

CURRENTS

A PREMIER PUBLICATION OF SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE



SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE

CENTENNIAL
1926-2026

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at SVC | Page 2

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found belonging, confidence,
and purpose at SVC | Page 3





CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

For 100 years, Skagit Valley College has been more than a place of learning. It has been a community of stories. From the first students in 1926 to the generations who have followed, each person who walks through SVC's doors carries a unique journey of hope, perseverance, and discovery.

As the college celebrates its centennial, the theme "Everybody has a story, and every story matters" honors the experiences that have shaped our campuses, our communities, and our shared future. These stories remind us that education changes lives, not only through degrees earned but through the confidence, connection, and purpose found along the way.

Here's to a century of stories that have inspired the Cardinal community, and to the next hundred years of learning, belonging, and transformation at SVC.

www.skagit.edu/100

Everybody has a story, and every story matters.



Dr. Christopher Villa
President

As we celebrate our upcoming centennial year at Skagit Valley College, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the stories that have shaped our college and our community for the past 100 years. Our theme for this milestone year, "Everybody has a story, and every story matters," reminds us that the true legacy of SVC is found in the lives of the people who have walked through our doors, discovered their purpose, and gone on to make a difference in the world.

This issue reflects the remarkable stories that continue to move our mission forward. You will meet alumna Nicole Rockfish, whose journey from SVC student to accomplished professional

reminds us of the life-changing power of education. You will also read about the launch of our Bachelor of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education, which creates new opportunities for local students to earn a four-year degree close to home and prepare for the next generation of teachers. We celebrate the opening of our new nursing education space on the Whidbey Island campus, where future nurses are developing the skills and confidence to care for our communities.

The Skagit Valley College Foundation continues to strengthen and expand the impact of our mission. This year, the Foundation awarded **637** scholarships totaling more than **\$1.1 million**, helping **437** students pursue their dreams with fewer financial barriers for the 2025-26 academic year. The Foundation's endowment has now grown to more than **\$25 million**, ensuring lasting support for student success and educational opportunity.

We are deeply grateful for the extraordinary \$1.7 million gift from Stella Rolph, whose legacy will open doors for future Cardinals. We also recognize the Massey and Cowles families for their enduring support and belief in the power of education. Their generosity reflects the strong partnerships that have sustained SVC for a century.

You will find joyful highlights from this year's Car Show, along with inspiring stories of student success and scholarship recipients who are carrying forward the spirit of SVC into their next chapters. Each story represents the resilience, creativity, and determination that have defined SVC for a century.

As we honor our first century and look to the future, I am reminded that SVC has always been more than a college. It is a place where people find purpose, belonging, and opportunity. Thank you for being part of our story and for helping us shape the next 100 years of learning, growth, and transformation.

With gratitude,

Dr. Christopher Villa
President of Skagit Valley College

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Where I Began:

The Story of Nicole Rockfish

When Nicole Rockfish first arrived on campus in 2004, she wasn't chasing a dream, she was searching for belonging.

"I grew up in a teen home called Cocoon House," she recalled. "College wasn't something I ever thought was meant for me."

At the time, she followed her heart to SVC, hoping to reconnect with her high school sweetheart, who was a Running Start student. What began as a search for love quickly turned into something far more lasting, a journey of self-discovery that would change the course of her life.

"I remember stepping off the bus that first day, earbuds in, listening to 'Collide' by Howie Day," Nicole said. "Everything felt new. I was scared, but hopeful."

That day in the cafeteria, her story took its first unexpected turn. "I looked up, and there he was," she said. "He walked right up, spun a chair around, and sat down across from me. Just like that, we were back together."

But the true love story that unfolded at SVC wasn't about romance; it was about finding herself.

Finding Home

As Nicole settled into campus life, she discovered what she calls her "first real home." The staff and faculty at SVC became the family she had always needed.

"When I lost my childhood mentor and social worker, I didn't know where to turn," she said. "Somehow, I ended up in Gail Bruce's office. She and others surrounded me with compassion and care. That moment, that community, saved me."

