



**Whatcom Tech Prep Consortium
Annual Report
2003-2004**

*EDUCATION TO CAREERS
Preparing Students for Lifelong Learning and Career Success*

Whatcom Tech Prep Consortium is pleased to announce the final Tech Prep student data and program accomplishments for the 2003-2004 school year. Below is a summary report, including enrollment statistics for participating area high schools and college partners. Many thanks to the dedicated college and high school faculty and staff who have worked together this past year to make Tech Prep programs available to students. Tech Prep provides a valuable opportunity for students to begin their college transcript while still attending high school, making Tech Prep a true “dual credit” program. Outreach efforts continue to improve as we search for innovative ways to reach students, parents, and counselors about high skill/high wage careers in professional-technical fields and training programs provided by our college partners.

Partners in Learning

The Whatcom County Consortium serves over 8,600 high school students from 11 high schools (8 school districts) and over 18,000 (full/part time) students attending one community college and one technical college. The Tech Prep/Dual Credit program awarded 1,946 college credits to high school students who successfully articulated courses with the community and technical college. More than 449 students participated in Dual Credit courses and \$133,982 in tuition costs was saved for Whatcom County families.

For 2004-05 the Tech Prep program office has a new direct line phone and some of our campus contact information has changed. Please make note of our new numbers:

Tech Prep Program Office: 360-752-8409 Fax: 752-8384
 Linda Cowan, direct: 360-752-8458
 Bellingham Technical College, main campus: 752-7000

If you have any questions or need additional program information, please do not hesitate to call me.

Linda Cowan, Director

Where Funds Come From:	\$187,636
Tech Prep Grant	\$79,761
Alcoa Philanthropic Grant	\$32,500
Consortium Membership Fees	\$35,000
Clearinghouse Network User Fee	\$24,500
Business Donations	\$ 5,000 (ConocoPhillips)
Tech Prep Registration Fees Collected	\$10,875 (438 students @ \$25 each)

Where Funds Go:	\$187,636
Operations:	
Tech Prep Office/Administration	\$76,700
Clearinghouse Network Staff/Office	\$24,500
Tech Prep Programs/Projects	\$36,061 <i>direct service to students and staff</i>
Try a Professional Trade Project	\$32,500 <i>Alcoa Grant</i>
Whatcom Community Connections	\$ 5,000 <i>donation purchased new communication system</i>
Reserve (Consortium Fees)	\$ 2,000
Tech Prep Registration Fees Paid	
Paid to WCC	\$ 8,650 (348 students)
Paid to BTC	\$ 1,975 (79 students)
Paid to SVC	\$ 250 (10 students)

College Tech Prep / Dual Credit Program

Articulation Update

Tech Prep Online Registration System

The Consortium joined Washington State's web-based Tech Prep registration system in April 2003. This was our first full year of operation and it has significantly improved our data collection process. Teachers and Career Specialists were trained to use the system so they could encourage students to take advantage of Tech Prep credit and assist students during the "in-class" registration process. We've noticed that many parents processed the registration for their child.

Postcard Distribution

One month prior to the end of each high school semester, our office mailed Tech Prep Registration Reminder Postcards to every student signed up in the web registration system. The postcard reminded students they were eligible to receive Tech Prep credit if they completed the registration process by earning a B or better in the course(s) and submitting a one-time \$25 registration fee. Each time the postcards were sent, we experienced a significant increase in *completed* registrations. At the same time, we experienced an increase in parent calls inquiring about the registration process. Postcards mailed from the Tech Prep program office will continue in the 2004-05 school year.

We also experimented with printing Tech Prep Program notification cards for classroom teachers so they could distribute to parents at the beginning of each semester. Based on feedback from schools, the "teacher" postcards received a mixed review. Some teachers used them and found them helpful; many teachers did not bother to distribute. For the 2004-05 year we will distribute the postcard template to teachers/CTE directors to use if they choose to (they can print and mail).

You Deserve Credit Brochures Mailed

The Marketing and Promotions subcommittee recommended the Tech Prep program brochure be sent as "direct mail" to the family home of all students in grades 9-12 enrolled in our partner high schools. During the first two weeks in April, 8230 brochures were mailed by the Copy Center staff at WCC. Each brochure included an insert that listed the Tech Prep articulated courses personalized to the student's high school. We received very positive comments from principals, superintendents and teachers about the brochures. We also received many phone calls from parents asking for more information and how to go about enrolling their student in the program. The brochures were a big success!

Articulation Agreements

Five new courses were added: 3 in the Business and Marketing pathway and 2 in the Engineering Technology pathway. Discussions were held between high school teachers and WCC about articulating Computer Science courses (Programming). We ran into a road block but will tackle it again in 2004-05.

