

The content in this preview is based on the last saved version of your email - any changes made to your email that have not been saved will not be shown in this preview.

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 March 2017



When you're half a century old, it's time to celebrate, and that's what Whatcom is doing this year. We have a full calendar of events to mark the history of this amazing place that began as "the college without walls." Who would have guessed that today's Whatcom, situated on 72 acres of beautiful greenspace in north Bellingham, would evolve into one of the country's top community colleges? We couldn't do it without the support of our community...so happy birthday to us and thank you for sharing our vision of an open access college for everyone. Learn more about our 50th anniversary celebration at whatcom.edu/50.

WCC awarded \$650,000 NSF grant to fund 36 STEM scholarships

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded WCC a five-year, \$650,000 grant to provide scholarships and academic support for 36 low-income, academically talented students pursuing associate degrees in STEM fields: biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, geology, mathematics, and physics. The scholarship recipients will participate in the STEM Scholarship Academy at Whatcom. The guided pathways approach helps students spend less time and money earning their degrees. This grant underscores a national need to attract and provide more access to students who typically don't pursue, persist or earn degrees in STEM fields.

This academic year, NSF awarded WCC grants totaling \$1.2 million. The college currently leads or collaborates on eight NSF grants totaling \$8.1 million.

We rank third in Washington and 150th in the nation among higher education institutions receiving NSF grants in 2015 (the most recent year for which statistics are available).



In their own words: Why scholarships matter

For Kelina Victor, the Pratt- Karasik annual scholarship she received "has done amazing things for me." Kelina spent several years as a preschool teacher before deciding to follow her real passion. Despite her serious health struggles, she enrolled at Whatcom. "Having school was a lifeline for me," she said. "It gave me focus and helped take my mind off my health." She is now working hard toward her associates in anthropology degree, and is on track to graduate in March. Her finances have been a constant struggle, and she noted that the worry and stress over bills still hangs over her. However, her scholarship is a lifeline, paying her tuition so she can concentrate on school and continue to heal. After graduation, she will pursue a bachelors in anthropology from Western Washington University, and hopefully grad school, planning to work with local Native American people to reclaim and preserve their culture.



Kelina Victor

"I know I am not the only person at WCC that has had a tough time. Donors help create an environment where we feel like we can really achieve our dreams. This scholarship has been such a blessing to me," she said.

Pratt-Karasik Scholarship founder Dr. Brenda-Lee Karasik said, "I set up the scholarship at Whatcom for two reasons. One was to honor my husband who had been an educator all of his life. Second, it is important to me to give back and support individuals who are pursuing their education to benefit themselves and their families. It is not easy to do that and I am always amazed at the dedication and energy of our students at Whatcom. They inspire me and I'm honored to be able to provide the scholarship funding. I know they will be successful in the future."



WCC welcomes its largest cohort of winter quarter international students.

International education adds global perspective

Whatcom warmly welcomed a new cohort of international students, the largest for winter quarter, bringing our total to 315 students from more than 30 countries. The majority of our international students come from Asian countries, including China, Japan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Hong Kong.. Most students are pursuing university transfer programs.

An intensive orientation helps the students navigate life on their own in this country, learning about health and medical care, bank accounts, riding the bus, and building community awareness skills. Can you imagine finding your way in a new country, with English as your second (or third) language...and then being tested (for class placement) on your math and English skills? Many of our students stay with local families and form close bonds, while others take advantage of apartments WCC makes available in three complexes in the Cordata neighborhood.

We value the presence and perspectives of international students on our campus and are committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for every student. Another way Whatcom students connect to a global community is through Study Abroad programs. We belong to a group of 16 community colleges that share opportunities for students to study overseas on programs that last for one quarter (roughly 11 weeks). On average, about 20 students per year take advantage of these programs, going to Japan, Australia, United Kingdom, Spain, Costa Rica and Germany. In addition, this year, six Whatcom students will do a short-term study abroad for three weeks in Scotland.

Kelly Kester, director of international programs, said, "As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, it's essential to give students the skills they need to be part of our international community. In sectors such as business, science, education and health care, there's a growing need for young people to work across national borders and to collaborate with their counterparts across the planet. As Whatcom's mission points out, we need to prepare students for active citizenship in a global society and interacting with international students, and study abroad, are key to that work."

News from the legislature



Whatcom, like the other 33 community and technical colleges, receives some of its operating and capital funding from the state -- but definitely not all of it. In the past 10 years, our portion of state funding has gone from 68% to 48%. Focused growth management continues to be essential, as the college relies more heavily on a number of local programs to help fund the operating budget. These include Running Start, eLearning and international programs, as well as contributions from the WCC Foundation.

