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WHATCOM NAMED NATIONAL CENTER OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
WCC One of Only 13 in Nation to Receive Recognition for Cyber Security Education

Bellingham, WA, May 20, 2011 – Whatcom Community College was recently named as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Two-Year Education (CAE2Y) by the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security. One of only 13 community colleges in the nation, the designation affirms the quality of Whatcom’s CIS Program, touting the caliber of the curriculum, credentials of the faculty, and nationally-recognized program certifications. This designation covers academic years 2011 through 2016.

CIS Program Coordinator Corrinne Sande commented, “We are pleased to receive this prestigious designation. This will improve our students’ prospects for employment and academic transfer, as well as confirms that they are enrolled in a program that is nationally-recognized.”

This institutional designation recognizes Whatcom’s commitment to cyber security education. The recognition of excellence in this area helps pave the way for program graduates to enter the workforce more easily, providing potential employers with a standard and an understanding of the knowledge and skills these graduates are acquiring. As a National Center of Academic Excellence, WCC benefits from standardized curricula, articulation to four-year institutions, student recruitment to this field of study, student job placement, and industry and community recognition and support.

The NSA commented, “Your [Whatcom’s] ability to meet the increasing demands of the program criteria will serve the nation well in contributing to the protection of the National Information Infrastructure. The President’s National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace addresses the critical shortage of professionals with these skills and highlights the importance of higher education as a solution to defending America’s cyberspace.”

Sande and College Trustee Sue Cole will receive Whatcom’s certificate on behalf of the institution during a ceremony at the 15th Annual Conference of the Colloquium for Information Systems Security Education on June 14 at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Fairborn, OH. College President Kathi Hiyane-Brown stated, “The College is extremely proud of this national recognition and the attention it brings to our community as an educational leader in the growing field of cyber security. This designation affirms WCC’s key role in preparing students to pursue careers in information assurance.”

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

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