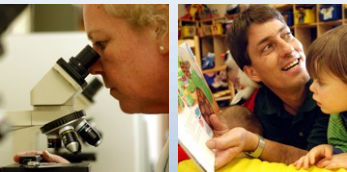


Welcome to the Workforce Excellence Newsletter!

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 was enlightened by the program at Olympic College. All my classes were relevant and helped me very much in my work.

Teresa Brooks,
Former OC Environmental Studies Intern & Kitsap Conservation District Employee



From Environmental Studies Intern to Employee

Rain gardens are growing throughout Kitsap County with help from Teresa Brooks, an intern turned employee at Kitsap Conservation District. Brooks helps clients establish rain gardens by providing agency matching funds and technical support.



Teresa Brooks, former OC Intern, sets up an electronic level at a new rain garden site.

Brooks began her work at Kitsap Conservation District as an Olympic College intern, gaining credits for her work in the field. After completing her studies in Environmental Science, the agency hired her full time.

“I was enlightened by the program at Olympic College. All my classes were relevant and helped me very much in my work,” said Brooks.

Landowners contact Brooks to get on the list of people requesting rain gardens; she can accommodate 100 rain gardens per year. Landowners are then eligible for matching funds up to a maximum of \$500. Brooks visits their properties several times to designate a location, take measurements and calculate the amount of water each rain garden can process. Native plants that thrive in wet areas, but can also tolerate dry spells of late summer and fall are recommended. She checks on the gardens to monitor how well they are working.

“I am proud of all the people in Kitsap County who have put in rain gardens. They had to invest time and money,” said Brooks.

Rain gardens began in Maryland in the 1990’s, but Kitsap County Surface and Stormwater Management initiated the program here just two years ago. Instead of using mounds, sunken areas are created for rain gardens.

“A rain garden is really a natural stormwater facility that prevents rapid run-off, slows water down, soaks it into the ground and cleans it up. This keeps our streams cleaner and when streams are cleaner, Puget Sound is cleaner,” said Mindy Fohn, Water Quality Manager for SSWM.

Kitsap County SSWM works with partner agencies on the project, including Washington State University Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, University of Washington Extension Agency and Kitsap Conservation District—where Teresa Brooks works with clients on the ground level.

Kitsap was the first county in the region to have met its 100 rain gardens per year goal.



L to R: Landscaper Yoshiharu Masuda discusses the rain garden with land owner Ross Day, while Teresa Brooks writes down measurements.

Educators Bridge the Educational Path from High School to College

By Stephanie Thompson



L to R: Ron Raty, OC professor of Technical Design and Preston Michaels, Technical Education teacher at Bainbridge Island High School worked together to build a pathway between secondary and post-secondary education in Architectural Studies.

The West Sound Education Consortium (WSEC) hosted a meeting for over 35 local high school teachers and Olympic College faculty and staff on January 20th.

The purpose for the meeting was to explore new opportunities for Tech Prep dual-credit articulations. In addition, participants discussed how to help students be better prepared to make a smooth transition into the next level of their educational journey.

These types of conversations between secondary and post-secondary educators are critical in helping students visualize a pathway to their future.

This event united two levels of education and gave instructors an opportunity to focus together on developing a tool for student success.

Participant comments supported this sentiment, "It is so valuable to meet with colleagues at all levels of education."

We thank faculty and staff for their participation and Workforce Development office for making this annual event a resounding success.

High School Seniors Check Out "What's Next?" at Olympic College

Nearly 200 local high school seniors pondered "What's Next?" as they toured the Olympic College Bremerton campus Wednesday, February 16th. While on campus, students visited two Professional-Technical/Apprenticeship educational programs that they selected from 18 different options available to them. They met in small groups with program faculty and engaged in a classroom activity. From there, students participated in a "What Employers Want!" forum, a panel where students heard directly from employers about tips for landing and keeping a job.

Additionally, they learned how to navigate many of the student services that exist on campus including Admissions, Advising, Counseling, Access Services, Career Center, Registration and Records, Cashiering, Financial Aid, Student Support, and Basic Studies (ABE/GED and ESOL). While at OC, the seniors received a tour of the campus and learned about topics that included campus life and financing their education. A "What's Next?" tour is scheduled for OC Shelton on May 20th.

"Made in the U.S.A." with a Little Help from our Friends

Working with steel, Manufacturing students from OC and West Sound Technical Skills Center, took action when it was determined the shop needed additional, durable workbenches. Under the guidance of instructor, Chris Gallagher, students cut and welded the pieces together, painted them, secured bench vices, and quickly put new metal tables to use.

When designing the tables, students used AutoCAD (Computer Aided Design or Computer Aided Drafting) which is a software application for 2D and 3D design and drafting.

The educational software version was installed on 24 computer stations Gallagher recently secured from a building that closed on campus. Once designed, the students were able to print out detailed, industry quality plans due to a recent donation of a plotter from Miller Sheet Metal. To ensure continued use of the equipment, the president of the company, Chris Miller, also contributed funds to ensure the program had the necessary paper and ink for the plotter.

The project provided students with an unique hands-on opportunity to apply their skills and the metal workbenches they manufactured will provide future students with a solid foundation for upcoming projects.



OC Professor Chris Gallagher (l), with Manufacturing Technology students.

OC Signs with Brandman University to Add Four Year Degree Path



President David Mitchell, of Olympic College prepares to sign an education agreement with Gary Brahm, Chancellor of Brandman University, as Mary Garguile, OC Vice President of Instruction facilitates the event.

Brandman University, a regionally accredited institution within the Chapman University System, and Olympic College, announced the March 16th joint signing of an Early Advantage Program (EAP) partnership.

