An Invitation

The Skagit Valley College Board of Trustees seeks candidates for president of the college. Dr. Gary Tollefson will retire effective December 31, 2011, after nine years of exceptional leadership as president.

Skagit Valley College Profile

Established in 1926, Skagit Valley College (SVC) is a two-year community college in northwest Washington state, located one hour north of Seattle along the I-5 corridor. Each quarter, SVC enrolls approximately 6,700 students who are served by two campuses (in Mount Vernon and Oak Harbor) and two centers (in Clinton and Friday Harbor). District-wide, the college employs approximately 350 full-time employees and additional part-time instructors and staff.

SVC’s mission is “to expand opportunities and horizons for students and to improve the communities in which they live.” The college fulfills that mission by offering a variety of transfer, technical, and basic skills programs in its semirural and fast-growing district. In fall 2010, students enrolled in credit courses were as follows:

- 44% were enrolled as transfer-seeking
- 39% reported working toward professional/technical degrees or certificates
- 9% were taking basic skills courses
- 8% were enrolled for personal fulfillment

Of the college’s 4,343 FTEs in 2009-10, 1,128 enrolled in online courses and 400 were in hybrid courses.

The college engages in a variety of significant initiatives in support of increasing student retention and completion, including our recent selection as an Achieving the Dream college. SVC’s Community College Survey of Student Engagement high benchmark scores in Active and Collaborative Learning and Student-Faculty Interaction led SVC to be included in both 2007 and 2009 as one of Washington Monthly’s America’s Best Community Colleges. SVC has consistently earned national recognition for its learning communities.

Community Leadership

Strong connections with our local communities include a dynamic partnership with six school districts to establish skills centers on the Mount Vernon Campus and in Anacortes that offer high demand workforce programs to high school and college students. SVC is home to recreational facilities operated in collaboration with Skagit County Parks. The region’s premier performing arts facility in the area—McIntyre Hall—was developed in partnership with a Public Facilities District and is located on the Mount Vernon Campus.

Sno-Isle Library is located in a college building on SVC’s Whidbey Island Campus, allowing for joint use of the city’s and college’s libraries by students and the public.

Governance and The Board of Trustees

SVC operates within the State of Washington’s two-year community and technical college system. The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges is the system’s governing board and fiscal agent (see www.sbctc.edu).

SVC is governed by a five-member Board of Trustees, appointed by the Governor. Each member serves a five-year term and must reside within the college’s district boundaries. The Board meets monthly and sets the college’s strategic direction, establishes policy, awards tenure, oversees facilities, and approves budgets. The Board operates within a policy governance model.

Skagit Valley College provides a drug-free environment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or age in its programs and employment.
The Position

The Skagit Valley College Board of Trustees seeks candidates for the position of president. The president reports to a five-member Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor.

Candidates for the position of president of Skagit Valley College will be evaluated on their ability to provide the opportunities, traits, and experience that the college seeks in a new president. The successful candidate must demonstrate a strong record of achievement, including administrative experience at a college or university.

Opportunities

The college seeks a candidate for president who has demonstrated the ability to:

• Foster the college’s culture of community and collaboration and focus on student engagement and learning;
• Work with the college community to explore and develop new and innovative programs, partnerships, and practices;
• Create relevant program and course offerings that respond to the evolving demographic and economic needs of the college’s diverse district;
• Strategically support and promote student and faculty engagement and achievement.

Traits

The college seeks a candidate for president who has demonstrated the ability to:

• Elicit and evaluate input and then make decisions;
• Be passionate about the college’s mission and able to articulate and pursue the college’s vision;
• Be ethical and display integrity in all matters;
• Empower the staff with the authority to do their work and to be accountable for their actions;
• Communicate effectively with students, staff, faculty, and the community;
• Be personable, energetic, and display a sense of humor.

Experience

The college seeks a candidate for president who has:

• A combination of both academic and administrative experience;
• Recruited, developed, and retained a diverse staff, faculty, and student body;
• Actively engaged with the community, business, and the legislature;
• Made adjustments to budgeting and resource development to respond to changing financial situations;
• Led a college in the development of strategic goals and an accreditation process.

Qualifications

PREFERRED

• An earned doctorate degree from an accredited university;
• Senior-level administrative experience at a college or university;
• Teaching experience at the college level.

REQUIRED

• A master’s degree from an accredited university;
• Three or more years of senior-level administrative experience.

Terms of Employment

Salary is competitive. This is a full-time administrative position. The Board of Trustees anticipates that the successful candidate will begin on January 1, 2012; however, the initial employment date may be negotiable.

If you are hired, you must provide proof that you are a U.S. citizen or provide appropriate documentation which permits you to lawfully work in this country.

The Application Process

To apply, please submit the following documents (email, fax, or mail):

1. A completed Skagit Valley College Application for Employment.
2. Applicant/Recruitment Data Form.
3. Applicant’s Authorization for Release of Information.
4. A statement, no longer than five pages, citing specific examples of your background and experience, that qualifies you to be the next president of Skagit Valley College.
5. A list of a maximum of 10 professional references, including peers, subordinates, and supervisors. Include names, addresses, titles, contact information (phone number and email), and describe how the reference can speak to your application for this position.
6. Transcripts of all college-level coursework. Unofficial copies are acceptable, however, official transcripts must be submitted prior to employment.
7. A statement, no longer than five pages, citing specific examples of your background and experience, that qualifies you to be the next president of Skagit Valley College.
8. A completed Skagit Valley College Application for Employment.

Although applications will be accepted until the time a new president is selected, candidates should plan to submit materials by September 12, 2011 for the most favorable consideration.

All inquiries and applications will be held in strictest confidence. Final candidates will be notified and subject to background and reference checks. The college anticipates that interviews will be scheduled during the period of October 4 through October 13, 2011. Changes to these dates will appear on the Presidential Search website: www.skagit.edu/presidentialsearch

For complete application materials and additional information regarding the Presidential Search process, please visit www.skagit.edu/presidentialsearch

Application materials may be requested and completed application packages may be submitted by mail, fax, or email to:

Attn: Sue Williamson
Executive Director of Human Resources
Skagit Valley College
2405 E. College Way
Mount Vernon, WA  98273-5899
Email: presidentialsearchHR@skagit.edu
Fax: (360) 416-7878

Confidential inquiries about the position, search process, or application requirements should be directed to Dr. Preston Pulliams:
Phone: (503) 704-3425
Email: preston@goldhillassociates.com

Skagit Valley College is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer and strongly encourages all qualified applicants including women, persons of color, Vietnam-era/disabled veterans, persons age 40 and over, and individuals with disability to apply. Applicants with disabilities who require assistance with the recruitment process should call (360) 416-7954. A telecommunication device for hearing impaired is available at (360) 416-7718.