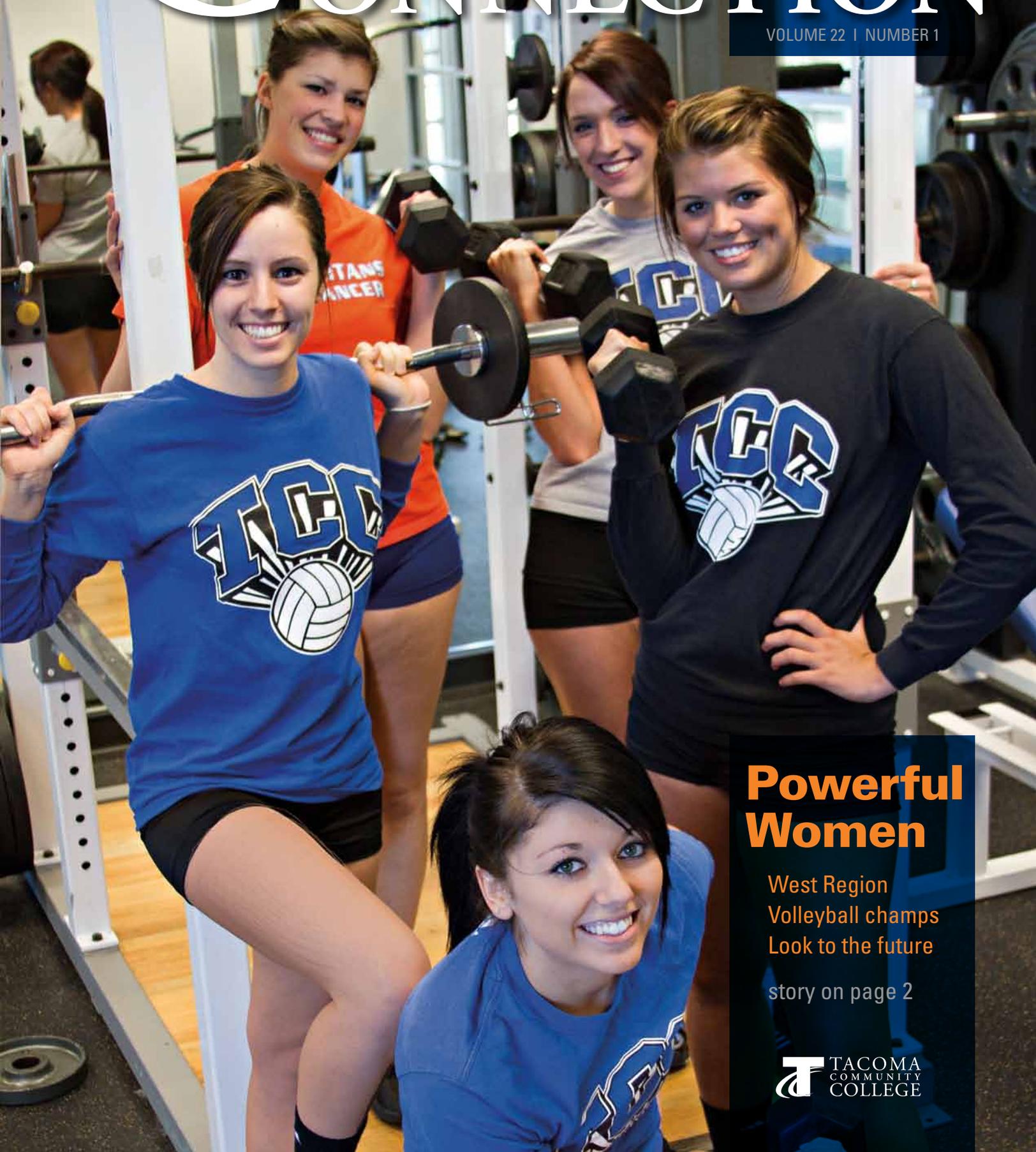


THE CONNECTION

WINTER 2011

VOLUME 22 | NUMBER 1



Powerful Women

West Region
Volleyball champs
Look to the future

story on page 2

Titan women dominate.

Last fall, after completing a flawless 12-0 season in league play, the Lady Titans walked away with the Western Region Championship for the Northwest Athletics Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) for 2010. In a way, their accomplishment is 'business as usual' for a team that has reached this pinnacle four years running.

