**WWCC Graduate Finds Employment Success**

Walla Walla Community College graduate Bill Kennedy completed his Energy Systems Technology Associate in Arts and Science (AAAS) degree in March of 2007. Since then, Bill has been employed as a Service Technician at Grassi Refrigeration. Similar to many students at WWCC, Bill enrolled in the Energy Systems Technology program “because it was a career that would provide stable employment and was in high demand.” Bill researched the area job market before choosing a program, and then upon enrolling at WWCC worked with student advisors to explore funding options. During his first year of the program Bill utilized Worker Retraining benefits in combination with Financial Aid to fund his schooling, to purchase required materials, and to assist with his living costs while attending school full time. During his second year the Opportunity Grant became available as a pilot program for specific career fields, which Bill “was able to take advantage of to further assist in funding my education.”

The Energy Systems Technology program required Bill to participate in cooperative training, which placed him into a position at Grassi Refrigeration. In his initial position Bill gained on-the-job training and experience, and was simultaneously able to “demonstrate [his] knowledge and work ability.” Upon graduation Bill was offered a full time position with Grassi and accepted it. In addition to securing employment through his required training, Bill expressed that it was helpful to have the hands-on classroom training offered by the Energy Systems curriculum combined with theory learning. Bill stated this because “the education itself is not enough to be able to go out into the workforce and be successful.” Bill further stated that “the additional cooperative training and subsequent on-the-job training is essential to excel in this line of work, and it can be difficult to apply theory only and put it to work.”

When asked what he appreciated about the Energy Systems Technology program, Bill replied that in addition to the cooperative training component, the

**Energy Systems Technology**

Walla Walla Community College offers an Associate in Applied Arts and Science Degree (AAAS) in a Nationally Accredited Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (HVAC) program, with a Certificate after one year in Electrical or Wind Turbine Technology. This program offers students extensive coursework that combines the traditional classroom with hands-on experience. Before graduating, students are required to demonstrate the skills necessary to join the workforce in an industry entry level position, including employment related to Energy and Green Jobs. Graduate technicians also enjoy working year round in these fields and earning above average incomes. For more information regarding these exciting career opportunities contact Mike Houdak, Advisor/Instructor at (509) 527-4252 or michael.houdak@wwcc.edu.

**Upcoming CESC Workshops For All Students:**
- **Resumes and Cover Letters, November 17, 3-5 pm**
  Bring in your completed resume and/or cover letter for a quick check and feedback.

**Test Prep Strategies, December 1, 3-5 pm**
Stop in to receive information on test taking, relaxation and memory strategies before finals week.

* The CESC is currently located next to Financial Aid *

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**Careers Connections**

**Career and Life Planning**
offers students a systematic approach to individual career planning, including personal assessment and assistance with resumes, portfolios and job searches. This three credit course is offered during the Fall and Winter Quarters.
Don't miss the Waluulapam Warriors
Pow-Wow and Dinner Auction!

Benefit Dinner and Auction:
November 6, 6:30 pm, WWCC Water and Environmental Center
Featuring Elaine Miles (from TV’s Northern Exposure)
Auction items will include: Indian Lake Experience, Indian Art, Wildhorse Weekend Package, 2006 Ford Hybrid Escape

Pow-Wow at The Dome
November 7, 1:00 pm to Midnight
November 8, 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Free and Open to the Public

For information or tickets, please call Shane Laib at (509) 629-1354

Check out what the CESC has to offer at www.wwcc.edu

Opportunity Grant Offers Funds Assistance to Students

The Opportunity Grant, funded by the State of Washington, offers financial and educational assistance to low income adults in high demand career pathways. Eligibility requirements for the Opportunity Grant include:

- Washington State Residency
- Low income (based on a percentage related to the federal poverty level)
- Pursuing one of five approved high demand pathways.

The current approved pathways are:
- Diesel Technology
- Corrections and Law Enforcement
- Energy Systems
- Medical Administrative Assistant
- Nursing.

Eligible students qualify for several services, including tuition and fees assistance for up to 45 credits. In addition to tuition, students qualify for up to $1,000 to be used toward books and supplies. The Opportunity Grant also offers students ongoing advising and monitoring of their progress, and coordination of campus and community resources.

For information regarding the Opportunity Grant, please contact:

Diana Herrmann, Retention Specialist
Career and Employment Services Center
509.524.5191
diana.herrmann@wwcc.edu
Office 133N