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### Career Fair offers scholarship to reflective student

**Everett, Washington, October 8, 2008**--- “I remember the exact day I fell in love with the idea of being an engineer,” begins the award-winning essay by Fasika Gutema, a senior at Edmonds Woodway High School last year. She continues

There were three women—representing Alcoa, Toyota, and Whirlpool—who were gathered around a dinner table....They spoke about projects they have been involved in, their achievements, struggles, and their life as women in engineering. As the end of their presentation, their love and enthusiasm for their job—evident in their tone of voice—along with my interest in math and science, inspired me to pursue engineering as a career.

Fasika Gutema was the recipient of a \$500 scholarship offered by Citibank and Junior Achievement of Washington through the 2007 What about Tomorrow Career and College Fair.

The What about Tomorrow Career and College Fair, sponsored by Everett Public Schools and Workforce Development Council Snohomish County, showcases the wide variety of post-secondary education and training options—including colleges, universities, technical schools, and apprenticeship programs—and career opportunities that exist within the work world, with a focus on in-demand industries in Snohomish County. Divided into marked sections featuring educators, business leaders, and union representatives, the Fair attracts over 1,500 high school students attending through field trips with supporting school districts as well as hundreds of parents and students from around the county in an afternoon open session from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

This year’s fair will be held at the Comcast Arena at the Everett Events Center on October 8, 2008, and attending students will again have the opportunity to enter a competition for a \$500 scholarship thanks to ongoing support from Junior Achievement of Washington. Scholarship applications require a Career & College Reflection Essay defining personal career and college goals and the impact attending the What about Tomorrow Career and College Fair has made on those goals.

Fasika plans to earn her Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in civil and environmental engineering at the University of Washington with an ultimate goal of working for Ethiopian Roads Authority to improve the country’s living conditions. Her essay notes that attending the Career and College Fair last year was a great help to her. She writes

I met student support services and company representatives who can make my goals reachable. But most of all, I met college representatives from a variety of colleges who believed in me. This elevated my energy, strength, and motivation level. Now, I truly believe...that I can improve the living condition in Ethiopia. So sit back, and believe in me too.

**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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