

SKILLS CENTER

PRESS RELEASE

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Local Hotel Industry Bolsters Skills Center

The local hospitality community has stepped up its commitment to an educational partnership with the Clark County Skills Center. Students enrolled in the Skills Center's Travel and Hotel Management program will now benefit from new scholarship dollars being offered to support post-secondary education.

Participating hotels include the Heathman Lodge, Embassy Suites at the Airport, Holiday Inn at the Airport, the Red Lion Hotel on The River at Jantzen Beach, the Northwest Hospitality Group (with three local properties: Homewood Suites at Columbia Shores, Country Inn at the Airport and Staybridge Suites at the Airport) and the Clark County Lodging Association.

Each has pledged to provide \$500 to \$1000 scholarships to Travel and Hotel Management students. Based on the new agreement, each hotel will sponsor a student who exhibits outstanding performance throughout the academic year and then award the student scholarship money to continue a post-secondary education.

In the Skills Center program, students from southwest Washington intern at local hotel properties. Their classroom curriculum is shaped by national standards, endorsed by the American Hotel and Lodging Association and monitored by a Program Advisory board of travel and hotel professionals to assure "real world" application. The students earn industry certifications and college credit while the hotels are able to handpick future employees. For more information, contact program instructor Pantelis Zafiriou at (360) 604-1050.

Opened in 1983, the Skills Center is owned and operated by ten southwest Washington school districts providing technical and professional training programs that prepare Clark County high school and college students for the workforce.