For Immediate Release
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LCC Community Conversations to Focus on Northwest Jobs

As our economy emerges from recession, where will unemployed workers, adults seeking to advance their careers, and new graduates find jobs?

The Lower Columbia College Community Conversations series for Winter Quarter 2013, *Northwest Jobs of the Future*, will examine employment trends for emerging occupations of the Northwest. Speakers will include local employers and community experts sharing information about the knowledge, skill sets, and strategies needed for success in the new economy.

All lectures take place Thursdays, beginning January 17, from noon to 1 p.m. in Wollenberg Auditorium at the Rose Center for the Arts. Community Conversations is a free lecture series examining a current topic each quarter. Credit is available by enrolling in Humanities 106 (Community Conversations).

The first lecture, *Economic Demand and Job Skills for the Economy of the Future*, will focus on job skills and search strategies that workers will need in the next 10 years.

Speakers will be Marc Ogata, Business Services Consultant/Case Manager at WorkSource Cowlitz/Wahkiakum, and Sandy Tilton, who has worked directly with job seekers at WorkSource to help them return quickly and effectively to work.

Ogata works with Southwest Washington employers to determine workforce needs and to assist them in finding qualified candidates through programs such as on-the-job training. A graduate of Western Washington University’s BA in Business Administration program, he has 20 years of experience in retail bank management.

Tilton holds a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology and Communication and a Master’s in Social Science, both from Azusa Pacific University, and has over 20 years in Education/Training and Career Development as a teacher/trainer administrator and consultant.

Topics for upcoming lectures include:

- **January 24:** Employment Trends in K-12 Education
- **January 31:** Small Business Development
- **February 7:** Emerging Careers in Energy and Engineering
- **February 14:** Why You Should Consider a Career in the Trades
- **February 21:** Growing Demand for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)
- **February 28:** High-Growth Careers in Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing
- **March 7:** The Changing Field of Occupations in HealthCare
- **March 14:** The Future of Social Work and Human Service Occupations

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

Lower Columbia College is a public two-year community and technical college, founded in 1934. LCC serves more than 4,000 students per quarter, most from Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties.