



Words from Willis



2004-05 TACTC President,
Beth Willis - Pierce College

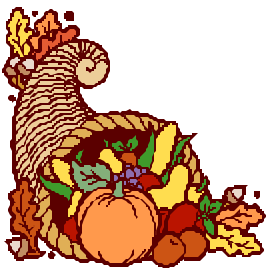
Life as your TACTC president is a busy one! In addition to TACTC meetings and conferences, I represent our association at the presidents' meetings and the State Board meetings. I am also designated as an "advisor" to the four-year regents, who are trying to put together an organization like TACTC for themselves.

The last monthly meeting of the presidents (WACTC) was held at the University of Washington –Tacoma. The University's new president, Mark Emmert, was the speaker. Dr. Emmert and our presidents got into a very candid discussion about the future of higher education in this state. There are some differences in opinion about how and where to serve undergraduate growth as well as upper division offerings, but there were also areas of agreement. I think everyone agreed the higher education community needs to come together and agree on a plan – or else something nobody likes will likely be imposed upon us.

There is going to be a special joint meeting of the Higher Education Coordinating Board and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges on November 15 at South Seattle Community College from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They plan to talk about the size and shape of Washington's higher education system and how to improve collaboration between the two boards. All trustees are invited to attend. Come if you can!

Our last joint meeting with the State Board and the executive committees of both WACTC and TACTC was so successful that State Board chair Tom Koening and I hope to have another gathering of this group before the 2005 legislative session begins. This is a wonderful way of making sure all segments of our system agree on our priorities and strategies to achieve those priorities.

I hope everyone has a fabulous Thanksgiving with family and friends!



Inside this issue:

Bates Technical College Honors Jack Skanes	2
Joint BOD/LSC meeting	2
Changes at Wenatchee Valley College	3
Legislative Priorities Adopted by the State Board	3
Celebrating Success	3
SMART Committee Judges Logos	4
Trustees Elected to House of Representatives	4
Presidential Compensation Committee	4
Former trustee advocates for community & technical colleges	4

Welcome New Trustees

Governor Gary Locke has been making his reappointments and new appointments to community and technical college boards. Seven new trustees have been appointed since the last newsletter.



Please welcome:

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| Mike Grunwald – Bates Technical College | Replaces Jack Skanes |
| Michael Mertino – Cascadia Community College | Replaces Dennis Stefani |
| Roy Wilkerson – Cascadia Community College | Replaces Dianne Campbell |
| Josie Villa - Columbia Basin College | Replaces Lonna Malone |
| Fawn Sharp-Malvini - Grays Harbor College | Replaces Bob Hitt |
| Janet Blinn – South Puget Sound Community College | Replaces Ed Mayeda |
| Ben Cabildo – Community Colleges of Spokane | Replaces Tom McKern |

Bates Technical College Honors Jack Skanes



Bates Technical College honored out-going trustee **Jack Skanes** at the inaugural event for their *Bates Builders Fund* campaign. Jack was appointed to the Bates' board in 1995. For more than 50 years, Jack has served the Tacoma-Pierce County area as a skilled carpenter, apprenticeship trainer, union leader, and school advisor, in addition to his years as a trustee.

Jack's family was there to see him honored by his fellow board members, the Port of Tacoma, the carpenters' union, the Associated General Contractors and many other people whose lives Jack has touched.

Joint Board of Directors and Legislative Steering Committee Meeting

Trustees from across the state gathered at Renton Technical College on November 5th for a joint meeting of the Board of Directors and Legislative Steering Committee.

The trustees heard a report from **David Mitchell**, president of Olympic College and president of WACTC, on WACTC's goals for this year – which include improve employee compensation and provide additional student access to community and technical colleges. WACTC is also interested in strengthening our partnership with K- 12 and the four-year institutions. They are committed to the strategic position document *Opportunity, Education and Washington's Economic Future*.

Tom Koenninger, State Board chair, was on hand to give a report from the State Board, which included a preview of what they want to accomplish with the November 15 joint meeting of the State Board and the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The trustees reviewed the system's legislative priorities, discussed the messages used to support those priorities. **Earl Hale**, Executive Director of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, lead a discussion on the results of the November 2004 election.

Copies of the National Collaborative Report and the higher education report card "Measuring Up 2004" were distributed. Please talk to your board's representatives to this meeting about these documents and how to best use them in your district.



Showing dedication beyond the call of duty - **Salvador Beltran**, Columbia Basin, and **Jon McFarland**, Walla Walla (posing with Beth) proved not even a car accident or hip surgery would keep them away from their TACTC duties.

Changes at Wenatchee Valley College



Jack Becherer, Outgoing president at Wenatchee Valley College

Dr. Jack Becherer, president of Wenatchee Valley College since 2001, was selected to serve as the new president at Rock Valley College in Rockford, Illinois. Jack started his new duties at Rock Valley on November 1, 2004. Illinois is home to both Jack and his wife, Janna.

The Wenatchee Board of Trustees has announced that **Dr. David Beyer** will serve as their interim president as they conduct their search for a permanent chief executive officer. David served as the interim president at Clark College in 2002.



David Beyer, Interim president at Wenatchee Valley College

Legislative Priorities Adopted by the State Board

The Joint Legislative Committee met in October to develop a recommended platform to the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. The JLC consists of trustees, presidents, State Board members and staff, and representatives of the two faculty unions. **Gene Chase**, Everett trustee and chair of TACTC's Legislative Steering Committee, represented trustees at the meeting.

