

REPORTS  
FROM  
SPRING  
QUARTER  
2016



## *All-Gender Restrooms Planned for North Seattle College*

**N**orth Seattle has already complied with Seattle's requirement for all places of public accommodation in the city to provide all-gender restrooms, but the Student Administrative Council, the Feminist Alliance, the Women's Center and the Gender & Women's Studies Advisory Committee are looking at increasing the num-

ber of all-gender restrooms on campus. Their goal is to convert one-third of the multi-stall restrooms to all-gender.

This alliance of college groups say the changes make the campus welcoming and more inclusive, creates more stalls available to women and

provide more restrooms for families, especially for a parent with a child of the opposite sex.

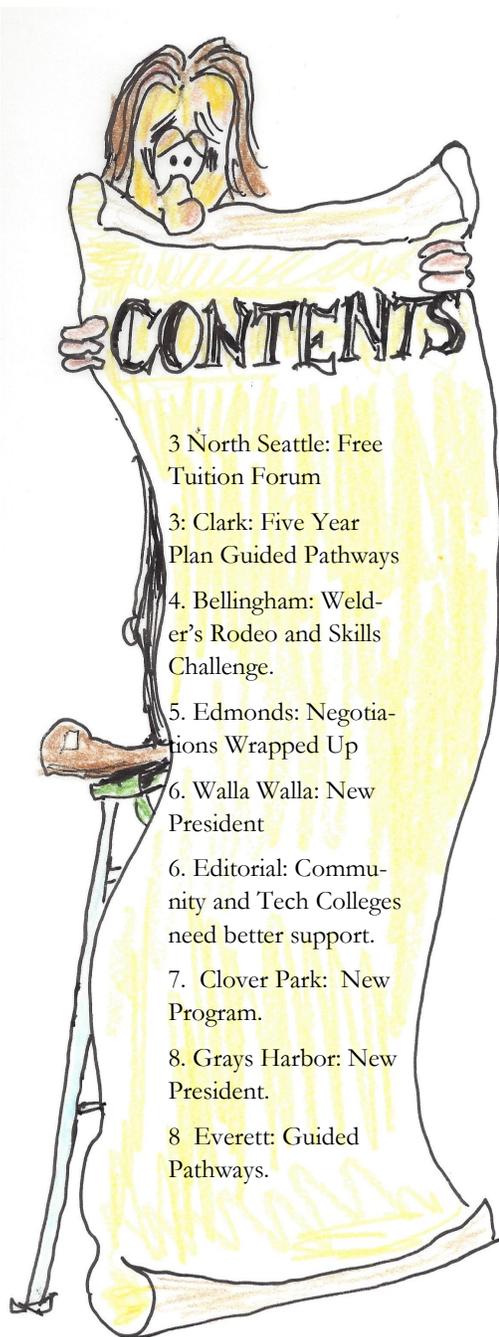
Other benefits include more restrooms for people with disabilities whose attendant is of the opposite sex and more options for people with disabilities who are transgendered or GNC.

## *Mark Palek Honored at Spokane Falls*

**D**r. Mark Palek, retired SFCC president, was honored recently with the dedication of the Mark Palek lecture hall in building 24 at SFCC. Palek was SFCC president from 2001 to 2009. Faculty and administrators noted Palek's engaging leadership style in piloting SFCC through turbulent times.



The Community Colleges of Spokane are facing a huge budget crunch due to low enrollments and the unexpected additional costs of the new ctcLink computer system. Budget projections indicate CCS will have to cut costs 10% system wide. The district is about \$8 million in the hole, according to a recent article in the Spokesman-Review. CCS chancellor Christine Johnson said that the budget reduction will result in staff and faculty reductions (layoffs) this Fall.



## Bates: Celebrate, Celebrate

Bates Technical College is celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. The college community held a Diamond Anniversary Gala May 21, the primary fundraising event for this year. It was well attended, featured dinner, music, and a live auction to benefit Foundation Scholarships.

A mid-cycle review for Bates' audit is coming up in October. Preparations are underway through various committees planning projects to be ready for this review. The assessment committee is specifically reviewing and revising assessment practices to continue to improve how the college is assessing student learning outcomes. An

assessment page has been posted on Bates' website to promote transparency and information sharing of practices and process. *This page can be found at the following link:* <http://www.bates.ctc.edu/offices-and-services/teaching-and-learning/assessment-committee>

Bates made many changes to the student registration process this year and the college is starting to see the fruits of that labor. Students are able to enroll in classes from the college website. Bates' students are making a better practice of building web-enhanced, hybrid, or online classes that are accounted for in the registration process. This has allowed for a smoother registration process with students being able to access online classrooms quickly and easily. This has also allowed for the college to account for more of the technology supported class offerings.

According to KUOW TV, Olympia may become the first city in the state to charge an income tax and the revenue would help high school students pay for college. *From Emily Persky at WSAC*

## *Free Tuition Forum Brings Lawmakers, National Official To North Seattle College*

**W**ill free tuition become a reality at our community and technical colleges? On May 3, North Seattle held a panel discussion on free tuition featuring James Schuelke, deputy director of the National College

Promise Campaign. Five state legislators participated as well: Sen. Pramila Jayapal (37<sup>th</sup> district), Sen. David Frocki (46<sup>th</sup> district), Rep. Gerry Pollet (46<sup>th</sup> district), Rep. Brady Walkinshah (43<sup>rd</sup> district) and Rep. Noel Frame (36<sup>th</sup> district). Oregon and Tennessee have already passed

laws to make community college free on a limited basis in those states. In Washington, students and some legislators are advocating for similar legislation, including North Seattle president Warren Brown who testified in February in support of free community college.

## *Clark's Five Year Plan For Guided Pathways*

**I**n alignment with the mission statement to serve “the community, [and to] guide students to meet their educational and professional goals”, Clark College has embraced Guided Pathways, and has started the five-year process to implementation, despite not receiving one of the SBCTC’s grants to support development and implementation. In a pledge to have “no more multiple initiatives with disparate outcomes”, Clark College’s Executive Cabinet adopted guided pathways as the “one framework” to meet its mission. Specifically Clark College will develop only two types of pathways (fully guided pathways and partially-guided pathways) in order to make the paradigm shift from the college-ready student to the “student-ready college”.



# Yee Ha at Bellingham!

Springtime at Bellingham Technical College brings renewed energy and activities. One of the biggest events each year is the Welding Rodeo and Skills Challenge held over two days in May.

This year's theme was *Mythical Creatures* which led to some out-of-this-world sculptures. Bellingham's welding students created an impressive Medusa sculpture, competing against student teams from Renton Technical College, the Northwest Career &

Technical Academy, and Centralia High School.

During the professional day on Saturday, students created a larger than life stick man statue as well.

The auction raised nearly \$6,000 for team stipends and student Scholarships.



# Phew. Negotiations Complete at Edmonds

Edmonds faculty have, after a year, negotiated a new contract. They will be getting a 1.8% raise. A new step has been added to the pay scale for part-time employees after ten years of service. The starting steps for full timers has been adjusted. Overall, potential for faculty to get a raise is good. They showed support for the negotiating team by wearing red shirts on Mondays and, until the meetings were closed by the mediator, sitting in on the negotiation meetings to give support to our negotiators. Indications are that the visibility of staff support helped show the college that faculty were interested in the negotiations, and were not going to forget (even a year into the negotiations). The contract has been ratified.

Another part of the contract is to create a .666 release position for Faculty Professional Development Coordinators. The plan is to have it split with a full time and a part time (associate)

faculty. This will help make sure the faculty development serves the entire faculty.

The Edmonds faculty now have a senate and it is working. This is new, but looks like it will be a powerful and useful organization.

Edmonds faculty are making sure new hires are aware of the union and receive the application form to join. The HR department used to include the forms with the other hiring paperwork, but that stopped several years ago, and many new hires (and some older hires) are not members.

This is an ongoing effort to increase membership in the union, the same union that has gotten us a reasonable contract, after much hard work.

The Edmonds community farm is still working and is selling plant starts, and various veg-

etables every Thursday in the courtyard in the middle of campus. There are various types of lettuce, leeks, parsley, onions, etc. for sale, and starts for tomatoes, cucumbers, dill, kale, herbs, etc. Edmonds employees and students enjoy being able to go to a farmer's market for produce, and not have to leave campus.

Edmonds did not get the grant they applied to for guided pathways, so more effort will made to investigate the grants, and see what other colleges are doing. Not everyone at Edmonds is on the same page on this issue so this will allow time to build consensus.



