

## College hosts tech-prep conference

The Skagit Valley College Tech Prep Consortium will host a Career and Technical Education workforce conference titled "Connecting Earning & Learning" on Friday, April 22 at the Northwest Career and Technical Academy's Quall Center in Mount Vernon. The conference begins at 8 a.m. Keynote speaker Celeste Baine, a biomedical engineer and author of *Engineers Make a Difference*, will provide effective strategies to engage and excite middle school and high school students in the science, technology, engineering and math career pathways. The event is for school counselors, teachers, parents, and business/industry partners.

The conference is designed to help educate, excite and provide awareness about career pathway opportunities in career and technical education that follow a seamless transition from secondary to post-secondary education, leading to a degree and/or industry-recognized certificate, job and successful career.

The new Skagit Valley College Manufacturing Foundations certificate, micro-certifications and dual credit options will be introduced at the conference, in addition to presentations by carpenters, electricians, pipefitters and the Skagit-Island Human Resources Management Association.

Student business projects will be showcased, including the Admiralty Lighthouse Project, a partnership between Nichols Brothers Boat Builders and Coupeville, Oak Harbor and South Whidbey high schools.

Attendees will receive e-tool resources, five free OSPI clock hours and be served lunch by Northwest Career and Technical Academy Culinary Arts students.

For conference registration, contact Kim Davis, SVC Tech Prep Consortium Director, at [kim.davis@skagit.edu](mailto:kim.davis@skagit.edu) or 360-416-6631.