



# WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

LEARNING CENTER—NORTHEAST WASHINGTON

## WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY STEVENS COUNTY EXTENSION

We make eight WSU online bachelor degrees accessible to our community. These degrees are world-class and offer the flexibility our students need as they navigate their family and work commitments. The courses are taught by WSU professors who are dedicated teachers as well as experts in their fields. The Learning Center provides student support services including academic advising, career counseling, and tutoring.

### ***The value of a degree:***

As of August, 2008, 54 graduates of the WSU Distance Degree Program at the WSU Northeast Learning Center now reside in Stevens County. Given the additional income college graduates receive, **there is the potential of an additional \$1.6 million in economic impact per year in the county** as a result of their success.

### ***A student's story:***

From a WSU Distance Degree Program Graduate...

*"I had gone as far as I could in my career with the State without a degree. I needed a BA degree to be promoted. I was living in Colville, married with children and working full time—leaving the area for my education was not an option. The WSU Distance Degree Program provided me an option that was convenient, fun, and enriching. I was able to earn a BA and get my promotion without leaving Colville. My degree increased my earning potential \$16,824 per year. It was great to have access to the WSU Learning Center—the helpfulness and encouragement of the staff was a valuable addition."*

### **Value to County: Learning Center & Staff**

**\$77,500** is provided from WSU Extension annually to Stevens County for Learning Center programming, salary, benefits and rent.

**Stevens County receives 100% of this benefit with no county dollar investment.**

### ***WSU Service Learning***

The Learning Center coordinated the following projects, bringing college students to work and learn in our community. Service Learning promotes civic responsibility, community knowledge, and self awareness of students through education and action. Here are three recent or current projects.

### ***High School to Higher Ed***

Northport wanted to start a youth mentoring program that focused on education and job skills. WSU students developed a High School elective class curriculum that covered topics such as writing a resume, interviewing skills, preparing a college essay, financial aid, and more. The WSU students visited the high school and shared their stories about going to college and being successful while there.

### ***Alzheimer Garden Design***

Pinewood Terrace Nursing Home, has an unsafe, unattractive, and underutilized garden area for their Alzheimer's patients. Eight WSU landscape architecture students visited the site and designed individual garden plans for the facility. Preliminary plans were presented and adapted with staff suggestions.

### ***Marketing Meat Processing***

A WSU student with an agriculture communications major has chosen to create marketing brochures and information to publicize the Mobile Livestock Processing Unit. The project is two-fold—first to market the unit to potential users and second to inform the public what the unit is and does for the community.