Support came in many forms. Instructor Kurt Dunbar's open-door conversations, Norma Lisherness's faith in hiring her for a library job, and the kindness of math instructor Abel Gage each helped Nicole rebuild her confidence.

"I never realized I was smart or worthy of education until the professors at SVC showed me just how capable I was."

"I thought I was terrible at math," she admitted. "Abel believed in me. He encouraged me to go to the tutoring center, and suddenly something clicked. I realized I wasn't just capable. I was smart."

For the first time, Nicole saw herself not as a statistic or survivor, but as a student with potential.

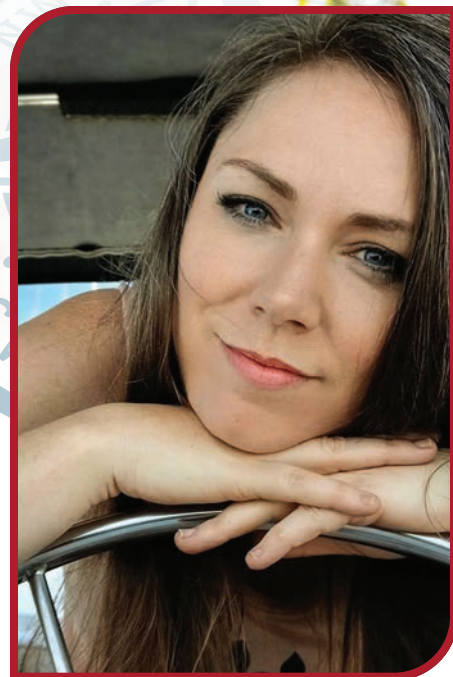
Becoming a Scholar

Nicole poured herself into her studies, thriving in SVC's supportive and close-knit environment. She graduated in 2007 with her Associate of Arts degree, a milestone that still ranks among her proudest achievements.

"I missed out on so many milestones growing up," she said. "Walking across that stage at graduation, wearing my cap and gown, I felt like I had finally claimed something that was mine."

SVC became the launching pad for everything that followed. Nicole transferred to Washington State University, where she discovered a new passion: boating. In 2025, she made history by becoming the **youngest Commodore in Washington State University's history**, a leadership role that symbolizes excellence, service, and tradition.

In her coronation speech, she thanked SVC. "All of my success began at Skagit Valley College," she said. "Thank you for believing in me and giving me the home and confidence I never thought I'd find."



A Century of Stories

Now, as **SVC celebrates its 100th year**, Nicole's journey shines as a reflection of what the college has stood for across generations: opportunity, belonging, and transformation.

"This college gave me my foundation," she said. "It taught me to believe in myself, to trust others, and to build a life rooted in resilience and community. It's not just where my education began. It's where I began."

Nicole's story embodies this year's message at SVC: "Everybody has a story, and every story matters."

Her path from Cocoon House to college graduate, from self-doubt to leadership, reminds us that SVC's legacy isn't just about degrees, it's about people. For 100 years, the college has been a place where stories like Nicole's are written, rewritten, and shared.

"No matter where you come from, you have the power to change your story," she said. "Going to Skagit Valley College gave me the chance to change mine. Every Cardinal has that spark within them."

Nicole still carries that spark, the one first ignited on a fall day in 2004, when she walked onto campus scared but hopeful. Two decades later, her light continues to inspire others to believe that their story, too, can begin at SVC.

LAUNCHES NEW ►

BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

With the launch of a new **Bachelor of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education**, Skagit Valley College is expanding access to early learning education. Introduced this fall, the program prepares graduates to teach children from preschool through third grade, strengthening early learning opportunities across our region.

As SVC's sixth bachelor's degree, the program is designed for individuals already working with children who want to advance their careers. It builds on an associate degree and provides the final two years of study needed to earn a bachelor's degree and teacher certification, right here in our community

Meeting a growing need

Across Washington, there is a rising demand for early learning teachers who understand how young children grow, play, and learn. Local schools, childcare centers, and Head Start programs all need skilled teachers who can build strong foundations for lifelong learning. The new degree helps meet that need by preparing teachers who understand both the science of child development and the heart of teaching.

