



Dialogue for Democracy

a statewide public forum connecting communities and education

6 May 2004
Town Hall Seattle

Skagit Valley College Team Action Plan

Team members:

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Pam Church, Director, Career Services, Skagit Valley College
Deborah Gregoire, Coordinator, Cooperative Education, Skagit Valley College
Debra Lisser, Trustee, Skagit Valley College
Andy Ortiz, Student, Skagit Valley College
Ryan Patrick, Community Member, Skagit County
Susan Tinker, Vice President for Instruction, Skagit Valley College

Community to be impacted by team:

Kulshan neighborhood in Mount Vernon, WA

Issue focus:

How to remain fundamentally connected to the community in a rapidly growing and increasingly diverse county; and how to create an environment of inclusion on campus.

Framework for action:

- **Statement of Purpose:**

The team discussed the predominantly Hispanic Kulshan neighborhood – which is immediately adjacent to the college, but is really a world apart from campus life. We discussed the possibility of the McIntyre Center increasing the perception of a divide, another venue essentially closed to the neighboring community. The team proposes a long-term commitment to becoming deeply involved in the issues facing this neighboring community, and creating partnerships that eliminate barriers and make SVC more welcoming to Kulshan residents. The purpose of this project is to build better relationships, shed borders, create an inclusive atmosphere on campus, provide better access to education from pre-K to 16+, and to alleviate poverty.

- Key Steps:
 1. hosting forums with community members at Kulshan, SeaMar & LaPaloma in order to identify needs
 2. creating celebration/potluck
 3. identify some initial partnership opportunities (one example was involving McIntyre, Mount Vernon Parks & Recreation, YMCA and creating a summer drama program)

- Key Stakeholders:
 1. Hispanic community
 2. Ukranian community
 3. Business Owners
 4. Spanish Press
 5. Mount Vernon Police
 6. LaVenture Middle School Principal
 7. YMCA
 8. Parks & Recreation
 9. County Commissioners