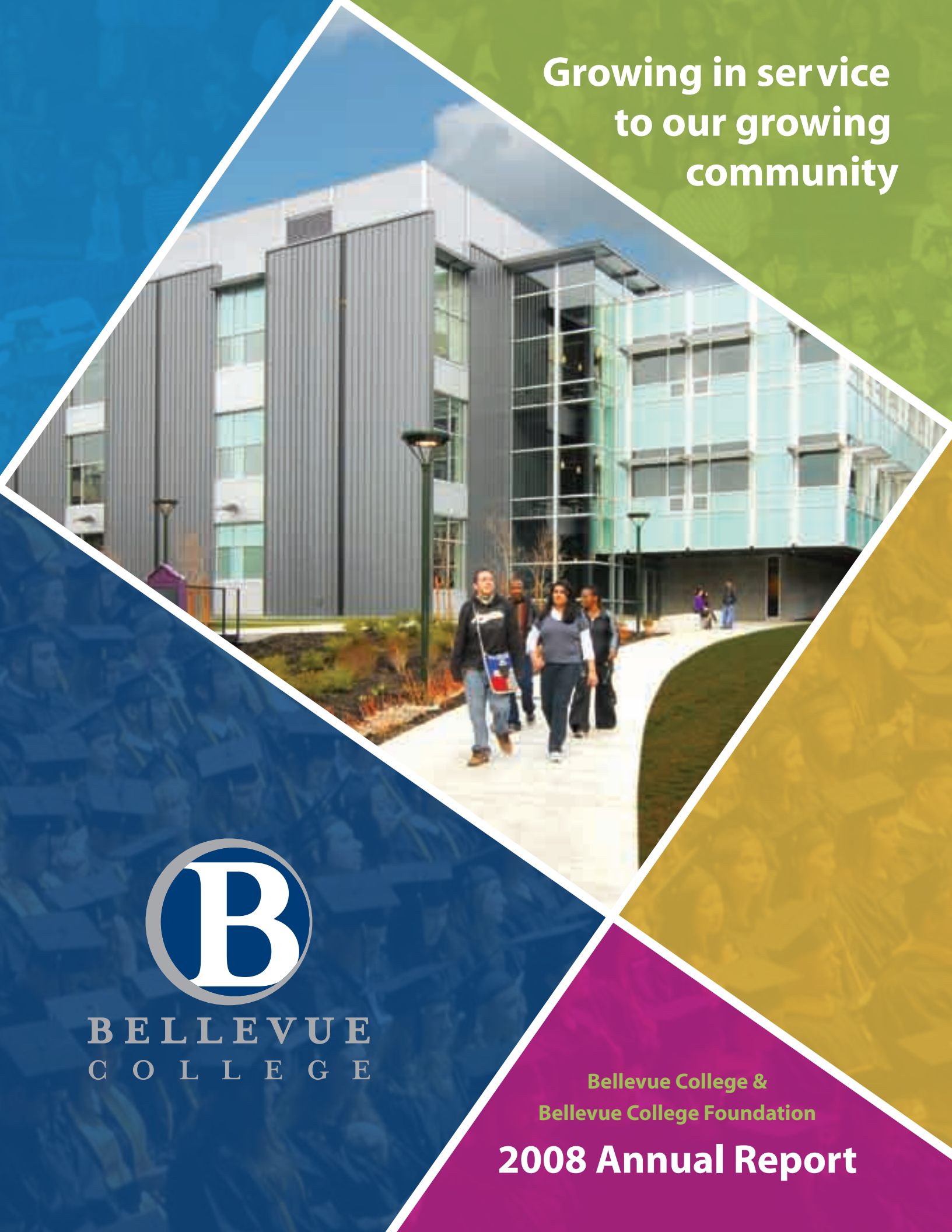


**Growing in service  
to our growing  
community**



**BELLEVUE  
COLLEGE**

**Bellevue College &  
Bellevue College Foundation**

**2008 Annual Report**

# Education Matters:

## *We must “train our own for the jobs at home”*

by Jean Floten

Did you know that, before the recession hit, 25,000 Washington businesses reported problems finding enough job applicants with bachelor's degrees?

That's what the state found in a 2007 employer survey.

