

# News Release

South Seattle Community College

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **SOUTH ANNOUNCES ALL-WASHINGTON AWARD WINNERS**

*Students to be honored in Olympia.*

(Seattle, WA) South Seattle Community College is pleased to announce that two of its students have been named to the All-Washington Academic Team. Elizabeth (Lizzy) Merten, 28, and William Khazaal, 34, will be recognized for their academic achievement, leadership, and community service at a ceremony March 26 in Olympia. They are part of a group of students representing the state's two-year colleges.

The All-Washington Academic Team program has become the showcase for Washington's community and technical colleges because it honors academic achievers who have demonstrated a commitment to success in the classroom and in the communities in which they live.

Lizzy, a White Center resident, received her Associate of Science degree in Biology from South, and is now completing prerequisites for transfer to a four-year bioengineering program. The first in her family to graduate from high school and attend college, she is known for her initiative, perseverance, and organizational skills. Community service plays an important role in her life, both on campus and off. She revived the college Engineering Club and, as president, planned club outings and volunteer activities. She also shares her knowledge of math and science as an on-campus volunteer tutor, and has donated her hair to Locks of Love.

A lifelong resident of West Seattle, William is known at South Seattle Community College as a true advocate and dedicated leader, who balances challenging classes with a variety of school, family, and community commitments. He began college after a successful career as an account executive, and will be the first in his family to earn a degree. In addition to his outstanding academic achievement, he contributes his time and talents to the college community as United Student Association president, and serves on the appeals committee for students, Bookstore advisory committee, college council, and two faculty tenure committees. The father of two young sons plans to pursue an MBA with an emphasis on finance.

William, Lizzy, and their All-Washington Academic teammates will receive a \$750 scholarship from Key Bank and the National Education Loan Association (NELA), and are now nominated for the 2009 All-USA Academic Team. Officials from Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for students of two-year colleges, will select students for the All-USA team.

For more information on the All-Washington Academic Team and the ceremony, visit [www.spscc.ctc.edu/allwa](http://www.spscc.ctc.edu/allwa).

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Elizabeth "Lizzy" Merton



William Khazaal