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WCC, LOCAL EDUCATION PARTNERS WELCOME NATIONAL LEADER OF MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTION

Bellingham, WA, Feb. 25, 2013 – Bellingham residents have an exceptional opportunity to interact with a national leader in the field of mathematics education when Linda Gojak, president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), visits local schools, colleges and universities during an upcoming March visit coordinated by Whatcom Community College. Math instruction is a topic of interest to parents, educators and legislators who are focused on implementing the common core standards nationwide. WCC and other higher education institutions are working with K-12 educators to ensure students are prepared to succeed.

During her March 11-13 visit, Gojak will observe math classes and meet with teachers at Sunnyland Elementary School, Whatcom Middle School and Bellingham high schools. She will tour math classes and visit Grades 7 – 12 math teachers and the elementary math coach at Lummi Nation School. She will also meet mathematics faculty and graduate students at Western Washington University as well as math faculty and students at Whatcom Community College.

Community members are invited to hear Gojak's thoughts on the state of math education in the 21st

Century at a 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 13 presentation at Heiner Center on WCC's campus.

A reception will follow.

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"As we consider effective mathematics education at all levels in the 21st century, there are many ideas we need to consider. Among these are the impact of technology on teaching and learning,"

Gojak says. "We must always consider the importance of developing reasoning and sense making in our students beginning in PK and following through to lifelong learning."

Whatcom math instructor Doug Mooers organized Gojak's visit to share her perspectives with local educators and students. WCC President Kathi Hiyane-Brown says, "This visit – especially the partnership among local colleges and schools – exemplifies Whatcom's commitment to collaboration that leads to innovation."

Gojak is director of the Center of Mathematics and Science Education, Teaching, and Technology at John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio. In 1990, she received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. She began her two-year team as NCTM president in April 2012. With more than 100,000 members and 230 affiliates, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics is the world's largest organization dedicated to improving mathematics education in pre-kindergarten through grade 12.

Whatcom Community College is an accredited, comprehensive two-year college serving more than 11,000 students annually. On its 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 Continuing and Community Education classes. For more information about WCC, visit www.whatcom.ctc.edu.