Whatcom Community Foundation

CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **Bellingham Dollars for Scholars Awards over $78,000 to Local Graduates**

The 2011 Bellingham Dollars for Scholars Annual Scholarship Celebration at Fairhaven Middle School honored scholarship recipients and donors. More than 300 people gathered to celebrate the students and the generous people who made their scholarships possible. Bellingham Dollars for Scholars, a program of the Whatcom Community Foundation (Foundation) recognized **90** outstanding students this year awarding more than **$78,000** to Bellingham School District seniors.

With public higher education institutions facing budget cuts and student tuitions expected to fill the gap, a postsecondary education is slipping beyond the financial grasp of many graduating seniors. These challenging economic times call upon our community to come together to support our own, and Bellingham Dollars for Scholars provides a vehicle to do just that. In turn, the scholarship program inspires students to achieve by showing that others care about them and about their futures. This year the Foundation was grateful for the participation of many community groups, companies, families, and individual donors. These caring, generous community members partnered with volunteers, Bellingham public high schools, and the Foundation to provide financial support to many deserving graduates from the Bellingham School District.

"This scholarship acknowledged all the effort I've put into the last 12 years of my life. It has also motivated me to continue working hard at earning a business degree, and ultimately building a passionate career," says Ryan Strong, recipient of the Fielding Formway Scholarship.

Please see the attached sheet for a complete listing of the scholarships provided and the student recipients. Contributions for scholarships are accepted year round; please contact the Community Foundation (bdfs@whatcomcf.org or 360.671.6463) for information on how to participate.

Whatcom Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) Federal Nonprofit organization, connects people who care with causes that matter. Since its inception in 1996, the Foundation has awarded more than $8.5 million in grants to a wide variety of charitable and educational activities in Whatcom County.

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