2010 was their best season yet. The NWAACC Coaches Poll ranked Titan Volleyball number one in the region. At one time during the season, the Titans held all three "Player of the Week" positions—and Coach Angela Spoja was named Western Region Coach of the Year for the third time in five years.

Says Spoja, "We focus our program on preparing our players for Division I and II programs... My goal as a coach is to find a school in which my players will succeed at the next level both academically and athletically."

It shows.

The Titans' outstanding sophomore class—Brandy Iverson, Katie Hildebrandt, Allison Beardsley, Jaclyn Trinique and Alex Zawadzki—were a powerhouse all season, setting themselves up as contenders for key slots at D1 and DII universities.

Titan outside hitter **Brandy Iverson**, who led the conference in kills (once amassing 43 kills in two games), was named NWAACC West Region's Most Valuable Player for 2010. On November 10 the future elementary education major signed a "full ride" letter of intent to play for Eastern Washington University next fall.

Team captain and middle blocker **Katie Hildebrandt** from Fife High School made second team all West Region, and has been picked up by Central Washington University, where she will play volleyball for the Wildcats next fall.

on the cover Titan Volleyball Sophomores:

back: Outside Hitters Brandy Iverson #7
and Alexandra Zawadzki #1

center: Allison Beardsley, Libero #3
and Captain Katie Hildebrandt, Outside
Blocker #14

front: Jaclyn Trinique, Setter #10

Sophomore Business major and setter **Jaclyn Trinique**, who played at Bethel with Brandy, averaged 9.62 assists per game this year and was named 'Setter of the Season' by NWAACC. She was also named to the West Region First Team. Jaclyn noted in an interview for TCC's student newspaper, *The Challenge*, that TCC is the best team she has ever played on. "I love being here at this college. It has amazing programs, and I really hope that people think about coming here before going on to bigger colleges," she said.

Libero **Allison Beardsley**, from Fife High School, was voted All Defensive West Region player four times during the season. Outside hitter **Alex Zawadzki**, who comes from Lakes High School, was an offensive powerhouse all season, earning herself a place on first team "all tournament" at the Bellevue crossover last fall.

Their accomplishments are no fluke—every success comes from years of dedication, strong guidance and hard work.



The action shot of Brandy taken by Jaron Spoja



One outstanding example is Brandy Iverson, who says she is from "a tall, sports-minded family." She got into volleyball in junior high, "because my big sister played." She played varsity volleyball in her junior year at Bethel High School, and also played with Jaclyn Trinique on the Edge volleyball club team; both were coached by Spoja who recruited them to TCC with athletic scholarships in their senior year.

Says Brandy, "I wanted to go to Eastern and play DI, but it didn't happen in high school. So TCC was a good place to come. I knew Coach, and I knew someone on the team. It was just cool to come here. Now I have a full ride to Eastern (where she will prepare for a career in elementary education)—and I will have an AA when I get there."

Now that she is ready to move on to Eastern, Brandy offers this insight: "If you go to TCC the coaches will work their butts off to make sure you succeed. And if you want to go on to a four year, you will move! If I hadn't done a sport, these last two years wouldn't have gone as well as they have."

Get ready NOW for the rest of your life

Making important choices that can affect the rest of your life makes the end of high school one of your most challenging times.

Knowing that education beyond high school can lead to better income, more career opportunities and a deeper understanding of your place in the world can help guide your decisions.

Measure your skills

At your high school you can assess your skills in reading, English and math by taking the ACCUPLACER™. Your results on this online assessment are a guide to the best place to begin your higher education program of study.

Talk to your high school career counselor about taking this assessment on-site at your high school. TCC also offers the ACCUPLACER on campus. For test times and dates call 253.566.5158 or go to www.tacomacc.edu/assessment.

You Can't Fail! You will do your best if you:

- Practice! The Assessment section of the TCC website can help—with online orientation to ACCUPLACER—and practice questions.
- Relax! ACCUPLACER was designed to help you succeed in college
- Get enough rest the night before.
- Eat a light meal in advance of testing.
- Stay alert.
- Read each question carefully before answering.

Not satisfied with your results?

You can re-test!