Last year, our state allocation was about \$12.7 million. Tuition provided 29% of our budget, while local funds generated 19%.

The Legislature approves both an operating budget and a separate capital budget for the colleges. Capital requests for both maintenance and minor projects (roof repairs, for example), are included, as well as funding for construction of new buildings.

The state funded the Phyllis and Charles Self Learning Commons for design work in the 2013-15 biennium. The \$1.8 million, two-year design phase is complete. However, the Legislature did not approve any capital requests for the following 15-17 capital budget.

This year, Whatcom ranks second on the list for construction projects, with a request for about \$34 million to build the Learning Commons. We are sharing with our legislators the importance of this building, which will be Whatcom's first state-funded capital project since 2004 -- during which time student enrollment has grown 16%. We are optimistic about funding: the state has already invested money in the design for the Commons. Now it is time to move forward on breaking ground for the progressive learner-centered facility to serve our 11,000 students.

Manny Cabrera is WCC's Transforming Lives honoree



Emanuel Cabrera

Every winter, the Washington State Association of College Trustees sponsors the Transforming Lives Award. The 34 state community and technical colleges each select one student whose story illustrates the transforming power of education.

Whatcom's awardee is Emanuel (Manny) Cabrera. The son of migrant farm workers, Manny dropped out of high school to help his family and struggled to find his way. Two years ago, at age 24, he decided to return to school to better his life and the life of his family. "I always dreamed of attending college one day. I chose Whatcom because I had read great things about the campus and how supportive they are to anyone. I decided to stop by and ask what kind of resources they had for drop-out students," he said.

Through Whatcom's High School 21+ program, Manny earned his high school diploma just last spring. He is continuing his studies here to become a youth counselor, and works at the Simpson Intercultural Center. He wants to help younger people reach their goals, providing encouragement and support along

the way. He added: "I know sometimes school may seem hard and scary, but I encourage students to present themselves at their local colleges and ask questions. It worked for me!"

Focus on 50: WCC celebrates 50th anniversary



1969 Board of Trustees, from left, Stan Brunner, Elizabeth Bay, Catharine "Kitty" Stimpson, Sam Kelly and James McKellar (seated).

Whatcom's history of innovation, stories of our people, and memorabilia from our past debuts at the Whatcom Museum on March 17. The exhibition remains at the Haggen Gallery in Old City Hall through May 31.

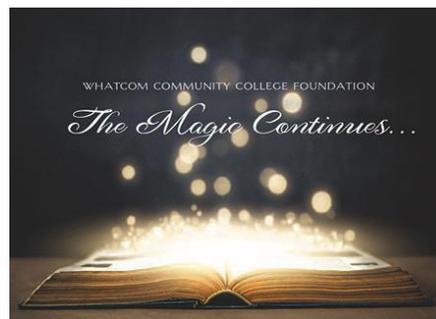
The exhibit features an expansive historic timeline, complete with those fun old photos. Check out the history of student leadership, a map detailing all the places "the college without walls" held classes, and enjoy beloved campus art. Learn about the famous Donovan Rock and where parts of it ended up. Explore displays of course offerings through the ages, and an ode to technology, with some dubiously portable early day computers. The exhibition will bring back memories that didn't seem so long ago.

Watch the anniversary video and hear what the community's college meant to so many. You will have an opportunity to share your stories, too, and fill our time capsule for the next 50-year celebration. After May 31, sections of the exhibit will move to the college library and Baker Hall in time for commencement on June 16. Thank you to the Whatcom Museum for helping us to share Whatcom's story.

The Magic continues: 50 years of magic celebrated at April 22 gala

The Foundation cordially invites you and your friends, business partners and education supporters to join us at The Magic of Whatcom gala on Saturday, April 22 at 6 p.m. at the Hotel Bellwether.

This friendly evening includes an experience-centric live auction, a curated raffle, the Disappearing Dessert Dash, plus Raise the Paddle for student scholarships. Tickets are limited: please call at 383.3320 or visit us online to order, whatcom.edu/foundation. Sports. Travel. Music. Food. Wine. Pets. Be a part of supporting our students and our exceptional college.



Participants explore health-care careers at 2016 Guys & Guts.

Back by popular demand: Guys & Guts, Girls Go Tech

Guys & Guts, a popular workshop for middle school boys, returns on Saturday, March 4. The boys will draw "blood" from an artificial arm, examine a simulation manikin patient, experience paraffin wax physical therapy, and touch a real human skeleton.

For middle school girls, Girls Go Tech is back on Saturday, April 22. Hands-on labs include using a bicycle as a power generator to determine how much energy is required for incandescent vs. LED light bulbs, and wiring a scaled-down model of a room,

using knowledge learned about circuits. Either class is \$10, which includes a commemorative T-shirt, and lunch for each participant and his/her parent/guardian. Register at 360.383.3234 or online for either: whatcom.edu/girlsgotech or whatcom.edu/guysandguts.

New chemical dependency certificate offered spring quarter

Whatcom launches a new chemical dependency certificate program this spring. The two quarter 15-credit certificate, open to licensed mental health practitioners, is online and uses curriculum developed at Spokane Falls Community College, Whatcom's partner in the health education grant. This much-needed program will provide up to 50 mental health practitioners with substance abuse counseling skills.

Students' Orca Cards: unlimited, pre-paid access to WTA buses



Current Whatcom students are now able to ride Whatcom Transportation Authority buses at no additional charge by presenting their new Orca card. This long-standing goal of students, endorsed by two student surveys over the past two academic years, began winter quarter. Students approved a fee of \$20 for unlimited bus service, saving an estimated 50% on comparable bus passes. Thanks to WTA for their partnership on this initiative.

Student athletes honored March 15

WCC competes in three sports: men and women's soccer, women's volleyball, and men and women's basketball. On March 15, student athletes and their families will celebrate their achievements at a reception in Syre Auditorium at 4:30 p.m. Each coach presents team MVP, most inspirational and most improved awards. The Milton G. Rawlings Scholar/Athlete Awards also will be presented to an outstanding male and female WCC basketball player. These annual awards, endowed in 1998 with generous donations from family members and friends, are dedicated to the memory of Milt Rawlings, and honor those student athletes who personify the qualities of success and values of "hard work, dedication and caring for others."

Whatcom has 79 student athletes this year, with 46 of those receiving athletic scholarships in varying amounts. We are especially proud that five students won the NWAC Excellence Award. The award is given to sophomores with a 3.3 GPA or above during their season. This fall's awardees: Flynn Bloom and Kenneth Schneider (both 4.0 GPA, men's soccer); Nicole Deboer (3.62, women's soccer) and Megan Greer (3.58 GPA, volleyball).

"Here at Whatcom, we are working every day to use athletics to teach valuable life lessons to our student-athletes, while providing support for them to reach their goals," Greg Spurgetis, associate director for athletics said. "Athletics provide a tremendous platform to teach lessons, such as teamwork, leadership, citizenship, and responsibility, while serving as a way to bring the campus and local community together."

WCC offers first applied baccalaureate degree this fall



The competitive entry process for WCC's first applied baccalaureate degree, a Bachelor of Applied Science in IT Networking, is now open. Classes begin this fall.

The degree includes certificates of proficiency in cloud computing, industrial control systems (SCADA) and mobile technologies. It is the only one of its kind in the northwest corner of the state, confirming Whatcom's stature as a regional and national leader in computer information systems and cybersecurity education.

A BAS in IT Networking degree offers multiple employment possibilities, including work as a computer network architect, computer and information systems manager, database administrator, information security analyst and network and computer systems administrator. Details: whatcom.edu/cis.

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 | [Visit our website](#)

WCC Foundation Board of Directors

Kurt Anderson, chair; WCC President Dr. Kathi Hiyane-Brown, vice chair; Dr. Brenda-Lee Karasik, vice chair; John Stewart, secretary/treasurer; Troy

Wills, immediate past chair; Dr. Lynne Masland, past chair; Phyllis Self, past chair; Victoria Dahlgren, at-large

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

Caite Holman, WCC Foundation director; Sue Cole, executive director for institutional advancement.

Advancement staff: Sue Cole, executive director for institutional advancement; Mary Vermillion, communications and marketing director; Caite Holman, Foundation director; Stephanie Schmitt, Foundation operations manager; James Zyon, senior graphic designer; Marisa Ellis, communications manager; Kate Imus, Foundation special projects manager; Laura Going, graphic designer

Upcoming WCC Events

March 11: Cheer for Willie the Whale (WCC's orca mascot) as he marches with students, faculty and staff as grand marshal of the Bellingham St. Patrick's Day parade, noon, downtown Bellingham.

March 15: WCC Athletics Celebration, 4:30 p.m., Syre Student Center

March 16: Visit the Whatcom table at the Chamber Business Showcase, 3-6 p.m., Silver Reef Casino.

March 17: WCC 50th anniversary Whatcom Museum exhibition opening, Old City Hall. Opening reception, 5-7 p.m.

April 22: The Magic of Whatcom Continues, WCC Foundation Gala, 6 p.m., Hotel Bellwether