By enrolling in the Early Advantage Program, OC students will map out their education path to Brandman. Participants in the program will have access to enhanced cooperative academic and student services from both institutions including Brandman's advising services, information sessions, technology support, and education plans. The partnership allows students to lock in their academic catalog year, allowing transfer of all completed coursework contained in the agreement.

"Brandman University establishes Early Advantage partnership agreements with community colleges like Olympic College to provide students with a clearly defined path to pursue their higher education," said Gary Brahm, Chancellor of Brandman University.

As part of the agreement, Brandman offers a 10% tuition discount to transfer students and will waive all application fees for OC students participating in the EAP.

To support the affiliation, Brandman University is also launching a Virtual Transfer Program (VTP) with OC. It is an interactive initiative that allows students to download a completed education plan and know exactly what courses transfer to a Brandman degree.

"The partnership between Olympic College and Brandman University is an outstanding opportunity for students to pursue more options for a bachelor's degree locally. Brandman has an excellent reputation and Olympic College is excited to be partnering on this new endeavor," said Dr. David Mitchell, President of Olympic College.

Boot Camp for OC Instructors

The fourth offering of the "OC Instructor Boot Camp" was held February 11th. This session was unique because Grays Harbor Community College Dean of Workforce Education, Mike Kelly, who designed the original "Instructors Boot Camp," team-taught with Barbara Parker, OC Medical Billing and Coding faculty member.

The "Instructors Boot Camp" is an intensive, weeklong training offered to new Professional-Technical faculty members who may be well versed in their professional-technical subject areas but new to education or new to the community and technical college system. Over the years, OC Workforce Development has sponsored faculty participation in this professional development opportunity.

When budget concerns starting surfacing back in 2009, Workforce Development supported Barbara Parker, Pam Bilodeau, and Hella-Ilona Johnson to attend a new "Train The Trainer" series to prepare them to facilitate the summer intensive CTC system's "Instructors Boot Camp" offerings but also to ensure OC had locally available talent and resources for its own faculty.

With Barbara Parker taking the lead, and in consultation with Mike Kelly, the faculty have worked to modularize the program and have partnered with The Center for Teaching and Learning to offer portions of the training to any interested OC faculty, with a hope that the new format would work well for Adjunct Faculty members who often aren't able to attend week-long trainings. To date, the workshops have proven to be a great professional development resource.

The February modules focused on "Leadership in the Classroom: Roles and Powers of Instructors, What Makes a Great Instructor, and Positive Learning Environments." Rich in experiential learning opportunities, most skills are taught by having the participants actually develop teaching skills with partners or groups during the sessions.



Mike Kelly the creator of "Boot Camp for Instructors."

Port Madison Enterprises Honors Graduates

The inaugural class of the Tribal Enterprise Gaming Certificate Program at Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort was honored in last November in a graduation ceremony held on the Port Madison Indian Reservation in Suquamish, WA.

The fourteen graduates, selected by Port Madison Enterprise (PME) department directors last fall for the program, committed to a year of coursework in human relations, hospitality, marketing, financial analysis and gaming.

PME Director of Human Resources Barbara Griffin worked with Olympic College continuing education coordinators and PME department directors to create the program, where students received a comprehensive overview of Tribal Enterprise Gaming operations.

Each subject, taught by Olympic College instructors, was covered in a 10-week course at the PME Training and Resource Center. PME paid for each class and all student course materials including books, tuition and fees. The participants, all PME employees during the program, were also compensated for the three hours they were required to be in classes each week.

"You work for a phenomenal company, one that not only created a program to help you do your jobs better, but to also pay for it, that's rare and amazing," said former Olympic College Director of Military and Continuing Education Wendy Miles during the ceremony.

Combined, each student received 15 college credits for their coursework. Credits that are not only applicable to the program, but can also be put towards a comprehensive college degree.

"I feel so honored to have been selected for this program. Over the last year, I proved to my kids and myself that I can do it, so I'm going to continue my education," said program graduate Trish Chargualaf.

Another class for the Tribal Gaming Certificate Program is scheduled to begin early next year. Department directors at PME will once again be given the opportunity to choose employees, who will then be vetted through a selection committee before being accepted for the program. The class start date is also scheduled to coincide with the Suquamish Tribal Education Program.

"We've also started the groundwork for a 10-week Retail course to be added to the next class," said Griffin.

PME Executives also plan to use the program as a recruitment tool for future employees. "It's another step in the succession and career development for PME and a testament to the unique opportunities available to those working for tribal enterprises," added Griffin.

Port Madison Enterprises is becoming one of the largest employers on the Kitsap Peninsula, with more than 800 employees working in gaming, hospitality, retail and property management ventures.

Article and photo reprinted courtesy of April Leigh and Port Madison Enterprises



TECG Graduates: Back row, from left, Craig Wood, Maurice Salanga, Deana Swartz, Cathlene Norris, Trish Chargualaf, Leslie Weiler, Irene Miller. Front row, from left, Laree Lawrence, Gloria Santos, Lorraine Brice, Kim Gentkowski, Monique Clark, Dionne Norris, and Lauren Frasier (not pictured)

Workforce Development and Basic Studies

Dean: Amy Hatfield Associate Dean: Elaine Williams-Bryant
Directors: Teresa McDermott, Stephanie Thompson, and Cindy Wyman

Newsletter Editor: Lori Fagan WorkforceNewsletter@olympic.edu

www.olympic.edu/WorkforceDevelopment 360.792.6050 or 1.800.259.6718, Ext. 7555


OLYMPIC COLLEGE

1600 Chester Avenue
Bremerton, WA 98337-1699
www.olympic.edu