Call 253.566.5158 for a recording of dates and times at TCC's Tacoma campus. For more information on the TCC assessment, call 253.566.5093, or email assessment@tacomacc.edu. The Tacoma campus assessment office is located at the north end of Bldg. 7. ACCUPLACER testing is also available at the Gig Harbor Center. Call 253.460.2424 to make an appointment.

Find out who you are – and what you want

- **Get involved** in school activities, organizations, sports, your church, mosque, or synagogue. Volunteer or work part-time in an area of your interest to help develop—and demonstrate—important social and leadership skills.
- **Find your passion** – Each of us is born with unique learning patterns, interests, and inborn advantages. By the time you're out of elementary school, you know what interests you. Pursue the things you find challenging or fun—or that you have a special aptitude for.
- **Find the best school for you** – Every college has its own special qualities. Look for the ones that best fit your skills, goals and personal style. Higher education can be your key to future success in many of today's careers, but that doesn't necessarily mean you need a four-year degree. A certificate or two-year degree could be your best choice.

Keep your options open

- **Stay in high school and graduate**
Graduating from high school can play a big part in the quality of your future. Once you have made graduation your goal, your diploma can be a ticket to the next steps in your life.
- **Take challenging courses**
The most critical measure of future college success is the rigor of the high school courses you take, say researchers. Not only will these courses develop your thinking abilities, but college admissions people are more impressed with decent grades in challenging courses than higher grades in less challenging courses.
- **Learn to think critically**
Develop effective study habits and critical thinking skills – this is one of the best possible preparations for college success. Be sure to keep up with your homework and go to class regularly. It's important to have fun too—enjoying what you're doing helps keep you interested and focused on your goals.



A solid plan + hard work = Scholarship Success

When TCC freshman Ngoc Han Vo was in 8th grade, she went with her class to visit the University of Washington in Seattle. Right then she decided that she would go to school there.

It would be a giant step for a little girl who had come to America from Vietnam only two years before, speaking no English. Language was still a challenge for her, but even bigger was finances: “My Mom works part time and we rely on assistance, says Han. “It was obvious my Mom couldn’t help pay for school.”

In 10th grade Han began turning her college decision into a plan. She decided to apply for a Washington State Achiever’s Scholarship.* “I was at Stadium. I really liked it, and my brother was there.” But Han made the decision to transfer to Foss, one of 16 “Achievers” schools. “I told my mom I would regret it if I missed the opportunity.”

She transferred to Foss after the 10th grade with no guarantees, and over the summer, “I just did it on my own. I filled out the paperwork. Then I tried very hard and earned a GPA of 3.98.”

Han got the attention, and the help, from two advisors at Foss. “They helped me with my essays, college applications, SAT, waivers—and they set me up with people with experience in the field I was interested in,” says Han.

To be chosen as an Achiever’s Scholar isn’t just grades,” notes Han. “You have to use communication skills, and show leadership. You have to write essays and attend seminars... they looked at how we interacted with others—how we worked together. I am introverted. So, I had to change myself.”

To help get over her shyness and develop leadership skills, Han started volunteering. Between Metro Parks and St. Joseph Hospital she volunteered 526.5 hours while at Foss. “When I got my letter of acceptance (to Achievers), I sat and read it five times. It was like, “Now I’m part of the group!””

As a senior she applied for, and was awarded other scholarships too, including TCC’s First Generation Scholarship and a Baker Foundation Scholarship from Foss High School. She also qualified for a Pell grant, which helps pay her expenses at TCC.

Han was accepted to UW Seattle as a freshman, so her decision to attend TCC first was a family one, and practical. “Mom didn’t want her family to be split up, and my brother is at TCC. I decided if I go to TCC for two years I will get the experience to go to a 4-year. Teachers at TCC are really nice. They have the same skills, and class sizes are smaller.” Han intends to transfer to UW Seattle as a junior after graduating from TCC with an Associates degree.

What Han has learned about finding scholarships:

“It’s not just how intelligent you are, or just about studying and making high grades. It’s also about how productive you are, and how you can share your experience and help others.”

Her advice: “Start thinking about your future life now. Do community service to open your mind to new things. Get some life experience as soon as you can. Learn to be outgoing—and get the information you need to help you plan your life.”

Then work your plan—and you could be as successful as Ngoc Han Vo.