Another disturbing finding: hiring difficulties reduced these businesses' productivity and growth – setbacks that hurt us all because they slowed the overall economy and job market.

The data also carried a wake-up call for King County: the problem was worsening at a faster rate here than in any other region except the Tri-Cities.

Why? Because there is not enough space to go around in our state-supported baccalaureate programs.

Each year in the central Puget Sound region alone up to 6,000 students earn a transferable degree from a local community college but do not go on to a four-year institution.

For many that's a voluntary choice, but for a huge proportion, it's forced on them. Once turned down by the UW, they simply have nowhere they can afford to go. Place-bound by jobs and family responsibilities, they don't have the freedom to pick up and move to another city to attend college.

These are good, solid students – with 2.5 to 3.75 GPAs – yet they are in effect abandoned by our higher-ed system for lack of space.

The Higher Education Coordinating (HEC) Board reports that Washington urgently needs 5,600 new slots in bachelor's degree programs right now, and must expand capacity by 27 percent over the next decade if we are to truly meet the demand.

To secure Washington's future, the HEC Board urges the state to consider all possible ways, including non-traditional ones, to increase baccalaureate capacity. While our universities intend to expand, even their most aggressive plans, the Board says, won't be sufficient.

State Senator Fred Jarrett (D-Mercer Island) and State Representative Marcie Maxwell (D-Renton) responded by filing bills in the 2009 state legislature that would expand academic opportunities – at no immediate cost – by authorizing Bellevue College to award more bachelor's degrees.

Building on the success of our baccalaureate program in radiation and imaging sciences, this approach would lead to new programs designed specifically to meet the most urgent needs of employers, while also giving local residents exactly what they must have to land the jobs that, because of state-wide shortage of educational capacity, have been going to out-of-state workers.

### **We need to seriously consider:**

*Are we going to continue to abandon place-bound individuals to their fate, without the opportunity to complete their education?*

*Are we going to continue to let our economy suffer long-term because we don't provide enough educational programs to appropriately fill out our workforce?*

Everyone wins when education levels rise. And when employers and students both need more bachelor's degree capacity, how can we overlook any opportunity to provide it?

*Jean Floten is President of Bellevue College.*

*Originally published Feb. 14, 2009, in the Bellevue Reporter (edited for space).*

*Update: Although their bills did not pass this session, Sen. Jarrett and Rep. Maxwell were instrumental in adding a budget proviso that would permit Bellevue College to offer a four-year degree in Interior Design beginning next year.*

*We commend them and hope it passes!*

*“Until Bellevue College launched their bachelor's program I didn't have any way to acquire the degree I need to move up in my field of radiation therapy. This opens up a whole new future for me – it's a godsend.”*

Carrie Richardson, R.T.  
CT Technologist  
Virginia Mason Medical Center  
Bellevue College baccalaureate student







Jean Floten  
President  
Bellevue College

## Dear community friends:

It's a minor edit, but changing our name to "Bellevue College" reflects a bright new facet in our community service. In June we will award our first four-year degrees to graduates receiving a Bachelor of Applied Science in Radiation and Imaging Sciences. Congratulations, Class of 2009!

We stepped outside our traditional two-year role because of a critical educational void. Although healthcare providers urgently needed imaging and radiation professionals with four-year degrees, and practitioners needed the baccalaureate credential for promotion, no appropriate training program existed anywhere in the state.

The success of our graduates validates the suggestion that Washington should start solving a statewide shortage of bachelor's degree programs – a gap so wide that our universities can't entirely fill it by themselves – by authorizing Bellevue College to offer more four-year degrees. (Please see the facing page for more on this issue.)

We have taken another big step forward by launching a campus-wide Student Success Initiative to eliminate factors that prevent many students from completing their education. The complexity of the workplace has elevated higher education to the list of life's essentials, alongside food and shelter, so we are making every effort to give all students their best chance to succeed.

For example, we initiated a First-Year Experience to give new students a clearer understanding of what will be expected of them as successful students and to help them build networks for ongoing encouragement and support.

Because student self-advising is often ineffective, we now require new students to plan their programs with a professional adviser, to find the best pathway to their goals.

