

creating



opportunities



for life
& livelihood

A Year of Opportunities

Each year Bellevue Community College provides opportunities for tens of thousands of students: those seeking to begin a college education in a challenging but supportive environment; those needing to learn new skills quickly to improve their options in the workplace; those pursuing basic literacy and the skills to become self-sufficient; and those taking enrichment classes to remain challenged throughout life. Here is a summary of how many lives BCC touched in 2004.

○ Maintained an “open door” to higher education

- Reached 36,509 total students in the 2003-04 school year, including 21,797 in academic programs
- Held the door open to 1,404 academic students beyond the number supported by state funding
- Extended academic opportunities to special populations:
 - 9,300 “non-traditional” (age 25+) students (43% of academic students)
 - 6,250 persons of color (29%)
 - 5,885 people who were first in their families to attend college (27%)
 - 1,252 single parents (6%)
 - 716 displaced workers (3%)
 - 627 persons of disability (3%)

○ Readied students for employment opportunities

- Educated 9,867 students working toward certificates in 70 professional and technical fields, to ready them to enter or reenter the workforce or to advance in existing jobs

○ Provided opportunities for under-educated adults to improve their lives through basic education and literacy instruction

- Instructed 2,721 immigrants in English as a Second Language
- Served 412 students in Adult Basic Education and General Education Development courses

○ Kept citizens intellectually and physically active through community educational services

- Instructed 7,905 students in work-related skills in Continuing Education technical, business and professional development classes
- Served 7,152 community members in Continuing Education courses in the Art-Zones, Explore! (personal enrichment), World Languages and Travel programs



“Sometimes I think, ‘Where would I be right now, if it weren’t for Bellevue Community College?’ I definitely wouldn’t be in such a good place as I am now.”

○ – Amanda Kellogg
Former high school dropout, now a BCC graduate
and merchandising manager for the Hudson Group.



B. Jean Floten

“At Bellevue Community College we create opportunities—life-changing opportunities—for our community and its citizens. Yet our capacity to supply the growing demand for education is in peril.”

○ – B. Jean Floten
President

To the community:

At Bellevue Community College we create opportunities – life-changing opportunities – for our community and its citizens. We fulfilled that mission again in 2004, as illustrated by the summary on the opposite page and the stories that follow. Yet our ability to supply the growing demand for education is in peril.

A capacity crisis is looming in higher education, one for which the state is not prepared. The size of the prime college-going population is expected to increase 15 percent during the next eight years. Experts project 33,000 more people will be seeking higher education by 2010. Right now we have no room for these students, and there is no state plan to provide them the education they need and their parents expect.

The bottom line is, we need as a state to identify cost-effective ways to expand capacity at community colleges and four-year schools. Partnerships such as the one growing between Bellevue Community College and Eastern Washington University, through which we leverage existing assets by offering EWU bachelor’s degrees on our campus, will help. But much more needs to be done. And community input is more important now than ever.

Meantime, we take heart in what we are able to accomplish each year, creating opportunities, changing lives and, in the process, helping to build a stronger community. Stories like that of Angel Kelchev, a recent immigrant who transformed his life at BCC (see page 3), keep us going.

Our ability to change lives expands greatly with the support of our donors, volunteers and advocates. Thank you for helping us make our open door a passageway to a better life and a healthier community in 2004.

Sincerely,

B. Jean Floten

B. Jean Floten
President

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Creating Opportunities For Life and Livelihood

Life-changing opportunities, the chance to embark on a totally new path, lie at the heart of everything Bellevue Community College has to offer. Our accessibility, not only for traditional students but also for those who are older or are juggling jobs and family, puts that opportunity squarely in front of anyone who wishes to seize it. The stories on these pages illustrate just a few of the thousands of individual success stories—opportunities realized—that were the most important outcomes of our 2004 academic year.





Angel Kelchev
Seattle Times photo by Greg Gilbert

From BCC to Stanford: Realizing the American Dream

For many, Bellevue Community College means the opportunity to achieve the American dream – to start with nothing and build a promising future through sheer determination and hard work.