*The Achievers program is funded by College Success Foundation with a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Its goal is to provide college readiness, mentoring and support to over 5,000 high potential low-income youth from 16 high schools in Washington State. <http://www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/>

Paying for College

Short on \$\$ for college? You are not alone. Almost half of all TCC students receive some kind of financial aid or scholarships to help pay for school. Last year, more than \$7 million in scholarships and grants were used by TCC students to pay for school.

Financial Aid

The basics: First, financial aid is a process, not a step. In order to get the money you need for college, there are deadlines you have to stay on top of and paperwork you must get in. The easiest way to miss getting aid is to miss a deadline! Here are some tips to help you understand the financial aid process:

Apply for college admission!

In order to get financial aid at a school you have to apply to the college. At TCC, you can apply for admission today if you are 18 years or older. Apply for free online at www.tacomacc.edu/admissions, or come to Bldg. 7 on our main campus. Within 24 hours, a student ID number will be emailed to you.

What TCC needs from you

TCC's financial aid department needs the following things for you to have a complete financial aid file:

1. A completed application to TCC
2. A completed TCC Data Sheet, and
3. A completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Depending on the quarter you want to come, there is a file completion deadline. If you do not have a complete file, your money is NOT guaranteed to be here the quarter you need it. To find out your quarter's file completion deadline and to print a copy of the TCC Data Sheet go to www.tacomacc.edu/financialaidforms.

Be sure to check with financial aid at least one month before your quarter begins to make sure you have been approved for financial aid and no documentation is missing. **TIP: Be proactive! DO NOT wait for financial aid to contact you about missing information! It could be too late for you to gather the information if you do!**

Complete your FAFSA

1. Apply for a pin at www.pin.ed.gov. This is a number you will use to electronically sign your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
2. Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov and complete the FAFSA form for the term(s) you want to attend school. **TIP:** Don't worry if you don't have the tax information it is asking you to report. Use an estimate to complete the form and save your place in line! You can go in later and correct your financial information.
3. Make sure you list TCC and any other college you are interested in applying to on your FAFSA.
4. Check any email and mail regularly. Important financial aid related notices are sent via mail and email.

If you want any free money from the government or low-interest loans and work study, you have to do the FAFSA (opens January 1st every year)!

Scholarships

- There are many kinds of \$\$ for college. Checkout the TCC website at www.tacomacc.edu/waystopay/.

TCC Foundation Scholarships

- The TCC Foundation scholarship application cycle for Fall 2011 begins January 1 and ends March 16, 2011.
- Your completed FAFSA and TCC Data sheets are important when applying for TCC Foundation scholarships.
- Complete an online STARS application at www.tacomacc.edu/scholarships/. Be sure to completely finish the STARS application— incomplete applications will not be considered for scholarships.
- Submit at least one letter of recommendation with your online application.
- Get help! TCC Foundation staff is ready to help you with your scholarship application. Send your questions in an email to foundationinfo@tacomacc.edu, or call the Foundation Office at 253.566.5003.
- Attend Ways to Pay Night - Information for future and current students on financial aid, scholarships, FAFSA, writing personal statements, etc.

Looking for **Ways2Pay** for your college education?

Drop in at any time ... Workshops feature information on paying for college including:

- TCC Foundation scholarships
- Finding outside scholarships
- FAFSA help
- Writing a personal statement
- TCC employment opportunities

Thurs **Feb 17** 3-7p

Wed **Mar 2** 3-7p

Bldg. 7

Ways2Pay 4college



Reservations not required.

For more information contact the Outreach & Recruitment office at **253.566.6042** or outreachservices@tacomacc.edu

College Success 101



“When you allow yourself to learn, you become scholars—it’s at the core of the process.”

English Instructor
Sabine Endicott

Want to become a better writer? READ!

College isn’t high school. And writing for college will be one of your first, big, higher education challenges. So says TCC English instructor Sabine Endicott, who encounters dozens of new college students in her writing classes each quarter who are struggling to make the transition.

Endicott says to help yourself get ready for effective writing and communication in college, you need to not only know “what to learn,” but “how to learn”.

So how can you learn “how to learn”?

“Read, Read, Read—and then write about what you read,” says Endicott. “In college you will read thousands of things from everywhere. You will read in math, science—all your studies. Over time, these voices will mix with your own voice.”

