



SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE Currents

Issue 3, 2014

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NCMPR

SVC is the recipient of the 2014 Gold Medal Award for newsletters by the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations.



(from left to right) Trustees Kathryn Bennett and Lindsay Fiker, SVC President Dr. Tom Keegan, Nancy Lewis Cole, David Lewis, Dr. Greg Lewis, and Trustee Margaret Rojas.

CONTINUING THE LEGACY OF DEAN CHARLES H. LEWIS' COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS

SVC Celebrates the Grand Opening of **CHARLES LEWIS HALL**



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Currents

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Margaret Rojas

Welcome!

Skagit Valley College's commitment to students began in 1926 when it welcomed its first class of 23 students to the College's original location in Mount Vernon. Since that founding year, SVC now welcomes more than 5,000 students each quarter to its two campuses and three centers in Skagit, Island, and San Juan counties.

Our commitment to students comes from the dedication and enthusiasm of our outstanding faculty and staff. They have created a vibrant learning environment that maintains a shared commitment to our guiding principles of integrity, respect, open and honest communication, and collaboration. As a result, SVC serves as a valuable community resource by offering access to exceptional education, providing industry-aligned training that supports business, and bringing people together through cultural enrichment opportunities.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students, thank you for joining our commitment to students and our community. Our success reflects our dedication to student achievement and our relationship with you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas A. Keegan
President

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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.

Skagit Valley College provides opportunities for students in pursuit of their educational and employment goals, while contributing to the economic and cultural enrichment of our communities.

COLLEGE MISSION



(left to right) Dr. Greg Lewis, Architect Keith Schreiber, Trustee Margaret Rojas, and SVC President Dr. Tom Keegan



(left to right) Grandchildren of Charles Lewis join the grand opening celebration: David Lewis, Kathy Lewis Elling, Nancy Lewis Cole, and Dr. Greg Lewis.

GRAND OPENING OF CHARLES LEWIS HALL

Family members of Charles H. Lewis, SVC's first Dean, joined SVC trustees, faculty, staff, students, and local community leaders for the grand opening of the new Charles Lewis Hall on September 18, 2014. The program took place at the Gary Tollefson Plaza and was followed by self-guided building tours and opportunities to meet faculty members.

Preplanning for the three-story, 72,858 square foot building began in February 2008 and groundwork began in July 2012. The new Lewis Hall replaces the one-story 19,360 square foot building that was among the first buildings constructed on the Mount Vernon Campus in 1959.

Lewis Hall serves as the hub for all of student services including admissions, registration, financial aid, counseling, and veterans' education among others. Classrooms and faculty spaces for math, English and literature, social and behavioral science, and testing are also located in the building.

As part of the College's commitment to sustainability best practices, Lewis Hall includes environmentally friendly features including rain gardens and underground retention tanks that reuse rainwater to flush toilets, recycled content and locally manufactured building materials, and smart lighting and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning. In addition, wood from a Giant Sequoia tree on campus that was diseased was milled and installed in the atrium. The parking lot includes electric car charging stations and parking spaces for low emission vehicles.

Architect for the building is Schreiber Starling & Lane of Seattle. The \$32.4 million project welcomed students just in time for Fall Quarter classes.



BUILDING FACTS & FIGURES

- 72,858 gross square feet
- \$32 million cost of construction (including all design work)
- 17 general use classrooms, 3 classroom/labs, and 5 dedicated labs supporting instruction in English, Math, and Student Services
- Office space for SVC faculty and staff
- Anticipating LEED® Gold (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design)

ABOUT CHARLES H. LEWIS

Charles H. Lewis, the first Dean of the College, was a revered faculty member and served the College from 1928-1956. He was an advocate for community colleges and worked with legislators and community leaders on behalf of the community college movement.



SVC is committed to enriching the learning environment for students by providing opportunities to explore, engage, and achieve — in the classroom and beyond. Whether their studies take them atop a farm tractor, inside a boat hull, or poised upon the world stage, students learn in an environment that fosters active engagement and student success.

SAgE

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

SVC is preparing students for green careers in Sustainable Agriculture (SAgE). Students learn to grow food and develop and manage small farm agriculture systems and businesses. The curriculum emphasizes the “farm to table” concept and blends classroom study with hands-on experience at local farms including Viva Farms in Burlington.

www.skagit.edu/sage



Composites & Advanced Manufacturing

TRAINING FUTURE WORKERS,
STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

From aircraft to boats to wind turbines, Washington’s rapidly growing composites, manufacturing, and aerospace industries are creating jobs that require skilled technicians. To help meet this need, SVC is partnering with seven other community and technical colleges in Composites Washington. And, in response to employer needs in aerospace, SVC has increased capacity in its Advanced Manufacturing and Composites programs.

