



# The Association



## Newsletter

[www.learningconnectons.org/association](http://www.learningconnectons.org/association)

Winter 2003

### From the PRESIDENT

Dear ASSOCIATION Colleagues:

The bells that rang in the New Year of 2003 have grown silent. As the first month of the New Year draws to a somber close, Washington State community and technical colleges brace for news of more budget cuts. At the same time, the state's economy continues to languish, unemployment rates rise, stock markets plunge and corporations ponder their next moves-just to stay afloat. The threat of war in the Middle East and in Asia looms larger and larger each day as we read of US plans to launch offensive, step up troop presence, reinstitute the draft, and expand the defense budget! These are times that truly "try the souls of men-and women!" Meanwhile, closer to home, campus classrooms are overfilled, waiting lists are long, and student frustrations are reaching the boiling point. During these times of bleak economic outlook, domestic and global conflict and critical higher education shortfalls, the temptation to retrench or to merely "tread fiscal waters" may become overpowering. And yet, it is during these very tense and anxious times that the need for new energy, strategizing and fresh, forward thinking becomes paramount. As a system, we can take this opportunity to rethink our role and mission as community colleges and plan new strategies and approaches to providing quality education to the thousands of students who still look to us as their first, only-or last chance to initiate their education, start a new career, build a new and better life through specialized training, or merely remain intellectually active and stimulated through educational pursuits. We can re-evaluate how we deliver education and reorder our priorities to fit the challenges we face. We can conduct fiscal and programmatic "housecleaning," to make sure that all of our human, capital and fiscal resources are aligned with our goals and priorities. We can more aggressively seek and develop strategic partnerships, collaborations and liaisons between and among colleges and with our business, labor, political and community stakeholders. We can continue to broadcast the community college message and document the impact of our system on economic development and the quality of life in Washington State. We can capitalize on the economic and social crises that we face and develop new and more responsive approaches to financing, administering and delivering education. History has taught us that *visionary leadership* is essential to stabilizing and preserving a nation or institutions during times of crisis-and we must continue to develop and exert the kind of visionary leadership that will help navigate our system through these extreme times. Developing a strong and transformed offensive will be our best defense against the fiscal and political challenges ahead. As you begin this New Year, I encourage you to do so with optimism and faith in the resiliency of our system and in our ability to develop new solutions to our problems and to craft effective alternatives to the current way of carrying out the essential enterprise of higher education. The ASSOCIATION stands ready to assist you by providing opportunities for dialogue, professional development and by working to bring together the best and most visionary thinking in our institutions to guide us in planning for a strong and effective community and technical college system in Washington State.

Happy New Year!

Myrtle Mitchell

For comments, suggestions or submissions to future issues, e-mail [chays@highline.edu](mailto:chays@highline.edu)

### Winter CONFERENCE | February 27, 2003 | Marriott, SeaTac POLITICAL Viability in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The Winter ASSOCIATION Conference will help you gain an understanding of the current political situation in Washington State, give you practical information to take back to your college and offer you a chance to network with other administrators and leaders from around the state. **Be sure to attend!**

**Keynote speaker: David Horsey** is the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer's* Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist and columnist. His work is distributed internationally by Tribune Media Services.

Horsey's P-I career has taken him to national political party conventions, presidential primaries, the Olympics, Asia and Europe. In 1993, he was one of only 25 Americans chosen to take part in the European Community Visitorship Program in Brussels, Belgium. Horsey also spent a year at the Hearst Newspapers Washington Bureau where he took a closer look at national politics for the P-I editorial page.

Horsey will address the current political climate at a local, state and national level from a humorous, yet realistic perspective.

[www.learningconnectons.org/association/w03/conference.htm](http://www.learningconnectons.org/association/w03/conference.htm)

### Leading from the Middle | April 27-30, 2003 | Port Ludlow, WA

**Leading from the Middle** is a three-day seminar for beginning administrators. The ideal participant will have been in their job around a year - long enough to identify some of the areas beyond their department that would be good for them to know. Past participants have ranged from "just appointed" to several years on the job.

The program combines a leadership style self-inventory with presentations on the challenges of leading from the middle of the organization. There are sessions that focus on immediately useful skills like time management and budget as well as sessions to provide a broader perspective of how the college and system function. Our past participants have expressed great enthusiasm about what they learn and how it helps them when they return to campus. The leadership team includes experienced college administrators from instruction, student services and administrative services.

This program is open to anyone who wants to participate. This year's Leading From the Middle will take place at the Resort at Ludlow Bay on April 27-30. Make plans now to attend! More information on this year's session is on the ASSOCIATION website at: [www.learningconnections.org/association/LFM03/main.htm](http://www.learningconnections.org/association/LFM03/main.htm)

### Congratulations!!! AWARD WINNERS

#### Earl Norman Award Presented at Summer Conference

Pierce College District President **Steven R. Wall** received the Earl Norman Leadership Award at the ASSOCIATION Summer Conference in Ocean Shores in late July.

#### 2002 Distinguished Service Award Recipient

**Kathi Hiyane-Brown**, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at Tacoma Community College received the Distinguished Service Award at the Fall ASSOCIATION Conference in Bow, Washington on November 7, 2002.

#### Award of Merit Presented at Fall Conference

**Earl Hale**, Executive Director of the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges was awarded the prestigious Award of Merit at the Fall Association Conference in November.

### Guess Who??

What member of the Executive Board wrote a letter to Ann Landers when they were 13 years old? E-mail your guess to [chays@highline.edu](mailto:chays@highline.edu). The answer will appear in Spring Newsletter.

### The ASSOCIATION Executive BOARD 2002-2003

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