



# STTACC CHAT

Fall 2018

## Letter from the President

It's Autumn in 2018, hard to believe. Hard to believe that I am taking over as STTACC President. My name is Micki Wells, I am a Telecom/IT Specialist at Green River College and I hope that I can help keep STTACC growing and all of us learning new skills and using our abilities as best we can, by sharing and teaching others.

A new fall quarter is a new beginning, and I know that each one of you have used your skills to make the start of this quarter a successful one. The Colleges need each one of us, the classified staff members. All of us, from, admissions, accounting, IT, maintenance, curriculum and many other departments each serve a very important role in the success of each college in our state. You all deserve acknowledgment of how hard you work – sometimes people don't realize how hard it is even to make it to work!



I really enjoy reading the STTACC Chat to see what other employees at all the colleges do for training and seminars. It gives me ideas and motivates me. So send in your ideas and your information of what your colleges does to keep you on track, to help motivate you, to increase your skills and make sure that this year – do something for yourself! Take advantage of some of the staff development opportunities that are available to you through your individual colleges. There are many options for training and workshops and seminars as well as employee tuition waivers for credit classes.

Each time you take a seminar or class you are adding to your accomplishments, becoming a more valuable employee and increasing your knowledge and becoming more involved in life. It does take an effort to take the time to learn something new, but you get such a sense of satisfaction when you do. Try it, you might be amazed at what you can do!

Let us know what you might want to see in the STTACC Chat or what might be helpful to you!

Have a GREAT FALL Quarter!

Sincerely,

Micki Wells, President, STTACC

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## Meet your 2018-2019 STTACC Board!

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**Region D**– Barb Collins  
**Region E**– Amelia Fortuno



## Thank you to the 2017-2018 STTACC Board

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# Who is your College Contact?

**Region A Coordinator: Cindy Muelken, Grays Harbor College, [regiona@sttacc.net](mailto:regiona@sttacc.net)**

**Centralia College**– Dick Lamb, [dlamb@centralia.edu](mailto:dlamb@centralia.edu)

**Clark College**- *\*\*Pending Membership\*\**

**Grays Harbor College**– Gail Winkelman, [gail.winkelman@ghc.edu](mailto:gail.winkelman@ghc.edu)

**Lower Columbia College**– Kendra Sprague, [ksprague@lowercolumbia.edu](mailto:ksprague@lowercolumbia.edu)

**South Puget Sound Community College**– Carolyn Clark, [cclark@spscc.edu](mailto:cclark@spscc.edu)

**SBCTC**– Pam Kelly, [pkelly@sbctc.edu](mailto:pkelly@sbctc.edu)

**Region B Coordinator: Nancy Harris, Seattle Central College, [region@sttacc.net](mailto:region@sttacc.net)**

**Bellevue College**– Mary Cox, [mary.cox@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:mary.cox@bellevuecollege.edu)

**Cascadia College**– Jan Ng, [jan.ng@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:jan.ng@bellevuecollege.edu)

**Lake Washington Institute of Technology**– Judy Mattson, [judy.mattson@lwtech.edu](mailto:judy.mattson@lwtech.edu)

**Renton Technical College**– Benjie Rae Henke, [brhenke@rtc.edu](mailto:brhenke@rtc.edu)

**North Seattle College**– Lori Whitish, [lori.whitish@seattlecolleges.edu](mailto:lori.whitish@seattlecolleges.edu)

**Seattle Central College**– Nancy Harris, [nancy.harris@seattlecolleges.edu](mailto:nancy.harris@seattlecolleges.edu)

**Seattle Colleges District** – Nancy Harris, [nancy.harris@seattlecolleges.edu](mailto:nancy.harris@seattlecolleges.edu)

**Seattle Vocational Institute** – Nancy Harris, [nancy.harris@seattlecolleges.edu](mailto:nancy.harris@seattlecolleges.edu)

**South Seattle College**– Lynn Christiansen, [lynn.christiansen@seattlecolleges.edu](mailto:lynn.christiansen@seattlecolleges.edu)

