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Skagit Valley College receives Department of Labor grant

Skagit Valley College has been awarded a \$334,000 three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to train students for work in the aerospace industry.

The money is a portion of a \$20 million Air Washington grant awarded by the federal Department of Labor to a statewide consortium of community and technical colleges, according to a Skagit Valley College press release Wednesday.

Skagit Valley College plans to concentrate on composites training at its Marine Technology Center composites lab in Anacortes. The grant will help train about 200 people to meet the workforce and apprenticeship needs of the aerospace industry, according to the release.

“We have been in the process of incorporating other industry applications, in addition to marine, into our composites training because of the transferability of the skill sets,” said Mike Swietzer, the college’s Marine Technology Department chair. “Being part of the Air Washington grant allows us to develop an aerospace focus as well.”

The college moved its Marine Technology Center from Oak Harbor to Anacortes in 2010.

— Skagit Valley Herald staff