Notes Endicott: “In college, maybe for the first time, you will be writing and reading from perspectives different from your own. Engage in those perspectives. As you start seeing other perspectives in your reading and writing, you also get to hear the many voices of other students – that’s transformative and magical!”

When you read a variety of things, and then write about what you read, says Endicott, you don’t just learn more: “In fact, it’s critical to your success.”

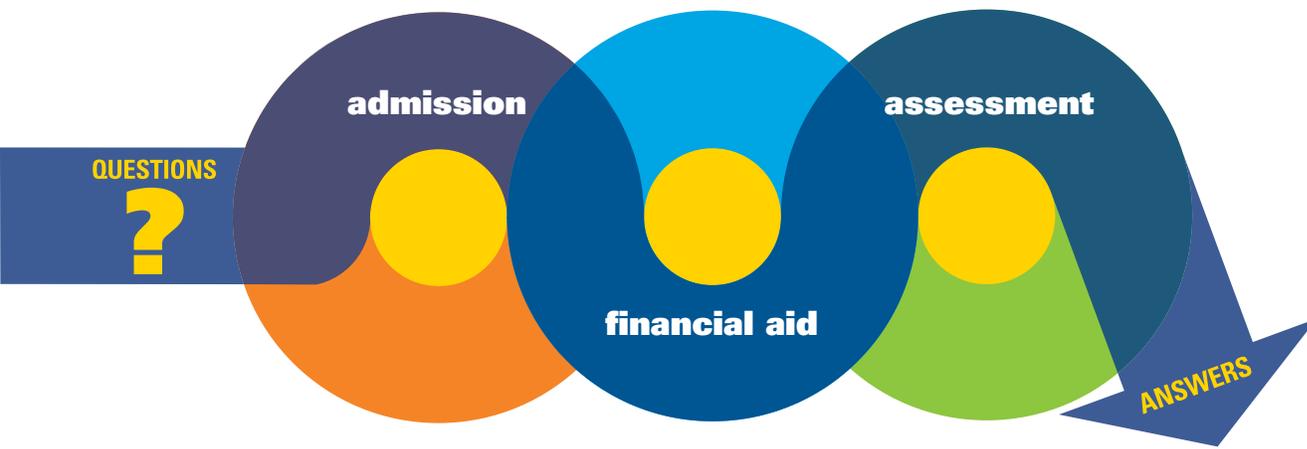
“Everyone wants to be successful,” says Endicott. “The key is to allow yourself to learn. That’s what’s interesting. When you allow yourself to learn, you learn about yourself. You become scholars—it’s at the core of the process.”

Endicott notes that most students do well when what they are reading is straight-forward and the directions are clear. “But in college, the reading doesn’t stop. It becomes longer and more challenging. There will be a point when it becomes tough. When that time comes, don’t wait to seek help.”

“This is a community of people who are here for you,” says Endicott. “We don’t expect you to be good writers yet. We work with you to become better writers in all your classes. It’s a process. It takes time.”

Endicott sees the learning process as a partnership between students and their instructors. “TCC is a big campus with thousands of students. Your peers are in there too,” she says. “You will learn how to read and analyze other people’s ideas. And you will discover things you never knew existed.”

Challenging, difficult—yes. Exciting, new—yes!



QUESTIONS
?

admission

assessment

financial aid

ANSWERS

1 Getting into TCC Get help on all steps

Apply

- Apply online at www.tacomacc.edu/admissions or in person (Bldg. 7, Enrollment Services window). There is no application fee.
- You will be notified within 24 hours if your application has been accepted. When you get this notice, you will be a TCC student with a student ID number!

2 Financial Aid

- To see if you qualify for college \$\$\$ go online and fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov NOW!
- Complete the TCC Data Sheet. It's online at www.tacomacc.edu/financialaidforms. Your TCC financial aid application is incomplete without this step! (See page 5 for more about financial aid.)

3 Inside TCC

Sign up for Inside TCC. It's our way to keep in touch with you and make sure you hear about campus events that match your interests! It takes five minutes TOPS! Go to <http://insidetcc.tacomacc.edu>.

4 Assess your skills

The ACCUPLACER is TCC's way to place you correctly in your first classes. You can also use transcripts from another college for placement.