Graduates of the BAS ECE program graduate ready to apply for teacher certification through the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

A flexible path for working adults

The biggest strengths of this program is that it is designed for people who are already working in the field. Classes are offered in a format that fits the busy schedules of early learning professionals, paraeducators, and parents. Students learn in a supportive cohort and apply what they learn in real classrooms and early learning centers.



"Many of our students are already involved in their communities," said SVC ECE Instructor, Alexis Meyers. "This program lets them stay rooted where they live and work while earning a bachelor's degree that leads to teacher certification."

Investing in local talent

The BAS ECE program also represents an investment in the region's future, providing opportunities for local residents to complete their bachelor's degree close to home. SVC is growing the next generation of teachers who will stay in the community and make a lasting difference.

"This is about strengthening the fabric of early learning across Skagit County and beyond," said SVC President Dr. Christopher Villa. "Our college is proud to be part of the solution in preparing highly qualified, caring teachers who will help children thrive."

Graduates of the program will be ready to work in public schools, early learning centers, and community programs that serve young children and families. Many will be the same familiar faces who have been supporting children in local classrooms and centers for years.

A range of opportunities

The new ECE bachelor's degree joins a growing list of bachelor's programs at SVC. The college also offers degrees in computer science, environmental conservation, healthcare management, and advanced manufacturing and design — providing flexible and affordable options for students who want to earn a bachelor's degree locally.

Through programs like the BAS ECE, SVC continues its long tradition of investing in the next generation of leaders and learners.

How to apply

Anyone interested in the program starts by attending a short briefing session — the first step in the application process. Applications open annually for a fall start.

To be eligible, applicants must have completed an associate degree in any field, along with three prerequisite courses. The program welcomes recent graduates and professionals returning to school after time in the workforce.

SVC | SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
Bachelor's Degree

For more information about the new **BAS ECE**, including upcoming program briefing sessions and how to apply, visit skagit.edu/basece



SVC Nursing Program Grows on Whidbey Island Campus

Marriah Pugh, U.S. Navy Veteran, WIC Nursing Student, Whidbey Island Bank Golf Classic and Polly Harpole Guild Memorial Scholarship recipient.

The Nursing Program at Skagit Valley College's Whidbey Island Campus has expanded to meet growing community needs, now utilizing the entire Sprague Hall Building. The added space provides updated classrooms, labs, and learning environments that better support SVC's nursing and health sciences students.

Upgrades feature modern technology, flexible layouts, and advanced labs that enhance learning, collaboration, and hands-on practice using equipment found in today's healthcare settings.

"These updates make a real difference in how students learn," said Dr. Shelley Price, SVC Dean of Health Sciences. "Additional space and improved resources allow students to develop the skills required to serve their communities and meet the growing healthcare needs of Whidbey Island."

With this expansion, the Whidbey Island program can enroll up to 30 students per cohort, up from 24. Across its Mount Vernon and Whidbey Island campuses, SVC admits more than 100 nursing students each year, helping meet critical workforce needs across the region.

Many Whidbey Island nursing students are military family members, adding to the program's diversity and connection to the needs of the local community.

"Whidbey Island students have incredible community support," said Kathleen Petrzalka, Executive Director of the SVC Foundation. "Our donors believe in supporting their community through scholarships and program investments that create lasting impact."

This growth comes as SVC prepares to launch a new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in January 2027.

The new degree includes 10 courses in research, leadership, and community health. Those in the RN associate degree program can begin BSN coursework concurrently, allowing them to complete their bachelor's degree more quickly.

"Skagit Valley College serves a diverse population covering a wide area," said Price. "The bachelor's program expands educational opportunities for nurses in our region and strengthens public health as a result."

Together, the Whidbey Island Campus expansion and the new BSN program reflect SVC's dedication to access, opportunity, and community, preparing skilled healthcare professionals who enhance the health and vitality of Northwest Washington.



Bill and Kathy Massey with 2025-26 Scholarship Recipients



Ken Cave with 2025-26 Scholarship Recipients

Celebrating the Lasting Impact of the Cave and Massey Families

The Skagit Valley College Foundation proudly celebrates the enduring and ongoing generosity of the Massey and Cave families, whose scholarships have supported **more than 1,000 students over the past three decades.**

Established in 1993, Bill and Kathy Massey established the William and Kathleen Massey Scholarships to benefit students from Whidbey Island and those attending SVC's Whidbey Island Campus

who demonstrate academic potential and financial need while pursuing vocational or professional technical programs.

