

WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE

Welcome to the Workforce Excellence Newsletter!

Our focus is to bring you updates and changes taking place through Workforce Development that impact you and the local community. We look forward to hearing your feedback.

“ I feel that Olympic College was a great starting point for me. It met all my needs: personal, financial and educational...”
-OC Graduate

New Emergency Medical Services Certificate



*Kristen Morgan checks the heart rate of Virginia Vaughn.
Photo by Jamison Beemer, The Olympian*

Brand new to Olympic College, this program prepares students for entry into a career as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) working in fire service, with private ambulance companies, or as emergency room technicians.

Although there are a number of other colleges and private instructors who offer a basic EMT class, what makes this program unique is that it provides additional instruction in anatomy and physiology, intercultural communication and medical terminology. Students also develop a strong educational foundation by taking classes in sociology, computation, communication and psychology.

In addition, students learn about patient assessment, emergency operations, scene safety, and emergency medical procedures. Students have an opportunity to continue their education at Tacoma Community College which offers a Paramedic certificate and optional A.A.S degree. For more information contact: Pam Farrior, 360.475.7582 or Dana Normandy, 360.475.7722.

FAA Endorses OC's Electronics Program

Representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration visited Olympic College May 11-13 to assess our Electronics program for inclusion in its exclusive "Technical Operations-Collegiate Training Initiative Program" (TO-CTI). The FAA has accredited just 44 colleges and universities nationally.

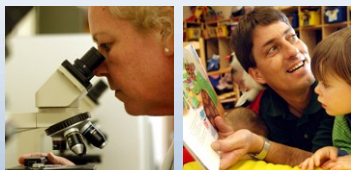
After an exhaustive review of the entire college, to include the library, advising center, career center, financial aid and instructional program, FAA representatives reported OC's program exceeded all knowledge, skills and abilities competencies they look for in a program. They indicated that they were very impressed with the program and the college.

At a formal signing ceremony on June 2, 2010. Dr. David Mitchell signed on behalf of OC and Randall Brown represented the FAA. A second agreement related to internship opportunities was also signed.

Olympic College's Electronics courses are available online or face-to-face, providing flexibility and convenience for students. The program includes three certificates as well as an Associate in Technical Arts degree. For more information about Olympic College's Electronics program, please contact Faculty/Advisor Michael Szymkewicz at 360.475.7375 or mszymkewicz@olympic.edu.



L to R: FAA Representative Randall Brown, OC President Dr. David Mitchell, Electronics Instructor Mike Szymkewicz, and OC Board Trustee Peter Crane



Opportunity Grant Sponsors Women Welders



Several of the women who study welding on the OC Bremerton Campus posed with the "Rosie the Riveter" statue in downtown Bremerton. (Back L to R:) Kelly McGinnis, Melissa Presley, Uschi Hladit, Marlene Rambo, Jeanna Stewart, Sara Lozier. (Front L to R:) Linda Rosa and Kim Hoglan.

Photo Courtesy of Mike Bay

During World War II, women came in droves to the shipyard in answer to their country's call to pick up the tools and fill the shoes of the men who had gone off to war. Today, women choose to enter jobs in trades, such as welding, because they want to work in exciting high wage, high demand fields where they can demonstrate their skills. Washington State's Opportunity Grant Program makes that possible for many women who might not otherwise have the funds to achieve the training needed to take up a trade.

Several of the women pictured know the benefits of this program. In the past four years, the Opportunity Grant has enabled 18 women welders to achieve their dream by supplying books, tuition and/or supplies. Often, these career women learn a trade and earn satisfaction, personal growth and confidence. For more information go to: [www.olympic.edu/Students/Workforce Development/Opportunity Grant](http://www.olympic.edu/Students/WorkforceDevelopment/OpportunityGrant), or call Carma Foley at 360.475.7675 or Wendy Belden at 475.7325.

Energy Partnership Training Grant Awarded

New training opportunities in Building Energy Analyst and Weatherization will soon be offered by Olympic College resulting from being part of an energy partnership grant award. The proposal, entitled **The Partnership for Sound Energy Efficiency Development**, was submitted by the Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC). The multi-county project totaling nearly \$3.3 million received Governor Gregoire's endorsement. The grant included the Snohomish, Seattle-King, Pierce, and Olympic Workforce Development Councils, associated community and technical colleges and community-based organizations. Training is expected to start in fall. More information to follow in upcoming WFD newsletter editions. Interested parties should call 360.475.7786.

NEW: On-line Occupational Spanish Course

Olympic College now offers Spanish courses on-line. Students may learn job-specific Spanish words and phrases designed to fill basic second language needs in the workplace. Second language skills are becoming more important in our changing world. Skills in speaking and understanding Spanish may improve efficiency and create heightened customer service in the workplace. Spanish classes are related to occupations such as: teaching, healthcare, banking, customer service, real estate, travel, law enforcement, corrections, fire and emergency medical and dispatch 911.

Now, online continuing education makes it easy for employers and team members to add these skills to their portfolio. No prior knowledge of Spanish is needed, learning starts immediately, and the classes are self-paced. Students complete registration, payment and course work on-line at their home or office. Spanish lessons take place at each student's own pace, anywhere with an internet connection.