- See page 3 "Measure Your Skills" to learn how to do this.
- Take the ACCUPLACER. Call 253.566.5158 for test times and dates or visit the ACCUPLACER website for calendar of test dates, resources and more info: www.tacomacc.edu/assessment.

5 Get Oriented

Sign up and attend a New Student Orientation (NSO).

- To sign up go online at www.tacomacc.edu/newstudentorientation.
- For your best choice of classes, attend an orientation at least a couple of months before the quarter you plan to start. This session will help you plug into TCC resources and provide an opportunity to tour campus. Here you will also learn how and when to register for classes.

6 Pay Your Tuition

Don't miss your tuition due date! Missing it can lead to a frustrating quarter or even mean missing out on classes you registered for. There are many ways to pay. Go to www.tacomacc.edu/admissions/tuition

2011 Admission Info Sessions

Monday	Wednesday
5-6:30 p.m. Bldg. 7-2 (CAL Lab)	3:45-5 p.m. Bldg. 7-224
	Jan. 5
	Jan. 19
Jan. 31	Feb. 2
	Feb. 16
Feb. 28	Mar. 2
	Mar. 16
Mar. 28	Apr. 6
	Apr. 20
Apr. 25	May 4
	May 18
May 30	June 1
	June 15
June 27	July 6
	July 20
July 25	Aug. 3
	Aug. 17
Aug. 29	

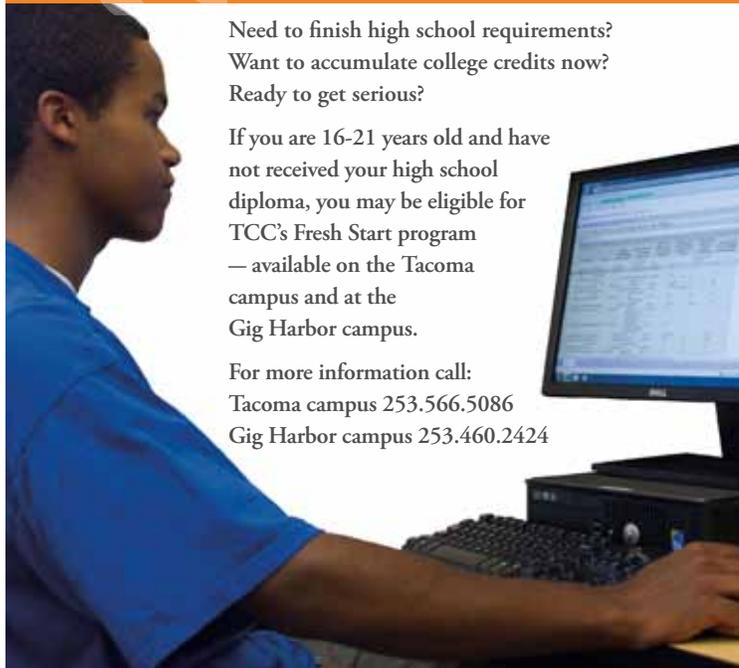
Just show up or
call for more info
253.566.6042

FreshSTART

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Tacoma Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or age in its programs and activities.

Tacoma Community College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.



Need to finish high school requirements?
Want to accumulate college credits now?
Ready to get serious?

If you are 16-21 years old and have not received your high school diploma, you may be eligible for TCC's Fresh Start program — available on the Tacoma campus and at the Gig Harbor campus.

For more information call:
Tacoma campus 253.566.5086
Gig Harbor campus 253.460.2424

www.tacomacc.edu/FreshSTART

Running START



College Bound Students

- Earn FREE college credit during your junior and senior years of high school
- Challenge yourself
 - Choose from a wide variety of courses
 - Get involved in TCC on-campus activities

Spring Quarter application period:
February 1-March 23

Running Start Info Nights:
Feb. 2, 6 pm :: Gig Harbor Campus
Feb. 8, 6 pm :: Tacoma Campus

For testing dates and times, call
253.566.5158 on the Tacoma campus, or
253.460.2424 on the Gig Harbor Campus.

Questions? Contact us! P: 253.566.6061
E: runstart@tacomacc.edu
www.tacomacc.edu/runningstart

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW IS INSIDETCC

Information to Keep You Updated and In the Loop

Signing up is free and gives you instant access to the campus events calendar, and tailor-fit information just for you.



SIGN UP TODAY! <http://insidetcc.tacomacc.edu>