The Katherine V. Cowles Nursing Scholarship, established in 1996 by Kenneth and Elizabeth Cave, honors the compassionate nursing care provided to Elizabeth's mother, Katherine Cowles. The scholarship supports nursing students with financial need who are preparing for careers of service and healing.

"As we approach SVC's Centennial, we are grateful for these legacies of support, and for the new partnerships that continue to grow alongside them," said Kathleen Petrzalka, Executive Director of the SVC Foundation. "Together, they reflect the lasting power of community generosity and belief in our students' potential."

SVC CAR SHOW

ELEVATES COMMUNITY SPIRIT

The Skagit Valley College Car Show returned to the Mount Vernon Campus on **June 7**, bringing together car enthusiasts, students, alumni, and families for one of the college's most popular annual events.

The campus was filled with rows of gleaming classic cars, lowriders, motorcycles, and specialty vehicles as visitors enjoyed a day of sunshine, music, and community.

More than 100 vehicles were on display, ranging from vintage favorites to modern showpieces. Attendees enjoyed food from SVC's SOL Club and had the opportunity to purchase specially designed shirts to commemorate the show.

Proceeds from the car show support the SVC Auto Club. Members are currently building a Camaro drag race car and meet regularly to work on their own vehicles, developing practical automotive skills.

With strong attendance, beautiful vehicles, and enthusiastic community support, the **2025 Skagit Valley College Car Show** was a shining success. We can't wait to see you at the 2026 SVC Car Show!



Track One Ocean's Location
oneislandoneocean.com

Where are they Now?

One Island, One Ocean Expedition

The One Island, One Ocean crew continues to make waves they advance their 14-month, 27,000-mile expedition Around the Americas. The journey began in Anacortes, WA in May 2025 aboard the 48-foot sailboat One Ocean and combines adventure, ocean research, and education to inspire environmental awareness and connect communities across the hemisphere.

Throughout the voyage, the crew is collecting data on ocean health, kelp forests, and surface conditions while deploying cutting-edge instruments that measure temperature, salinity, and currents. In partnership with scientists and educators, their findings deepen our understanding of changing marine ecosystems.

Beyond research, One Island, One Ocean is a floating classroom. Through live, interactive lessons and digital outreach, students around the world have joined the crew virtually to learn about marine science, sustainability, and global stewardship, proving that curiosity and discovery truly have no borders.

After a challenging leg from Nova Scotia through storms in the Atlantic Ocean, the team is now docked in Bermuda, taking time to rest, repair, and prepare for their next phase southward through the Caribbean. With their mission to unite science, storytelling, and education, the One Island, One Ocean expedition continues to show what is possible when passion meets purpose on the open water.



Follow their journey
and live classrooms at
oneislandoneocean.com



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oneisland.oneocean



oneislandoneocean





THE STELLA
ROLPH GIFT:
**HELPING
CARDINALS
TAKE FLIGHT**

The Stella Rolph Memorial Scholarships awarded their first scholarships this academic year, bringing to life the vision of a longtime Skagit County resident who saw education as a powerful force for opportunity and community transformation.

Established through the estate of Stella Rolph of Burlington, who passed away in December 2022, the endowed fund totals more than \$1.7 million. Managed through the SVC Foundation's endowment, the fund ensures that Stella's generosity supports students for generations to come.

The gift endowed two scholarships that support 20 SVC students annually — 10 completing their associate degrees and 10 SVC graduates transferring to four-year universities. This year's recipients continue their studies at **Washington State University, University of Washington, Western Washington University, and Oregon State University**, carrying forward the Cardinal spirit as they continue their academic journeys.



“ She saw education as central to how she could help others. ”

“Stella was funny, smart, curious, and humble,” said her niece, Cheryll Peterson. “She lived a simple life and was very generous. She saw education as central to how she could help others.”