www.skagit.edu/marinetech
www.skagit.edu/manufacturing
<http://compositeswa.org/>



SVC BEGINS ITS FIRST-EVER BACCALAUREATE DEGREE:

Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Conservation

SVC’s Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Conservation degree serves Environmental Conservation grads and incumbent workers who are place-bound. The curriculum blends on-campus instruction, labs, fieldwork, and online components. The program addresses strong community interest in conserving and restoring natural resources and ecosystem operations. It is guided by two of SVC’s strategic priorities: environmental stewardship, which promotes sound and sustainable environmental stewardship; and aligning educational programs with regional and state economic development strategies.

www.skagit.edu/environmental



RAVE REVIEWS:

Music & Drama students perform in Scotland

In August, 18 SVC Music and Drama students, along with four faculty, four alums and 12 community members, traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland to perform in the Fringe Festival, the largest festival of its kind in the world. Over 6,000 performers descend upon Edinburgh each summer to participate. Skagit’s group presented, “Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens.” The show, inspired by voices from the AIDS quilt, brought the Skagit team face-to-face with the AIDS crisis of the 1980s. As a memorial to the people who have died from AIDS, the students gathered names and created a remembrance quilt. Also memorable for the students was an outdoor “busking” show in which they had 20 minutes in a street performance venue. Skagit’s show was a rally for AIDS awareness. Their chant was a quote from the show: “Gay, Straight, Black, White – Same Struggle, Same Fight.”

www.skagit.edu/arts



Outstanding Faculty & Staff: *SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS*

Our college community is comprised of outstanding faculty members who engage and inspire and devoted staff who support teaching and learning. Together, they are developing innovations and collaborations that enhance instruction, foster cultural enrichment, and support academic success.



BENJAMIN ST. GERMAIN & BEVERLY KEYES

Benjamin St. Germain, Information Technology Specialist, and Beverly Keyes, Director of Nursing, received the Puget Sound Energy Staff

Excellence Award. The award is facilitated by SVC Foundation for Exempt and Classified staff members who demonstrate staff excellence. Beverly was recognized for instituting an evaluation model in the Nursing department. Benjamin was recognized for working countless hours to ensure student access to the College's online functions and services.



DR. CLAUD SVENDSEN

Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture Education Department Chair Dr. Claus Svendsen received the Puget Sound Excellence in Teaching Award. This annual award is organized through SVC Foundation and recognizes a faculty member who demonstrates teaching

excellence. Dr. Svendsen was recognized for his work in creating SVC's Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Conservation.



KRISTI SPINNIE

Kristi Spinnie, Office Administration and Accounting Technologies instructor, received the Teacher of the Year Award. Voted on and bestowed by students, the award recognizes a faculty member for outstanding teaching in the classroom. Kristi was commended for going above and beyond to make sure that her students receive all the help they need to succeed.



GAIL DAVERN

English and Literature instructor Gail Davern was honored with the Exceptional Full-time Faculty Award at the Whidbey Island Campus. Gail was recognized for the time she devotes to her students as well as her association with the Skagit Valley Poetry Society. In addition, it was noted that Gail loves her work and it is reflected in all of her classes.



DR. KRISTEN HOFFBURH

Dr. Kristen Hoffburh was honored with the Whidbey Island Campus Exceptional Part-time Faculty Award. She was recognized for her work in growing Whidbey's Biology department into an expanded learning experience for students.



RAYNETTE PARKS

Student Life Program Manager Raynette Parks received the Full-time Exceptional Staff Award for the Whidbey Island Campus. Raynette was recognized as an outstanding leader, mentor, and advisor. She was also noted for seeing the greatest potential in the students with whom she works.

Latino Leadership Initiative: Developing Leaders and Promoting Community Engagement

The Latino Leadership Initiative seeks to empower young Latinos and put them on the path of becoming leaders by involving them in their communities and by giving them the confidence and tools to succeed. This year's initiative changed the mindsets of the three community college teams that were involved: Edmonds Community College, Everett Community College, and Skagit Valley College. Skagit's team won the Service Project Presentation contest. The team earned \$2,000 in scholarship funds to be divided among the students. Their program for Sedro-Woolley High School, "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow: Using Your Tools for Change" was designed to provide 9-10th grade Latino students with hope, skills, and a new way of thinking about how they could affect their futures.



