

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 28, 2014

Discover The Willows Inn on Lummi Island and Meet James Beard Award Finalist Chef Blaine Wetzel

Bellingham, Wash. – Whatcom Community College's Community & Continuing Education program offers a unique opportunity to discover the culinary delights of The Willows Inn on Lummi Island. The March 19 *Celebrating the New Season* event is hosted by Robert Fong, who was chef and co-owner of Bellingham's popular Pacific Café for more than 20 years.

Fong designed the evening sure to be memorable in any gourmand's book. Participants will rendezvous at 5 p.m. at the magical Willows Inn on Lummi Island, named by The New York Times as one of the "ten restaurants in the world worth a plane ride." The private party will begin with a behind-the-scenes introduction to the people who will present the evening's fish, foraging and farming menu. Award-winning chef Blaine Wetzel, who is a finalist for the James Beard "Rising Star Chef of the Year" award, will then unveil his spring menu showcasing the artistry that has brought him world acclaim. The evening's finale is an after-dinner talk with chefs Wetzel and Fong about culinary and seed-to-plate trends.

Dinner, including tax and gratuity, is included in the \$195 course fee; wine and other beverages are available at an additional cost. Transportation is not provided. Seating is limited; early registration is encouraged. To register call (360) 383-3200 or enroll online: www.whatcomcommunityed.com. The Willows Inn is offering a special room rate for those wanting to stay the night. Call Reid Johnson at The Willows Inn for booking information: (360) 483-2806.

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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