Rolph's relationship with SVC began more than two decades ago when she joined a Community Education fitness class taught by Susan Deschenes. Over 20 years of participation, she built lasting friendships and became an active member of the class community. “Stella attended my wedding and baby shower — that's how close we became,” Deschenes recalled. The group not only exercised together but also supported local fundraisers and community events.

Born and raised in the Bayview area, Rolph graduated from Burlington-Edison High School in 1946. She and her husband, Lloyd, spent much of their married life in Seattle before returning to Burlington after her retirement from United Airlines.

“Stella's extraordinary gift reflects the deep connection our community shares with the college,” said Kathleen Petrzelka, Executive Director of the SVC Foundation. “Her generosity and vision open doors for SVC students, empowering them to dream of continuing to four-year universities with the encouragement and support of the college and community behind them.”

Through the Stella Rolph Memorial Scholarships, Stella's thoughtful act of giving has become a legacy, celebrating education, friendship, and the power of community to change lives.

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SVC FOUNDATION
skagitfoundation.org





Kathleen Petrzelka
Executive Director SVC Foundation



John Sternlicht, President
SVC Foundation Board of Governors
Economic Development Alliance
of Skagit County (EDASC), CEO

100 SVC | SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE Foundation

A CENTURY of LEARNING. A LEGACY of GIVING.

Impact Report 2024-25

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to share that during the 2024–25 academic year, the SVC Foundation awarded more than \$1.1 million in scholarships and over \$665,000 in program funds to support student success. Thanks to your generosity, our endowment has reached \$25 million, creating a lasting source of scholarships, program support, emergency funds, and childcare assistance. These resources help students stay in school, graduate, and pursue their dreams.

Philanthropy is an act of imagination, envisioning a world of possibility and taking intentional steps to make that vision a reality. Through your generosity, you help build the world we aspire to see: one where every student has access to opportunity and education transforms lives and strengthens communities.

As we look ahead to SVC's Centennial in 2026, we are reminded of the power of education to shape the future. This milestone represents a century of learning and a legacy of giving — a celebration of the college's history and of the vital role you play in its continued success.

On behalf of our students, their families, and our community, **thank you for your partnership and for sharing your generosity with SVC.**

Kathleen Petrzelka *John Sternlicht*

MORE
THAN

\$1.9M

**RAISED IN CASH, PLEDGES,
AND IN-KIND GIFTS**

MORE
THAN

\$665K

**AWARDED TO SUPPORT
VITAL COLLEGE PROGRAMS**

MORE
THAN

\$1.1M

**IN SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED**

Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2025

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,193,883
Pledges receivable	\$47,896
Advances due from Skagit Valley College	\$287,592
Cash held for endowment	\$195,969
Investments	\$25,207,185
Property and equipment, net	\$2,923,193
Other assets	\$4,584

TOTAL ASSETS: \$30,860,302

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$21,030
Advances due to Skagit Valley College	\$339,104
Deferred sponsorship support	\$84,218
Tenant security deposits and prepaid rent	\$27,173
Passthrough funds held as agent	\$19,410

TOTAL LIABILITIES: \$490,935

NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions

Board Designated – Endowments	\$1,861,861
Board Designated – Endowments for Operating Reserve	\$101,478
Board Designated – Campus View Village	\$1,643,116
Board Designated – Booster Club	\$267,329

Total Board Designated Undesignated \$3,873,784
\$2,120,976

Total Without Donor Restrictions With Donor Restrictions \$5,994,760
\$24,374,607

Total Net Assets \$30,369,367

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$30,860,302

Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.

The Candid/GuideStar Platinum seal is the highest possible rating attainable by a nonprofit organization, and indicates that the SVC Foundation exceeds nonprofit industry standards. This prestigious designation sets the SVC Foundation apart in demonstrating our ethical and transparent practices to the public.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Eduardo Estevez

SUPPORT THAT OPENS DOORS

Recipient of Student Emergency Funds

For Eduardo Estevez, the path to college success has not always been smooth. As a first-generation student, Army veteran, and single parent, he has faced his share of challenges but also discovered the power of community at Skagit Valley College.