**Region C Coordinator: Amy Erickson, Skagit Valley College, [regionc@sttacc.net](mailto:regionc@sttacc.net)**

**Bellingham Technical College**– Alyssa Jones, [ajones@btc.ctc.edu](mailto:ajones@btc.ctc.edu)

**Edmonds Community College**– Charly Eaton, [charly.eaton@email.edcc.edu](mailto:charly.eaton@email.edcc.edu)

**Everett Community College**– Glorianne Bora, [gbora@everettcc.edu](mailto:gbora@everettcc.edu)

**Peninsula College**- *\*\*Pending Membership\*\**

**Shoreline Community College**– Ronald Carnell, [rcarnell@shoreline.edu](mailto:rcarnell@shoreline.edu)

**Skagit Valley College**– Michelle Garza, [michelle.garza@skagit.edu](mailto:michelle.garza@skagit.edu) & Amy Erickson, [amy.erickson@skagit.edu](mailto:amy.erickson@skagit.edu)

**Whatcom Community College**– Linda Compton-Smith, [lsmith@whatcom.edu](mailto:lsmith@whatcom.edu)

**Region D Coordinator: Barbara Collins, Big Bend Community College, [regiond@sttacc.net](mailto:regiond@sttacc.net)**

**Big Bend Community College**–Barbara Collins. [barbc@bigbend.edu](mailto:barbc@bigbend.edu)

**Columbia Basin College**– *\*\*Pending Contact\*\**

**Community Colleges of Spokane District Office**- *\*\*Pending Contact\*\**

**Spokane Community College & Institute Extended Learning**- Paula Truman, [paula.truman@scc.spokane.edu](mailto:paula.truman@scc.spokane.edu)

**Spokane Fall Community College**– Carrie Kirby-Dietrich, [carrie.kirby-dietrich@sfcc.spokane.edu](mailto:carrie.kirby-dietrich@sfcc.spokane.edu)

**Walla Walla Community College**– Corinna Whitehurst, [corinna.whitehurst@wwcc.edu](mailto:corinna.whitehurst@wwcc.edu)

**Wenatchee Valley College**- Amy Smith, [asmith@wvc.edu](mailto:asmith@wvc.edu)

**Yakima Valley Community College**– Heather Newman, [hnewman@yvcc.edu](mailto:hnewman@yvcc.edu)

**Region E Coordinator: Amelia Fortuno, Bates Technical College, [regione@sttacc.net](mailto:regione@sttacc.net)**

**Bates Technical College**– Amelia Fortuno, [afortuno@bated.ctc.edu](mailto:afortuno@bated.ctc.edu)

**Clover Park Technical College**– Karina Calzada, [karina.calzada@cptc.edu](mailto:karina.calzada@cptc.edu) & Roxy Sou, [roxanne.sou@cptc.edu](mailto:roxanne.sou@cptc.edu)

**Green River College**– Judy Brenden, [jbrenden@greenriver.edu](mailto:jbrenden@greenriver.edu)

**Highline College**– Mark Wynne, [mwynne@highline.edu](mailto:mwynne@highline.edu)

**Olympic College**– Jeanne Gardner, [jgardner@olympic.edu](mailto:jgardner@olympic.edu)

**Pierce College**– Kali Cruz, [kscruz@pierce.ctc.edu](mailto:kscruz@pierce.ctc.edu)

**Tacoma Community College**– Jill Merritt, [jmerritt@tacomacc.edu](mailto:jmerritt@tacomacc.edu) & Patricia Hermoso, [phermoso@tacomacc.edu](mailto:phermoso@tacomacc.edu)

# Thank you for attending the 2018 STTACC Conference!

We are looking forward to seeing you at the 2019 STTACC Conference at Pierce College!



