



Classified Staff at the 2013 Awards Banquet



STTACC CHAT

Volume 11, Issue 1 - Fall 2013

In This Issue



From the President

Dear STTACC Members,

Thank you for allowing me to be the STTACC President this year. I am very excited to be a part of the STTACC Board, and I'm expecting another great year for STTACC.

Please join me in welcoming the new members to the Board, and thanking those who served as board members last year. I have learned a great deal of information from the veterans on the board, and I really appreciate all of their time and effort that they have put in and continue to put into this great organization. Their passion for what they do is very inspirational.

I am also very impressed with the energy that many new members are bringing to the Board this year. I am receiving emails every day about new ideas and how to make STTACC better than it already is. I am hoping that some of this energy rubs off on me because I'm sure that we are going to have a lot of objectives to accomplish in the coming year.

I cannot believe fall has come already. As we are hustling and bustling to make sure everything is ready for the start of classes take at least a moment to enjoy what you do. One thing I have learned in the last two months is that it is very important for all of us to take at least a little time to appreciate who we are and what we do. Sometimes it is important to "stop and smell the roses".

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Jim Soreson, STTACC President

**A STTACC Chat
2013 Annual Conference
Highlight Issue
"Then and Now"
at Big Bend
Community College**

Everythings New!

A one-of-a-kind conference introduced a new mission statement, logo and website to attendees live on stage!
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Exemplary Award Winners

Exemplary Staff Awards recognize one of the most critical attributes to a successful institution, Classified Staff.
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Classified Staff Speak

Two Classified Staff conference attendees talk about their goals and experience at this year's conference.
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From the President (continued)

The first day of classes is my favorite day of the quarter. I seem to be happiest when students fill the halls, and classrooms are finally buzzing with the sounds of instructors going over syllabi and students asking for their schedules, where the locations of their classes are, or how to find their advisor.

One of my favorite things to do is to show new students around the campus. This gives me a chance to get to know the student, and for me to keep in touch with my coworkers. It also allows me to see all the work that our grounds department does to keep our campus so beautiful. Even on our "greyest" days Grays Harbor College's magnificence comes shining through, and this is because of the pride that the grounds crew takes in our campus. I have seen this pride at every campus I have visited over the last five years (which I would not have been able to do without STTACC). I have never worked with so many people who love what they do, and do it with great energy that allows our students the best chance to succeed in their education, which is why we do what we do. This is why we are so devoted to STTACC, and why our conferences are so important to all of us.

I have heard a lot of great feedback from the conference last month. I would like to thank Big Bend Community College for hosting such a great event. I am also looking forward to the 2014 conference at Everett Community College August 14th and 15th. I hope many of you can join us for this great opportunity to learn new skills, reinforce old skills, and networking with others from around our great community and technical college (CTC) system. Not only do we get the chance to broaden our vocational skills, but there are also opportunities to help out on our personal lives, and to meet people who may someday become friends, not just colleagues.

In my five years at Grays Harbor College I have had the opportunity to forge some great relationships with the people who I work with, both at Grays Harbor College and from other institutions across the state. I have never worked with people who I admire as much as I do at in our CTC system. I feel for my coworkers as though they are my family members. I cry when I hear one is ill, and I rejoice when one becomes apparent or a grandparent. Since my accident this extended family has shown me how great it is to work in the CTC system. I have found a whole new passion for what I do, and who I work with. This passion goes far beyond Grays Harbor College; it also extends to all of you who work at other campuses and the SBCTC. I feel we are all cast from the same mold. This is why we chose the career paths that brought us together. To me it is a higher calling that brings us to work as classified employees in the CTC system, and I am proud to be a part of this great institution.

If you do not know me you will begin to realize throughout the year that I believe dearly in higher education. Without higher education and particularly the two year college system I really don't know where I would be today. Before my own education I was on disability due to an injury I sustained in 1991. That injury progressively got worse and to make a long story short I was deemed to be totally disabled in 1998. My doctor actually told me that I should move to Mexico where I could, "live like a king" on what I made from disability.

