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News Release

For Immediate Release

Clover Park Technical College Awarded National “Plus 50 Initiative” *Program Aims to Help Older Students Live Later Years with Purpose and Fulfillment*

(April 30, 2008 – Lakewood, WA) – As 78 million baby boomers approach retirement, their attention is turning to staying active, re-focusing their careers, and defining life after 50 on their own terms. Clover Park Technical College (CPTC) is leading this charge in the Puget Sound region with the help of the new “Plus 50 Initiative.”

CPTC was selected one of ten colleges nationwide to participate as a demonstration college in the new and innovative program targeting baby boomers. CPTC will launch a new program focusing on students who are “Plus 50.”

“Clover Park Technical College will offer an environmental science program with a volunteer component for baby boomers wanting to explore sustainability,” said Lori Banaszak, vice president of instruction. “The program offers both classroom lessons and hands-on training in restoring wetlands and forest at our Flett Creek outdoor laboratory.”

The “Plus 50 Initiative” is funded with a \$3.2 million dollar grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies and is led by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

With life expectancies at record highs, many boomers expect to spend as many as three decades in retirement. Today’s baby boomers see their lives after 50 as a melding of education, employment and leisure.

“Clover Park Technical College is ideally suited to help people approaching retirement determine how to make those years productive and fulfilling,” said John Walstrum, president of Clover Park Technical College. “We have long catered to the needs of non-traditional students. We look forward to creating continued innovative opportunities that further meet the needs of people seeking lifelong learning.”

Five million of the 11.5 million community and technical college students today are not pursuing traditional for-credit degree programs. Instead, they are opting for certificates, training classes, and exploratory programs, thanks to the community and technical colleges that offer easy access, flexible scheduling and shorter-term learning experiences.

(MORE)

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“This is no exception at Clover Park Technical College,” said Walstrum. “Our College offers an array of flexible options, including evening and weekend classes, both for full and part-time students. The Plus 50 Initiative will give us greater opportunity to meet the direct needs of the growing baby boomer population.”

Demonstration colleges receiving grants are: Chaffey Community College (Cucamonga, Calif.), *Clover Park Technical College (Lakewood, Wash.)*, Joliet Junior College (Joliet, Ill.), Luzerne County Community College (Nanticoke, Pa.), Northern Virginia Community College (near Washington, D.C.), Richland College which is part of the Dallas County Community College District (Texas), Santa Fe Community College (Gainesville, Fla.), St. Louis Community College (St. Louis, Mo.), Wake Technical Community College, (Raleigh, N.C.) and Western Dakota Technical Institute (Rapid City, S. D.)

Mentor colleges receiving grants are: Cape Cod Community College (West Barnstable, Mass.), Central Florida Community College (Ocala, Fla.), Century College (White Bear Lake, Minn.), Clark College (Vancouver, Wash.) and Community College of Spokane (Wash.)

For more information, please contact Dr. John Walstrum, President of Clover Park Technical College, at (253) 589-6010 or visit our Web site at www.cptc.edu

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For 88 years, the AACC has been the leading advocate for the nation’s community colleges, which currently number more than 1,125 and serve more than 12 million students annually. Its membership comprises 95% of all public two-year colleges – the largest, most accessible, most diverse sector of U.S. higher education. As institutions committed to access, community service and lifelong learning, community colleges have long-focused on the needs of adults who are already in the workforce, many of whom are seeking new skills and knowledge for changes in their lives and careers.

Clover Park Technical College offers more than 50 career training programs in the areas of business, computer technology, allied health, manufacturing, construction and trades, multi media design, and personal care services. The College also offers certification, online and distance learning, and continuing education courses through the Workforce Development Department. For more information, please call (253) 589-5800 or visit www.cptc.edu

To learn more about successful efforts by AACC member colleges to respond to students aged 50 and above, please contact Norma Kent at nkent@aacc.nche.edu, or at 202-728-0200. To learn more about the AACC and The Atlantic Philanthropies, visit www.aacc.nche.edu and www.atlanticphilanthropies.org.

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