# STTACC Conference Highlights



**Walla Walla Community College**  
Submitted by Corinna Whitehurst



The 40<sup>th</sup> STTACC conference began with registration, coffee, and networking at the Music and Art Center (MAC). After finding our seats, we were all welcomed by Wenatchee Valley College (WVC) President, Dr. Jim Richardson. Attendees were then treated to a short musical performance by a local cellist to demonstrate the amazing acoustics of the Grove Recital Hall. The morning also included keynote speaker, Sharon Lacey who was both entertaining and uplifting in her Motivational Humorist presentation. Sharon not only performed her comedy act but also shared her life experiences as a middle school teacher, entertaining troops overseas, and her work helping villages in Uganda, Africa.

WVC offered many great sessions given by college staff and community members, making it difficult to select only four workshops. I began my first breakout session with “Office 2016 Tools & Tips” presented by Sompheng Batch who demonstrated how to adjust settings in MS Word, customize the Ribbon, and where to go to check for accessibility of a document to name a few of the topics covered.

The second session I went to was Jessi Mendoza’s presentation about how to “Build Your Network and Community Partnerships.” He went over the basics of networking, finding common ground to build relationships, the importance of getting to know a variety of people, and connecting with others by using empathy. The day ended with the awards banquet at the Wenatchee Convention Center, featuring delicious entrees, lovely music played by local musicians, and prize drawings for the conference attendees.

Day two opened with getting to know colleagues from other campuses who work in similar departments to our own, followed by meetings by STTACC Region. Next was the STTACC Business Meeting and voting before we were on our way to more presentations. For session three, I attended “Stress Management Tools” presented by Dr. Allegra Hart who explained how establishing new habits can help to set up each day for success and improve both mental and physical health. She shared methods to manage stress and anxiety through daily body movement, planning each day, taking regular breathing breaks, eating the right foods for our body, and establishing set times for checking personal e-mail, notifications, and social media.

The last session I attended was Jennifer Cawdery’s “Know your Worth” in which participants did an exercise to identify their core values. In this workshop, Jennifer described how values, motivation, and intentions can influence decision-making. She also shared that it is important to daily engage with people who share similar values in order to strengthen and support our own. The conference concluded with lunch, a slide show of conference photos, and farewells until the next conference.





We were all proud to hear that the Region A Exemplary Staff Award Winner went to our very own: Matt Holder!



Matt works in the IT department at GHC and goes far beyond his scope of work when it comes to helping others. Matt is beyond prompt to help with technical issues or to answer questions. His positive personality rubs off on you when he is around. You never see him without a smile on his face even on his toughest days and a sense of humor that definitely brings a smile to those around him. Matt truly cares about his coworkers and his job.

The IT department does not get a lot of recognition that is deserved and if one of the IT staff shine brighter than the rest it is Matt.

Matt is our current president of the Staff Development and Training committee at GHC and has been an active member for several years.

Thanks for all you do Matt!

## Summer Olympics!

Jennifer Alt, the new Vice President of Student Services & Margo Hood, her Administrative Assistant, created GHC's 1st Ever Summer Olympics! It was a great way to break up the long 10 ½ hour days we work over the summer! It was a lot of fun with a lot of laughs, and some goofy challenges. which made for some great photo's that could come in handy later . LOL!

I think everyone who could participate had a great time, it was hilarious to watch as a spectator too !



We had teams called:

The Care Bears

The Fairest of Them All

The Textbook Turtles

The Minions

The Belcher's

Overall when it was said and done we had a tie for 1st place between The Turtles & The Care Bears.

# REGION D



Submitted by Barbara Collins

## **BIG BEND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

### **STAR (Staff Training and Recognition) Committee Training Update**

Current classified staff membership at BBCC is 72. From May to June 97 hours is reported for classified staff who have completed training opportunities for professional or personal development through campus training, online webinars or by attending statewide conferences and meetings.



A team of eight from BBCC attended the annual STTACC conference in Wenatchee. Staff who participated for the first time said the networking sessions and workshops topics were excellent. Information they gathered was helpful and they shared with other employees when they returned.

The STAR (*Staff Training and Recognition*) Committee is actively recruiting new volunteers to fill their 12-member committee for 2018-19. They will work collaboratively with the Employee Engagement Team to schedule campus workshops that benefits professional development for all employees.