After a few months of sitting on the couch I felt like I was turning into a pile of mush. I knew I had to do something, so I enrolled at Grays Harbor College. My experience at GHC changed my life. I never liked high school, but I loved going to college, in particular GHC. As a student I saw the great

interpersonal relationships that the staff, faculty, and administration have with each other. These relationships were far better than I had seen anywhere else I have worked. I wanted to be a part of that someday. When I graduated from GHC in 2004 my long term goal was to come back and work at GHC once I had enough education and experience to get hired.

In June of 2008 I interviewed for the position I currently hold. At that interview I told the committee that if they didn't hire me for that position that they would see me again and again at future interviews because GHC was my number 1 choice for employment. I told the committee that I planned to apply for every position there for which I qualified for. That must have had an effect on the committee because I received a call a couple of days later with a job offer.

Today my feelings about higher education have greatly increased. With the recent recession and its impacts on our community I have seen what education can do for others. I have seen how great of an impact we make on our students every day. There is never a day in which I go home wondering if I am making a difference in peoples' lives. I know with every student I speak to that I am making a difference. I know that the information I give to students is taken to heart, and that I help guide students into making life long choices. I also know that if I give a student wrong information that there could be negative impacts as well. I know how important it is that I give correct and up to date information every time I speak to a student. That is why I believe STTACC is so important to our CTC system.

Without proper training resources which include up to date information we could be steering students in the wrong direction. Even if we are very competent in what we do today, if we don't have the ability to update our training regularly we could be like a GPS that has not been updated. We could be advising students to go one way, when they should be going another. It is very important to me that I do everything I can to avoid giving miss information, so I truly believe in STTACC's purpose and mission. I look forward to helping guide STTACC in the next year to furthering resources to STTACC members to help guide staff to more resources for training and development. The main tool for STTACC to communicate these resources is through the STTACC website.

If you have not done so yet I encourage you to surf STTACC's new website (<http://www.sttacc.net>). The website shows off our new logo, and it has a lot of helpful information. It contains a library of training resources that grows as time goes by (if you ever have training resources to add to the website please let the board know, we are always looking for new ideas to post). The website is also a great tool to find contact information for the Board if you have any questions, issues, or comments. Although the Board can help put the resources together we need help from all of our fellow staff people in the CTC system to send us resources so we can put it all together for others to reference. The website is one medium for getting this information out, another tool we have is the STTACC Chat.

We are always looking for writers for the STTACC Chat. If you have anything you would like to have published in our quarterly newsletter please submit your story, letter, or idea to STTACC's Communication Coordinator, Dionne Bonner at CommunicationCoordinator@sttacc.net. STTACC Chat is a great way to communicate to all of our fellow staff persons across the state. You can find current or past editions of STTACC Chat at STTACC's website(<http://www.sttacc.net/sttacc-chat.html>). Please feel free to access the newsletter whenever you have a few free minutes. It is always worth your time and effort.

As always please feel free to let the Board know anything you feel is important for us to help out at your college or technical school, or at the SBCTC by emailing board@sttacc.net . Have a great fall, and I'll be chatting with you next quarter, if not sooner.

James Sorensen
STTACC President
president@sttacc.net

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“Today my feelings about higher education have greatly increased. With the recent recession and its impacts on our community I have seen what education can do for others. I have seen how great of an impact we make on our students every day. There is never a day in which I go home wondering if I am making a difference in peoples’ lives. “

What's New with STTACC?



New Logo

Members voted and the brand new STTACC logo was revealed at the Annual Conference, August 8 & 9 at Big Bend Community College. Bob Mathison from Spokane Community College was the winning designer. Bob retired this year and worked as a designer at SCC. Attendees received many free items sporting the new logo, including water bottles, portfolios, pens and other great items.



"STTACC supports innovation, training and leadership by providing resources and connections to our Classified Staff members throughout Washington State."

A refined mission statement communicates STTACC's main goal, supporting Classified Staff training efforts statewide.



New Mission Statement



New Website



A user-friendly website with an updated design and new logo has been launched to better communicate the organizations goals, mission and purpose. Explore today to learn more about STTACC.

www.STTACC.net

We are asking YOU to help build a **NEW TRAINING TOOL** by contributing whatever training resource you can that are geared toward professional and personal development for Classified Staff.

Professional development is about moving yourself to the next stage in your learning curve, however, not only can this development be of use to you, as the individual but it can also benefit the company you work for. Because of this, companies should consider sending their staff on professional development courses in order to reap the spin-off benefits.