Together, our initial steps have helped 7 percent more students to stay in school to continue their studies toward sustainable futures as health care professionals, computer programmers, designers and more.

Bellevue College's strength as a resource for the Eastside community is growing as a direct result of the support we receive from donors and other good community friends. Thank you for all you do to ensure a brighter future for Bellevue College students and for the region we all call home.

Sincerely,

Jean Floten  
President



*Like the City of Bellevue (left),  
Bellevue College is growing.  
Cover: Our new Science building,  
which opened in March.*

# Advancing Student Success

## A long commencement line is good for all

*Students register for BC's new First-Year Experience seminar.*

### Bellevue College Board of Trustees

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### **They arrive in droves every fall:**

new students, descending expectantly on our nation's campuses. But how many will be in the procession come graduation day?

Nationwide, about half of all community college students leave school before completing programs, many because of the intense pressures of balancing classes with jobs, parents, and/or children; others because of financial hardships; and yet others because their lack of academic readiness makes learning too difficult.

Our community cannot afford to lose these individuals. Just as students need advanced education to find a role in today's workplace, our region's quality of life and economic health depend on a contributing, well-educated populace.

Achieving both of these goals is the aim of BC's Student Success Initiative, which works to remove the obstacles that so often prevent students from completing their programs.

As a first step, we launched an intensive First-Year Experience Seminar (FYE), held just before fall classes and required for first-time college students.

FYE addresses three primary success factors: interpersonal connections, college survival skills such as how to study effectively and make use of academic support options, and a personalized educational plan prepared with an academic adviser.

Results from our initial year have been highly encouraging. Participants stayed in school at a rate that averaged 7 percentage points higher than that of non-participants.



But there is much more to do. Advancing student success also depends on:

### **Developing new ways to reach and teach today's students.**

We need to enable faculty to more fully develop their ideas for incorporating new techniques and technology into their teaching, because today's students – especially the “digital natives” – think, learn and communicate in ways far different than their predecessors.

### **Creating dynamic learning environments.**

We need to develop more “high-impact” learning opportunities, such as our student genomics research project and our digital planetarium, that deeply engage students' innate appetites for learning.

### **Removing financial barriers.**

Students need monetary support more than ever before, as they struggle to meet the rising costs of education. Even a modest stipend can help a student get past otherwise overwhelming obstacles.

Our Student Success Initiative strives to double the number of students who attain their academic goals, but will require community involvement to fully realize. With that support, we can vastly improve our students' chances for success – for the benefit of all.



*Students Paula Listiani, Jing Min Liu, Mandana Naderi and Clairine Runtung donate their time as volunteers at Eastside Baby Corner in Issaquah.*



*Student Peter Castro gets advice on selecting classes from Arlene Hruby, adviser in the Educational Planning Advising Center.*



# BC to award first bachelor's degrees in June

## Bellevue College responds to community health care needs

On the evening of June 18, 2009, the students pictured below-left will make history, becoming the first ever to earn bachelor's degrees from Bellevue College.

When they receive their degrees – Bachelors of Applied Sciences in Radiation and Imaging Sciences – they will meet the local medical community's urgent need for more imaging and radiation professionals with highly developed technical and management skills.

Launched in Fall 2007 with the involvement of health-industry leaders, BC's bachelor's degree program teaches advanced techniques in radiology, diagnostic ultrasound, radiation therapy, nuclear medicine, dosimetry and radiologist assistance, in addition to leadership and management skills.

The 60-plus students currently enrolled range from new professionals to those with 25 years' experience. But they all share one goal – to break through the paper ceiling: the new pre-requisite of a bachelor's degree for advancement in their field.

Come June, our first bachelor's degree graduates will be equipped to do just that.


*"Bellevue College has been exceptionally responsive to the need for more baccalaureate-level radiation and imaging technologists. I hope we'll soon see more programs like theirs, targeted to other hard-to-find skill sets, not just in health care but also for the many other businesses whose workforce needs are not yet being met by our state's higher education system."*

Jim Sapienza, Administrator, Imaging Services, Multicare Health Systems



Bachelor of Applied Science student Aaron Bishop, right, and instructor Brenda Rinehart at Overlake Hospital Medical Center, where Brenda is Director of Medical Imaging.

