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WCC's Auxiliary Services Building Earns LEED Silver Certification

Bellingham, Wash. – Whatcom Community College's (WCC) Auxiliary Services Building has earned Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification, according to the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The building, which opened spring 2013, reflects WCC's commitment to sustainability.

Designed to meet LEED standards, the Auxiliary Services Building provides a learning opportunity for students and visitors to experience the value of green building. Sustainable design elements such as windows that open, natural daylight, and quality heating and ventilation systems contribute to a healthy, productive environment for the WCC employees who work in the building. Features include:



- Native and adapted plantings to maximize irrigation and to manage storm water naturally
- Restoration and protection of the category III wetland near the project
- Biking infrastructure to minimize single-occupancy vehicle trips
- Electric vehicle charging station and designated parking for alternative fuel vehicles
- Light pollution reduction to reduce adverse effects of artificial light, including disruption to wildlife patterns, sky glow and energy waste
- Plumbing to reduce water use by 40 percent compared to conventional buildings
- Rainwater harvesting for irrigation
- Rain gardens for pre-treatment of storm water
- Lighting scheme 29 percent more efficient than conventional design. Exterior lighting is 50 percent more efficient
- Modeled to use 28 percent less energy than conventional design
- 56 240-Watt photovoltaic panels on the roof, with a total power rating of 13.44 Kilowatts. System will produce an estimated 14,000 Kilowatt Hours per year, enough energy to run three highly efficient single-family homes.

The Auxiliary Services Building houses the campus' facilities department as well as the copy, print and mail centers. All new state-funded buildings constructed on Whatcom's campus will be designed to LEED standards. Whatcom's

environmental objective is two-fold –minimize impact and maximize resource savings. Sustainability is built into the College’s strategic plan and is reflected in campus operations and curriculum.

About Whatcom: Whatcom Community College is an accredited, comprehensive two-year college with an accomplished faculty and staff who serve 11,000 students annually. On its campus in Bellingham, WA, and through online courses, Whatcom offers transfer degrees, professional and technical training programs, as well as basic education, job skills, and Community & Continuing Education classes. For more information, visit www.whatcom.ctc.edu.

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