



## Partnerships that educate while providing much needed dental care

The Northwest Career and Technical Academy (NCTA) is into partnerships. For instance, each Monday, **Dental Technology program students in Mount Vernon assist a dentist** funded by the Mount Baker Dental Society to care for patients screened and scheduled by Community Action of Skagit County. NCTA Students maintain dental operatories, sterilize and disinfect, assist chairside, interpret for ESL patients and provide reception services.

Another example: On the third Saturday of each month, **students work with University of Washington dental students and U of W professors to provide services to community members.** UW students and NCTA students gain valuable experience and community members get medical care they couldn't easily afford otherwise.

One more partnership at work for NCTA Dental program students is the cooperative agreement with Skagit Valley College and Bellingham Technical College, where **students move directly into a college level Dental Assisting program** upon graduating from the Academy program, putting them ahead of the curve on their way to a career!

# WASHINGTON STATE SKILLS CENTERS