- You Retain and Sharpen Old Skills
- Development of New Skills
- Industry Trends - Keeping Up-to-Date
- Fresh Perspectives
- Networking Opportunities
- Expand Horizons and Explore Career Opportunities
- Energizing and Renewing

To contribute to the online Resource Library
email board@sttacc.net.

Benefit from a Shared Resource Library



New Training Resource Library



2013 - 2014 STTACC Board

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The STTACC Board is made up of Classified Staff employed at technical and community colleges throughout Washington State. From Spokane to Grays Harbor they volunteer their time to manage the business of running STTACC and planning annual events.

There are three ways you can get involved with STTACC:

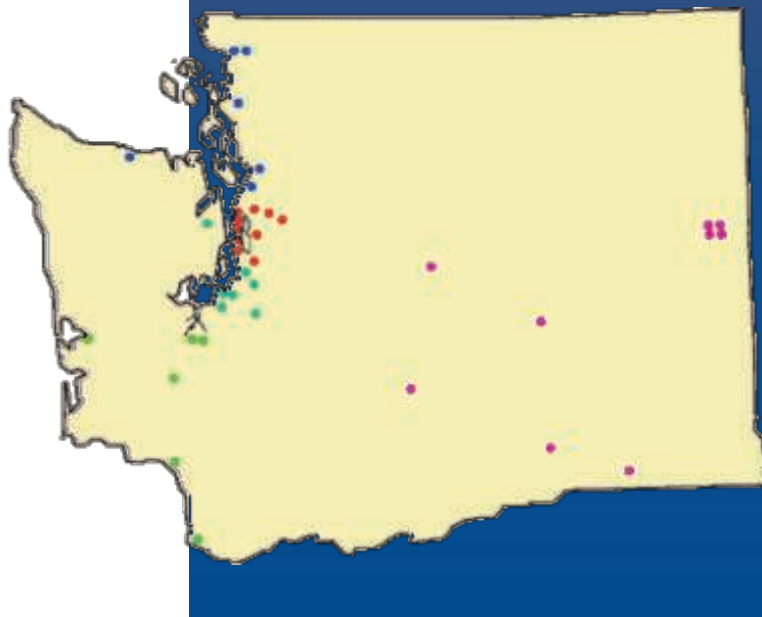
1. You can be a STTACC College Contact.
2. You can be a STTACC Region Coordinator representing a specific region. Region Coordinators are elected positions.
3. You can run for a STTACC Executive Board Office; elected positions President-Elect, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Webmaster and Communications Coordinator. The position of President is a transitional position.

State Regions & College Contact Information
www.sttacc.net/state-regions--contacts.html

The STTACC Board meets during the year at different member colleges to conduct STTACC business and plan for the Annual Conference. The board meets at the host college in Spring prior to the Annual Conference for final planning.

2013-14 Board Meetings (Tentative)

- Friday, October 18, 2013 at Pierce College
- Friday, January 17, 2014 at Wenatchee Community College
- Friday, May 16, 2014 at Everett Community College
- Wednesday, August 6, 2014 at Everett Community College





Laurie Chesterman Greys Harbor College
Region A Exemplary Award Winner



Sandy Johnson Olympic College
Region E Exemplary Award Winner

2013 Exemplary Award Winners

STTACC Exemplary Staff Awards have been established to provide annual recognition of Community and Technical College Classified Staff, and these distinguished awards will serve as an accolade to recognize one of the most critical attributes to a successful institution.

Region A: Laurie Chesterman - Greys Harbor College

Region B: Vickye Luke-Yabuki - Bellevue College

Region C: Carol Tompkins - Everett Community College

Region D: Brad Anderson - Walla Walla Community College

Region E: Sandy Johnson - Olympic College

Congratulations!



**A Look back at the
2013 STTACC
Annual Conference
"Then and Now"
at Big Bend
Community College**



**Classified Staff at the
Awards Dinner Banquet.**



STTACC rocks in Moses Lake!!



**2013 Region D Coordinator
Darci Alamos announces Region
D Exemplary Award Winner.**



**Region A Exemplary Award
Winner Laurie Chesterman.**



**Classified Staff
Carrie and Toemasina.
Read their interview
on pages 14 - 15.**

Region B Coordinator Marion Heard announces Region B Exemplary Award Winner.