For Information, contact Jackie Lorenz at 360.475.7494 or go to: <http://www.myspanishteacher.com/Olympic>.

OC's Culinary Arts

Imagine a sumptuous collection of fruits and vegetables shining like edible jewels arranged three layers high on a decorative wrought iron tower. The delightful aroma of chocolate floats through the room as a chef in a tall white hat curls giant ribbons of candy with a gleaming silver tool. The table is patterned with cookies almost too beautiful to eat.

Under the direction of Chef Plemmons, OC's culinary team actually created this scene, bustling about the Bremer Student Center, as they prepared the perfect party for a large outside group holding an event on campus. Students of Culinary Arts learn a lot through their catering experiences. Christina Nys, Director of Catering at Olympic College Bremerton manages the schedule for the Culinary Arts team.



*L to R: Angela Posh, Culinary Arts Instructor Chef Chris Plemmons and student Ben Fisher.
Photo By Lori Fagan*



*Chef Plemmons shows student Angela Posh effective display techniques.
Photo By Lori Fagan*

Students may work towards an Associates in Technical Arts degree or any of the three certificates offered. OC's Culinary Arts program provides in-depth training to build careers at restaurants, hotels, catering establishments, bakeries, resorts and all institutions with food service.

For more information contact Catering Director Christina Nys, 360.475.7568.

Intern Jay Joiner Earns an Envirostar

When Al (Jay) Joiner found out he would have an opportunity to do internship work at the Port of Bremerton, he accepted the challenge with unabashed enthusiasm and dedication. The Port established the internship to promote the learning of environmental responsibility by giving students the chance to work with the Port business development and operations. During his internship, Joiner learned about how a local government special district functions and the challenges it faces in supporting the Kitsap community.

Joiner was instrumental in helping the Port to achieve its five star Envirostar rating for the Bremerton National Airport and Olympic View Business and Industrial Park. The five star rating means the Port has demonstrated environmental stewardship and leadership in preventing and recycling waste in each of its businesses. Environmental stewardship is part of the Port's Three Year Strategic Operating Plan (2009 – 2011) and is one of the objectives of Olympic College's Environmental Studies program.

Port CEO, Cary Bozeman says "Jay's lived in the community for a number of years and is very dedicated to learning how we can all work together toward a better future. We enjoy having him on board."



L to R: OC Environmental Studies Intern, Jay Joiner with Port of Bremerton Airport and Industrial Park Maintenance Lead, Edgar Draper.

Toy Bus Project Builds Teamwork Concept



Manufacturing students work on a toy school bus project while developing communication skills needed to pull it all together.

When OC Manufacturing instructor Chris Gallagher presented his class with a task to divide into teams to build toy school buses, students immediately wanted to get to work. However, they soon realized that the assignment was about much more than how to build a toy school buses.

Within each group, discussion ensued as to how to achieve tasks such as assigning work to each person, deciding the amount of material needed, which tools to use, proper measurements and the process to be followed. Students discovered that effective communication and teamwork were critical to the success of their project. After practicing new skills, the class polished up the buses and donated them to children at local day care centers.

Bar Clamp Project Teaches Craftsmanship

During winter quarter, OC Manufacturing students also created their own tools, specifically bar clamps, to build the school buses. Many students surprised themselves by using new skills to manufacture their own working clamp.

“Wow, I did this!” exclaimed one student as she held her own bar clamp. The sense of accomplishment freed some students to think beyond old boundaries. Each bar clamp also provided tangible evidence of students’ newly learned skills. For more information about the Manufacturing program: 360.475.7676

Rita Hardin Testifies to Legislature

Olympic College student, Rita Hardin, related the importance of Worker Retraining funds to her success in studying for a new career. She testified at a Democratic legislative press conference with Senator Derek Kilmer on January 26, 2010 in Olympia. Hardin has studied at Olympic College since becoming unemployed and will soon achieve her Associates Degree in Human Services. She plans to obtain a job in counseling.



L to R: OC student Rita Hardin and Senator Derek Kilmer at the state Democratic conference.

Hardin said she felt honored to speak and to give back to the college community. Worker Retraining funding is needed to meet the “unprecedented demand, especially today.”

Update: Offsetting some of the budget cuts at community colleges was an \$18 million increase for Worker Retraining. That money will provide for an additional 3,700 enrollments at the state’s 34 two-year colleges. Enrollment at community colleges has increased 10 percent over the past year, a reflection of the number of people out of work.



Finished school bus projects were donated to local day-care centers and enjoyed by children like Sophia.

ATA Transfer Options

A new door has opened for OC students who earn professional-technical credits towards a certificate or ATA degree. Central Washington University now accepts more professional/technical credits towards Bachelor of Applied Science degrees in Information Technology and Administrative Management.

And there are new locations! Students may work on-line or attend branch campuses at Des Moines, Lynwood or Everett. Students intending to pursue this option should work closely with a CWU advisor to determine needed courses. For more information, call 425.640.1574.

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