

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 23, 2011

Ceremony to honor Steve & Sharon Huling

Expanded automotive technology training center to bear their name.

- When:** Tuesday, November 29, 2011
11 am – 12 noon
- Where** South Seattle Community College
Automotive Technology Center
6000 – 16th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98106
- What:** Unveiling of sign designating the future ***Steve & Sharon Huling Automotive Center***
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In June, 2010, the college recognized the Huling family of West Seattle for their 30+ years of support by naming an expanded and remodeled automotive technology training facility in their honor. The new center will ensure that students work with tools and equipment that closely match current industry standards.

“We deeply appreciate the Hulings for their generous, long-time support of the college,” said Jill Wakefield, chancellor of the Seattle Community Colleges and former South president. “Their on-going partnership with the college has resulted in nearly \$2 million in equipment, funds, and other support, which has advanced and improved the training opportunities for our automotive students.”

According to South President Gary Oertli, the remodeled automotive center will feature shop bays to accommodate 27 vehicles, compared to the current 18, and eight classrooms, five of which will be adjacent to shops. This equates to a 24% increase in space to 45,590 square feet, allowing the college to serve an additional 80 students. Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2016.

The Huling family’s generosity toward the college has included donating more than \$200,000 worth of vehicles and equipment for automotive training, said Elizabeth Pluhta, executive director of Advancement and Foundation. Steve Huling also encouraged employees from his former auto dealerships to serve as short-term instructors at South, she noted, helping students learn about the real

working world. A sponsor in the General Motors Marketing Internship program, he also provided student internships at his dealerships that often led to full-time employment.

Under Huling's leadership, the Huling Bros. Auto Center was honored with the Better Business Bureau Customer Service award in 2001, a recognition that South was pleased to support, Pluhta said. The Auto Center also earned the national Automobile Education Award from Northwood University in 2003, and was selected as Washington state's 2004 TIME Magazine Quality Dealer.

Steve Huling served on the board of directors of South's foundation from 1991 to 1996, and is a current member of the college's President's Advisory Council. He and his brother Tom were named South's Benefactor of the Year in 1987. The annual golf tournament they launched in partnership with Thrifty Car Rental raised nearly \$500,000 for the college foundation until 2007, when they sold their automotive businesses.

Sharon Huling is also active in community support. She was capital campaign chair for West Seattle's Holy Rosary Church in 2005-07, and has been a board member of the Southwest Historical Society and the Log House Museum. In the wider community she has held leadership roles with the Seattle Art Museum, Lakeside School and On The Boards.



Steve & Sharon Huling

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