higher education."

The Ken Thiessen/Shirley Hansen Scholarship will be awarded at the 2019 Honors Reception next May. For more information about SVC Foundation scholarships, visit <http://skagitfoundation.org/scholarships>

# ACHIEVEMENT

Honoring a Legacy:

## Dr. Ernest Tutt

The power of speech

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In so many ways, Dr. Ernest Tutt was a pioneer and created a colorful tapestry of human connections at SVC. In his speech, “Approaching America,” he encourages us to expand our perspectives:

*“Most importantly, I want you to listen with your heart to the voices and stories of the lives of other Americans.”*

On June 21, 2018, we were saddened by the passing of our colleague, Dr. Tutt, who came to Skagit Valley College in March of 2004 and quickly became a faculty leader and a cherished instructor.

Ernest’s career as a tenured Communication Studies instructor—and his life—exemplified the College’s Guiding Principles of integrity, respect, honesty, and collaboration. He had the unique ability to facilitate engagement that led to cross-cultural understanding of complex subjects such as race, religion, politics, opportunity, and social justice.

Above all, he was a fierce champion for student success. He served as a caring teacher and role model for thousands. In support with those he taught and mentored, Ernest was a passionate and an articulate advocate for each person’s potential and for equity and social justice for all.

Always with a heart for enriching the lives of others, Ernest also made time to support students beyond the classroom. He served as an advisor for Theta Upsilon, SVC’s Mount Vernon chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. He also helped coordinate SVC’s Thanksgiving Basket project, an annual initiative that prepares holiday meals for families in need.

In addition to impacting our local community, Ernest enjoyed national acclaim with his many presentations at schools, universities, and civic organizations across the country. His Voices of Freedom dramatic performances chronicled the history of the African American Civil Rights movement through speeches by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Frederick Douglass, and Malcolm X.

Thank you, Dr. Tutt. Quite simply, Skagit Valley College is better place because of you.

■ I worked alongside Ernest for 14 years. He was one of my best friends. I’ll miss him in his office, the hallways, and in the classroom. We can’t replace Ernest, but we can work to honor his legacy by teaching passionately with love in our hearts. ■

**Jason Lind**

Communication Studies/Journalism Instructor



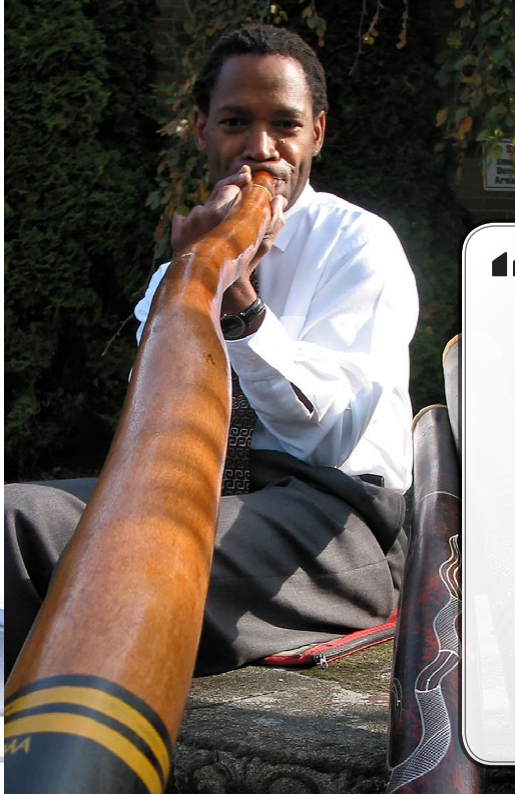
■ I am so grateful to Dr. Tutt. He was such an inspirational teacher and one of the first to make me think about a Ph.D. program. Having him as a teacher of color, mentor, and a friend during my time at SVC truly helped me to continue my education. Now, I'm in a program to be a teacher at Mount Vernon High School and then to be the President of Skagit Valley College. ■■

**Victor Gonzalez-Ayon**  
SVC graduate



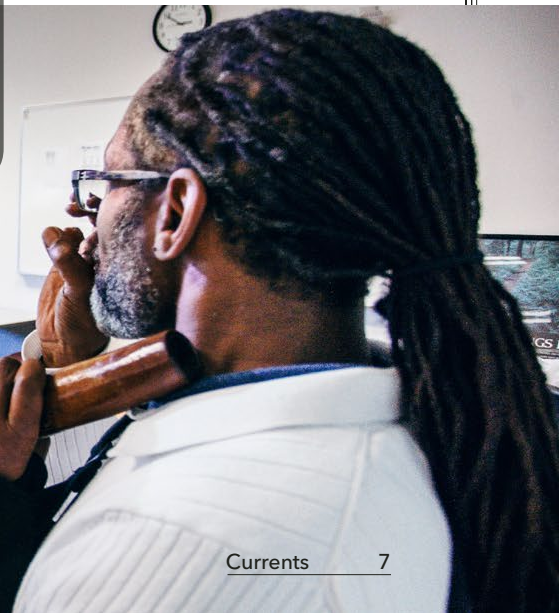
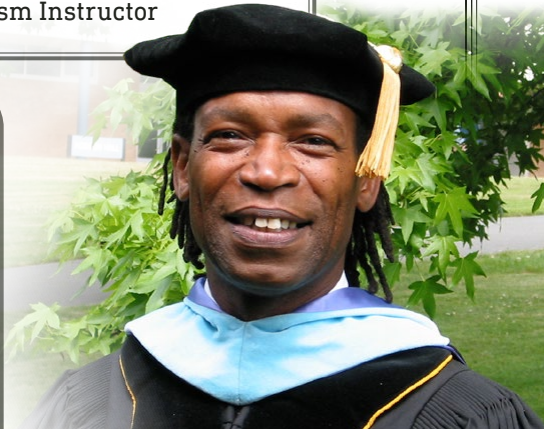
■ I will miss Ernest tremendously, not only as a colleague, but also as an irreplaceable friend. In his last days, he would say that he was not done with his life goals. With that in mind, I would urge students, colleagues, friends, and SVC as an institution, to mindfully address and model social justice as a way to continue Ernest's legacy. ■■

**Linda A. Smith** Communication  
Studies/Journalism Instructor



■ Ernest made a valued connection with each person he met; he listened with full attention and without judgement. I will always be grateful for his generosity and support when I began teaching at the Whidbey Island Campus. ■■

**Lora Winslow**  
Communication  
Studies Instructor



Dr. Tutt preparing to play the didgeridoo in class.

# Annual Report 2017-2018

Fiscal Year Overview: July 1-June 30

**Thanks to YOU!** The Foundation has achieved another record-setting year! We have reached new milestones in scholarship allocation, number of donors, total scholarship endowment, assistance to students with emergency funds and childcare vouchers, and general College program support.

Additionally, we are pleased to announce that we reached our **Removing Barriers Campaign** goal of over \$3 million ahead of our deadline at the end of 2017! This has allowed us to continue to provide students with unprecedented funds to use for emergencies, childcare, and opportunities for excellence outside of the typical learning environment.

Because of you, we are making dreams come true. *Thank you!*



*Anne Clark*

**Anne Clark**

VP of College Advancement  
Executive Director SVC Foundation



*Heather M. Hernandez*

**Heather Hernandez**

President, SVC Foundation  
Board of Governors

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 30, 2018

### ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$914,737
Pledges receivable	\$167,421
Advances due from Skagit Valley College	\$51,547
Investments	\$14,605,817
Property and equipment, net	\$1,637,519
Other assets	\$40,072
<b>Total assets:</b>	<b>\$17,417,113</b>

### LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$18,048
Advances due to Skagit Valley College	\$348,328
Life income annuities payable	\$55,500
Tenant security deposits and prepaid rent	\$28,657
Long-term debt, net	\$962,092
<b>Total liabilities:</b>	<b>\$1,412,625</b>

### NET ASSETS

#### UNRESTRICTED

Board designated - endowment	\$1,827,572
Board designated - Campus View Village	\$994,330
Board designated - Booster Club	\$90,148
Undesignated	\$160,062
<b>Total unrestricted</b>	<b>\$3,072,112</b>

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED \$2,951,722

PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED \$9,980,654

**Total net assets \$16,004,488**

**Total liabilities and net assets \$17,417,113**

**Received over**  
**\$2.9M**  
in cash, pledges & in-kind gifts

**Over**  
**\$1M**  
to support vital College  
programs and campaign  
funds to students  
(scholarships excluded)

**Over**  
**\$600k**  
in scholarships awarded  
to over 250 students

## SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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**TONY WISDOM**  
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FARM, LLC



# RECOGNITION

## In Memoriam...

Gifts made July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

John Abenroth

Rosemary Alar

Erling F. Bangston

Mark Arno Casey

Wesley James Blackburn

Sorena Brusseau

Dan Carter

Cathy Chandler

Katherine V. Cowles

Gordon DeNadel

Jerry Dootson

Marilyn Dye

Bill Eastman

Jack Eastman

Steven Edson

Dr. James Ford

Donald Gilbert

Don Gordon

Harold Grenz

Frank Holmes

Joyce Holt

Elna Iverson

Keith Johnson

Jack Kenney

Kenneth Knutsen

Bojan Kuure

Birger Larssen

Robert Lawler

Shayla K. Martin

Abby Miller Busche

Michael Minor

Yvonne Moore

Bill Norton

Clete Oberst

Nancy Oertel

Vonda Lynne Polinkus

Judy Potter

Marge Powell

Joyce Richter

Doug Rowell

Captain Roy Seth

Themla Schreifels

Eileen Severns

Josh Simpson

Jacob Solin

Matthew Stevens

Debbie Stevens

Dr. Ernest Tutt

David Wiemerslage

## In Honor of...

Jerome Boucher

Jim Ciecko

Sharon Cole-Waldschmidt

Victor Gonzalez-Ayon

Jack Kenny

Kevin Meenaghan

Commander William Overby

Bruce Pringle

Hugo Santiago

Eleanor Sims

Brad Tuininga



# COMMUNITY

## Campus View Village

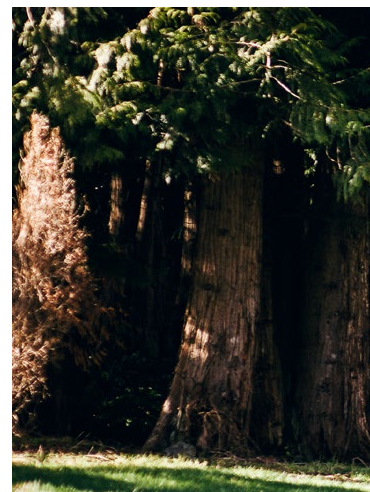
*So much more than just student housing*

**M**ost of us who find our way to college come looking for a great education, something that will help us pursue the career of our dreams. But some of our students also discover confidence, hope, and sometimes even healing. This was the case for Marcella Smiley who came to Skagit Valley College in August of 2016 and moved into Campus View Village (CVV), SVC's on-campus student housing. A mother of four grown children and five grandchildren, Marcella's story is one that so many of our students share. She's survived addiction, poverty, and an abusive marriage and she looked to SVC to help her pursue her dreams. As she put it, "When I was a mom, I was so focused on raising my kids. Now that they're grown, it's my turn."

Working in the medical field, as a surgeon or surgery technician, has always been Marcella's dream and now she is one step closer to achieving it. She has just one quarter left to receive her certificate for Medical Secretary. In terms of education, Marcella happily received more than she bargained for. As she describes it, she owes much of her academic success to her experience living at CVV and as a Resident Advisor as well. Coming to SVC and living in Campus View Village, "Not only did I learn academic skills, I learned life skills too."

This might seem like happenstance, but the opportunities CVV creates for all students is very intentional. Aligned with the College's guiding principles and strategic priorities, CVV staff and student Resident Advisors build community around activities that emphasize themes of student success, diversity and inclusion, personal wellness and safety, and others.

For Marcella and so many other students living in CVV, the location, affordability and community of students with similar goals made it an easy decision to call it home. In the end, what surprised Marcella most is how much she learned about herself outside the classroom. She said, "I learned how to be more patient and I learned how to listen. The leadership skills I've gained have made me more mindful, and I'm happier because of this experience." Who would have thought that on-campus housing would play such an important role in our students' lives!



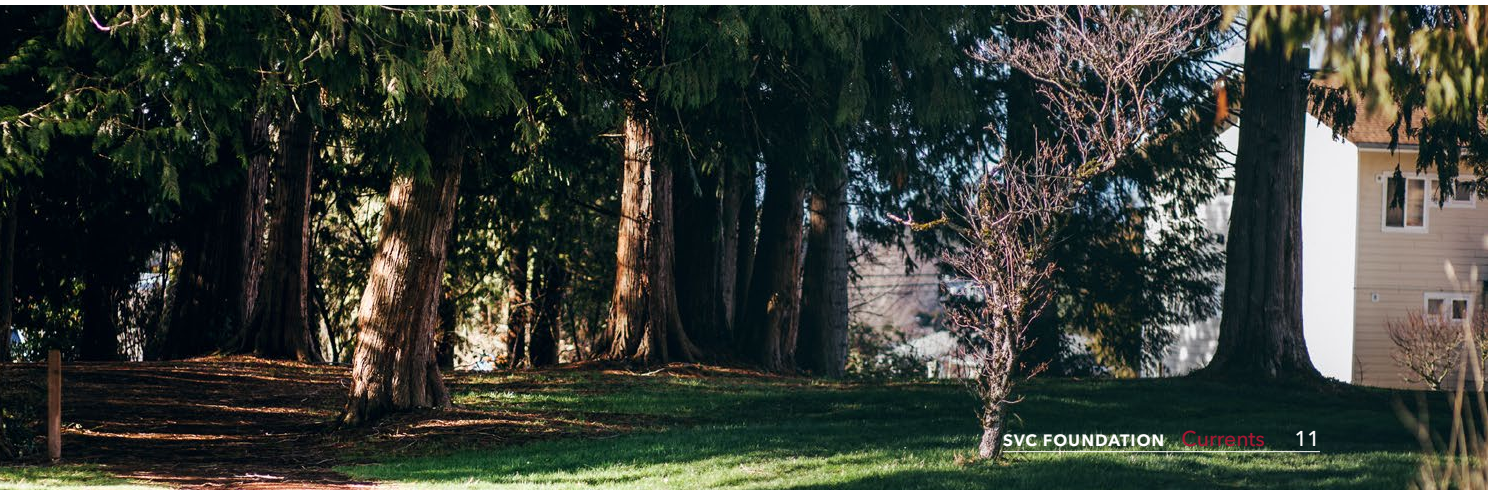


## STATS & INFO

- Established in 1992, Campus View Village is among the first student housing programs offered at a community college in Washington.
- Mission Statement: Campus View Village is a safe and inclusive residential community that offers students unique living and learning opportunities focused on developing the whole person.
- CVV Demographics: International Students - 48%; Student Athletes - 24%; Non-Athlete Domestic students - 28%.
- Monthly Rent: Campus View Village is just under \$467 per month (per student), \$271 less than the average rate of other community colleges.
- Rent includes: furniture, heat, water, electricity, cable television, and a shared wireless internet connection.



Marcella Smiley pictured at Campus View Village, Fall 2018.



# Endowments

Achievement Scholarship	Don Finsen Culinary Arts Removing Barriers Endowment	Mollie McBey, Elsie Duncan and Donald McBey Scholarship	Rucilla's Scholarship
Allenbach Exceptional Faculty Award	First Responder Scholarship	B. Hamilton McDearmid Scholarship	Lina A. Jacobson Ryan Nursing Endowment
Guy Anderson and Deryl Walls Art Scholarship	Robert E. Fitzgerald Memorial Scholarship	McIntyre Hall Endowment	San Juan Center Scholarship
Solveig Atterberry Memorial Scholarship	Jim and Fran Ford Scholarship	Sydney S. McIntyre, Jr. Memorial Scholarship	Wade & Fran Schroeder Scholarship
Auction Scholarship	Wallie and Mary Ann Funk Scholarship	Memorial Scholarship	Alberta Schulz Scholarship
Theresa Babcock Memorial Scholarship	Global Initiatives Endowment	John and Susan Meyer Legal Scholarship	Irene Schumaker Sciences Scholarship
Brian A. Benike Scholarship	Leo Guggemos Scholarship	William E. Mowrer Scholarship	Irene Schumaker Vocational Scholarship
James P. and Mabel Bishop Scholarship	Jesus Guillén Scholarship	Dave Mumford Theatre Technician Scholarship	Second Chance Scholarship
Dr. Ian Black Scholarship	Leah G. Hawkinson Nursing Scholarship	Nagatani Family Scholarship	Shell Fallen Workers Memorial Scholarship
Martin Brown Biology Scholarship	Hayes Family Scholarship	Alice and Monty Niles Memorial Scholarship	Settlemyer Family Scholarship
Charles "Chuck" Carroll Memorial Scholarship	Yoko Hisaki Memorial Scholarship	Denise Noble and Beverly Erickson Scholarship	Matthew Charles Stevens Memorial Scholarship
Cascade Mall Scholarship	Dr. George Hodson Scholarship	Norwood Cole Library Fund	Clarence & Eileen Summers Scholarship
Mark Arno Casey Memorial Scholarship	John Hollenbeck Memorial Scholarship	Richard and Jean Nowadnick Life Science Scholarship	John Terrey Scholarship
Champions of Diversity Scholarship	Thomas and Martina Horn Scholarship	Don Nulle Accounting Scholarship	Texaco Environmental Sciences Endowment
Sidney H. Clarke Memorial Scholarship	Human Services Scholarship	Carlos Ordóñez Memorial Scholarship	Ken Thiessen Memorial Scholarship
Sharon Cole-Waldschmidt Scholarship	Bojan M. Kuure Nursing Scholarship	Osborne Scholarship	Gary and Tamera Tollefson Scholarship
Kevin Collins Memorial Scholarship	Miriam, Muriel and Lloyd Ivey Scholarship	A.J. Osterman Memorial Scholarship	John Underwood Scholarship
Ruth and Wallace Crawford Scholarship	Wilbur/Ivey Scholarship	Melvin and Oscar Peterson/Henry Tenneson Scholarship	William D. Werner Memorial Scholarship
Harold and Nelle Creel Scholarship	Dr. Maynard and Selma Johnson Medical Fund	Commander William Overby Scholarship	William D. Werner Opportunity for Excellence Endowment
Ralph R. Crum Memorial Scholarship	Alice and Harold Kenney Memorial Scholarship	Pickering Matching Fund	Whidbey Island Bank Golf/SVC Golf Classic Scholarship
Max and Pauline Dale Scholarship	J. George King Scholarship	Pickering Scholarship	C. Harry and Anne Williams Scholarship
Everett & Elmyra Dalton Scholarship	Harold and Annabelle Kloke Scholarship	Vonda Lynne Polinkus Memorial Scholarship	Women's Study Club San Juan Island Scholarship
Jack and Micki Deierlein Scholarship	Brandon Koetje Memorial Scholarship	Elden Pollock Scholarship	Susan Scripps Wood and Leighton Wood Scholarship
Mark Drummond Memorial Scholarship	Helen Larm Agriculture Scholarship	Dave Quall Champions Scholarship	Esther Woodford Taylor Scholarship
Robert Dursch Science Equipment Fund	Debra and Bruce Lisser Scholarship	Anne Richards Scholarship	WRAEF ProStart Scholarship
Robert and Ann Dursch Sciences Scholarship	Mac and Linda MacGregor Scholarship	Ruth Elfstrom Riggles Scholarship	Jennie M. Wright Memorial Scholarship
Exceptional Faculty Award	Marine Technology Scholarship	Harry & Myra Roller Memorial Nursing Scholarship	Joseph & Anneliese Zauchner Scholarship
Ferguson Foundation Scholarship	Joan Nurse Martin Early Childhood Education Scholarship	Sidney and Fosma Rood Scholarship	Joseph T. Zygmanski Scholarship
Don Finsen Culinary Arts Scholarship	William and Kathleen Massey Scholarship	Benjamin M. Root Memorial Scholarship	
		Doug Rowell Memorial Scholarship	

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The Norcliffe Foundation

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Licensing  
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County  
Tanya Young

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Whidbey Island Sunrise  
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BECU  
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Kathy and Dennis Doll  
Dunkin & Bush  
Ken Durland  
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Northwest Behavioral  
Health  
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Davis Overby  
P.E.O. Chapter GB  
PeaceHealth United General  
Medical Center  
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Casynn  
William and Janet Polinkus  
Rain For Rent  
Dr. Ellen Rak and William  
Dunlap  
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Carol Seth  
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## **President's Club (\$500.00 + )**

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Tom Nash  
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Cynthia Bangston  
Walter Beamon  
Ron Bennett and Susan Fish  
Steve and Julie Bennett  
Birch Equipment  
Kate Biringner  
Julie Blazek and Jacque  
Beamer  
Mrs. Teresa E. Bodensteiner  
Boeing Company Gift  
Match Program  
Brinderson  
Dan Cameron  
Jerry and Gloria Carbert  
Rod and Karen Carter  
Tony Chang  
Sharon Cole Waldschmidt  
and Leo Waldschmidt  
CONFLOW Corporation  
Chris Dahl  
Thomas and Ann Davis  
Dealer Xpress Window  
Tinting

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Farmhouse Restaurant  
Janice Fischer  
Chad Fisher Construction  
Colleen and Chad Fisher  
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Margo Grothe  
Bernadette Halliday  
Mark and Sharon Hanson  
Edward Heinz  
Duane Henson  
Heritage Bank  
Mark Hillman  
Peter and Kaitlyn Janicki  
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Jack Middleton  
Burgermaster  
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Cathy Degnan and Greg  
Sawyer  
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Smith  
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