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For Immediate Release
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SW Washington Students to Benefit from Community Donations

Thanks to several donations through the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington, the Clark County Skills Center, 12200 NE 28th Street in Vancouver, will break ground on a \$1.7 million technology building during the summer of 2001. Ed and Mary Firstenberg, owners of First Independent Bank, provided an initial donation of one million dollars. This was followed by additional contributions from Ed and Dollie Lynch of Vancouver, Northwest Natural, Clark County School Employees Credit Union and the Skills Center capital construction account. The Skills Center is owned and operated by the following school districts: Battle Ground, Camas, Evergreen, La Center, Ridgefield, Vancouver, Washougal and Woodland.

The 11,000-square-foot building will allow the Skills Center to help address the county's growing enrollment. When the building opens in January 2002, enrollment at the Skills Center is expected to be 870 students. Currently, the Skills Center serves 8 percent of Clark County's high school juniors and seniors -- 735 students in all -- exceeding the 680 student capacity of the existing three buildings on campus.

The technology building, which has been on the Skills Center's drawing board for four years, will house four instructional programs when it opens in January of 2002. Features of the new building will include a computer lab to enable businesses or local agencies to offer their own computer training classes as well as a branch of First Independent Bank.

For more information, contact Skills Center Director Dennis Kampe at (360) 604-1050 or dkampe@egreen.wednet.edu.