Congratulations to BC's first bachelor's degree graduates, the Class of '09!



# The Bellevue College Foundation changes lives

Dear friends of Bellevue College:

**If Not Now, When?** Despite high unemployment and massive state funding cuts, the BC Foundation achieved a year of remarkable success – due entirely to you, our friends in the burgeoning Bellevue College community, who stepped up to lend a helping hand.

**Impact.** Using your gifts, our highly dedicated board was able to respond to the increased needs of our students and change hundreds of lives.

**Scholarships.** Applications for financial support grew a record 50 percent in spring 2008. I am proud to share that the Foundation awarded merit- and need- based scholarships to 73 students last year.

**Innovation and Diversity.** The Foundation supported 18 special projects, such as the American Indian Film Festival, to enrich the curriculum. We also completed funding for the digital planetarium projection system, distinguishing BC as the only institution in the Northwest, and one of the few worldwide, with this advanced teaching technology.

**Emergency Funds.** We joined students and faculty in establishing a crisis fund for students with dire needs – a crucial resource in these tough times.

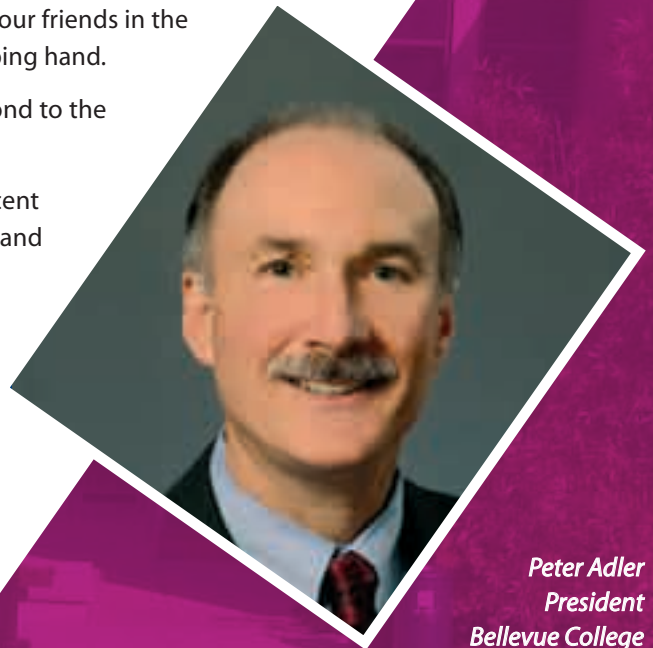
**Looking Forward.** We will need your help and ongoing investment to enable Bellevue College to remain one of the country's leading community colleges and our state's third largest educational institution; to assist in fulfilling the dreams and educational needs of all who seek our services; and to ensure that every BC student has an opportunity to contribute to our community and the world.

Thank you for all your support.

Sincerely,



Peter G. Adler  
President  
BC Foundation




*Peter Adler  
President  
Bellevue College  
Foundation*



*Dr. Gita Bangera  
uses output from the  
college's DNA sequencer to  
teach Laboratory Methods  
in Genomics.*



# Bellevue College Foundation Board of Directors



*Instructor  
Art Goss teaches  
astronomy using the  
advanced digital projector  
provided by the BC Foundation.*

## BC Foundation Assets

(at 6/30/08)

**Marketable securities: \$3,732,099**

**Cash and equivalents: \$89,581**

**Pledges receivable: \$329,091**

**Total assets: \$4,150,771**

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Sincere thanks to all our BC Foundation donors! You are giving our region's residents greater access to affordable, high-quality opportunities to Become Exceptional at Bellevue College.

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Madeleine Hagen  
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This list reflects combined  
totals for donations, pledges  
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ending June 30, 2008. In preparing this  
report every effort was made to ensure  
accuracy. Please call the BC Foundation  
office at (425) 564-2386 regarding  
any changes to this list.

*"The BC Foundation's support of our American Indian Film Festival last year gave us the resources to put on perhaps our best event yet. Hundreds of students and community members attended. Our thanks go out to the Foundation donors for making this culturally-enriching event so successful."*

~ Sara Sutler-Cohen, Ph.D.  
Sociology Instructor  
and Program Chair  
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