The President’s Corner

As I said in my last message, when I know something, you will know it, too. I know it’s been more than a week since you received any information about the cuts community colleges will be taking and I know that you’ve probably heard that some colleges have already started laying off employees. But right now, there isn’t really any new information that has to do with us.

WWCC is fortunate that we foresaw potential economic problems and planned ahead so that the majority of our 2008 budget cut was already set aside. We are talking about future cuts but we are also feeling confident with this current fiscal year through June 2008. We plan to wait until we’ve had a chance to look at the governor’s proposed 2009-2011 budget, and we’ll be starting discussions soon.

Be assured that you will be kept apprised of decisions when they are made. If you have questions, be sure to ask. Your suggestions and comments are important.

New Website to Launch

If it isn't already up, a new WWCC website should be coming online at any moment! Scheduled launch date is mid- to late afternoon today, December 19. The focus of the new website is to provide a student friendly web presence as more and more students report the web as their preferred method of getting information about the college.

A year in the making, five employees added the project to their already full days to make time saving and workable changes a priority. Bill Storms, Kathy Thornton, Miguel Robles, Jose Godinez, and Jessie Hockett worked on design, ease of navigation, and accessibility to student’s frequently asked questions.

LiveChat will take questions from students in a real time chat during business hours with e-mail responses sent after hours. EdApps will move all applications a student might need to one page, and QCat is now eSchedule. Future outreach efforts will promote the website as the source to turn to for more information about WWCC classes, programs, and degrees.

A slide show on the home page will be changed monthly and a “what’s happening” section will report current news and information about WWCC. News items will be updated as they are requested/reported and an updated calendar will be available. However, news and calendar items need to be reported to Cathy Nelson so that information is current and up to date.

Content updates should be e-mailed to webmaster@wwcc.edu.

WWCC Alum Honored as Teacher of the Year

Patrick Kofler, a 1998 WWCC graduate and 2001 graduate at Western Washington University, received the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year award last week at a Lincoln Alternative High School assembly. Nominated by senior student Mary Peery, he has been a reading, writing and math instructor for two years. He also serves as basketball coach for the Lincoln boys’ team.

Kofler was presented with a certificate and Lincoln received a $1,000 check from a Wal-Mart representative. As winner of the local contest, Kofler’s name now goes on to national competition.

Beth Powers was his academic advisor.
Here are Some of the Most Innovative And Money-Saving Suggestions of 2008

Greg Hansens, a Fleet Administrator with the Department of Transportation, submitted a suggestion that provided the agency’s trucks with a light that would indicate to the driver when to shift. This idea helped conserve gas mileage and will net the department $1,801,800 in first-year savings.

Skip Leingang helped save the Liquor Control Board $71,740 by suggesting that the agency switch each store from a stand-alone phone for its alarm systems to the store’s main number. Skip was given a recognition reward of 10% of the agency’s savings on his creative, cost-cutting idea.

Nikki Phillips is a Tax Service Representative for the Seattle North District Tax Office of the Employment Security Department. She suggested that the agency stop printing duplicate information on the end-of-quarter reports for tax specialists because the information was already available through daily reports. This move saved the department $12,990.

Based on the suggestion of Guy Barrett, a Hydrogeologist with the Department of Ecology, and Ivy Anderson, an Assistant Attorney General, the agency was able to add a step in its fiscal cost recovery process that resulted in $116,000 of recovered revenue, and adopt a new policy for revenue retrieval that will help the agency for years to come.

To see some of the other state employees who made this year’s nice list, or to submit your own suggestion, visit or contact us at 360-704-5203 for any questions.

A huge THANK YOU to our wonderful Maintenance and Custodial Departments for digging us all out of the parking lot Thursday!
Happy Holidays to you and your families!

Wellness at Work

Holiday Stress Tip: Let Go and Get Going

It’s not the chores, shopping, and Uncle Fred’s visit that’s stressing you out – it’s your anticipation of them! The solution? Get moving!

Act now by creating a to-do list. Organizing, planning, and prioritizing tasks will help minimize panic and negativity. Stress is a mental state, so tackle the stuff you dread first.

Review your expectations to make sure they are realistic. Forget about possible outcomes that are outside of your control. When lapsing into catastrophic thinking, ask yourself, “What’s the worst that could happen?” Is serving a dry turkey the end of the world? Probably not.

Who Am I?

Cute then!
Cuter now!
And so much fun!!

Linda Thorson guessed last week’s mystery person, Quill West

Ten guesses from others included Nancy Jacobson, Valerie Fayette, Jennifer Boyden, Darcy Dauble, Linda Lane, Janelle Meier & several more.

Remember to send in your own photo soon!!

Bits & Pieces

Liam Arrived!!

We have a new mini-Warrior to announce! Liam Grubb was born Friday, December 5 to Lee & Aaron Grubb at 10:19 AM. He weighs 7 lbs. 4 oz., and is 21 in. long. Congratulations Lee and Aaron!!

NEW LIBRARY BLOG

Ready for Use

Quill West announces the library’s new blog, “My Helm for a Book,” located at http://wwcclibrary.wordpress.com/. The space, made possible through contributions by Becky Gwinn and Quill, will tell you about recent projects, interesting books and tools that will make student assignments easier. Book reviews will also be printed. So access their blog and use the comments section to tell them what you’re thinking.

Kudos to . . .

. . . Laura Rau, Sue Willis, Carolyn Friesen and the payroll staff (Judi Lange, Kerri Polson and Mona Himmelberger) for putting on a very informative and entertaining training session on subject matter that could really have been a bore. Way to go ladies!

FOCUS!

If you want to have less chance of accidents, FOCUS! If you want to do better at your job, FOCUS! If you want to live better, FOCUS!

FOCUSING is easier said than done. How do you do it? Do you remember when you did something really well or played a game or sport really well? You were FOCUSED.

You yourself could probably figure out some of the ingredients to FOCUSING. How about these things:

- Where are YOU?
- Where are YOU standing?
- Who are you next to?
- What are you doing?
- To do anything, you need to know where you are before you act. It works out similarly when you arrive at work: you should be at work, not thinking about some argument you had earlier, otherwise you are not really there and you may not do the right thing. If you don’t know where you are, FOCUS is lost.

OBSERVE. This means really look.
- What is around you?
- Is there anything new around you?
- Have changes been made since you were last there?
- People who can really observe, can FOCUS

PLAN what you are going to do before doing it.
- Don’t just jump in and do. Sometimes there is a better and safer way.

- PLANNING your actions keeps FOCUS

ACT according to the plan. Follow through is part of FOCUS.

BE VIGILANT. Always be watching for needed change in actions and plans.
- Don’t just put things on automatic.
- Watchfulness is part of FOCUS.

MODIFY. Be willing to make changes as needed for something better and then create a new plan. Making appropriate change is part of FOCUS.

Notice that a big part of FOCUS has to do with YOU.