

# **SKILLS CENTER**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Skills Center Students Feed Governor's Bash**

What began as a class on Mediterranean Cuisine at the Clark County Skills Center grew into a road trip to the Washington Gubernatorial Inauguration and a chance to hang out with newly elected Governor Christine Gregoire. Chef Andrew McColley developed a real-world teaching lesson that took his students beyond the Skills Center walls that house his Restaurant Management/Culinary Arts Program.

On Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, McColley and 14 of his students carefully prepared and then loaded 3500 hors d'oeuvres heading north for Olympia to participate in the post-inaugural reception for Governor Christine Gregoire. Upon arrival, they were stationed along the perimeter of the Capitol Rotunda, offering cuisine from four Mediterranean countries:

France: Roquefort mousse in tartlet, tuile spoon with sugared grapes.

Egypt: Phyllo cups with curried cream cheese and tandoori chicken.

Italy: Sun-dried tomato baguette with fresh mozzarella; prosciutto with kalamanta olives.

Greek: English cucumber cup with dilled crème fresh and smoked salmon.

The students also built a display of an underwater Orca whale made from pulled sugar and blown sugar.

For more information, call Chef Andrew McColley or Greg Retchless at (360) 604-1050. Opened in 1983, the Clark County Skills Center is located at 12200 NE 28th Street in Vancouver. It is owned and operated by nine southwest Washington school districts providing technical and professional training programs to prepare Clark County high school and college students for the workforce.

(Caption to attached picture:

Justin Smyth, Heritage HS senior; Governor Gregoire; Kristopher Willard, Heritage HS senior; Richard "Pele" Ahloo, Heritage HS senior; Jonathan Watts, Camas HS senior.)