Sandy Johnson, STTACC President - Elect with friend Jeanne Gardner.



Cathy Goodall & Frances Hector (WWCC)



Region A Coordinator Angela Fenn with Classified Staff.



Cleverly designed placemats transported attendees to yesteryear.

Gail Bellmore & Mindy Neissl



Attendees heard an inspiring message from Keynote speaker Coach Mark J Pot (R) on stage with Dale Casebolt, BBCC employee (L).



2013 - 14 STTACC Treasurer, Glorianne Bora presents information about next years Conference at Everett Community College

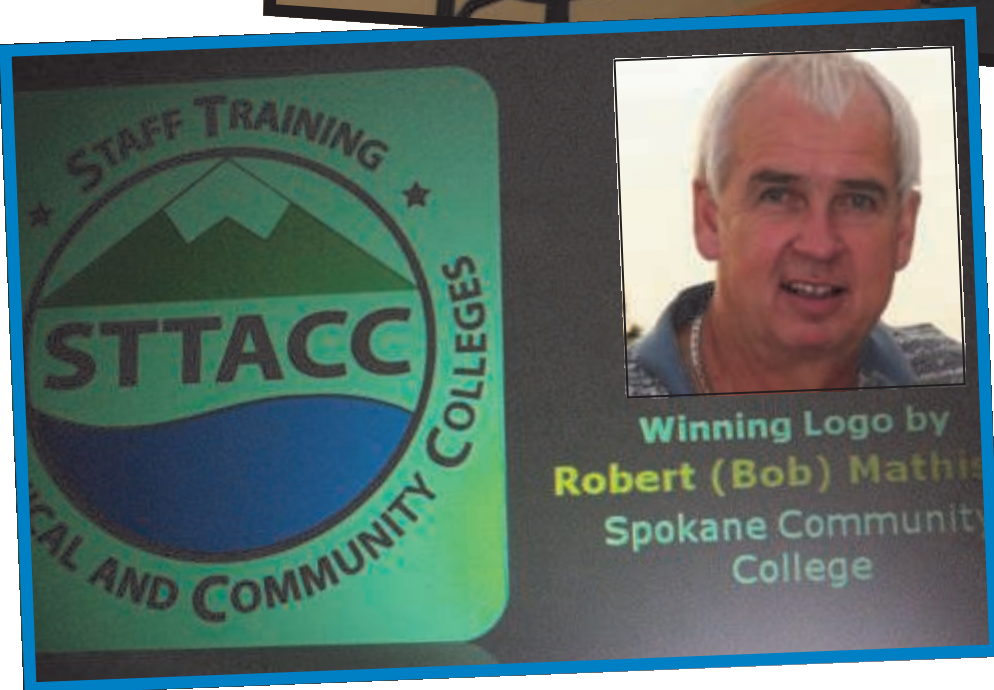
Awards Dinner included music from a local band.



A blast from the past memorabilia table.



STTACC Board Member Cindy Cannella announces Region E Exemplary Award Winner.



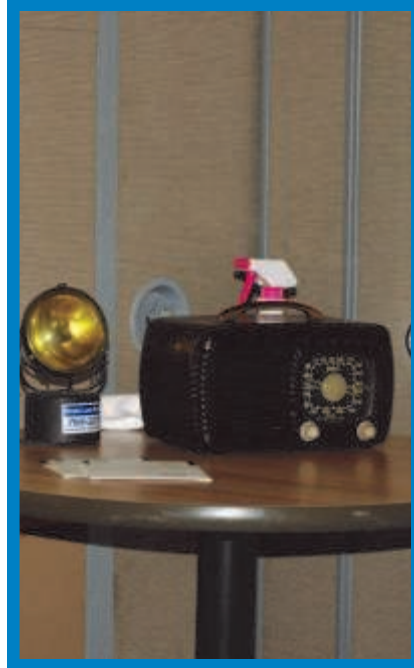
And the winner is...Bob Mathison from Spokane Community College. Bob designed the new STTACC logo. His design was highlighted live on stage at the annual conference.



2013 STTACC Board (L-R) Angela Feen, Cindy Cannella, Sandy Johnson, Dionne Bonner and Darci Alams.



Region A Coordinator Angela Fenn announces Region A Exemplary Award Winner.



