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**WCC FACULTY MEMBER TRESHA DUTTON WINS STATEWIDE AWARD**



**Bellingham, WA, April 20, 2012** – Tresha Dutton, a Whatcom Community College Communications Studies instructor, is one of four statewide winners of the Anna Sue McNeill Assessment, Teaching and Learning Award. The award is presented by the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges and recognizes Dutton’s contributions to student learning. She will be honored at the 2012 Assessment, Teaching and Learning Conference, May 2-4, in Vancouver, WA.

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Dutton, a full-time faculty member at Whatcom since 1999, was appointed faculty Outcomes Assessment Coordinator in 2008 at a critical juncture for the College's assessment program. She worked with Whatcom colleagues on a complete redesign of the College's assessment program, resulting in improved clarity regarding learning outcomes. "While faculty still have flexibility in how they teach, this work creates less variability across the sections," Dutton says. "This is important for students because it clarifies what they should be learning in a particular class and how they will move toward that outcome. The goal is improved comprehension and enhanced success in school and, ultimately, in the workplace."

As part of the award nomination, VP for Instruction Ron Leatherbarrow wrote, "Tresha's contributions to the work in assessment cannot be overstated. Faculty trust her expertise and leadership, and she models the necessary creative resource and diligence. ... Further, she applies her knowledge in effective communication, providing cogent information, energy, enthusiasm, humor and sensitivity, as well as quiet orchestration of the discussion ... " resulting in an effective end product.

Dutton, who earned her bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees at the University of Washington, is a Bellingham native. On campus, she has been a faculty union officer and a member of the Union Executive Committee as well as department chair for social sciences, WCC's largest department.

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In addition to specific contributions to teaching, student learning and assessment, award recipients were selected based on their versatility and willingness to take risks with strategies and materials that are student-centered; enthusiasm about their own learning, continued education and current research in the field; contributions to the teaching profession; and fostering respect and maintaining a professional relationship with both students and colleagues

The Anna Sue McNeill award was established by the State Board in 2007. It honors McNeill, who served in higher education at the State Board for 30 years. Award organizers say McNeill was committed to excellence in assessment, teaching and learning, and provided leadership statewide through ongoing communication and special events.

Whatcom Community College is an accredited, comprehensive two-year college with a committed, accomplished faculty and staff who serve more than 7,600 students quarterly. On its beautiful 71 acre campus in Bellingham WA, and through on-line courses, 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 visit [www.whatcom.ctc.edu](http://www.whatcom.ctc.edu).

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