### **Community Service Projects**

Our fall quarter project will include collecting Coats for Kids and food collection for the Viking Food Pantry. During the summer months campus personnel also contributed to the local school supply collection managed by the Vet Corps coordinator at BBCC.

### **Other Happenings**

Ground breaking for the new WorkForce Education building began May 15. This is a two-phase project originally known as the PTEC, Professional Technical Education Center.

The main building is 129,000 square feet with an estimated completion date of September, 2019. Automotive Technology will be the first program to be moved into the new space. Potentially, Welding Technology, Industrial Systems, will follow. If the second floor is fully funded, it will house Computer Science Technology, and the BBCC Technology department.



The Aviation Maintenance building is approximately 19,000 square feet and will begin on September, 2019 with potential completion February 2020.



## **COMMUNITY COLLEGES OF SPOKANE**

In April Community Colleges of Spokane launched three new student-centered websites. The websites showcase CCS commitment to putting students first. The websites make it easy for current and potential students to find the programs or assistance they need. Some key features include interactive tours of both campuses with 360-degree photos, a robust search function and accessibility for people with disabilities.

This was a joint project of CCS marketing and IT departments. CCS district covers 12,300 square miles including Spokane Community, Spokane Falls, and six rural education sites. The college serves 30,000 students annually.

## **WALLA WALLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



Welcome Corinna Whitehurst, new College Contact for Walla Walla Community College (WWCC). Corinna began working part-time at WWCC in 2009 while fulfilling her general education credits at the college. In 2012, Corinna earned an online AS degree in Library Information Technology through the distance learning program at Cuesta College, a community college located in San Luis Obispo, CA. Currently a Library & Archives Paraprofessional 3, Corinna has enjoyed assisting students, faculty and staff at the WWCC Library for 8 years.



College personnel began returning to campus the first week of September. On Monday, September 10th, WWCC kicked off the new school year with a Welcome Back Address, presented by college President Derek Brandes. This year the college held a two-week Pre-Fall Conference "Habits of Excellence" which included training sessions and departmental open houses for all faculty and staff on campus, including a two-day orientation for new employees.

## **YAKIMA VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



YVC is considering opening the Multicultural center that has been closed for 11 years. The center operated for four years but closed in 2007. At the time the center was developed as a strategy to improve student outcomes. Should the center reopen, they want to include a book-borrowing system and donation center where students who can't afford books can come and use them for the quarter. A food pantry is also being considered in the space.

In spring 2018, the Madrigal Feast returned to YVC. The last time this event took place was when the music instructor who organized the event, retired in 2011. This was a fundraising dinner to benefit the Department of Music that supports the Choir's spring tour to Yakima Valley high schools and a trip to Portland. Several administrators, faculty, and staff participated by dressing in 16<sup>th</sup> century tradition. The event featured acted script, choral music, carols, jokes, and table entertainment.





What a wild summer. The conference is over and one of the highlights is the networking event. This is a great opportunity to meet new colleagues from around the SBCTC institutions and share best practices.

Now on to the busiest time of the year, fall quarter. A time to meet new employees and welcome back our students.

There were nine new employees and our classified staff count is 82. No trainings are scheduled for fall at this time.



## **Staff Spotlight**

Meet Nancy Harris Seattle Central's Program Coordinator for the Healthcare and Human Services Department!

**What do you enjoy most about your current position?**

Going home at the end of the day.

**What is your favorite part of working for your college?**

Working with the students.

**What was your most embarrassing moment at work?**

Giving my speech for the Exemplary award winner.

**What was your favorite professional development opportunity that you have participated in and why?**

The STTACC Conference, it is a great place to network and get some brainstorming ideas flowing.

**How do you define success?**

Success is being part of today's society. I go to work M-F, I wake up every morning, and I get to spend time with my family and friends.

**Who was the most inspiring and motivational speaker you have ever seen or heard and why?**

I really enjoyed Sharon Lacey, she inspired me and made me laugh. Now I know it is appropriate to arm wrestle students.

**What is your favorite quote?**

My aim is to please, you aim too please. Or it is better to be pissed off than pissed on?

