

## Press Release from FHHS

During February and March this year, San Juan County residents participated in a survey to support the creation of a county job training facility (a “Skills Center”) that would be a satellite to the main campus in Mt. Vernon. San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez participated in the survey. While the survey was the first and small step in the development of a skills center, it was taken very, very seriously by San Juan Island residents! The final report shows this clearly. Here’s a summary of survey participation between the islands:

	SAN JUAN	ORCAS	LOPEZ
STUDENTS	300	72	0
PARENTS	144	37	0
BUSINESSES	44	6	6

We are pleased to have such constant, unyielding support from our community. Thank you!

Briefly, the report encourages us to develop a satellite skills center appropriate for San Juan County. The report acknowledges that transportation between the islands is an underlying issue and that, therefore, we might need several satellites. Hopefully, the first one will be sited on San Juan Island, based on our strong survey results.

The report also identifies the most ‘popular’ programs, based on the survey results for San Juan County. These are, in order:

1. Culinary Arts
2. Building Construction/Carpentry
3. Health Care Services
4. Architecture and Design
5. Marine Technology

State funding is the biggest obstacle for a satellite skills center. Additional funding will have to be appropriated by the legislature. In the meantime, FHHS will be working with the Mt. Vernon campus to create a local, inexpensive training option. Tentatively, our vision would be combine construction, design, and marine tech into a comprehensive program that addresses the design, construction, maintenance, promotion, and finances of boat building and repair.

For those who would like to review the entire report, it can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.sjisd.wednet.edu/fhhs/skillcenter> .

For further information contact Larry Wight, [lwight@sjisd.wednet.edu](mailto:lwight@sjisd.wednet.edu)