

Date: Jun 21, 2012; Section: Local; Page: A3

SVC's new aerospace composite class will begin in July

By MARK STAYTON

Staff Writer

A N A C O R T E S — A new composite manufacturing course at Skagit Valley College's Marine Technology Center is still accepting students for its first class on July 9, hoping to fill local and national demand for skilled workers.

The class is the result of a \$334,000 grant SVC received last fall, a portion of \$20 million in federal funds designed to help Washington community colleges provide cuttingedge educations for those looking to enter the state's growing aerospace industry.

The class will focus on materials used in aerospace applications, but learned skills are widely transferable to automotive and construction industries, among others looking to exploit composite materials' strength and light weight, said Ann Avary, director of the Center of Excellence for Marine Technology in Anacortes.

The 10-credit class will take students from basic construction and repair through advanced processes and tools over the course of the summer.

Avary said the composites lab at the center had previously focused on marine applications, but the federal grant will help the center expand to training for other industries. She said local companies manufacturing companies such as Janicki and Hexcel have worked with SVC to help acquire grant funds, and Boeing's 787 Dreamliner production and repair will need a steady supply of composites technicians.