

# News Release

**South Seattle Community College**

6000 16th Avenue, SW, Seattle, WA 98106-1499 • [www.southseattle.edu](http://www.southseattle.edu) • (206) 764-5300

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
April 5, 2006

Contact: Mike Munson  
206 768 6875  
[mmunson@sccd.ctc.edu](mailto:mmunson@sccd.ctc.edu)

## **South Seattle Community College gains approval to pilot a four-year technical degree**

South Seattle Community College received approval today from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to offer a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) Degree in Hospitality Management.

South is one of four community colleges selected to offer a four-year degree in a pilot program authorized by the state legislature. The proposed program now must be reviewed by the state Higher Education Coordinating Board, expected at that board's May or July meeting.

Approval also is needed from the college's accrediting agency, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, which is expected to issue its decision in the fall.

The first classes would begin in September 2007 with 20 students, expanding to 40 students in the second year.

"This new four-year degree builds on South's well-regarded Culinary Arts program," said Dr. Jill Wakefield, college president. "It will offer place-bound and under-served students a pathway to a four-year college education, with opportunities to attain management-level responsibilities and earn higher lifelong wages."

South's BAS proposal took more than a year to develop and received strong support from community members and the hospitality industry, including a program advisory committee of 41 community and hospitality industry leaders.

“Our research found there is a need for a hospitality management bachelor’s degree on the west side of the state, both for prospective employers and potential students,” Wakefield said. The need was documented by student and employee surveys incorporating more than 600 responses, focus groups, and structured interviews.

At one time Washington State University offered a four-year hospitality degree in Seattle, Wakefield said, but it no longer does so and has no plans to offer it again in the Seattle area. WSU has committed to helping South initiate its new program, she said.

South’s program also will provide career development pathways for existing hospitality industry employees through increased skill development.

In addition to South’s baccalaureate program, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges also approved a Bachelor of Science in Radiation and Imaging Sciences at Bellevue Community College, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Olympic College, and a Bachelor of Applied Science Management at Peninsula College.

South is one of the Seattle Community Colleges, which every year serve the education needs of more than 55,000 students.

South’s full program proposal is available at:

<http://www.southseattle.edu/programs/university/degreepilot.htm>.

## ##