MEMBERS OF THE SVC TEAM INCLUDE:

- **GRISELDA MARTINEZ** plans to earn a Bachelor's degree in Education in order to become a trilingual teacher of young children. She will join the Maestros Para El Pueblo program with plans of returning to the Skagit Valley to give back to the community that generously supported her college journey.
- **LORENA PEREZ** has worked full-time in a special education classroom while studying at SVC. After graduation, she plans to attend a university to study psychology. She finds joy in helping others and has overcome many obstacles to pursue her educational dreams.
- **GUSTAVO SANCHEZ** loves computers and plans to earn a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science. He is passionate about helping students learn how to overcome their challenges.
- **PERLA SANTILLAN** has been accepted to WWU to study psychology. She also received the Multicultural Achievement Program scholarship and plans to become a family therapist.
- **BIANCA VALLES** is studying marine biology and plans to apply nutritional and physical fitness concepts towards her transfer degree requirements. She plans to pursue environmental issues.

Access. Achievement. Transformation.

Skagit Valley College Foundation removes barriers to education and creates access and equitable opportunities for all students—transforming lives, communities, and the economy.

2013-2014 Highlights:

- Revenue in 2013-14 totaled \$2,750,000
- The Foundation received more than \$667,000 in cash, in-kind, and stock donations
- Donor-created endowments now number 101, totaling \$9+ million
- Legacy Society gained a record number of members who have included us in their estate plans
- SVC Alumni & Friends is growing at a fast pace, reflecting community pride!

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Jeff Pleet <i>President</i>	Megan Scott O'Bryan <i>Secretary</i>
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EMERITUS

Elin Anderson*	Roger Hulbush
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Denny Davis*	Pam Nelson
Micki Deirlein*	Marje Peters*
James Ford	Scott Richards*
Wallie Funk	Bud Strom
Ruth Gidlund*	David Strong
Neil Hall	Susan Scripps Wood
Jack Henriot	*(Deceased)

FOUNDATION STAFF

Carl Young <i>Director</i>	Chad Pettay <i>Campus View Village, Resident Director</i>
Anne Clark <i>Assistant Director</i>	Shannon O'Neil <i>Campus View Village, Administrative Services Manager</i>
Karen Kotash <i>Accountant</i>	
Pam Davis <i>Administrative Specialist</i>	

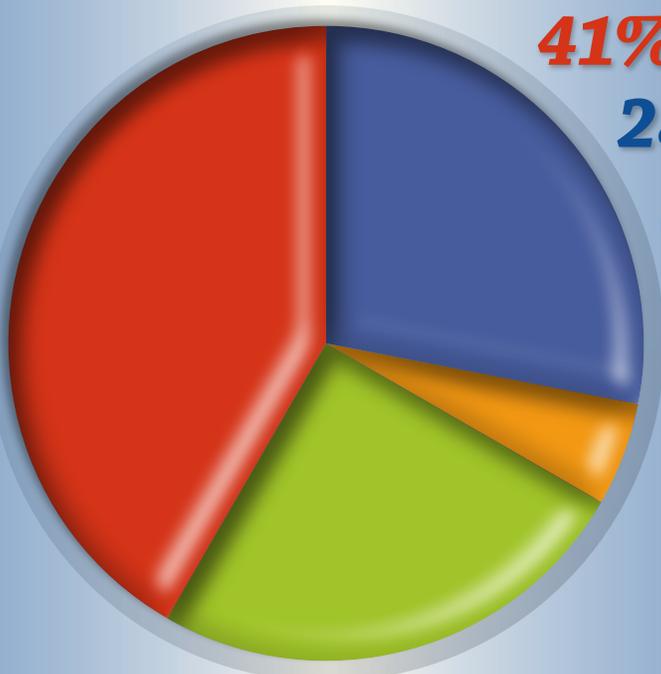
REVENUE

41% – Earnings

28% – Contributions

5% – College Support

25% – Rent





“I am a single father working hard to provide financial security for my family. I believe that the best path to being successful in life is to further my education. I will soon earn my ATA in Welding and plan to start my own business in the construction field. My goal is to be able to eventually send my daughter to college. Thanks to SVC these goals are within reach for me...and eventually for my daughter.”

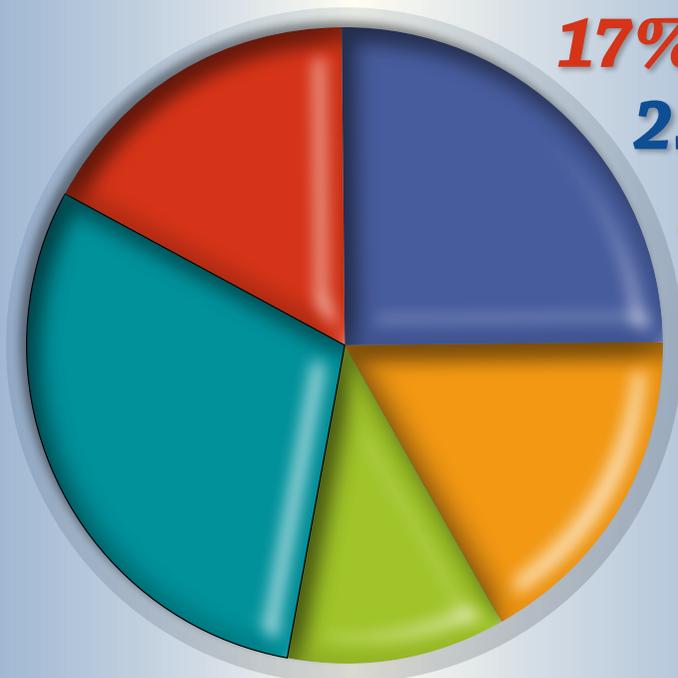
Expenditures and Reserves, 2013-14 Fiscal Year

