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# SVC candidate touts need for business, community partnerships

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## Staff Writer

Ron Langrell said running a college means being entrepreneurial and nimble.

To keep up with shrinking state revenue and new expectations in the workforce, schools need to develop business and community partnerships to create programs.

"Being enterprising is not only about generating revenue," Langrell said Tuesday during a community forum at Skagit Valley College's Whidbey Island campus.

Langrell spoke to a group of 10 community members, staff and faculty Tuesday as part of an interview process for the three candidates vying to replace outgoing Skagit Valley College President Gary Tollefson.

Candidates Joseph Dunlap, president of Spokane Community College, and Thomas Keegan, president of Peninsula College, held forums last week touting their own records of generating revenue through business and community partnerships.

Langrell is currently the executive vice president at Riverland Community College in Minnesota. In the past, he has worked in several administrative positions at Walla Walla Community College.

The candidates are vying for the college president's position at a time when community colleges have to find about half of their revenue from sources outside of the state.

Langrell said he knows that will involve cutting and reducing. But he hopes to establish an ongoing collaborative relationship with all college departments so budget cut decisions aren't made at the last minute.

He said he also wants schools to stay competitive against private, "proprietary" colleges that compete with community colleges for students.

"How do we get nimble, how do we get enterprising," Langrell said.

Langrell is the only finalist who is not already a president at an area community college, but he said he was well-connected with community college leaders.

"My heroes, my mentors have been presidents," Langrell said.

The college's board of trustees will meet at the Mount Vernon campus in executive session at 3 p.m. today to discuss the three candidates' qualifications.

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Langrell