While pursuing his associates degree in Kinesiology at SVC, an unexpected flat tire threatened to upend his progress. "I rely on my car to get to class and work," he said. "Without it, I risked missing school and falling behind."

Help came through the **Student Emergency and Childcare Fund**, which provided the financial support needed to repair his car and keep him moving forward. "That assistance meant everything," Eduardo shared. "And reminded me that people at SVC truly care about students and their success."

Today, Eduardo is continuing his education at Western Washington University and is working toward a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology. He plans to become an athletic coach or exercise psychologist.

"It is thanks to the support I received from SVC that I am here now," he said. "That moment of help made a huge difference and kept me from giving up. Now I can build a better life for myself and my family."

Funds like these are lifelines for students who face sudden financial obstacles and help cover essentials such as transportation, rent, basic needs, or childcare. For many, including Eduardo, this support keeps their education within reach.



"The Student Emergency and Childcare Fund helps students like me continue pursuing our dreams," he said. "It reminds us that even when times are tough, we are not alone."



SUPPORT THE
STUDENT EMERGENCY
AND CHILDCARE
FUND HERE



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Emma Johnson STRENGTH IN EVERY SPARK

SVC Foundation Scholarship Recipient
and NWAC Volleyball Champion

Emma Johnson's strength has been earned through perseverance, hard work, and an unwavering belief that challenges can become opportunities.

As a member of SVC's 2024 championship volleyball team, Emma knows what it takes to push her limits. "This team earned **SVC's first-ever NWAC Volleyball Championship** through their hard work, commitment, and fearless approach," said Mitch Freeman, SVC Athletic Director. That same determination fuels Emma's pursuit of her associates in Welding Technology, where she is forging her own path.

Growing up, Emma watched her mother work tirelessly to care for her and her siblings despite facing serious health challenges. That example of strength and sacrifice continues to inspire Emma's drive. "**My mom is my biggest motivation,**" she shared. "**She has shown me what perseverance truly means.**"

In addition to being an SVC Athletics Scholarship recipient, Emma was awarded the

Gary Knutzen Memorial Scholarship, Kathy Harris Wolfe Scholarship, the Melvin and Oscar Peterson/Henry Tenneson Memorial Scholarship, and the Sorooptimist International of Burlington Trades Scholarship. Each award provides stability and reduces financial stress, empowering her to succeed in the classroom, at home, and on the court.

"These scholarships represent belief in me," Emma said. "It shows that someone recognizes how hard I have worked and is willing to support me as I move forward."

After graduation, Emma plans to become a Certified Welding Inspector (CWI), an advanced certification achieved by few in the industry. She plans to continue building her skills and encourage others to pursue careers in the trades.

"I am proud of how far I have come," said Emma. "Every challenge has made me stronger and more determined to succeed."





STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Andrew Tiznado TAKING THE NEXT STEP IN NURSING

Stella Rolph and SVC Nursing Club Scholarship Recipient

Nursing is a calling for Andrew Tiznado, one defined by perseverance and lived experience. Now in his second year of Skagit Valley College's Nursing Program, Andrew began his journey as a certified nursing assistant and is working toward becoming a registered nurse.

After overcoming significant health challenges, Andrew found inspiration in the compassion of the nurses who cared for him. "Those experiences showed me the kindness and respect a nurse can offer a patient," he said. "Now I want to provide that same care for others."

Andrew chose SVC because it felt like home. "This is my college," he said. "I struggled through high school, but at SVC I discovered my learning style and found the support I need to succeed."

The **Stella Rolph SVC Scholarship** and the **SVC Student Nurse Club: Practicing Heroes Scholarship** support Andrew in his studies by covering the cost of textbooks, uniforms, and travel to and from hospitals and nursing homes for clinicals. "These scholarships give me the time and resources to concentrate on becoming the best nurse I can be," he said.

Andrew is active in SVC's Nursing Club and plans to continue his education to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing. "I am not the same person I was when I started here," he reflected. "That person would be proud to see how far I have come."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

SAMANTHA TORRES' PERSEVERENCE AND PROMISE

Student Emergency and Childcare Fund Recipient

Samantha Torres' pursuit of higher education as more than a personal goal: it is a promise to her two young children for a brighter, more secure future.

