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JW Foster, City of Yelm Mayor  
Michael Grayum, City Administrator  
State Legislators

I am pleased to write a letter of support for the City of Yelm's partnership efforts with South Puget Sound Community College. As superintendent of Yelm Community Schools, the district has worked tirelessly to partner with the City of Yelm and SPSCC to add program options for adults and youth. Adding campus facilities is desperately needed. The goal for the city and our school system is to offer the opportunity for Yelm citizens to take classes and earn an Associate's Degree without having to travel to the Olympia or Lacey sites.

Currently, there are three partnership programs with SPSCC that are supported by the school district and the city. All three are highly successful and serve as strong testament to the need for additional facilities and services for college bound adults. First, Yelm High School serves as an evening extension campus for SPSCC. Right now two classes are offered each term in the basic content areas. Enrollment is strong even without the facilities or structures for varied course offerings. The second program is our High School 21+ partnership. Yelm adults have flocked to this program and our graduation rate is the highest in the area. To date we have graduated more than 30 adults who are now looking for college opportunities to continue their learning. Lastly, we have a partnership program to provide minimal transportation from Yelm to SPSCC campuses in Olympia and Lacey. Transportation, or the distance from Yelm to SPSCC services is a significant hardship for many potential students. Having campus facilities here in Yelm would serve our population well, and meet a strong need for SPSCC.

It has been my experience as superintendent that partnering with the City of Yelm and SPSCC is practical, easy and productive. Both entities work extremely hard to support Yelm citizens. The ability to add facilities, to provide learning technology and degree specification, and to provide educational counseling and support are serves I see happening through collaboration. I know the creative will of both organizations, and they will make any endeavor successful.

The Yelm Community Schools will continue to support and collaborate with the City of Yelm and SPSCC to provide educational opportunities for our students and adults. We proudly offer our support for this project to move forward. Eastern Thurston County needs continuing education opportunities and I see this partnership reaping significant rewards.

Sincerely,

Brian Wharton  
Superintendent  
Yelm Community Schools

Debbie Edwards  
Board President  
Yelm Community Schools