

# News Release

South Seattle Community College

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2010

**EDITORS:** More information about Bellevue's, Olympic's and South Seattle's baccalaureate programs is attached, along with contacts for current students and graduates.

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## Three Puget-Sound area community colleges earn accreditation as baccalaureate institutions

*South Seattle, Bellevue and Olympic offering four-year degree programs.*

(Seattle, WA) Three Puget Sound-area community colleges have earned accreditation as baccalaureate colleges from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, the body that accredits all Northwest institutions of higher education, public and private.

Baccalaureate accreditation status means that the three colleges – South Seattle Community College (Seattle), Bellevue College (Bellevue), and Olympic College (Bremerton) – meet the standards for performance, integrity, and quality required of all bachelor's degree-granting colleges and universities.

The standards are set by the Northwest Commission, whose work is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education.

A fourth community college – Peninsula College in Port Angeles – is nearing the end of the application and review process for baccalaureate accreditation.

Following statutory authorization by the state legislature in 2005, the four colleges were selected in 2006 by the Higher Education Coordinating Board and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to be the first two-year colleges in the state to award four-year bachelor's degrees.

The colleges launched their baccalaureate programs in Fall 2007: bachelors of applied science in radiation and imaging sciences at Bellevue College, in nursing at Olympic, in hospitality management at South Seattle, and in applied management at Peninsula.

All four awarded their first baccalaureate degrees last spring – to a total of 57 graduates -- and continue to enroll new students in their programs.

MORE .....

BACCALAUREATE ACCREDITATION  
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Community college baccalaureate degrees were authorized as a way to address two educational needs across the state: more baccalaureate-level educational opportunities for state residents, and greater breadth and depth of skills in the state's workforce.

"There is high demand from Washington students to have access to bachelor's degrees that connect to growing industries," noted Dr. David Mitchell, president of Olympic College. "These degrees help get students ready for jobs. They also help employers tap into employees with these skills within the state instead of having to import workers with these degrees.

"We're preparing our own state residents for current and future positions. It's a win-win for employers and for students," said Mitchell.

Baccalaureate degrees at community and technical colleges combine two years of traditional freshman and sophomore curriculum -- to establish a broad understanding of the arts and sciences, provide a global viewpoint and promote critical thinking -- with two years of specialized, in-depth technical training in the skills employers identify as the most urgently needed.

"The state charges community colleges with the responsibility to meet local workforce needs," said Gary Oertli, interim president of South Seattle Community College. "And right now employers are telling us the workforce is woefully short of baccalaureate-level skills in many fields. We need to fix that if our region is to return to prosperity as swiftly as possible.

"But at the same time, we remain committed to our more traditional community college role. Our open-door associate degree, certificate and adult basic education programs all remain crucial to our communities," Oertli said.

"Community college baccalaureate programs offer benefits around the table," said Jean Floten, president of Bellevue College. "They serve employers' needs; they open up new opportunities to students who are place-bound by family or other obligations; and they conserve state resources by leveraging existing investments in college campuses and staffing. In addition, more education and greater prosperity mean better families and better communities," Floten added.

Since the first four community college baccalaureate programs were approved in 2006, four more have been added. Bachelors of applied design, behavioral science and management are offered by Lake Washington Technical College, Seattle Central Community College and Columbia Basin College, respectively, and Bellevue College launched a baccalaureate program in Interior Design in January 2010.

# Community and Technical College Baccalaureate Degree

## South Seattle Community College

<b>Name of college's degree</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bachelor of Applied Science in Hospitality Management</li></ul>
<b>First quarter and year degree started</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• September 2007</li></ul>
<b>Why this degree was selected</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Documented demand through industry and community research, including focus groups and in-person interviews.</li><li>• No similar program in western Washington. South collaborated closely with Washington State University, which has a similar program.</li><li>• A natural fit with South's existing Culinary and Wine Studies programs, and also a fit with other disciplines such as Business Information Technology.</li></ul>
<b>Approval process for the degree</b>	After authorization by the Washington State Legislature in 2005, research was conducted and curriculum developed. The program won approval from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and the Higher Education Coordinating Board.
<b>When and how many students graduated</b>	The first class of 22 students completed all hospitality management requirements in June 2009. All but one now are working in the field. Nine of the first class are completing the general education requirements of the degree. Full enrollment in our second class, and the third entering class in fall 2009.
<b>About the program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provides knowledge and hands-on experience in marketing, human resources, and management techniques in all facets of the hospitality industry. Employment options include hotel operations, restaurant management, travel/tourism, catering, cruise ship and casino operations.</li><li>• A 1000-hour industry experience requirement helps students gain additional professional competencies. Unique to the program is a quarter-long capstone project that emphasizes the application of theory in the working environment. Teams participate in a computer simulated virtual hotel management project, presenting results throughout the quarter.</li></ul>
<b>What it means for college to have accreditation status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The industry has shifted to valuing a four-year degree when making hiring decisions.</li><li>• "Place bound" students – those with limited ability to travel from their community – have an opportunity to earn this specialized four-year degree close to home.</li></ul>

