

News Release

South Seattle Community College

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Announces All-Washington Award Winners

Students honored for academics and community service.

(Seattle, WA) South Seattle Community College is pleased to announce its representatives to the All-Washington Academic Team. White Center resident An Chu, 27, and 18-year old Kelleen Curtiss, from West Seattle, will be recognized for their academic achievement, leadership, and community service at a ceremony March 25 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. It honors academic achievers who have demonstrated a commitment to success in the classroom and in the communities in which they live.

An, who already holds a BA in English and Sociology from Ho Chi Minh University in Viet Nam, plans to pursue a four-year business degree and graduate studies in student services. In addition to serving as a Cultural Club Commissioner, she has also been involved with the Vietnamese Student Association, API Advisory Council and as coordinator of the annual Día de los Muertos event.

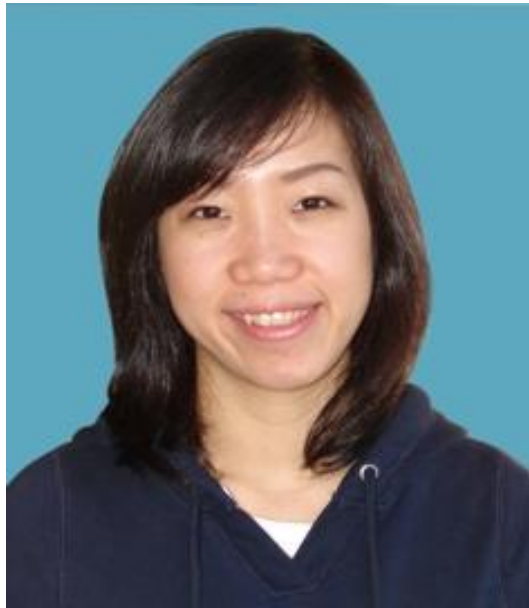
An's extracurricular campus activities have prepared her to thrive in her future professional endeavors. She likens her student leadership experience and training to a "tuition-free classroom, where I learn how to do everything in the workplace – customer service, counseling, event planning, computer technology, public speaking, and cultural diversity issues."

Kelleen is a Running Start student, who has already been accepted for entrance fall quarter into the Honors College at WSU, where she plans to study international relations and communications.

Her global interests stem, in part, from her role as a host sister to several international students attending South, providing support, guidance, motivation, language assistance, and "an open heart to friendship." Last year she traveled to China where two of her exchange students offered her the same hospitality she and her family had extended to them. At South, she also serves as a peer Spanish language tutor.

Kelleen credits her participation in Running Start with helping her learn to balance responsibility, school, work, and helping others. “It was hard to say goodbye to high school but the college has, in many ways, prepared me for the rest of my life and I am absolutely grateful for this.”

An, Kelleen, 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 2010 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.



An Chu



Kelleen Curtiss

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