## Centralia College's Second Annual Speech Showcase.

Centralia College's Speech Club and public speaking classes have flourished since communications professor, Jeff McQuarrie, began teaching here five years ago. The classes almost always surpass capacity, and the club even won Best Club Activity on Campus

last year. This unprecedented growth has led to The Annual Speech Showcase.

Ten of Centralia's best public speakers headed to the Second Annual Speech Showcase May 27 in Centralia's Wickstrom Theatre. The ten "best of the best" speakers each had only 6-8 minutes to convince five CC faculty and staff judges that

they should be named The Best Speaker on Campus while persuading their audience about a topic. Last year's winning speech titles were *PG-13 is a Farce*, *Validate People*, and *Live Frugally*.

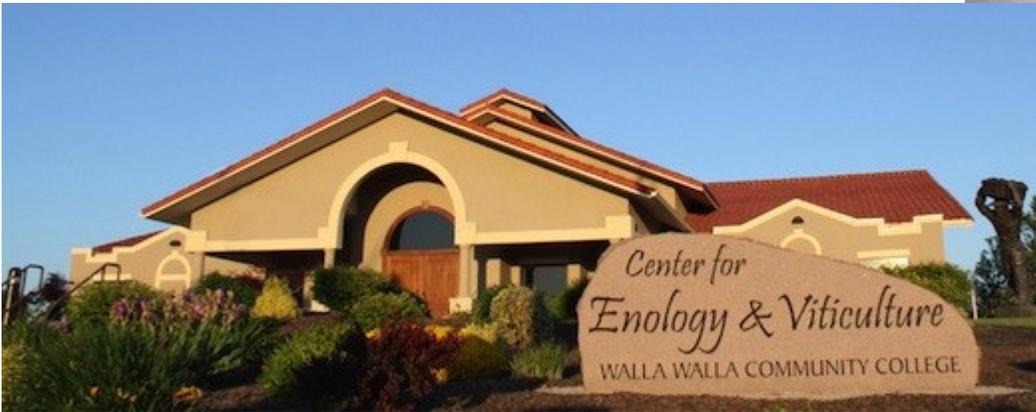
All participants were required to audition. Each audition consisted of a 2-3 minute speech judged on the basic tenets of public speaking.

## *Walla Walla Community College Has a New President: Derek Brandes*

**T**rustees chose Green River College's vice-president of instruction Derek Brandes to be Walla Walla's new president.

The five member WWCC board of trustees on June 1 voted unanimously to hire Brandes. His career history includes being dean of career and technical education at Columbia Basin College in Pasco.

He currently supervises eight deans and 11 academic divisions at Green River College. Both Green River and Walla Walla serve about 10,000 students.



*From an editorial in the Olympian newspaper by Marty Brown and Timothy Stokes*

“ . . . students and their families are being asked to carry more of the financial burden than at any other time in the history of our community and technical colleges, while at the same time, many colleges are cutting programs and delaying growth and development, including developing new programs that support Washington’s growth industries. The drop in state funding and the resulting tuition hikes amount to lost opportunities for students, our communities and our economy. “

Marty Brown is executive director of the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. Timothy Stokes is president of South Puget Sound Community College.

## *New Program at Clover Park*

**C**lover Park Technical College is introducing a new program this fall: Digital Entertainment Design and Production, which will focus on the creative, designing, management and the production of Films and Games, giving students the hands on projects they want to experience. Students in the program will create their own projects from the ground up and witness their ideas come to life for all to see.

The new program is designed give the students as much experience as they can to build their portfolios. The instructors are asking the community if they need

anything media related: OER, video work, logos, commercials, how-to videos, animations, and other media projects.



## *Enrollment Blues*

**E**nrollment at community colleges nationwide are dropping. According to the National Student Clearing House, community college enrollments are down 3.5% nationwide (Juszkiewicz).

Enrollment peaked in 2010 at just over 21 million students. "Attendance has dropped every year since" at community colleges (Long).

In Washington State, the , ctcLink implementation to replace the legacy computer system has added to enrollment concerns. Administrators at the Community Colleges of Spokane attribute serious enroll-

ment declines at least partly to the updated computer system's problems regarding enrollment, financial aid and other management issues that affect students directly or indirectly.