### Employer's Viewpoint

For an employer's viewpoint on the importance of South's baccalaureate program in hospitality management, contact:

Michael Hirschler

Director of Human Resources, Four Seasons Hotel Seattle

Tel: (206) 749-4511 / email: [michael.hirschler@fourseasons.com](mailto:michael.hirschler@fourseasons.com)

## Student Profiles – South Seattle Community College BAS

- **Soledad Strubhar (206 762-3682)**  
Human Resources Assistant – Levy Restaurants at Qwest Field & Event Center

At the age of 40, Soledad Strubhar made the difficult decision to go back to school. A widow, raising two teenage sons, she had tired of her dead-end, routine personnel position at a human services center and wanted to pursue a more gratifying career that offered financially rewarding opportunities and the possibility of advancement. She found the hospitality industry intriguing, and South's BAS program met her needs for classes that fit in with her nearly full-time work schedule, and offered affordable tuition. She has been with Levy since 2008, and was hired as a human resource assistant after completing 1000 hours of BAS program internship with the company.

- **Andrea Kwok (425 894-3116, email: [aluvlyaznqt@yahoo.com](mailto:aluvlyaznqt@yahoo.com))**  
Front Desk Agent – MarQueen Hotel

Andrea went directly into the BAS program after she earned a degree in South's Culinary Arts program, and realized that she preferred cooking as a hobby rather than a full-time profession. Her introduction to the hospitality industry came through her program internship at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. After graduating, she obtained her current position at the MarQueen, one of Seattle's premier boutique hotels. While she has yet to decide on her ultimate career path, the 22-year old credits the BAS program for helping her build on teamwork skills, problem solving, and fundamental basics necessary to all aspects of the industry.

Soon to graduate:

- **Teresa Bohaty (206 664-3185, email: [suited@hotmail.com](mailto:suited@hotmail.com) or [tbohaty@mariners.com](mailto:tbohaty@mariners.com))**  
Centerplate Suites Manager – Safeco Field

## About South Seattle Community College

South Seattle Community College serves a multicultural population of 15,000 students each year from an 87-acre, wooded campus in West Seattle, and satellite campuses in the Georgetown and Beacon Hill communities. In addition to the four-year degree in Hospitality Management, programs include college transfer, professional/technical careers, distance learning, basic & transitional studies, and lifelong learning. South is one of the Seattle Community Colleges. Visit South at <http://www.southseattle.edu/>

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

# Community and Technical College Baccalaureate Degrees Bellevue College

<b>Bachelor's degrees offered</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor of Applied Science in Radiation and Imaging Sciences</li> <li>• Bachelor of Applied Arts in Interior Design</li> </ul>
<b>Quarter and year degrees started</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radiation and Imaging Sciences degree launched Fall Quarter, 2007</li> <li>• Interior Design degree launched Winter Quarter, 2010</li> </ul>
<b>Why these degrees were selected</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Radiation and Imaging Sciences degree</u>. Created because surveys of medical industry executives revealed an urgent need for radiation and imaging specialists with baccalaureate-level education. Before Bellevue College launched its program, there was none in Washington state to produce the personnel local medical employers needed.</li> <li>• <u>Interior Design</u>. The demand for baccalaureate-level interior designers in Washington is projected to grow at nearly twice the average pace for all occupations in coming years, due to advances in technology, new concerns for sustainability and accessibility, and stricter regulations and building codes. This is one of only two baccalaureate interior design programs in the state (the other is at WSU).</li> </ul>
<b>When and how many students have graduated</b>	<p>Bellevue College's first bachelor's degree graduates in Radiation and Imaging Sciences were awarded their diplomas in Spring 2009.</p> <p>100% of the graduates, a total of 20 students, are currently employed in their fields, many at salaries in the upper 5-digit range.</p>
<b>Graduate Profiles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill Daly (425-688-5495, <a href="mailto:william.daly@overlakehospital.org">william.daly@overlakehospital.org</a>) Bill Daly loved being a radiologic technologist but, lacking the requisite bachelor's degree, had no advancement prospects. His only option was to get a degree in business -- until Fall 2007, that is, when BC launched its bachelor's program, teaching the specific management skills and concepts needed in his field. Just four months after graduation, Bill broke through the advancement barrier with a promotion to Supervisor of MRI and CT at Overlake Hospital.</li> <li>• Maurya Radvilas (253-403-1000, <a href="mailto:maurya.radvilas@multicare.org">maurya.radvilas@multicare.org</a>) Although she has shown plenty of aptitude since entering the field of medical imaging in 1981, Maurya Radvilas does not have the master's degree necessary to fulfill her career ambitions. Until BC opened its radiation and imaging sciences bachelor's program in Fall 2007, she didn't even have an option for taking the first step: a bachelor's degree. But she entered the BC program that fall, graduating last spring. And on the strength of that education and her current pursuit of a master's degree in health care management, she has been named director of imaging at Multicare, and has a wide-open future before her.</li> </ul>
<b>Employer's viewpoint</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For an employer's viewpoint on the importance of BC's baccalaureate program in radiation and imaging sciences, contact: Brenda Rinehart, Director Medical Imaging Overlake Hospital Medical Center 425-688-5568 or <a href="mailto:brenda.rinehart@overlakehospital.org">brenda.rinehart@overlakehospital.org</a></li> </ul>

