

SKILLS CENTER FOUNDATION **PRESS RELEASE**

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Contact:
Katie Foehl
(360) 604-1001, XT 2178

Skills Center Foundation Pays Tribute to Donors

An institution, five of its volunteers and two other donors were honored at the second annual Donor Recognition Dinner presented by the Clark County Skills Center Foundation.

The Southwest Washington Medical Center was lauded for \$14,500 in recent contributions, donation of vital medical and hospital equipment and recruitment of graduates from the Skills Center's Applied Medical Sciences and Legal-Medical programs.

Additionally, five volunteers from the SWWMC were recognized: Rich Gibler, Director of Education Services, Past Chair of the Skills Center General Advisory Council who has served on the GAC since 1995; Breda Yates, senior recruiter, and Doug Williams, career development specialist, who are on the Skills Center Legal-Medical Program Advisory Committee; and Kelly-Marie Wehl, Emergency Room Clinical Manager, and Gail Helland, Cancer Support Services Health Educator, both members of the Skills Center Applied Medical Sciences Advisory Committee.

Robert and Mary Hyde of Vancouver contributed \$7200 to send five students from the Skills Center Restaurant Management/Culinary Arts program to the Western Conference of the American Culinary Federation in Sacramento, California. The gift paid for registration, hotel, daily expenses and airline fares. In it's first-ever appearance, the Skills Center was the only high school competing and amassed point totals of 620 and 600 out of 640.

Mary LaPlante of Portland also established a \$2000 scholarship in memory of Clay LaPlante for continuing education for a culinary student. Their granddaughter Melissa Bailey graduated from the program in 1998.

The Skills Center Foundation develops and manages financial resources to enhance the Skills Center educational programs. Opened in 1983 at 12200 NE 28th Street in Vancouver, the Skills Center is owned and operated by nine southwest Washington school districts. It provides 15 technical and professional training programs to prepare Clark County high school and college students for the work force.

For further information, please call Skills Center Foundation Development Director Katie Foehl at (360) 604-1001, XT 2178.