Concerns statewide about the ctcLink problems are reflected in a letter from South Puget Sound Community College's AFT president to the college's trustees: "We have deep reservations about the plan to continue the rollout on schedule for subsequent schools before the core issues get resolved."

In a time when other pressures are causing enrollment declines, the problems with ctcLink are de-

manding the attention of all employees at community and technical colleges across the state.

References: Juszkiewicz, J. (2015, March). "Trends in Community College Enrollment and Completion Data, 2015", *Washington, DC: American Association of Community Colleges*. Long, Heather. "College Enrollment is Dropping: Bad Sign?" *CNN Money*. Moneyenn.com 20 May 2016. Letter to SPSC trustees: Original draft by Annamary Fitzgerald President, AFT Local 4603 South Puget Sound Community College

## *Jim Minkler is the New President at Grays Harbor*

**T**he Grays Harbor College Board of Trustees on April 22 unanimously selected Dr. James Minkler of Spokane to be the new president, assuming the role of retiring President Ed Brewster who leaves June 30.

Dr. Minkler most recently has been Vice President of Learning and Chief Academic Officer of Spokane Falls Community College.

“I am excited to join the excellent faculty, staff, administrators and students who make up the Grays Harbor College community. I look forward to building on what the college already has, and help work on any stumbling blocks along the way,” Minkler said.

“The Board is really proud of our process and are excited to welcome Jim to the campus and community,” commented Denise Portmann, chair of the 5-member trustee board. “We believe he is a great fit for leading the college into the future.”

In total, 40 qualified candidates applied for the position and an advisory committee consisting of faculty, administration, students and community members read each application and narrowed the field to 11. From there, Portmann and Dr. Harry Carthum, also a trustee, worked with the committee to select four finalists.

Before his tenure as Vice-president of Learning and District Academic Service Of-

ficer, Minkler was dean of instruction for Social Sciences, Philosophy and Transfer Education, at Spokane Falls.

Minkler began his stint at SFCC 17 years ago.



**Dr. James Minkler**

## *Guiding Guided Pathways at Everett*

**W**ork is underway at Everett Community College towards incorporating elements of the Guided Pathways model to help students succeed in achieving their goals. As part of building a foundation for moving forward on Guided Pathways with

broad faculty perspective incorporated in the process, they have hosted Redesigning America's Community College Book Clubs, participated in a Presidential Chat, and are writing a Guided Pathways blog. You can read the blog entries

at <http://guidedpathways.evccblogs.com/>.

Visitors to the blog are invited to post comments and discuss what is happening at their campus regarding Guided Pathways.



**FACULTY ASSOCIATION  
OF COMMUNITY  
& TECHNICAL COLLEGES**

**FACTC is our Network**

***Faculty at Community and Technical Colleges in Washington State must be active in the discussion of important community and technical college issues. We network with each other, with other higher education organizations, with legislators, and with state board staff and administration. If your community or technical college does not have a listed representative, we invite you to join us.***

FACTC Representatives listed below: (reports included in this publication were submitted by FACTC representatives for the colleges unless otherwise noted).

- Bellevue-Reza Forough
- Bellingham-Carl Oekerman
- Big Bend-Salah Abed
- Cascadia-David Ortiz
- Centralia-Melissa Williams
- Clark-Gerry Smith
- Clover Park-Phil Venditti
- Columbia Basin-Gene Holand
- Edmonds-Terry Gosse
- Everett-Anne Brackett
- Grays Harbor-John Clary
- Green River-Diane Pelletier
- Highline-Eric Baer
- Lake Washington-Jim Howe
- North Seattle-Brian Palmer
- Olympic-Martin Cockroft

- Peninsula-Janet Lucas
- Pierce-Ft. Steilacoom-Vicki Scannell
- Pierce-Puyallup, Katy Olsen-Tiglao
- Renton-Tim Culler
- Seattle Central-Denise Vaughn
- Shoreline-Terry Taylor
- Skagit Valley-Trish Barnes
- South Puget Sound-Carlea McAvoy
- South Seattle-Randy Nelson
- Spokane Community College – Rob Vogel
- Spokane Falls-Mark Doerr
- Tacoma-Christie Fierro
- Walla Walla-Ruth Russo
- Wenatchee Valley-Amy Shank
- Whatcom-Johnny Hu
- Walla Walla-Staci Simmelink-Johnson

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