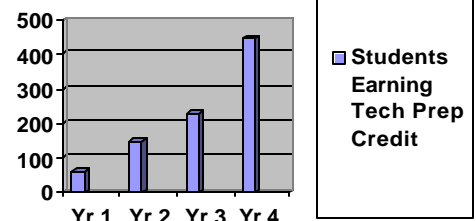
Program update:

- 58 individual courses
- 11 program areas covered
- 283 individual articulation agreements with area high schools
- 45 high school teachers offer College Tech Prep courses
- 18 college faculty work with high school teachers

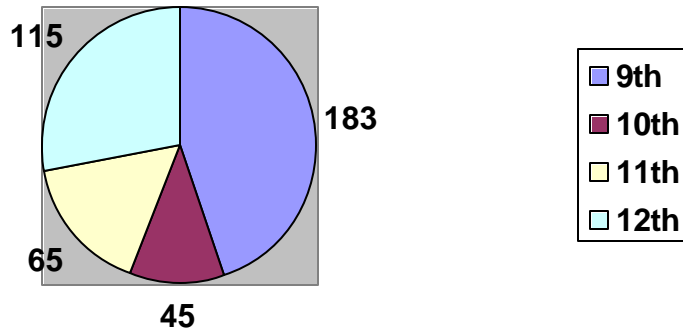
Student Participants

61 students earned Tech Prep credits	2000-2001
151 students earned Tech Prep credits	2001-2002
229 students earned Tech Prep credits	2002-2003
449 students earned Tech Prep credits	2003-2004

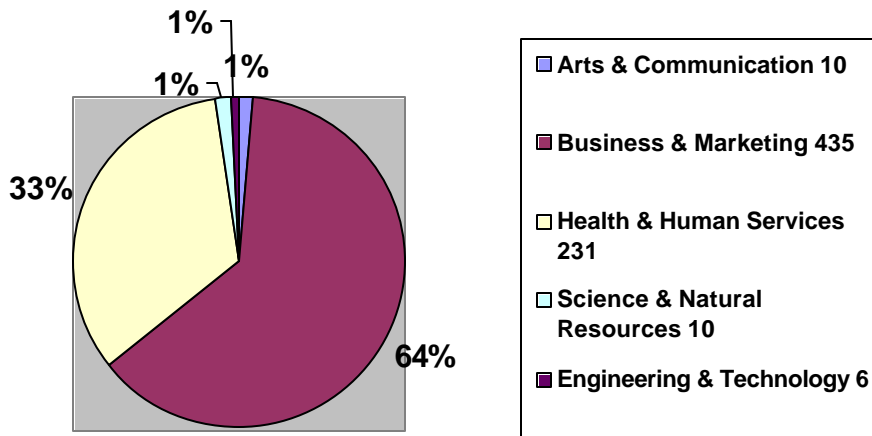
(note: 737 students registered / only 449 actually earned credit)



Student Participation by Grade Level



Tech Prep Duplicated Student Enrollment by Pathway Program



Grand Total

Through the Tech Prep program, high school students earned a total of 1,946 college credits, saving Whatcom County families more than \$133,982 in tuition fees (calculating a value of \$68.85 per credit at 2003-04 rate).

ACCOMPLISHMENTS and SPECIAL PROJECTS

Tech Prep/Dual Credit Program Video

The Consortium hired Lars Kongshaug (Vid-smith Digital Video Productions) to develop a 5 minute video introducing students to the Tech Prep/Dual Credit process. The video is intended to be used by high school counselors, career specialists, and teachers in presentations to students and parents about the advantages of College Tech Prep. The video will also be posted to the Consortium's website. School partners will receive a copy of the video September 2004.

Whatcom Community Connections

Whatcom Community Connections is a virtual communication center that provides a central location to connect students and/or teachers to local community partners. The system provides connections for a wide variety of opportunities such as job shadows, internships, field trips, tutors, community advisors/mentor for senior culminating projects, guest speakers for the classroom or community service-related activities. Community members contribute their skills and expertise by submitting a "registration" form to the database system. Teachers and students can then search the database of information to locate a community partner that best matches their needs. Whatcom Community Connections replaces the old SWIS system used by consortium schools for the past 8 years. A \$5,000 donation received from business partner ConocoPhillips provided the necessary funding to purchase the web-based site license and develop the communication structure. You can check out Whatcom Community Connections by visiting the website at:

<http://whatcomconnections.org>

Website Development

The Consortium director held focus group meetings with 5 different groups of high school students. The intent of the meeting was to gather information about the consortiums Tech Prep "marketing" materials, and in particular to have students assess the effectiveness of the website. Many good ideas were gleaned from the students which will be implemented as the website goes through a redesign process during the 2004-05 school year.

