



**2009 Targeted
 Competitive – Renew
 Washington Grant**

Final Narrative Report

1. Do you feel this grant has helped you provide better service to your customers?

x	Strongly agree
	Agree
	Neutral
	Disagree
	Strongly disagree

Please explain:

Statistics show that our patrons have heavily used the materials purchased with the grant money. The college has seen an increase in enrollment in the past year, due to displaced workers returning to school for retraining. The collaborative aspects of the grant also has strengthened ties with Skagit Valley College’s Career Services Department and the Mount Vernon City Library. We are likely to continue future collaboration with these entities, which will benefit the people served by us all.

2. Summarize the project, the situation it was intended to address, and the objectives of the project.

The purpose of this project was to offer our students and community patrons expanded career information though an online program, Gale Career Transitions, and new print, media, and electronic materials in the library.

There was a huge need for this type of information at the college because the population Skagit Valley College serves has been severely impacted by the economic downturn. Enrollment at Skagit Valley College has expanded approximately 5 % over last year in response to the depressed economic climate in our area while at the same time; the college budget has been cut 7%. We also have seen an increase in community borrower needs because there is no county-wide library system.

To help meet the 7% cut, the college closed the SVC Business Resource Center, which had hundreds of books and media items related to starting a small business,, so those resources were no longer available to the library’s patrons. The library’s career materials dated back to the 1990s and we owned few media items. This grant helped us update our digital, non-print and print collection to better serve our patrons.

There were two stated objectives:

- ◆ *Our college library and Counseling and Career Center would provide tools, such as Gale-Cengage’s Career Transitions database, the Washington Online*

Information System(WOIS) and an online job board software, for students, community patrons, staff and faculty to conduct career and job search functions.

The second goal was:

- ◆ *Our library would provide expanded print and electronic resources for basic computer skills, career information, interviewing, resume writing, small business, and other employment-related activities to benefit college staff, faculty and students and community job-seekers.*

Additionally, we hoped that this project would increase collaboration with both our campus Career Services department and the Mount Vernon City Library.

3. Summarize the results of the project, including activities accomplished, and any problems or unexpected outcomes encountered.

The library purchased 325 books, videos, and other library materials related to careers, starting a new business, and job searching. They began being checked out almost as soon as they went on display in the library. In order to let the campus and community know about them, they were put on display in the library, at the college's Health Occupations Information Night program, and a press release was issued through the college about the grant, and appeared in local newspapers.

The library also purchased a subscription to the Gale Career Transitions database. The product was piloted to the campus community. Librarians conducted training for faculty on its use, and also taught workshops to college classes who were working on career and college success assignments.

Due to relatively low usage of the Gale Career Transitions database and feedback from classes and career counseling faculty surveyed, we decided to not renew the subscription for 2010-11. That database was logged 537 searches. For the same time period, WOIS database had 2424 searches for career information. Faculty and students also indicated to us that they prefer the fact that WOIS is specific to Washington State, as well.

To accommodate anticipated community patron usage, we created referral forms to be used between the Mount Vernon City Library and our library. One unexpected outcome here was that our patrons apparently were not interested in seeking additional resources outside of our library. We did not refer any of them to the city library during the course of the grant. The same was true for Mount Vernon City Library patrons, who mostly used resources purchased through the grant at their library and who did not ask for referrals to our library.

We also collaborated with the Mount Vernon City Library's own grant efforts. We assisted with their public programming by helping them find speakers from our Career Services Department and booking meeting space here at the college.

Two of the original goals, funding for one year of the Washington Online Information System (WOIS) and an online job board software, were not met through this grant. Because the awarding of funds was delayed, these items were purchased through other funds for our campus.

The money not spent on those two items instead was used to pay staff salary because of the additional need to process materials in the library that was originally unanticipated.

4. **Quantify, where possible, the results of the project, including how many people have directly used the new services and resources provided by the project.**

- ◆ We purchased the Gale Career Transitions Database. It recorded 537 searches between November 12, 2009 and August 13, 2010.
- ◆ We purchased 325 items, and most of these were made available in the fourth quarter of the project, which took place during the latter half of Spring Quarter, when fewer students use the library. Those items showed 120 check outs during that time. We hope that with continued marketing, and continued display of the items purchased, these items will see increasing usage, especially in the Fall Quarter, when we traditionally see the most use of the library.
- ◆ Our career services faculty purchased digital camcorders and they used them to conduct mock interviews with six students registered for summer quarter in the Social Sciences 113 class. We anticipate increased usage with higher levels of Fall Quarter enrollments and a greater number of career class sections being offered. A photo of one of these sessions is attached.
- ◆ Our career services faculty collaborated with the MV City Library in doing presentations for patrons. They conducted two workshops and each workshop had approximately 30 attendees.
- ◆ We staffed a booth at the Health Occupations Career fair and made contact with 38 students or potential students, showing materials purchased with the grant.

5. **Did the project meet its stated objectives? Compare the project objectives to actual accomplishments.**

We believe that we did achieve the stated objectives.

- ◆ *Our college library and Counseling and Career Center would provide tools, such as Gale-Cengage's Career Transitions database, the Washington Online Information System(WOIS) and an online job board software, for students, community patrons, staff and faculty to conduct career and job search functions.*

This goal was partially met. We did provide the Career Transitions database to our patrons during the time of this grant. We also provided training to staff and students on using this database. We conducted at least two orientations to classes during Winter and Spring Quarters on the use of this database.

Due to the delay in receiving the award, however, the WOIS and online job board were purchased through other funding sources.

In our evaluation of the project, the Career Transitions database showed 537 searches during the time period of the grant, as opposed to more than 2000 searches for the WOIS database. Due to these statistics and feedback from counseling faculty and students, we decided to stay with WOIS and not renew the Career Transitions subscription.

The second goal was:

- ◆ *Our library would provide expanded print and electronic resources for basic computer skills, career information, interviewing, resume writing, small business, and other employment-related activities to benefit college staff, faculty and students and community job-seekers.*

This goal was met by the library. As mentioned above, we selected, purchased and made available more than 300 titles to our students in these subject areas. During Spring quarter 2010, these materials were checked out 120 times.

In addition, the college's Career Services staff purchased printed brochures on job search skills that they provided to ABE/ESL classes. The digital camcorder that was purchased for use by the Career Services department was used for six mock interviews created with students in SOC SCI 113.

A third goal was to increase collaboration with both our campus Career Services department and the Mount Vernon City Library and both of these objectives were achieved. Feedback from staff at both agencies indicates a willingness to collaborate on projects in the future.

We advertised the materials by having the campus information office send out a press release to local media. We also featured materials purchased through the grant at a health sciences career fair and displays in the library.

We evaluated the project by collecting the following additional data:

- ◆ In the original proposal, we specified that one measure of success would have been an increase in number of community patrons at SVC library. During the time period of the grant, we gained 15 community patrons, although they cannot be attributed directly to referral work done by the grant. In fact, in the questionnaire sent to staff at both Mount Vernon City and Skagit Valley College libraries, respondents at both libraries indicated that they did not actively refer patrons to the other library.
- ◆ Feedback from counseling and career services and library staff and faculty on the impact of this grant on their services and collaboration between the departments. The staff returned questionnaires, indicating that they valued the collaboration and that they referred students to materials purchased through the grant at least once per week during the time of the grant. They also all indicated that they would be "Very Likely" or "Extremely Likely" to participate in another collaborative effort with the library.