

News Release

South Seattle Community College

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 18, 2005

South Seattle Community College Students to be Honored in Olympia

South Seattle Community College is pleased to announce that two of its students have been named to the All-Washington Academic Team.

Alexandra Johnston and Ngan Le will be recognized as top community and technical college students for their academic achievement and community service. The two are part of a group of students representing the state's two-year colleges. The students were nominated through a state program modeled after the national All-USA Academic Team, initiated by Phi Theta Kappa, the two-year college international honor society.

Alexandra Johnston got an early start at college and enrolled at South at sixteen as a part of the high school Running Start program. She did not rest when she got here, jumping at an opportunity to run for student government and becoming the first Running Start student to serve as a senator. She also has exercised her leadership skills as president of Phi Theta Kappa. She will receive her associate's degree in spring 2005 and plans to transfer to Washington State University, where she will major in communication. Her long-term plans include graduate school at Northwestern University in Illinois. After receiving a doctorate, she plans to get field experience as a press secretary and return to school as a university professor.

Ngan Le has had an interesting journey, coming to the United States by herself from Vietnam to pursue a degree in pharmacology. She is certainly is close to her dream; she will receive her Associate of Science degree in spring 2005 and plans to transfer to the University of Washington in fall 2005. Her long-term goal is to complete the UW's Doctor of Pharmacy program. Along the way, she has not forgotten the challenge it is to be a student, having to master a new language in English language courses before she could begin her studies. As a result, she has helped struggling students with her knowledge of math and science in the college Tutor Center.

The two students will be honored at an award ceremony on March 24 at South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia. Each student scholar will receive an All-Washington Academic Team medallion, a \$750 scholarship, and be personally recognized by Gov. Christine Gregoire.

This year, KeyBank and the Northwest Education Loan Association (NELA) have continued their sponsorship of the program. KeyBank will be granting \$250 scholarships to each member of the All-Washington Academic Team. NELA will add an additional \$500 to each scholarship. NELA is a not-for-profit guaranty agency that partners with schools, banks and other lending institutions to help students continue their education.

###

For more information contact: Michael May, Public Information Office, (206) 768-6873