- Scholarships: More than 400 students received tuition assistance
- Student housing: 140 students housed, including mentoring and activities
- SVC Programs: Faculty innovation; equipment and software enhancements
- Operations, events, and fundraising
- Reserves: Earnings retained in endowments to keep up with inflation and serve students in the future

Impact:

- More than \$800,000 awarded in student scholarships and educational program support
- More than 400 students assisted through scholarships
- In 2014, SVC awarded: 1,328 degrees, certificates and diplomas - including 486 Academic Transfer Degrees, 776 Professional/ Technical Degrees & Certificates, 67 high school diplomas

EXPENDITURES



17% – Scholarships

25% – Student Housing

17% – SVC Programs

11% – Operations

30% – Reserves

Alumni in Action



Jill Rouw is a retired business owner and perpetual volunteer, community leader, mentor, and proud alumnus of Skagit Valley College. She has made—and continues to make—an enormous impact on her community. In recognition of that impact, Jill was recently awarded the SWAN Lifetime Achievement Award.

At SVC, Jill was a “returning” student (in her early thirties), as are many of today’s SVC students. After SVC, she completed an accounting degree at

WWU, and then passed her CPA exam. She started her own firm and for many years provided accounting and tax services to area businesses and families.

Our region is so fortunate that many of those who attended SVC during its 88 years of existence have settled and become leaders in our communities! Jill remembers classes from a young Dick Johnson, SVC Business Administration and Economics faculty. (Dick is also an alum of Skagit) Dick recalls two other students in accounting during those early years of his teaching: Corey Mendoza and Mark Roetcisoender. Both of them, like Jill, have gone on to build thriving businesses and provide leadership to our area non-profits and service organizations.

The central themes of Jill’s career and life are mentoring and volunteer service. She has been engaged with SWAN from the beginning, chaired the Skagit Valley World Tulip Summit, served on the Skagit Valley College Foundation Board and the Hospice Foundation Board . . . the list goes on. She is also a 5+ year cancer survivor, and makes a point to reach out to those she hears are fighting their own battles.

“It is so rewarding to make a difference in another person’s life as so many have helped me along the way,” she says. “I am grateful for the blessings and bounty this valley has given me and those I love.”

Jill has joined the SVC Foundation Legacy Society by including support for students in her will. We are thankful for the many contributions from this outstanding alum!

SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE

ALUMNI and Friends

To become a member of our free SVC Alumni & Friends Association, contact Anne Clark at 360.416.7821.

“If you have ever taken a class at SVC, you are one of us.”



In 2010, Mike Witmer retired from Skagit Valley College. He had begun as an instructor in psychology in 1973. During his 37 years he served as an instructor, department chair, faculty union president, assistant coach, musician and aficionado of the blues, KSVR disc jockey, and mentor and friend to students and colleagues.

Skagit Valley College Foundation recently learned that Mike’s commitment to education and generosity to students did not end with his retirement. He intends to establish a scholarship for students in behavioral sciences (psychology, sociology and anthropology) at Skagit Valley College. Mike has included the Foundation in his will. When the bequest is received, it will be used to establish the scholarship he envisions.

Lynne Fouquette worked beside Mike in the Psychology Department, and recalls the many contributions he made to the college and to students: “Mike was a wonderful colleague and a leader at the college in so many ways. Mike loved students—and they loved him. So glad to hear he has chosen to create a scholarship!”

There are many examples of past employees of the college establishing funds to “pay it forward” for future SVC students. These gifts are the natural extension of the Skagit Valley College culture of support for students. As Mike says, “We got started at Community College and we want to help others do the same.”

For information on how you can create your legacy for students in the future, please contact: 360.416.7717.



“I came to Skagit in 1976 as an 18-year-old, with no academic or career plan. Mike aroused my interest in and passion for psychology. He was one of the mentors at Skagit who inspired me to choose community college leadership as a career. He made a very powerful impact on my life and it is no surprise to me that he is continuing to make an impact.”

**– Dr. Tom Keegan,
SVC President**