Wow, look how far we've come.



Danielle Reed & Katie Schultz (WWCC)



WWCC & Skagit Valley group photo with Gail Bellmore, Mindy Neissl, Danielle Reed, Michele Garza (Skagit), Angelica Sanchez (Skagit), Frances Hector & Cathy Goodall



Cindy Cannella, Sandy Johnson and Jeanne Gardner



WWCC group photo with Gail Bellmore, Danielle Reed, Frances Hector, Mindy Neissl & Cathy Goodall



Barbara Collins and Starr Bernhardt, Conference Planning Committee



Attendees receive Conference give-aways



Gail Bellmore, Frances Hector, Katie Schultz, Cathy Goodall, Mindy Neissl & Danielle Reed (WWCC)



A blast from the past memorabilia table

2013 STTACC Annual Conference Photo Credits:
Photos by Jeanne Gardner, Angela Fenn, Mindy Neissl and Barbara Collins.



From The Staff

We asked questions of two Classified Staff members about their experience attending the 2013 Annual STTACC Conference.



Carrie Kirby - Dietrich

Program Assistant
Admissions/Registration

*Spokane Falls
Community College*

How did you hear about the Annual STTACC Conference?

Years ago from a coworker. She was on the STTACC Board.

What experience was the most memorable from this year's conference?

The Band! ha ha No actually, all the classes that I attended were very informative and interesting. Excellent Instructors! The keynote speaker was great also. I like to brainstorm with staff from other colleges to learn their procedures for different processes. I have learned some new techniques that make my job easier and more efficient.

Will you attend next year's conference in Everett? Why?

Yes, because I enjoy them and have learned a lot from each of them.

What is one future professional development goal?

To attend as many trainings as possible.

Would you recommend coworkers get involved in STTACC and attend an annual conference? Why?

Yes. Because it is fun and informative.

How would you rate this year's conference on a scale of 1 - 10?

9. The only reason I didn't give a 10 is because each instructor needs to have handouts to give to students at beginning of the class. If there is a power point, a printed copy of that needs to be handed out so that we may make any additional notes for ourselves. We do this at our classified trainings with Community Colleges of Spokane and it works very efficiently.

Have you ever served on the STTACC board and would you consider running for a board position in the future?

Possibly a few years down the road. I am having bilateral knee replacement surgery next month so I will be preoccupied with rehabilitation for a while.

What suggestions do you have for STTACC regarding the conference or any other aspect of the organization?

Just the suggestion I had in Question 8 concerning class handouts.

How can you get involved with STTACC?

Facebook

Facebook is a social network, a massive information hub. Share your stories, "Like" us and check in. Stay connected, view pictures, learn, laugh and explore STTACC on Facebook.

www.facebook.com/STTACC

STTACC Chat

Become a contributor. We want your information. Expose the great things happening on your campus and find out what member colleges are up too. Send info to your college contact.

<http://sttacc.net/state-regions-contacts.html>



Toemasina Talafili

Accounting Technician

Spokane Community College

How did you hear about the Annual STTACC Conference?

Other Employees

What experience was the most memorable from this year's conference?

It was more relaxing.

Will you attend next year's conference in Everett? Why?

Don't know.

Would you recommend coworkers get involved in STTACC and attend an annual conference? Why?

Yes. I think that employees should attend and see for yourself what STTACC is about.

How would you rate this year's conference on a scale of 1 - 10?

9.

Have you ever served on the STTACC board and would you consider running for a board position in the future?

No.

What suggestions do you have for STTACC regarding the conference or any other aspect of the organization?

I attended two conferences and the speakers were amazing.

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STTACC Listserv

Join the STTACC Listserv. Send one email and contact all list members.

The listserv works great and it's easy to use and join. Subscribe here:

www.lists.ctc.edu/mailman/listinfo/sttacc

BIG THANKS!!

STTACC Board and Big Bend Community College thank all those who helped make this year's Annual Conference a huge success. See you next year— *Everett 2014!*

State Regions, Region Coordinators & College Contacts

Did you ever wonder what region your college is in, or who to contact to give or receive information about STTACC events, college events and training resources?