And that is the story of Angel Kelchev. In just two years, the 22-year-old from Bulgaria used his BCC opportunity to go from newly arrived immigrant to straight-A scholar, and then transfer with full scholarships to Stanford University.

When Angel, his sister and parents arrived from Eastern Europe in 2001 they were faced with the prospect of starting over. They chose Bellevue because a friend had written Angel about BCC and the opportunities he would have here.

And Angel has made the most of those opportunities. At BCC he not only excelled scholastically

but also honed his leadership skills by becoming president of both the student body and Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and by working as a tutor. Angel also won an elite Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship, one of only 27 recipients nationwide.

“There were so many opportunities available for me at BCC,” Angel says. “The potential for personal growth has always been there for anyone willing to seek it. I was very fortunate to find BCC, which has an environment that cherishes personal initiative and rewards the desire to advance and succeed.”

*“I was very fortunate to find BCC,
which has an environment that cherishes
personal initiative and rewards
the desire to advance and succeed.”*

○ – Angel Kelchev
BCC Graduate



Aaron Gregson

From Dropout to Business Owner—Thanks to BCC

Aaron Gregson never finished high school. But now, thanks to Bellevue Community College and his own hard work, Aaron is graduating with an associate degree in video and audio production and is already running his own production company.

“You have no idea how much BCC helped me,” Aaron says. “I’ve done a full 180-degree turn on my life.”

A few years after dropping out of high school Aaron realized the mistake he had made. That’s when he found BCC’s Career Education Options (CEO) program, which is designed for young adults who leave high school with no diploma. It begins with instruction to bring students up to college level, then continues with training in one of BCC’s many professional and technical programs.

“It took me a while to get up to college level,” Aaron says, “but then everything clicked into place. The whole energy of BCC helped me round off my edges and become more of a human. It made me a civilian, instead of an outcast.”

Two instructors, Phil Lucas and Daniel Thornton, both in Media Communications and Technology, played a special role: “Those two really inspired me,” Aaron says.

Now, at 21, Aaron is a new person with a good future. “It’s been a life-changing experience,” he says. “I can’t imagine where I’d be if I hadn’t come to BCC.”

“You have no idea how much BCC helped me. I’ve done a full 180-degree turn on my life.”

— Aaron Gregson
BCC Graduate



Heather McCulloch

Continuing Education Enriches Life

With more than a thousand courses to choose from, BCC's Continuing Education division offers area residents a lifelong opportunity to grow.

In 2004 more than 1,500 individuals, aged 15 to 100, took advantage of BCC's Continuing Education offerings, which include:

- arts programs
- professional certification in business, technology and health
- computer classes at every level of expertise
- personal enrichment in such topics as yoga, health and cooking
- world language and travel programs

Heather McCulloch is one community resident who has taken full advantage of this opportunity—a veteran of approximately 100 classes over the past four years.

“BCC's Continuing Education has made a big difference in my life,” says Heather. “It's helped

me expand my horizons and continue to grow, both professionally and in my leisure hours.

“What really attracts me are the art courses,” she adds. “With the incredible range of classes and the quality of the instructors, I have never had a bad class at BCC. I really like discovering something entirely new—like glass bead-making—and becoming hooked on it!

“I pass my enthusiasm on to friends, encouraging them to take classes, too,” Heather says.

“Often they are very surprised by what they learn about themselves. They say things like, ‘Wow, I never knew I was an artist!’”

For more information about BCC's Continuing Education programs, visit www.gotobcc.com.

“BCC's Continuing Education program has made a big difference in my life. It's helped me to expand my horizons and continue to grow, in both my professional life and leisure time.”

– Heather McCulloch
BCC Continuing Education Student



Irene Gutierrez, left, and ABE Instructor Anne Dolan

Developmental Ed: A Lifeline for the Underprepared

Nearly half a million Washington adults hold no high school diploma, and another half million speak limited or no English.

These people face bleak prospects in today's economy, but the Developmental Education program at Bellevue Community College offers a lifeline, an opportunity to grow and pursue a better life.

