

The Friends and Alumni Newsletter is sent on a regular basis to keep you current on news and events at Whatcom Community College. We hope you'll join us on campus soon!



Your News & Updates for October 2016

As we enter the season of gratitude and giving, we are grateful for you, our friends, who support the dreams of students for an education, the inspired teaching of our faculty, the dedication of our staff, and the cutting edge programs that soar. This is our community's college, and we are making a difference every day. Read more about what we're doing here.

Orca Food Pantry opens for hungry students

Students are skipping meals because they have to choose between paying rent or buying groceries. For college students, it is estimated that up to 25% go without food to pay living expenses and college costs. To address this issue, the Foundation and the Associated Students of Whatcom Community College (ASWCC) stepped in this fall and opened the Orca Food Pantry.



Jackie Rumble

Located on the second floor of the Syre Student Center near the Simpson Intercultural Center, the Pantry is open to all students. Food donations include ready-to-eat breakfast items, such as hot and cold cereal, packaged milk, fruit cups, and meals like mac and cheese, chili, rice bowls, soups, granola bars and trail mix. All food items are accepted, and students who are hungry don't need to sign in: the doors of the pantry closet are open when the College is in session. WCC faculty and staff have responded with monetary and food donations to the Pantry. The College honor society, Phi Theta Kappa, will host a food drive this month. Food donation boxes are placed in each of the College's 12 buildings on campus. Student and Director of Campus Advocacy **Jackie Rumble** is overseeing the Pantry. If you'd like to help, contact us at the Foundation, 383.3320, or foundation@whatcom.ctc.edu.

In their own words: Why scholarships matter

This fall, we have awarded over \$310,000 to more than 300 students. The awards range from \$750 to \$5,500. We are grateful to have a large number of annual and endowed scholarships. Among them is Thank You For Your Service.

Thank You For Your Service was established last year by the friends of **Shropshire Law Firm** in Bellingham. The scholarship is awarded to a student who has served in active duty or who is currently serving in a reserve capacity for any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. **Steve**

Shropshire told us that he and his friends and clients donated Christmas care packages for troops for many years. Last year, they began the scholarship "because we wanted to try and help our local heroes if we can. Hopefully, we can keep this scholarship going for years to come," he said. "We give credit to our friends and clients, and a big thanks to donor Grover Hatcher: they deserve it." Thank you, Steve, for this generous gift of education.

WCC student **Cody Zimmerman** said of the Thanks scholarship he received, "It means a lot to know that you and other members of the community appreciate and support our veterans as we transition from our active-duty military lives into new career paths. Transitioning wasn't easy at first...it wasn't until I started attending WCC that I began to feel that sense of purpose again. I feel like I've been thriving in the academic environment, and I'm finally starting to feel well adjusted. I plan on graduating in spring 2017 before transferring to a four-year university to complete a bachelor's degree in mathematics. School is not easy, but even the smallest amount of help can lead to big results later on down the road."



Ward Naf with Sharon Kleinknecht and Joanne Douglas

President's Circle event dazzles with 3D printers

On a balmy early fall evening, the Foundation's top donors and friends gathered in the Whatcom Museum Lightcatcher outdoor courtyard to visit with friends old and new, savor locally sourced appetizers and marvel at two 3D printers in action. About 100 guests - members of the President's Circle - heard Foundation President **Kurt Anderson**, WCC President **Kathi Hiyane-Brown** and WCC

Director of Technology **Corrinne Sande** share updates on CyberWatch West, our computer information systems program, and the newest grants the College has received for work in this expanding field. Student ambassadors joined guests, including some of our scholarship recipients. Department heads who attended included **Margaret Anderson** (health professions chair), **Tran Phung**, (sciences chair), **Heidi Ypma**, (STEM division chair), and **Janice Walker**, dean of workforce education.