"As a mother of two, going to college is not just for me, it's for them," she said. **"Every assignment I finish, every class I attend, is one step closer to building the life I want for my family."**

Her journey has not been easy. A first-generation college student, Samantha has supported herself since the age of 16. As a young mother, she was determined to provide her children with stability and opportunity despite limited resources. Balancing full-time coursework in SVC's Nursing Program with long work hours and parenting demands discipline and tremendous sacrifice.

Recently, Samantha reached out for help through the **Student Emergency and Childcare Fund**, her request was modest — \$100 to buy groceries and \$1,000 to help cover childcare while she continues her studies.

"Every quarter I find myself struggling," she shared. "I work as many hours as I can, but I still make only about \$2,000 a month. Missing work to complete assignments means losing income, but it's a sacrifice I have to make to earn my degree."

She plans to use the support to provide essentials for her family — meals, school lunches, and necessities like wipes and household items. "Every bit of help means stability for my children" she said. "And a chance to keep moving forward."

Samantha's dream is to become a pediatric registered nurse, inspired by the compassion of the nurses who once cared for her family.

"That experience changed me," she reflected. "It showed me that nursing is about more than medicine, it's about empathy, patience, and strength."

Support from the Student Emergency and Childcare Funds makes it possible for student-parents like Samantha to continue their education while caring for their families.

"This help means I can focus on school instead of worrying about whether I can afford dinner," she said. "It gives me hope that I can build a better life for my kids and shows them what perseverance looks like."

Samantha's story illustrates how the Student Emergency and Childcare Fund keeps the dream of education alive for students striving to build a better future.



STUDENT EMERGENCY AND CHILDCARE FUNDS AWARDED:

\$200,676 TO 210 Students

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Colby Nasin BUILDING A FUTURE THROUGH HARD WORK AND HEART

Kathy Harris Wolfe Scholarship Recipient

Education has always been about grit and determination for Colby Nasin, a foundation for building a meaningful future. Colby graduated from Sedro-Woolley High School in 2025 with a 3.97 GPA, balancing academic excellence with athletics and community involvement.

Now a student in SVC's Welding Technology program, Colby is taking the first step toward his long-held dream of becoming a journeyman pipeline welder. "I've been interested in welding since seventh grade," he said. "It's hands-on, challenging, and something I know I'll love doing every day."



Receiving the **Kathy Harris Wolfe Scholarship** makes it possible for Colby to focus fully on his studies. "This scholarship takes a lot of stress off my shoulders," he shared. "It helps me concentrate on learning without worrying about debt. I'm grateful for the support and the belief in my future."

After SVC, Colby plans to travel the country as a welder, then return to Skagit County to build a home of his own.

"The generosity of donors like Kathy Harris Wolfe inspires me to work harder," he said. "I want to honor that support by doing my best in school and giving back."

Colby reflects the spirit of SVC, where hard work and hope come together to build bright futures for students and the communities they serve.



A Home Run for the Cardinals

Skagit Valley College celebrated a special moment this spring with the unveiling of new baseball and softball scoreboards, made possible through the generous support of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) Cascade Chapter and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 191.

During a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 12, college leaders, student-athletes, and community partners gathered to

honor this exciting upgrade to SVC's athletic facilities. The new scoreboards not only enhance the experience for players and fans but also stand as a symbol of what can be achieved through strong partnerships and community generosity.

SVC extends heartfelt thanks to NECA and IBEW Local 191 for their commitment to student success and for helping our Cardinals shine on and off the field.

The Skagit Valley College Foundation is honored to manage 154 endowed funds and more than 100 annual scholarships and program funds. These endowments provide lasting support for SVC students, helping to ensure access to education for generations to come.

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Nominations OPEN through November 30!

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Inductees represent alumni, faculty, staff, public officials, and community members whose dedication and impact embody the spirit of SVC.

Nominations are open through November 30, we invite you to submit your nominations and help us recognize individuals who make a lasting difference.

Join us as we celebrate the 2026 inductees on March 20 at McIntyre Hall.

Scan the QR code to learn more and submit your nomination today!



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