The function of a region is to share ideas and to establish a communication network, assist in defining classified staff development regionally, furnish material to a newsletter and resource bank once a quarter, and elect a regional coordinator who coordinates those activities.

Contact your Region Coordinator or College Contact for more information about what's happening in your area.



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Region A Colleges

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Region E Colleges

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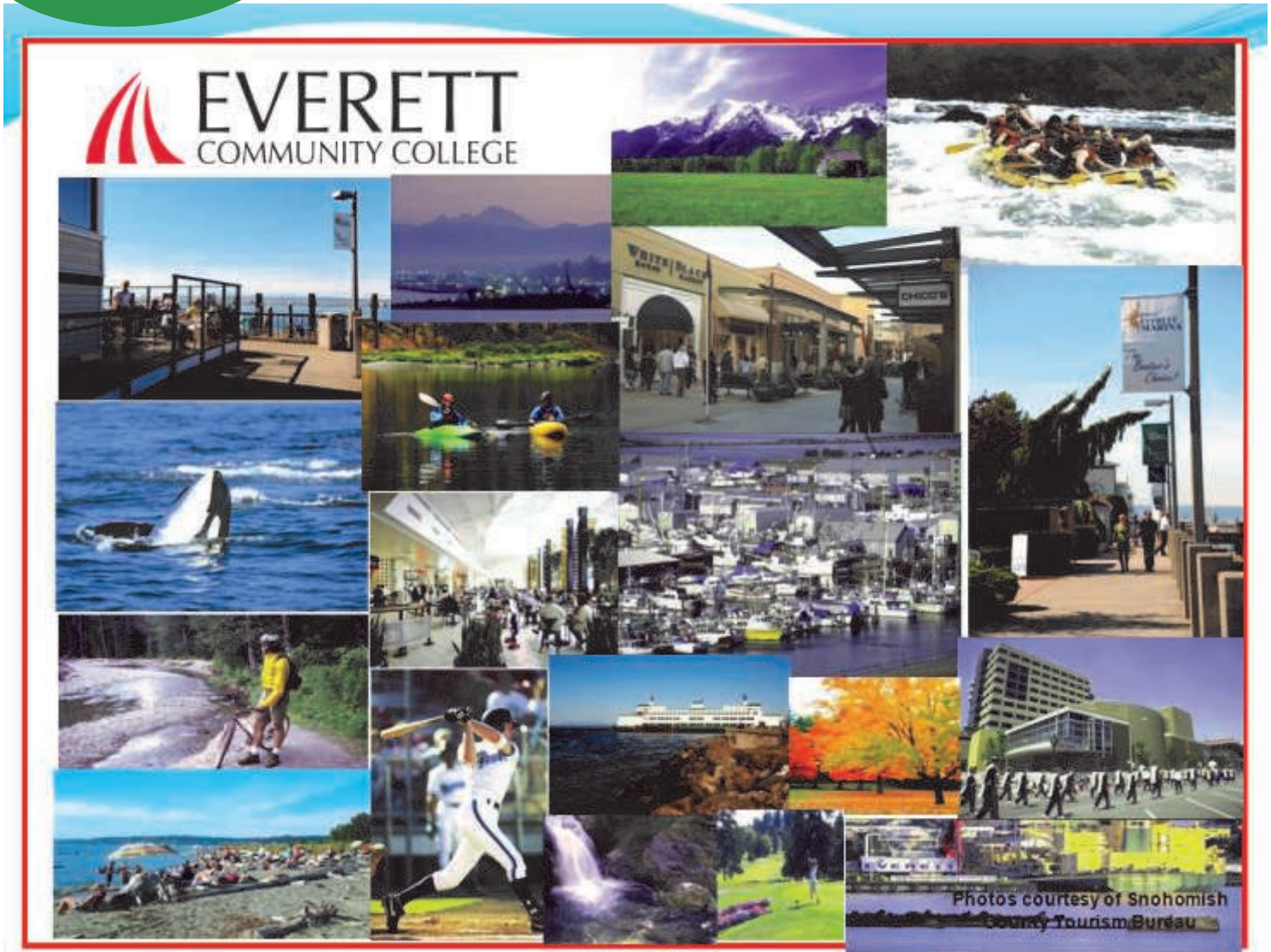
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STTACC 2014

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