

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dr. Mick Donahue
Phone: 360-679-5330
E-mail: mick.donahue@skagit.edu

Skagit Valley College Improves Marine Technical Education Program by Joining the Marine League of Schools

October 29, 2008 Oak Harbor, Washington Skagit Valley College, Whidbey Island Campus is pleased to announce it has joined the Marine League of Schools, a select group of marine technical schools affiliated with the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC). ABYC is the standards development organization for boat building and repair in the recreational marine industry. ABYC is also the workforce certification authority for marine technicians and professionals. As a member school in the Marine League, Skagit Valley College will now teach future marine industry employees using a standards-based, systems-oriented curriculum, known as the National Marine Trades Curriculum-Post Secondary (NMTC-PS). “Skagit Valley College is honored to join this elite group of schools. Combined with our Marine Maintenance Technology program’s move to Anacortes in 2010, Skagit Valley College will be a premier provider of marine related education,” said Dr. Gary Tollefson, president of Skagit Valley College.

The NMTC-PS was jointly developed by ABYC and the International Yacht Restoration School (IYRS). As part of this curriculum, these students will have the option to sit for the industry recognized ABYC Certifications before they graduate. This is the only marine industry curriculum written for distribution to this select group of schools. As a member school in the Marine League, Skagit Valley College will meet regularly with the other member schools to update the NMTC-PS and to compare current technical educational strategies for inclusion into their programs. Dr. Mick Donahue, vice president, Skagit Valley College, Whidbey Island Campus, South Whidbey and San Juan Centers sees joining the Marine League of Schools as “a great opportunity for Skagit Valley College to join forces with other educational entities on a national level in promoting marine technology training and certification”

In addition to Dr. Donahue, leading the effort on behalf of the college is Michael Swietzer, department chair Marine Maintenance Technology and Ann Avary, executive director Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing & Technology. Michael Swietzer reiterated the value of becoming a Marine League of Schools member “Skagit Valley College has always been the most complete training program on the west coast providing skilled workers in all areas of the marine trade. They were first and the only to partner with ABYC and offer ABYC certification. Being a Marine League partner is just the next step in continuing our

relationship with ABYC offering a full curriculum of marine certifications to make our students globally employable.”

For more information about Skagit Valley College, please call 360-679-5331 or visit our web site at www.skagit.edu.