The 3D printer demos, led by IT Director **Ward Naf** and math Instructor **Will Webber**, were popular; guests were surprised by both the small size of the printers and the items they can produce. A 3D printer works with plans drawn in CAD applications, sent to printer software (specifics as to scale, materials, etc. can be set), then sent to the 3D printer connected to a PC. Depending on the size and complexity of the object printed, it can be ready minutes or hours later. Printing can be done on metal, plastic, earthenware and more, with applications for aerospace and medical or dental uses. Guests saw displays of a prosthetic hand, a fourth-dimension shape to illustrate a math concept, and a signature rose...with a STEM, of course!

NSF grants: We are third in Washington

We are recognized for our innovative STEM (science, technology, education, math) education with significant grant dollars to support these programs. Whatcom is ranked third in Washington (150th in the entire country) among higher education institutions receiving National Science Foundation (NSF) grants last year (with just the University of Washington and Washington State ahead of us).

This month, we received \$624,224 in grant funding from the NSF, a total of three grants that will fund the online option of WCC's new BAS four-year degree in IT Networking, the use of 3D printers in math classes, and research to advance retention and transfer of science concepts.

"These NSF grants confirm that WCC faculty are innovative leaders who are piloting new approaches in the classroom that encourage students to pursue STEM careers," WCC President **Kathi Hiyane-Brown** said. She noted the grants also help build the workforce in these high-demand fields, with WCC grads experiencing strong employment rates. Grads of the college's vaunted CIS/cybersecurity program have a nearly perfect employment rate and are hired by companies such as Boeing, Amazon, Shell Oil, Faithlife, Data Doctors and many others.

Whatcom student featured in NY Times article

The [Sept. 11 New York Times magazine section](#) featured WCC student **Alain Murhula** as one of Boise, Idaho's, 1,300 refugee students (about a third of which are in high school). Imagine the transition these young refugees make, often knowing little English and struggling with financial issues, as they adapt to new lives.

Murhula, who was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, lived in a refugee camp without electricity in Uganda for eight years after his father was murdered. He arrived in Boise with his mother and siblings in 2014, and won a statewide soccer award the following year. After graduating from Timberline High School, Alain came to WCC on a soccer scholarship.



Alain Murhula

"In high school, after my soccer practice, I'd go to work as a janitor for five hours each day at St. Luke's Hospital. After work, I'd go home for some homework. Sometimes I didn't get done with my homework, because I'd get tired and need to sleep. Help is not until you become rich and have nothing to do with (your) money, but is what you give no matter how much you have. Before the day you awarded this scholarship, I was wondering how am I going to pay for the balance of my tuition, food and rent. I'm planning to study engineering, specifically construction, undetermined, but it is between road and airport construction. I really thank my donors."



Kira Bravo and Anne-Marie Faiola

Foundation board welcomes two new directors

Kira Bravo, CPA, is a shareholder at Metcalf Hodges. She graduated from WWU with a degree in Accounting and Finance and began her career as a CPA at Moss Adams, where she remained until joining Metcalf Hodges in 2015. Kira is a long-time volunteer for Junior Achievement, and has helped in classes from kindergarten through fourth grade. She serves as treasurer and sits on the investment and finance committee at the Whatcom Community

Foundation.

Anne-Marie Faiola is a serial entrepreneur, a published author of two soapmaking books, and is known as "The Soap Queen" on YouTube, where she runs a popular YouTube channel with over 70 videos on how to make soap. The companies she has started and bootstrapped include Brambleberry, BestDayEver and Otion Soap. She has served on the Allied Arts Board, Entrepreneurs Organization Board, Conservation Northwest and Planned Parenthood Votes. Her education includes a degree in nutritional therapy, an MBA and an undergrad degree in psychology. She began her education at Centralia College.

Foundation directors commit time and resources to support the work of the College, connecting the community and generous donors in meaningful ways. We are grateful for their ideas, energy and connections to our community.