# REGION E



## Green River

Submitted by Judy Brenden

The 2018 STTACC annual conference was held in Wenatchee this year with Wenatchee Valley College hosting the conference. We took a "Walk on the Wild Side". Green River had 5 classified staff attend, Niki Nelson, Micki Wells, Sue Finnestad Amrit Gill and Leilani Hognlund. There were several workshop sessions to choose from including, Pacific Crest Trail presentation, CTCLink Project Update, Office 2016 Tools & Tips, Know your Worth, Security, Safety and Emergency Management, True Colors, Stress Management and Building Your Network and Community Partnerships and New and Notable Apps for mobile computing. The workshops were very interesting and informative and we all learned something new.

There are 2 classified staff from Green River College who are on the STTACC board. Micki Wells is the president for the 2018-2019 year and Niki Nelson is the recording secretary for the 2018-2019 year. We are looking forward to an exciting year of training and networking.

Coming up is Green River's opening week. This includes opening day for all staff with an all-day program focusing on "Inclusion" with keynote speaker -C. Nicole Mason, author of "Born Bright: A Young Girl's Journey From Nothing to Something in America. Green River is also having a fall in-service day with a variety of workshops including 2 from the classified staff – "Using Classified Staff Training Funds for Continuing Educations" and "Rock Painting". We are looking forward to an exciting fall quarter! That's the Green River College Update!

## Bates Technical College

Submitted by Amelia Fortuno

LeAnn Dreier Receives Region E Exemplary Staff Award We are proud to announce that LeAnn Dreier received the STTACC Region E Exemplary Staff Award at last month's conference. LeAnn is the Development Specialist for the Bates Technical College Foundation. She was nominated multiple times because of her involvement in several committees and her regular participation in after-hours and off-site events for the college. She is a natural leader when it comes to project management and event planning. LeAnn is supportive of those around her and can often be found sharing "tools of the trade" and other tips to help her peers grow and be successful at hosting events in the future. Among other significant job duties, her work involves managing the scholarship system, which helps fund tuition, child care and other needs that support marginalized students, and students with socioeconomic disadvantages. She is able to assess student need and advocate for funding to support the students. LeAnn makes time in her schedule to present at the New Student and New Employee Orientations about the importance of the Foundation, and how it helps the student body, and she works closely with college employees and donors to procure donations for scholarships and other foundation initiatives. She is also an active member of the Bates Activities and Recognition Committee, where she helps plan events and activities in an effort to boost morale and encourage camaraderie among college employees.

Professional Development Training In August, Pat Taylor, Executive Director of IT, provided a training session on Email Security and Management. He taught us how to recognize phishing attempts and determine whether or not a message's content is safe. We also learned tips for organizing our mailbox and rules to help us decide which messages can be thrown away. On September 24, employees will gather for Opening Day. We will have a session called Culturally Responsive College Communities by Ben Ibale. It is designed to help educators become more culturally responsive and improve their engagement with students from diverse backgrounds, social groups and cultures through meaningful connections.

## STTACC Mission Statement

*STTACC supports innovation, training and leadership by providing resources and connections to our classified staff members throughout Washington state.*

### Be a guest writer!

Do you like to write? Do you have a special skill or experience that would benefit other Classified Staff ? Or know someone else you does? We are looking for guest writers to write for the STTACC website and STTACC Chat.

### If you would like to contribute to the next STTACC Chat, we would love to hear from you!

- Submit an article about an informative conference you went to.
- Tell us about the types of training or classes you have participated in.
- Who is retiring? Who was just hired? Who received a promotion?
- Highlight a unique department or program on your campus.

STTACC welcomes the opportunity to share training workshops, classes, conferences attended, certifications obtained, and other professional development opportunities geared toward classified staff. Email your [Region Coordinator](#) submissions by January 18th, 2019 to be published in the winter issue of STTACC Chat!

STTACC Chat is published quarterly. The Communication Coordinator, also acts as editor. If you see any errors or omissions, please contact [communicationcoordinator@sttacc.net](mailto:communicationcoordinator@sttacc.net).

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