



## WHAT IS LEADERSHIP SKAGIT?

### ***A program for current and emerging leaders working or living in Skagit County***

Each year individuals from the public, private and non-profit sectors come together who are committed to making a difference in Skagit County. During the nine-month program, Leadership Skagit participants develop an exciting vision of the future and a shared understanding of the richness and complexity that makes up Skagit County. The incoming class joins a network of over 500 alumni of the program as they make contributions to build a stronger, more resilient community.

### ***A chance to gain a broad perspective of opportunities and challenges facing Skagit County***

The Leadership Skagit curriculum explores a broad variety of issues facing different sectors and industries critical to the county. Each meeting day of Leadership Skagit will focus on information from sectors such as: Government, Law & Justice, Business, Economic Development, Health & Human Services, Media, Agriculture, Education, and the Arts. The participants meet key players in each of these fields and learn first-hand about the issues, the challenges they face and the successes they have enjoyed.

### ***Intensive study and practice of leadership skills***

The Program's participants bring extensive leadership skills to the program and, as leaders, they seek further personal growth and improvement. Based on Kouzes and Posner's The Leadership Challenge, the program includes a number of self-assessments of leadership skills and a 360° evaluation of leadership capability. Participants receive training and materials on leadership skills, set personal goals, and work with coaches to observe and process feedback on skills development. ***Upon successful completion, participants receive 17 academic credits in leadership at Skagit Valley College.***

### ***An opportunity to make an impact now***

During the nine-month program, Leadership Skagit participants form teams and complete a leadership group project that addresses a current need within the county. Over the years, LS teams have collaborated with a wide variety of organizations, non-profits, schools, and parks. Projects have been completed with the Boys and Girls Clubs, Community Action, Skagit Land Trust, Little Mountain Elementary, Friendship House and many others. In partnership with a non-profit, each team identifies and completes a project to assist the organization to accomplish its goals and to practice their leadership skills.

### ***A legacy of leadership***

Graduates of Leadership Skagit have an ongoing and important impact on the development of leaders in Skagit County. They continue to support the planning of future LS programs that ensure that new leaders have the training necessary to step into leadership positions. The results are improved community leadership, increased civic engagement, respect and understanding of community diversity, and improved community dialogue. Leadership Skagit is a win-win opportunity for the individual participants and our community.

*Leadership Skagit is a program of the  
Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County (EDASC) Foundation*

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