Irene Gutierrez, an immigrant from Mexico, is seizing that opportunity. Irene studies in BCC's Adult Basic Education (ABE) program. ABE offers pre-college classes in reading, writing and math. Other Developmental Education programs offer English literacy and General Educational Development (GED) certification.

"I hadn't gone to school since I was a very young girl in Mexico. So what kind of job could I

find?" says Irene. "Now, with the chance to go to BCC and start with the basics, I will have a chance to grow and find a good job—something where I can help people and make a difference in my family's life."

Irene plans to continue on to earn a GED, and then enter BCC's college-level programs. While she has her eye firmly on the future, she is enjoying learning along the way.

"Every time I learn something new I get really happy," Irene says. "I am very grateful for the opportunity BCC has given me to grow and make a difference in my life."

"With the chance to go to BCC and start with the basics, I will have a chance to grow and find a good job – something where I can help people."

— Irene Gutierrez
BCC Adult Basic Education Student



Dennis Shay

The strength of the Foundation's impact is directly proportional to the support of its donors and advocates in the community.

You are the heart of the Foundation

– Dennis Shay
President

The Bellevue Community College Foundation

Dear Friends of BCC:

Founded more than 25 years ago by community leaders, the Bellevue Community College Foundation has a rich history of making contributions to BCC's students, campus life and physical plant. This year was no exception.

In particular, the Foundation helped the College maintain an open door to opportunity by awarding 75 percent more scholarships than last year – at a time when more students than ever needed this help.

The Foundation also helped energize the campus. It inaugurated a Mini-Grant program to support valuable educational projects that otherwise could not be funded. It encouraged excellence by honoring some of the best faculty and staff through the Margin of Excellence Awards. And it purchased a new Digistar projector for the college's planetarium, upgrading an exciting educational tool not only for BCC students but also for the entire community.

None of this could have happened without the support of donors and volunteers. In April, the community came together at the Foundation's annual luncheon to send a resoundingly positive message that it embraces BCC, donating 40 percent more than last year! BCC staff and faculty also took up the challenge and increased their support by 56 percent over the prior year. Foundation Board members and volunteers gave freely of their time, expertise and experience, as well, to keep the doors of opportunity open.

The strength of the Foundation's impact is directly proportional to the support of its donors and advocates in the community. You are the heart of the Foundation, making it possible to provide life-changing opportunities to students. Thank you for all you do to support the Foundation and Bellevue Community College.

Sincerely,

Dennis Shay
President
Board of Directors

The BCC Foundation Mission

The mission of the Bellevue Community College Foundation is to raise funds to support quality education and learning opportunities for all BCC students.



Maleeka Siddick

Donor-Supported Scholarships Open Doors of Opportunity

Thanks to the generous support of its donors, the Bellevue Community College Foundation was able to award scholarships to 79 students during the 2004 academic year, disbursing more than \$115,000 based on merit and financial need.

The personal stories of the scholarship recipients speak of high hopes, expansive dreams and challenges conquered. All have at least one aspect in common: the desire to change their lives through education. Recent immigrant Maleeka Siddick is one example.

“My family is originally from Zimbabwe, where corruption is the order of the day and health care and education are virtually non-existent,” says Maleeka. “Since applying for political asylum in the United States, I’ve been able to focus on my

goals and, thanks in large part to the support of the BCC Foundation, take advantage of the wonderful opportunities at Bellevue Community College.”

Like all of the scholarship recipients, Maleeka has set impressive goals.

“My ambition is to become a doctor because it’s important to me to help people in need, Maleeka says. “I am grateful to the Foundation scholarship donors who are helping to make my dream a reality.”

“Since applying for political asylum in the United States, I’ve been able to focus on my goals and, thanks in large part to the support of the BCC Foundation, take advantage of the wonderful opportunities at Bellevue Community College.”

— Maleeka Siddick
BCC Foundation Scholarship Recipient



Student Zak Hanlon, Instructor DeeAnn Perea, and Director Julie Soto of BCC's Parent Education Program

Foundation Mini-Grants Augment BCC Programs

The BCC Foundation energized the campus community this year with a new Mini-Grants Program to enhance instruction, professional development and community engagement.