Try a Professional Trade Project

Once again the consortium received an Alcoa Philanthropic Grant to support implementation of Try a Professional Trade – Year Two. Due to schedule conflicts with schools, we did not offer the teacher visit but we did provide program visits for 68 high school juniors and seniors who registered to participate in the event held on BTC campus May 5. 18 college instructors hosted the students in their classrooms. Each student selected two program areas they wanted to visit...each visit lasted approximately 1 hour 15 minutes. The college instructors reported that this year's students seemed more interested in their program – asking good questions about classroom expectations and work related opportunities. Fewer than 25 students participated in the optional job shadow experience. Based on evaluations, we feel the job shadows came too late in the school year (May and June). We will be offering the high school teacher visit on November 17, 2004. This project has been a huge success with students and staff.

Countywide Career Fair

Over 800 students attended this years countywide Career Fair – a record number. The first career fair was held in April of 1997 and the members of Whatcom North Rotary have planned, organized and delivered the event for our county schools every year since its inception.

Dr. Susan Quattrociocchi, PhD

We were fortunate to have Dr. Q join our Consortium members for two days. On May 13 Bellingham High School hosted an evening presentation for Whatcom County middle and high school parents. Approximately 125 parents attended the event which focused on a *Families Guide to High School and Beyond*. On May 14,

Dr. Q presented her latest research, *The Shocking Truth About Education and Work: Living, Learning and Earning in America*, to members of the Steering Committee, Education Council and Counselors. Over 66 education and community leaders attended this event. The Bellingham Herald covered the presentation and published a good article and photo about the event.

Student Certifications



ServSafe : 26 high school Culinary Arts students took the National ServSafe exam (administered at BTC) and 24 received their National Certification.

Bellingham High School: 13

Squalicum High School: 11

Mount Baker High School: 1

Lynden High School: 1

CompTIA Certification

The Consortium is a member of CompTIA which provides national skill standards specific to the field of computer technology. CompTIA members can also purchase certification exams for students at a significantly reduced rate. During this past year, we purchased and sold back to students (at cost) a total of 91 test vouchers:

A+	47
Network+	25
Server+	4
Linux+	11
Security+	4

WAOE/Tech Prep Conference

12 high school teachers, 3 administrators and 4 college faculty attended the Washington State Tech Prep Conference held in Wenatchee March 1-2. Tech Prep paid the registration fee (\$195 each) and provided each school with a “travel” stipend (\$250). Linda Cowan, Katherine Crandall and Karen Moren presented on the *Health Care Services* program and Linda presented about the *Try a Professional Trade* project. Squalicum High School ECE instructor, Janet Diener was recognized as one of 3 outstanding educators to receive the WA State Excellence in Tech Prep Award. Debbie Granger and Katherine Crandall were also recognized with Certificates of Appreciation for their efforts in supporting Tech Prep programs in our region.

Provided Summer Opportunities for Educators

- ❖ **Welding Bootcamp**: 12 teachers attended (5 from Whatcom County Schools); Whatcom County teachers had their registration fee paid by the consortium (\$250 each). BTC instructor, Don Anderson conducted the 3 day workshop. It was a HUGE success. Consortium provided 18 Clock Hours.
- ❖ **Culinary Arts**: 10 high school teachers attended a series of 3 Culinary workshops. Two of the teachers were from Whatcom County schools and had their registration fee paid by the Consortium (\$450 and \$225). BTC instructor, Brian McDonald conducted two of 4 day workshops and Michael Baldwin conducted the two day ServSafe Certification course. Consortium provided 24 clock hours for the 4 day workshops and 12 for the two day.
- ❖ **Curriculum Projects**: 9 high school teachers completed a variety of curriculum projects that would enhance their Tech Prep articulated courses. Teachers could earn up to 40 clock hours provided by the Consortium.
- ❖ **DigiPen**: we had to cancel this years two week summer camp due to low enrollment. One week prior to the start date we only had 12 registered student participants and we needed 20 to run the camp. DigiPen indicated they would be interested in trying again next year.

Looking Back

Founded in 1993 under the federal Tech Prep Act, the Whatcom County Tech Pep Consortium began with eight school districts, eleven high schools and two colleges. The primary focus of the Consortium was to develop articulated programs between participating high schools and colleges. In 1995, the School-to-Work Act provided impetus to expand the partnership opportunities and provide funding to support student work-based learning programs, educator trainings, and development of programs to support implementation of the 4 P's (plans, pathways, portfolios and projects).

Our Vision

Vision Statement: *Whatcom County Tech Prep in collaboration with community partners helps prepare all students to make a successful transition from school to future education, career opportunities and life-long learning.*

Strategic Goals for 2004-2005

- ★ Increase the number of students participating in Tech Prep program opportunities.
- ★ Expand the number and variety of college Tech Prep/Dual Credit articulations.
- ★ Continue to develop, maintain and enhance relationships with education and business/labor partners. (i.e. Whatcom Community Connections)
- ★ Continue efforts to promote and inform the “community” about Tech Prep and the Consortiums partnership opportunities (students, parents, educators, business/labor).
- ★ Develop a plan for creating a *sustainable* Consortium partnership that will continue to support development of College Tech Prep/Dual Credit programs.