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## WCC Friends & Alumni Newsletter

Summer 2014

Greetings, Marisa!

Summer is an amazing time to be at Whatcom Community College. Summer quarter allows students to get a jump on graduation, students & staff can enjoy breaks or study sessions in the sun, and online classes go where you go. Read on to learn more about the exciting projects happening at Whatcom this summer. Or if it's been awhile since you visited campus, we invite you to swing by and see first-hand.

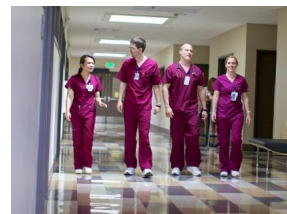
Best wishes,

WCC Friends & Alumni

### WCC Awarded \$567,500 HEET Grant

Innovation & Growth

Whatcom Community College (WCC) has been awarded a \$567,500 state grant to develop instructional programs that will prepare students for emerging careers in the healthcare industry. The Hospital Employee Education and Training (HEET) Innovation grant--North to South Consortium Improving Pathways to Healthcare Careers--is funded through the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. Whatcom is the lead institution. Partner organizations include Edmonds Community College, Highline College, Seattle Central College, and Clark College; regional workforce development councils; UW Valley Medical Center; Group Health; and SEIU Healthcare 1199NW Multi-Employer Training and Education Fund.



"Whatcom is honored to receive this grant which will help support our work in the education and preparation of our community's healthcare professionals to meet changing needs of industry," says WCC President Kathi Hiyane-Brown. "We are excited to collaborate with our partners to create real-world solutions to workforce challenges facing today's healthcare industry."

The grant will fund the development and creation of training that addresses skills gaps associated with changing patient needs and new requirements in the Affordable Care Act. WCC was selected to lead this project due to previous success leading HEET grants and developing proven patient navigator and advocacy curriculum. The initiative will leverage the expertise of College faculty and classrooms at Whatcom's Health Professions Education Center. The one-year HEET Innovation grant continues through June 2015, with a possible one-year extension. Read the full press release [here](#).

### President Named CEO of the Year

Student & Staff Excellence



WCC President Kathi Hiyane-Brown received the 2014 Chief Executive Officer Award at the recent Trustees Association of Community and Technical Colleges annual meeting in Yakima. The award recognizes President Hiyane-Brown's dedication to student achievement and her focus on offering innovative academic and professional-technical programs that prepare students to successfully transfer to four-year schools and to excel in their careers. Among her accomplishments, supporters noted her ability to engage with partners to advance goals, her focus on campus diversity, and the development of professional development programs for faculty and staff.

"I am deeply honored to receive this award from an organization whose mission is to ensure quality, affordable, and lifelong educational opportunities for all the people of Washington state," said Dr. Hiyane-Brown, who was named Whatcom's fourth president in 2007. "I am proud to represent Whatcom Community College's outstanding faculty and staff who have dedicated their careers to this same ideal."

Read the full press release [here](#).

### Kids' College returns to Whatcom

Community Outreach

When most kids imagine summer camp, they picture cabins by the lake and campfires with s'mores. But WCC's Kids' College turns that idea on its head with challenging and offbeat classes.

"We have been offering Kids Camp for over 10 years. It started with a handful of art classes and gelled into a collection of classes offered for children and youth," said Shandeen Gemanis, a program specialist in the Community Education Department.

"What really kicked the bigger program off was Jennifer Bryan-Goforth and the Hogwarts program," which drew on the popularity of the "Harry Potter" series and its fictional school for wizards, Gemanis added. Now, Bryan-Goforth, a local teacher and entrepreneur, is teaching a course called "Camp Half-Blood," based on the "Percy Jackson" book series, and several other classes linked to mythology and popular teen literature.

Other classes that are drawing attention--possibly because of the popularity of the PBS series "Downton Abbey"--are "Young Ladies and Gentlemen" and "The Art of Etiquette." Check out the full list of Kids' College offerings [here](#).

Read the full Bellingham Herald article [here](#).

## Campus Briefs

Recent News & Events



**Excuse Our Dust!** WCC has launched several campus improvement projects to support the College's Institutional Master Plan. The Pavilion & Student Recreation Center project will include more than 24,000 square feet of new construction and 6,700 square feet of renovated space. Construction began June 23 and will end approximately August 2015. Keep up to date on all of Whatcom's exciting improvements by visiting the College's [Whatcom News page](#).

**Commencement 2014** 1,310 students earned their degree from Whatcom Community College during the 2013-14 academic year, and a record 297 students participated in the commencement ceremony this spring. View photos from the evening [here](#). Congratulations, graduates!

**WCC Helps Vet Achieve Goals** Student commencement speaker and veteran David Aguilar found the fresh start he needed at Whatcom Community College. After meeting with WCC's veterans services coordinator Jarid Corbitt, David said he was ready to take the plunge and go back to school. Read about David's journey before and during Whatcom [here](#).

**WCC Foundation Awards Scholarships** Thanks to the generosity of countless donors, the WCC Foundation will award more than \$300,000 in merit, need-based, and athletic scholarships for the 2014-15 academic year. These funds provide a lifeline to many student pursuing their educational and professional goals at Whatcom. Visit the Foundation's [webpage](#) to learn more about how you can support WCC students!



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