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WCC WORKS TO ADDRESS NURSING SHORTAGE THROUGH NURSING INSTRUCTOR RECRUITMENT BOOT CAMP

Bellingham, WA, February 8, 2011 – The shortage of nursing faculty in the United States is a critical problem that directly affects the nation’s nurse shortage. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Registered Nursing is the top occupation in terms of the largest job growth from 2008 – 2018, with government analysts projecting more than 581,500 new RN jobs created through 2018. Other federal projections indicate that by 2020, the U.S. nursing shortage will grow to more than 800,000 registered nurses.

A major contributor to this shortage is the lack of nursing faculty to meet the demand of qualified students applying to collegiate programs. Two-thirds of nursing schools turn away qualified applicants due to lack of faculty (American Health Care Association, 2008). A substantial increase in newly educated nurses will be needed to meet future demand and Whatcom’s RN Instructor Recruitment Boot Camp is one local method to get the ball rolling.

Whatcom Community College will be hosting its RN Instructor Recruitment Boot Camp on Thursday, February 17 on campus from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The “boot camp” offers a comprehensive program of workshops and trainings that will enable participants to discover how they can become a nursing instructor by exploring how their experience can transfer to a college teaching position and learning about Washington State qualifications to teach. The goal is to emphasize the importance of Registered Nurses sharing their experience with the next generation of RNs. Event registration is only \$25 and includes lunch.

EARN, Encore Alliance of Registered Nurses, is coordinating the event and is a program through WCC designed to support Registered Nurses in three major areas: social impact through areas like mentorship and career awareness, re-careering by exploring what it means to enter the field of nursing education, and professional development by providing continuing education opportunities.

For more information about the RN Instructor Recruitment Boot Camp, please visit www.whatcom.ctc.edu/rnbootcamp or contact Amy Riedel at ariedel@whatcom.ctc.edu.

WCC is a comprehensive two-year college serving over 7,600 students quarterly. Whatcom offers transfer degrees, professional training programs, as well as basic education, job skills and enrichment classes. For more information about Whatcom Community College, please contact Nate Langstraat at 360.383.3310 or visit www.whatcom.ctc.edu.

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