

**Northwest Workforce Council  
For Immediate Release**

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**PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE BUILDS JOB SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY**

**MOUNT VERNON:** A successful collaboration between Northwest Workforce Council, Skagit Valley College, Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce and many local businesses has enhanced the employability of Skagit Valley College students. The three local organizations worked together through the Northwest Workforce Council's Opportunity Partnership Grant to provide job shadowing and internships with health and allied services employers in Skagit County.

Sixty students were matched with willing mentors and supervisors in medical clinics, long-term care and assisted living facilities, retirement homes and hospitals. SVC medical programs such as; Certified Nursing Assistant, Medical Assistant, Phlebotomy, Pharmacy Tech, Front Office Medical, and Patient Registration participated.

The companies and businesses that contributed to make this year's project successful were:

**Mount Vernon:** Ashley Gardens, The Bridge, Cascade Medical Center, Life Care Center, Mira Vista, Mountain Glen, NW Orthopedic Surgeons, SeaMar Clinic, SeaMar Community Health Center, Skagit Valley Hospital and Skagit Valley Medical Center.

**Burlington:** Burton Care Center, Community Action Agency, Creekside, Homeplace, United General Hospital, United General Outreach, and Where the Heart Is.

**Sedro Woolley:** Birchview Care Center, Country Meadow Village, Life Care Skagit Valley, North Puget Sound Cancer Center, Physician's Care Family Medical and Pioneer North.

**Anacortes:** Anacortes Family Medicine, Chandler's Square, Island Hospital, Fidalgo Care Center, Gentry House, and San Juan Rehab Center.

**In Addition:** Life Care Center at Friday Harbor, Josephine's Sunset Home at Stanwood, and Homeplace and Whidbey General Hospital at Oak Harbor.

The business-majority led Northwest Workforce Council, working in association with local elected officials, is responsible for oversight of the workforce development system in Island, Skagit, Whatcom and San Juan Counties. The Council sets the strategic direction and goals for the system and monitors the performance of an array of employment and training programs operating within the region. The Council and its partner organizations work strategically with economic development entities to ensure the vitality of the region's labor force and economy. For more on the Council and its work visit: [www.nwboard.org](http://www.nwboard.org). EO/AA/ADA institution.

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