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901 Mountain View Drive

Shelton, WA 98584

#  News Release

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| FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ONLY:April 12, 2016  | FOR MORE INFORMATION:**Jennifer Capps, chief development and communication officer** **JCapps@MasonGeneral.com** **(360) 427-3622** |  |

## SHELTON SCHOOL DISTRICT AND MASON GENERAL HOSPITAL & FAMILY OF CLINICS ESTABLISH A HEALTH SCIENCE ACADEMY

SHELTON, Wash. – The governing boards for Mason General Hospital & Family of Clinics (MGH&FC) and Shelton School District met in a combined session on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 to approve a joint operating agreement to establish a Health Science Academy at the Shelton High School.

Last spring, the two governing bodies worked successfully to save the Shelton High School pool. “That endeavor was a real testimony to our community’s commitment to health and wellness,” said Eric Moll, MGH&FC CEO. “Moll added, “Our schools are more than just a building where learning takes place. They are our community. Our schools have a lasting impact upon the future of our community; they impact our socio-economic viability, retention local talent, the health of our community and the prosperity of future generations.”

The purpose of this new collaborative effort is to connect students with Mason County’s leading healthcare employer – Mason General Hospital & Family of Clinics. This partnership directly supports Graduation Matters-Shelton in terms of enhancing the instructional program not only at Shelton High School but throughout the K-12 system. This unique partnership will motivate students to pursue further education toward careers in medical/healthcare science. Through a rigorous specialized curriculum and community based partnership, students will be inspired to serve society with compassion, skill and vision.

The goals of the Health/Science Academy include:

* Exposing students to a variety of healthcare careers.
* Increasing the number of Shelton School District students who choose a healthcare career by creating linkages to educational opportunities and real-life experiences.
* Enhancing instructional programs by creating strong alignment between current school curriculums and the health, science, and technology needs of the future.
* Employing qualified Academy graduates at MGH&FC.

Dr. Alex Apostle, Superintendent of Shelton School District, commented that *“We welcome others to assist in creating Shelton School District as a premier model of community and public schools working together to best support, not only the students, and School District, but the entire community.”*

MGH&FC Hospital Commissioner Scott Hilburn, Board President said, *“I have given this a great deal of thought and I am on board. Let’s do this for our students and our community”.*

MGH&FC is approved by the Joint Commission, and is a licensed and accredited acute care hospital with a level four emergency trauma designation. There are more than 100 physicians on staff in 19 specialties. For more information go to www.MasonGeneral.com.

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