

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WDCSC and colleges awarded \$496,696 to train business services workers

October 21, 2009 - Everett, WA—Workforce Development Council Snohomish County (WDCSC) is pleased to announce it was one of 29 agencies nationally to be awarded a grant from the United States Department of Education to benefit working adults and displaced workers pursuing degrees and credentials in community colleges. The grants are administered by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), which supports reforms, innovations, and significant improvements of postsecondary education that serve as national models.

The grant will fund the first two years of a three-year program of WDCSC's, in partnership with Cascadia, Edmonds, and Everett Community Colleges, to create and provide compressed instructional programming coupled with intensive student support to stem the high attrition rate of working adults and displaced workers in compressed educational programs. The program aims to serve 216 working adults and displaced workers over three years. Third year funding is dependent on the availability of congressional funds.

“Many working adults and displaced workers who enter community college programs do not complete certificates or degrees; this is due to a number of factors, including the inflexibility of traditional college programs,” explains Amy Persell, Director of Service Delivery for WDCSC. “This grant will allow our three community college partners to create compressed instructional programming for high-growth job training and couple it with a high level of support services, thus increasing student completion and success.”

Programs to be compressed under this grant include Cascadia Community College's Web Application Program Technology Program and Environmental Technologies and Sustainable Practices—Energy Management Specialist Program; Edmonds Community College's Network Technology Associate of Technical Arts Degree Program and Information Security Associate of Technical Arts Degree Program; and Everett Community College's Sustainable Office Applications I-BEST Program.

Workforce Development Council Snohomish County (WDCSC)

WDCSC invests government and private funding to continuously increase the global competitiveness and prosperity of county workforce and businesses, fill current and emerging jobs, and provide full employment. Investments are made through effective business, labor, community-based, educational, and service provider organizations for the opportunity, economic well-being, and benefit of our entire community.

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