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### **Skagit Valley College Foundation accepts \$500,000 bequest from alums**

The Skagit Valley College Foundation has received a \$500,000 bequest from the estate of Wade Schroeder who passed away in April 2010, and his wife Frances, who passed away in October 1999. Proceeds from the bequest—the second largest bequest in the history of the SVC Foundation—will fund a scholarship endowment arranged years ago by the donors.

“Words cannot adequately describe the gratitude we feel for Wade and Fran Schroeder’s gift,” Megan Bray Wise, SVC Foundation Board President, said. “Skagit Valley College and the community will forever be touched by the gift itself and by the inspirational example of generosity toward future generations.”

This scholarship will provide financial support to graduates of Skagit Valley College who pursue a baccalaureate degree, master’s degree, doctorate, or teaching certificate to become an educator. The Wade and Fran Schroeder Scholarship reflects their passion for education and a commitment to “give back to our community.”

Dr. Gary Tollefson, Skagit Valley College President, expressed deep appreciation for the gift. “As someone devoted professionally and personally to the value of higher education, I truly feel honored by this vote of confidence in our college and foundation by two of our long-ago alumni,” Tollefson said.

Born to Carl and Aletha (Callahan) Schroeder in Bow, Washington, Wade Schroeder grew up on several dairy farms in the area. He graduated from Burlington-Edison High School in 1942 and entered military service in 1943. In 1944, Wade married his high school sweetheart, Fran.

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The Schroeders placed a high value on education and both attended Skagit Valley College. After graduating from SVC in 1947, Wade Schroeder earned a bachelor's degree from Washington State University, a master's degree from Western Washington University, and a Ph.D. from Stanford University. Early in his career, he taught vocational agriculture in Ridgefield and La Conner, Washington. He later returned to Burlington-Edison High School as a counselor. In addition to teaching and counseling, he maintained his farming roots by growing and marketing blueberries and raspberries on a small farm in Washington.

Originally from Montana, Fran Schroeder began her college years at SVC, studying pre-education. While at SVC, she was a member of the Associated Women Students and was on the Dean's List in her freshman and sophomore years. In addition, she worked on the *Cardinal* student newspaper and was the *Bulb Bulletin* editor. She graduated from SVC in 1955 and pursued a career in education, serving as a teacher and then a librarian for 27 years in the Santa Clara Unified School District. The Schroeders lived many years in Los Altos Hills, California.

The Wade and Fran Schroeder Scholarship will assist students graduating from SVC and pursuing further education to become professional educators. Recipients must maintain a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0.

The Skagit Valley College Foundation has been making student dreams a reality and supporting exceptional educational programs since 1978, thanks to the generosity of thousands of donors. The SVC Foundation seeks to identify, promote, receive and manage gifts from individuals, corporations and other organizations. All gifts to the SVC Foundation are managed in accordance with donor wishes. To learn more, contact (360) 416-7717 or visit [www.skagit.edu/foundation](http://www.skagit.edu/foundation).

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