



Bank of America awards \$15,000 for Readiness Academy for College Bound Students at Seattle Community Colleges

Funds support high school to college transition services

December 26, 2012

SEATTLE – The Foundation for Seattle Community Colleges today announced it received a \$15,000 grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation. This gift will benefit up to 100 incoming College Bound Scholarship seniors across the multi-college district through the Readiness Academy.

“Bank of America recognizes that jobs and education play a critical role in advancing economic development in the Puget Sound, and providing support to organizations like Foundation for Seattle Community Colleges is one of the best ways we can move that development forward,” said Bob Peters, Washington State President, Bank of America. “It isn’t just about creating jobs, but also equipping the region’s workforce with the skills they need to compete in today’s job market, and we are proud to help provide relevant education and training to more local residents as a result of our grants.”

The grant is part of more than \$22 million in Bank of America funding to over 1,050 nonprofits in 34 states that support job training, education programs and support services that help connect the unemployed, underemployed, veterans, youth and those with disabilities to employment success.

The Readiness Academy for incoming College Bound Scholarship seniors supports students’ transitions from high school to college, including FAFSA financial aid application completion, COMPASS placement test preparation and academic support, orientation to college life, enhanced academic advising and access to college services for several area high schools. In fact, last year 40% of 13th Year students participating in the Readiness Academy increased their placement on the COMPASS test by at least one course level before starting college. The fall-winter retention rate was 90%, compared to 69% rate for overall student population.

The Readiness Academy was developed by South Seattle Community College for its 13th Year Promise Scholarship program for high school seniors at Chief Sealth and Cleveland High Schools. The Academy’s goals are to increase the number of College Bound students transitioning directly from high school to college, raise academic preparation levels, orient students to college life, minimize the number of developmental courses a student needs to take and increase persistence.

“Helping students obtain the education and training that they need for 21st century jobs is critical to our regional economic recovery”, said Seattle Community Colleges Chancellor Jill A. Wakefield. “We are proud to partner with Bank of America as it makes investments in our region’s young people and economic recovery. This grant will help more College Bound scholarship students to make a smooth transition to college, receive the support they need to complete their programs of study and graduate to family-wage jobs.”

THE FOUNDATION FOR SEATTLE COMMUNITY COLLEGES advances fundraising efforts on behalf of the Seattle Community College District, which educates more than 50,000 students each year at North Seattle, Seattle Central and South Seattle Community Colleges; Seattle Vocational Institute; and four specialized training centers throughout the city.

THE BANK OF AMERICA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION is committed to creating meaningful change in the communities they serve through their philanthropic efforts, associate volunteerism, community development activities and investing, support of arts and culture programming and environmental initiatives.

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Washington District VI

1500 Harvard Avenue
Seattle, WA 98122-3803
206.934.4100
Fax 206.934.3894

www.seattlecolleges.edu

CONTACTS

Seattle Community Colleges: Patricia Paquette, Communications Director

Patricia.Paquette@seattlecolleges.edu (206) 934.4105 (206) 714.2525 (mobile)

Bank of America: Britney Sheehan, Media Relations

britney.w.sheehan@bankofamerica.com (206) 358.7563