For Immediate Release

June 14, 2012

LCC Class of 2012 Earns Record Degrees & Honors

Lower Columbia College will graduate the largest class in college history this week, and also one of the smartest.

Graduates and guests will celebrate at LCC’s 76th Commencement on Friday, June 15, at 7 p.m. in the Truman Myklebust Gymnasium. Admission is by ticket only.

LCC students earned 768 degrees and one-year certificates during the 2011-2012 year – 370 Associate in Arts transfer degrees, 281 Associate in Applied Science (professional technical) degrees and 117 Certificates of Proficiency. A total of 208 students will complete their studies with academic honors. Both are college records.

Sixty-five students will graduate with Highest Honors for completing an associate degree with a grade point average above 3.79. Another 143 students are graduating with Honors for achieving a 3.5 to 3.79 GPA while earning their associate degree.

“As an Achieving The Dream (ATD) college, our goal this year has been to help more students complete their studies in transfer and professional-technical programs,” said LCC President Chris Bailey.

LCC received a five-year grant earlier last summer to develop innovative ways to improve student success through the ATD program. At Friday’s ceremony, Bailey will showcase the success of his graduates to the head of Washington’s State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

Commencement speaker will be Charlie Earl, SBCTC Executive Director. Earl is retiring in July after six years leading the Washington system of 34 community and technical colleges. He is also a former president of Everett Community College.

During Earl’s tenure, the 34 colleges have seen system enrollment grow from 250,000 to 330,000 students. The Washington system has been recognized nationally for its innovation.
Several innovations implemented during the past six years include the student achievement performance award, opportunity grants, applied baccalaureate (4-year) degrees and the open course library – all designed to promote student access and progress towards their education and work goals.

Members of LCC’s Gamma Tau chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the community college national honor society, will have carved wooden roses for sale at $3 each or 2/$5 before and after the ceremony. All proceeds will be used to purchase school supplies for local elementary schools. Cash and school supplies will also be collected for donation to local elementary schools.

##

For more information, please contact Sue Groth, (360) 442-2110 or sgroth@lowercolumbia.edu