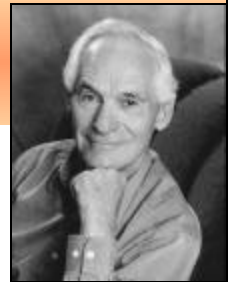
The JLC recommendation was forward to the State Board, which in turn adopted the recommendation on October 21 as the system's 2005 legislative request package. The package includes:

- **Operating Budget** to address compensation and access
- **Capital Budget**
- **Statement on Financial Aid Policy** to increase the state need grant eligibility to 65 percent of the median family income and support a \$2 million pilot program for working students who attend part-time
- **Statement on Tuition Policy** supporting keeping tuition as low as possible for community college students
- **Retain interest earnings on the Tuition Building Fee Account**
- **Building fees for technical colleges**

The JLC will meet again on December 7, 2005.

Celebrating Success

For an incredible account of an unbelievable adventure, check out "www.agbob.com" then click on "Lewis and Clark trip" on the right-hand column. Big Bend trustee **Bob Holloway** flew his powered parachute from Astoria, Oregon to Washington, Missouri (just outside of St. Louis). He spent 73 hours in the air to travel 2,365 air miles. Bob has posted a diary of the trip, along with many wonderful pictures – don't miss his account of a fabulous adventure!



Maura Brady, a 2004 graduate from South Puget Sound Community College, received the Trustee Scholarship at St. Martin's College to continue her studies in psychology. The scholarship is only given to two outstanding transfer students a year and is worth \$20,000 over two years. Congratulations, Maura!

Congratulations to **Tom Henderson**, SBCTC Capital Budget Director, who was named an Honorary Member of the American Institute of Architects Washington Council at their Annual Meeting on Friday, October 29th.



The Business Examiner Newspaper Group received more than 50 nominations of notable women for their annual Women of Influence award. Congratulations to **Beth Willis**, TACTC president and Pierce College trustee, and Dr. **Sharon McGavick**, President of Clover Park Technical College for being recognized as Women of Influence!!!

Jim Robinson, Olympic College trustee, reported the Bremerton City Council, after meeting with trustees and administrators at Olympic College, volunteered to include the college's legislative priorities in the City's legislative request package. **Way to go!**

Five colleges received funding as 2004 Centers of Excellence from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. **Bellevue Community College** was designated the Center for Information Technology Excellence; **Green River Community College** is the Washington State Center for Careers in Education; **Pierce College** has a center for Homeland Security; **Renton Technical College** is the Construction Center of Excellence and **Skagit Valley College**, in partnership with several private enterprises, has the center for Marine Manufacturing and Technology. These five colleges join Bellingham Technical College, Centralia College, Edmonds and Everett Community Colleges; Shoreline Community College, Walla Wall Community College and Yakima Valley Community College, which received designations for centers of excellence in 2003.

SMART Committee Judges Logos

After working with a communications consultant and reviewing the results of several focus groups, the SMART Investment Committee members, and the system's public information officers, have decided to change the "SMART" logo – with the tag line "Washington's Community and Technical Colleges, a Smart Investment" to "Creating Opportunities". The Committee members met on No-



Trustees Elected to House of Representatives



Congratulations to two trustees who were elected to the House of Representatives!

Mary Helen Roberts, a trustee at Edmonds Community College since 1996, was elected to fill a vacancy in the 21st District.

Derek Kilmer, who was appointed to the Tacoma Community College board a year ago, narrowly defeated incumbent Lois McMahan, a Republican legislator in the 26th District.



Presidential Compensation Committee

Jack McRae, trustee at Edmonds Community College, was appointed by Beth Willis to serve as the chair of an ad hoc committee charged with addressing the inequities and constraints boards of trustees face when adjusting college presidents' salaries. Other trustees appointed to the committee include **Mike Emerson**, Highline, **Helen Malone**, Spokane, and **Jim Medzegian**, Renton. State board members and staff and a college president also participated in the committee's first meeting.

The recommendation is for TACTC to pursue changes in the state statutes so two-year college trustees will have the same authority over presidential compensation as the trustees and regents for four-year institutions and school board directors have for superintendents.

Former trustee advocates for community and technical colleges

Linda Sprenger, former Green River trustee and past-president of TACTC, was a speaker at the district meeting of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations. She was asked to talk about the public's perception of community and technical colleges as part of a discussion on Initiative 884. Linda spoke from the heart about the core mission and value of community and technical colleges. The following is an excerpt from her comments.

"I just want to mention the one place where I believe public perception is different from the inside view of what we do. While it is all right and good, not to mention true, that we are responsive to the business and economic needs of our communities and that we are flexible, accessible and convenient, and that we offer a wide range of economic opportunities to our students -- job training and retraining for example, . . . inside the system, our other two missions are equally as important. The opportunity to get the first two years of college and then to transfer successfully to a four-year institution is at the center of who we are. That we do this more cheaply is well understood. But is it understood as well that we do this with excellent faculties and student services that far outshine our four-year brethren? And then, what about our Adult Basic Education and English as a second language mandate? Very few in our communities have a grasp of the high demand for these programs and haven't the foggiest idea how they are funded. I will tell you one thing I know for certain, having hung out with trustees for 11 years, and that is this mission is vitally important to them. Granted, financially we are being tugged away from this group. High demand from tuition-paying students is putting the squeeze on the non-tuition paying segment who need ABE or ESL. This is a struggle for the heart of our colleges. Trustees care very much, as I dare say do all of us in the family of community and technical colleges do. Is there an answer? Of course. More funding would help. So I have come full circle. I-884 helps in ways that the general public has not even considered."