More than 2,500 students and 2,600 community residents were touched directly by these 21 grants to faculty and staff. Totalling \$16,700, the grants supported projects with promise but no available funding. For example, the grants:

- Brought Tim Wise, a nationally known anti-racism speaker, to speak to students.
- Sponsored the Beyond Diversity workshop on inter-cultural sensitivity for BCC employees.
- Published the *Northwest News*, a newspaper by and for students in basic English literacy classes.

- Created an Internet "radio station" operated by and for students as a learning experience.
- Produced a handbook for parents of "Wobblers" (age 7 – 18 months) at BCC's Early Learning, Family and Child Care Center.

The response from grant recipient Julie Soto, BCC parent education director, was typical: "The Mini-Grants were a wonderful addition to campus life this year. Without Foundation support, we would not have been able to publish our Wobbler Parent Handbook, which is fast becoming a key component in our parent education curriculum."

"Without Foundation support, we would not have been able to publish our Wobbler Parent Handbook, which is fast becoming a key component in our parent education curriculum."

– Julie Soto
BCC Parent Education Director

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(at 6/30/04)

Marketable securities:	\$ 2,570,313
Cash and equivalents:	\$ 623,310
Pledges receivable:	\$ 203,467
Total assets*	\$ 3,397,090

*Audit in progress

Leave a Legacy

at Bellevue Community College



Become a member of the new BCC Foundation Legacy Society.

Make a lasting difference in someone's life by making a gift through your will or estate to the Bellevue Community College Foundation.

For details, contact Gaynor Hills:

425-564-2282
or ghills@bcc.ctc.edu.





Students like Maleeka Siddick need your help to open doors of opportunity.

How Can I Help?

Use the envelope attached to this report to make your gift to the Bellevue Community College Foundation!

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of BCC, we thank you.

If you have questions on how you can help the students of BCC, contact Elizabeth Perera at (425) 564-2945 or eperera@bcc.ctc.edu.

2003-2004 Donors

Thank you to our BCC Foundation Contributors. You support our community by promoting access to high quality education at Bellevue Community College.

The following list reflects combined totals for donations, pledges and sponsorships made to the BCC Foundation for the 2003-04 fiscal year, ending June 30, 2004. If you would like to make a donation, please contact the BCC Foundation at (425) 564-2386.

In preparing this report, every effort was made to ensure accuracy and completeness. If we made a mistake in your listing, or if we omitted your name from the list, we apologize. Please call the BCC Foundation office at (425) 564-2386 regarding any changes to this list.

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“As one of the world’s leading industrial chemical distributors, Univar supports Bellevue Community College because it provides a path to higher education for students from all walks of life. The education offered by BCC is an excellent foundation for its students, and is a prime source of the skilled workforce needed in a constantly changing world.”

– Gary Pruitt
Chief Executive Officer
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Polly Schulz Whitehead Scholarship

○ Bellevue Community College

Our Core Values

We, the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and administration of Bellevue Community College:

Place students at the center of all we do and support and promote the excellence of their efforts;

Affirm and embody pluralism, value collaboration and shared decision making, and honor creativity and innovation;

Anticipate changing demands in education and welcome the opportunity to shape its future;

Acknowledge our responsibility to society and embrace the belief that widespread access to excellent postsecondary education is the cornerstone of a democratic society.

Our Mission

Bellevue Community College is a comprehensive and innovative college that advances the life-long educational development of its students consistent with their needs, interests and abilities while strengthening the economic, social and cultural life of its diverse community.

The college accomplishes this purpose by providing high-quality, flexible educational programs and services that are academically, geographically and financially accessible.

Committed to teaching and learning excellence and employee growth and development, the college nurtures a supportive environment throughout its programs and services.

Bellevue Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity; creed; color; national origin; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; age; religion; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; or veteran status.

To learn more about supporting excellence and opportunity at Bellevue Community College, please contact:

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