Learning Commons will ignite student learning

Much more than a building, the **Phyllis and Charles Self Learning Commons** will stand as a welcoming learning-centered facility that

incorporates WCC's library, instructional technology, tutoring, study and collaborative learning spaces for math and English. This \$34 million project received \$1.8 million from the state for project design; however, the Legislature did not include the Commons in its 2015-17 state capital budget.

The 64,000-plus-square-foot building will be our first state-funded capital project since 2004, during which time student enrollment has grown 16%. The College's existing facilities are inadequate and do not allow for expansion of physical and technological resources, which are located in multiple locations across campus.

The Learning Commons, located on the corner of Cordata Parkway and Kellogg Road at the entrance to Whatcom, is one of the top projects ranked by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, and will be resubmitted in the 2017 legislative session. Encourage your elected officials to provide the funding to build the Commons. We hope to break ground next summer.



Cordata Neighborhood Association starts scholarship

The College is a member of the Cordata Neighborhood Association. Our Cordata neighbors enjoy strolling through our campus, taking continuing ed classes, and working together on community projects. We are represented on the association board by WCC's Communications and Marketing Director **Mary Vermillion**. Senior Facilities Director **Brian Keeley** serves on the Cordata Business Park Association. This spring, two neighborhood association members, **Bev Jacobs** and **Carol Dukes**, were inspired to create an annual Cordata Neighborhood Association scholarship, the first of its kind in Bellingham. Donors are invited to contribute to the scholarship by contacting the Foundation at 383.3320. We are appreciative of our Cordata neighbors.



Lara Swimmer photo

Pavilion/Recreation Center receives LEED certification

WCC's Pavilion and Student Recreation Center, opened last fall, recently received Silver Level LEED certification. Built for more and better space for PE classes, athletic team practices, study areas and wellness opportunities, the building showcases sustainable design. Through the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, it received points for

qualities such as reduced environmental impact, lower operational costs, more efficient systems, better working environment and support for local suppliers.

This is WCC's second LEED building: the Auxiliary Services Building in 2013 also was certified at the Silver level. The Learning Commons is being designed to a minimum Silver LEED level, but may earn enough points through design and construction to obtain the highest level: Gold.

Having LEED -certified buildings aligns with our commitment to sustainability. Whatcom offers a certificate in sustainable business leadership, which includes coursework in energy efficiency, transportation, zero waste, responsible purchasing, sustainable development and more.

Come to campus and enjoy Orca athletics

WCC supports intercollegiate teams in three sports: men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball, and men's and women's basketball. We play home games in the Pavilion gym or the Orca field on campus. WCC competes in the northern region of the Northwest Athletic Conference. Right now, soccer and volleyball run through November, with basketball beginning in mid-November. We focus on student development, teaching teamwork, leadership, citizenship and responsibility. Find upcoming games at whatcom.edu/events.

We are building futures together.

Your gifts to students, faculty and staff, and college programs inspires us to do more. Dream bigger. Provide opportunity. Invest in our community. Join us!
foundation@whatcom.ctc.edu | 360.383.3320 | [Visit our website](#)

WCC Foundation Board of Directors

Kurt Anderson, chair; WCC President Kathi Hiyane-Brown, vice chair; Brenda-Lee Karasik, vice chair; John Stewart, secretary/treasurer; Troy Wills, immediate past chair; Lynne Masland, past chair; Phyllis Self, past chair; Victoria Dahlgren, at-large

Kira Bravo, Anne-Marie Faiola, Ron Kleinknecht, Mike Langey, Andrew Moquin, Susan Sandell, Satpal Singh Sidhu, Robert M. Tull, Bob Winters, college representative; Tim Douglas, trustee representative; Caite Holman, WCC Foundation director

Upcoming WCC Foundation Events

Donor Appreciation Breakfast: Oct. 28, Bellingham Golf & Country Club, 7:30 a.m.
A College Conversation in Lynden: Nov. 14, Chuck and Dee Robinson's home, 6:30 p.m.