

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Workforce Development Council Snohomish County
receives grant to increase high school graduation rates**

Everett, January 31, 2008 – Workforce Development Council Snohomish County (WDCSC) is pleased to announce that it was one of fifteen applicants selected to receive a grant from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Building Bridges—Dropout Prevention, Intervention, and Retrieval grant program.

Workforce Development Council Snohomish County applied for the grant in partnership with Everett Public Schools, Marysville School District, the Stanwood-Camano School District, and Northwest Educational Service District 189. Funds from the grant will be used to engage schools, families, and communities in the expansion of Everett Public Schools' highly successful dropout prevention, intervention, and retrieval system into alternative learning environments in each partnering district.

Services provided with grant funds will support dropout prevention, retention, and retrieval services at Sequoia High School (Everett), Heritage High School (Marysville), Mountain View High School (Marysville), SOAR Smaller Learning Community in the Marysville Pilchuck High School (Marysville), and Lincoln Hill High School (Stanwood-Camano). Specific activities include proactive services to increase student attendance and performance; targeted group and individual interventions to increase credit retrieval and on-time graduation; and, for those students who have already dropped out of high school, retrieval services designed to enhance holistic youth development.

Building Bridges will be the second dropout prevention services program offered by WDCSC in partnership with Snohomish County school districts. The first such program, created in partnership with Everett Public Schools in 2004, was funded by a grant from Washington State Employment Security Department that leveraged the resources of local workforce development boards in order to address issues of low on-time graduation rates. It was through this grant that Project STAR (Supporting Teens at Risk), a highly successful dropout prevention, retention, and retrieval program, was created and is now being duplicated both through the Building Bridges proposal, and as a statewide best practice.

Workforce Development Council Snohomish County (WDCSC)

WDCSC invests government and private funding to continuously increase the global competitiveness and prosperity of county workforce and businesses, fill current and emerging jobs, and provide full employment. Investments are made through effective business, labor, community-based, educational, and service provider organizations for the opportunity, economic well-being, and benefit of our entire community.

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