



Your Helping Hand Makes a Big Difference.

The open door to affordable education at Whatcom Community College is at risk. Tuition increases, expensive textbooks, and the exceptionally high cost of living in Whatcom County mean students struggle to make ends meet. Add reductions in state and federal financial aid, and many students reduce their class load to part-time, and some drop out without ever achieving their dreams of a better life. Students who persist quarter after quarter graduate in higher numbers than those who must stop and restart their education.

It's discouraging to defer dreams. It's harder still to return. But we can change that!

The Orca Student Success Fund provides small, just-in-time micro grants to support students who persist, despite financial challenges.

Your gift is a vote of confidence to a hardworking student who may have exhausted other options. An average award is about \$200-\$500. With a simple application, our Financial Aid staff quickly turns requests for emergency help around. **It keeps students moving forward.**



I am a second year nursing student . . . bills are piling up and it's been difficult to keep the house warm and food in the fridge. If we were granted one month's rent, I believe that would be just enough to get us back on our feet. I graduate in June and am confident I will be able to provide a comfortable life for my family, but I could use a little help along the way.



Why Students Leave

Students often drop out when they can't pay unexpected smaller obligations, such as:

- Tuition and lab fees
- Textbooks and required program supplies
- GED and other testing fees
- Emergency childcare expenses
- Unexpected transportation repairs
- Running short on food
- Larger than normal utility bills
- Medical and dental expenses

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I paid for a tuneup with the last of my savings, but now I need new tires for the winter. I'm not sure what I'm going to do to get through until the end of the quarter. I don't want to quit: this degree is very important to me!

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Help Students Complete Their Education Now.

Your gift in any amount is the bridge leading to a life of opportunities. Help Whatcom students stay on track to graduate. Let them know our community values their persistence.



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I just want to let you know how grateful my family and I are for the amazing gift you have given me. You don't know how freeing it is to be relieved of this heavy burden.

I am so thankful to be able to concentrate on my studies and my whole Whatcom Community College experience. I am so appreciative to be able to continue here with my dreams.

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