

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 13, 2014

Nancy Ivarinen Wins County Advocate of Justice Honor

WCC's Paralegal Studies Coordinator Honored with Joseph T. Pemberton Award



Bellingham, Wash. – Whatcom Community College (WCC) is proud to announce that paralegal studies program coordinator Nancy Ivarinen was recently awarded the Joseph T. Pemberton Award for her longstanding commitment to civil legal aid in the community. Ivarinen was presented the award by Whatcom County LAW Advocates' Board of Directors at their annual meeting on Feb. 5 at Northwood Hall.

"Nancy is an example of the extraordinary faculty at Whatcom," says WCC President Kathi Hiyane-Brown. "Thanks to her leadership, Whatcom paralegal graduates will enter the field prepared to succeed and to continue her legacy of integrity and service to the field of law. I am extremely grateful that Nancy chooses to teach at Whatcom and honored to join in this recognition of her outstanding contributions to our community."

Ivarinen, coordinator and instructor for WCC's paralegal studies program since 2003, has been an attorney in both private practice and for legal aid programs since 1988. During her time at the College, Ivarinen developed the volunteer-based Street Law program, which provides free, confidential legal advice to students and their families. Ivarinen was also named the 2010 Professional Woman of the Year by the Whatcom Women in Business and was the 2006 recipient of the Courageous Award from the Washington State Bar Association, presented to a lawyer who has displayed exceptional courage in the face of adversity.

The Joseph T. Pemberton Award was created in 2010 and is awarded based on merit periodically to deserving Whatcom County advocates for justice. The award is given to an individual lawyer to honor and recognize the importance of his or her particular contributions to civil legal aid and equal access to justice in the community. Joseph T. Pemberton was a key catalyst and co-founder of the first volunteer lawyer program in Whatcom County in 1986 (now LAW Advocates), served the organization in its formative stages as chair of the board of directors, and later as a long-time board member.

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.

Contact: Mary Vermillion, Whatcom Community College PIO, (360) 383-3310, pio@whatcom.ctc.edu

###