

Monday, May 17, 2010

5.00 - 7.30 pm

Please meet in the Paramount Hotel lobby at 5 pm for transportation to the Sokol Blosser Winery

Wine Tasting and Tour at Sokol Blosser Winery

The Sokol Blosser Winery opened in 1971 on 18 acres in the Dundee Hills as one of the pioneer wineries in Oregon. Today, the family-owned and -run winery is comprised of a 72-acre estate of vineyards and is considered a leader in producing high-quality Oregon Pinot Noir. Sokol Blosser's farming and production uses methods that are sustainable and environmentally friendly. The vineyards are farmed organically, and the estate has received "salmon-safe" certification; it was the first winery in the country to earn LEED certification for its underground barrel cellar.

In addition to the winery tour and tasting, guests will hear a short presentation by D. Craig Anderson on Chemeketa Community College's Vineyard Management/Winemaking Program.

Speaker: D. Craig Anderson, associate dean of the Department of Natural Resources, Chemeketa Community College

Biographical Information on the Speaker

D. Craig Anderson is the associate dean of the Department of Natural Resources at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, OR. His duties include the supervision of the Vineyard Management/Winemaking (VMW) