



Whatcom Community College Foundation Newsletter: Food Fight, Preview Day, Thanks to the Tulalip Tribes

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Is Whatcom Community College (WCC) our community's best-kept secret? We resolve in 2018 to spread the word that one of the country's top 150 community colleges, right here in Whatcom County, is changing lives through education. How has WCC made a difference in your life? Tell us! whatcom.edu/foundation



We Welcome Two New Trustees

WCC's five trustees are responsible for approving the operating budget, hiring the college president, awarding tenure and establishing policy and setting strategic direction. This fall, Rebecca Johnson and Wendy Bohlke were appointed by Gov. Jay Inslee to the board.

Bohlke, (left) now retired, worked in the Washington state Office of the Attorney General for 34 years, including a stint as legal counsel to WCC. Johnson, (right) a healthcare and management consultant with 20 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, owns a consulting firm for community health clinics. We look forward to the perspectives each brings

to their important role. [Learn more about our board members at whatcom.edu/foundation.](http://whatcom.edu/foundation)

Food Fight Is On Vs. Skagit Valley College

The Orca Food Pantry, a free and open-to-all campus resource that provides food to students, challenged Skagit Valley College to a food fight. For two months, each college collected food for their respective food banks. The college with the most food collected by the WCC vs. Skagit Valley College men's basketball game Jan. 17 wins.



Tulalip Tribes Donate to Chemistry Program

WCC's chemistry students now have the opportunity for authentic lab experiences, with the recent donation of \$3,000 from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions. Last summer, Chemco donated two pieces of equipment, worth more than \$31,000: a high performance liquid chromatography system, and a differential scanning calorimeter. These analyze a variety of complex mixtures. Since the equipment was pre-digital, new software was needed to run both. Phillips 66 stepped up with \$10,000 to purchase the software. Tulalip's donation completed the software updates, and we are ready to help more than 170 students each year learn techniques they will likely encounter in their professional careers as scientists, engineers and technicians.

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19 Graduate from Physical Therapist Assistant Program

Last month, nineteen physical therapist assistant (PTA) students graduated from WCC’s on-campus and hybrid/online programs. The programs boast over 95% licensing pass rate and a robust employment rate. Graduates of WCC’s program are employed throughout the Northwest, including several local physical therapy practices.

The program, guided by community members who serve on the advisory committee, graduates skilled technical health care professionals who can carry out treatment programs under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The online/hybrid program serves students from Oregon, Arizona, Nevada, Texas, Alaska, Idaho and California. Students take lecture classes online and attend labs about one weekend a month, either at WCC or Pierce College.

Three Fall Sports; Three Tournament Berths

We’re proud of our student athletes this fall. Team-wise, they competed with gusto and grit. Men’s soccer claimed the Northwest Athletic Conference north region crown, with a 13-0-2 record, and was runner-up for the overall championship. Women’s soccer placed second in the north region with a 9-5-1 record. Women’s volleyball snagged third place in the north.

The following students were recognized for their academic excellence: Lucas Leiberman (soccer); and Claire Eklund, Kendra Warwick, Leah Rostov and Natalie Laturner (soccer).

All-Region awardees for athletic excellence: Uriel Herrera, Kandjoura Tandia and Zach Wanne (soccer); Christina Funk, Payton Lunde and Lyla Pagnotta (soccer) and Giselle Hollaus and Taryn Potter (volleyball).



High School Students Come to Campus for Preview Day



For fall’s Preview Day in December, 204 high school juniors and seniors from around Whatcom County got a taste of what college is like. From mini classes to sports, food and swag to tours, students learned about campus life and opportunities. Another preview day is planned for May 22. WCC’s Outreach team connects with high school counselors and local school districts to provide direct service and resources for students, promoting college access by providing information on college options, financial aid, applications and more.

We’re All in This Together

On the first Friday each month, WCC Arts & Humanities faculty wear t-shirts that proclaim “We’re all in this together.” The design was spurred by the faculty celebrating the arts and humanities, as well as the desire for community and unity, no matter the issue. Art Faculty member Rob Beishline created the design, with hands embracing the powerful words, and faculty and staff added the silkscreen design to their own t-shirts.. Many helped with the screen printing and processing, so it became a positive and community-building process.



Meet One of our 230+ Scholarship Recipients



Lara Hart, (left) recipient of the Thomas & Martina Horn Foundation Merit Scholarship, is a returning student pursuing a transfer degree. She plans to apply to Western Washington University's behavioral neuroscience program in support of her long-term goal of becoming a neuropsychologist, working with individuals with brain injuries and other neurological disorders. Lara as well as family members have had personal experience with brain injuries, leading her to complete advanced training in neuromuscular therapy and injury rehab. Besides her academic achievements, Lara is an avid volunteer and has contributed as a crisis line operator, shelter advocate and, English teacher. She has donated cooking and massage therapy skills to several nonprofits.

The Thomas & Martina Horn Foundation was established in 1994. It awarded 20 annual scholarships, as well as one health professions scholarship and one returning adult scholarship this year. More than 60 WCC students have received Horn scholarships.

Mr. Horn, (right) an impeccably dressed man carrying a nice hat and cane, lived in a suite at the Leopold Hotel after his wife Martina died. He walked to his office in the Herald Building every morning for decades, where Donna MacDonald, his accountant, worked with him. He had established department stores throughout the Pacific Northwest, with the flagship store in Bellingham. Upon his 100th birthday, Ms. MacDonald suggested they form a foundation, which they did. She continues the work of the foundation, which has given significantly to support young people in the northwest.



Briefly...

- Three WCC students traveled to Kenya last summer as volunteer relief workers for Engineers Without Borders. Ross Hunnicutt, Irene Mahoney and Roderick Kimball helped a small community there with its water access challenges, surveying local water collection sites and gathering information from residents. They credited their engineering professor, Eric Davishaal, for encouraging them to join Engineers.



- Through the efforts of Shelby Greenlaw, student and women's assistant basketball coach and Army/Marine Corps veteran, WCC's women's basketball pre-season opener on Veterans Day honored seven vets from the Navy, Air Force and Army, representing conflicts from Korea to Iraq. Student Christy Burkholder, currently serving in the Navy, was one of the honorees. Each veteran received a gift bag and plaque. Community donors included the Bellingham Bells, Boston Pizza, Buffalo Wild Wings, Hotel Bellwether, Jimmy John's, Menchie's, Rairdon's, Red Robin, Roy, Simmons, Smith, and Parsons, Shropshire Law Firm, Sports Clips, Still Life Massage, Woods Coffee and the Army and Marine recruiting stations in Bellingham.

We are building futures together

Your gifts to students, faculty and staff, and college programs inspire us to do more. Dream bigger. Provide opportunity. Invest in our community. Join us! foundation@whatcom.edu | 360.383.3320 | whatcom.edu/foundation

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