## About Bellevue College

Bellevue College offers educational programs in five general categories: a Bachelor of Applied Science in Radiation and Imaging Sciences; transfer study (the first two years of a bachelor's degree) in more than 50 interest areas; work-related training through more than 90 degree and certificate programs in such fields as health care, information technology, business and interior design; adult basic education, including English language training; and Continuing Education programs in computing and technology, business and workplace skills (including contract training tailored for the workforces of individual employers), languages, art, travel and personal enrichment. Visit Bellevue College on the web at [www.bellevuecollege.edu](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu).

Contact: Bob Adams (425-564-3081 / [bob.adams@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:bob.adams@bellevuecollege.edu))

## Community and Technical College Baccalaureate Degrees Olympic College

<b>Bachelor's degree offered</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor of Science in Nursing</li> </ul>
<b>Quarter and year degree started</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fall 2007</li> </ul>
<b>Why this degree was selected</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)</u>. The Olympic Peninsula is geographically isolated, so residents must travel long distances to pursue a bachelor's degree. A local Bachelor's of Science in Nursing degree allows working RNs to pursue a bachelor's degree closer to home and work, giving them more options for an advanced education and career advancement. In addition, a local regional hospital reported that its focus was to become a "Magnet" status hospital, which requires 70% of nurses to possess a BSN. Olympic College collaborated with the UW-Tacoma to "jump start" the program so the bachelor's program would be ready by Fall 2007.</li> </ul>
<b>When the first students graduated</b>	<p>Olympic College's first bachelor's degree graduates in Nursing were awarded their diplomas in Spring 2009.</p> <p>The degree was designed for working registered nurses. The degree allows graduates to expand their scope of practice, opening the door to work in public health, administrative positions, research, and teaching.</p>
<b>Graduate profiles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Megan Erickson (360-471-7561) For Megan Erickson, it was too long of a distance to travel to get a bachelor's degree and she wanted the benefits of being in a classroom, not online. She had family responsibilities and needed a closer location to pursue a degree and advance her career. In Fall 2007, Megan got her wish. Through OC's new bachelor's of science in nursing program, she was able to attend close to home and work part time at the local hospital as a registered nurse, until she graduated in Spring 2009. Now, Megan wants to get a masters degree and pursue a nurse practitioner license or become a certified nurse specialist, options she didn't have before getting her bachelor's degree from OC.</li> <li>• Jim Vaughan (360-286-9379) Jim Vaughan worked for 10 years as a registered nurse and wanted a bachelor's of science in nursing to start him on his educational path to a nurse practitioner. When OC launched the program in Fall 2007, Jim jumped at the chance. Since enrolling in the program, Jim was moved from an RN position to a House Supervisor at a hospital in Jefferson County. He will graduate in June 2010. When Jim has his bachelor's degree, he can take the next step in his education to get a master's degree.</li> </ul>

## About Olympic College

Founded in 1946, Olympic College is a community college with campuses in Bremerton, Poulsbo and Shelton and serves a population of 280,000 residents in Kitsap and Mason counties. The college offers a bachelor's of science in Nursing, associate degrees for transfer, and degree and certificates in several professional and technical programs. More than 13,000 students each year take college transfer courses, career training, pre-college courses, adult education, and continuing education classes. The college's website is [www.olympic.edu](http://www.olympic.edu).

Contact: Jennifer Hayes (360-475-7721 / [jhayes@olympic.edu](mailto:jhayes@olympic.edu))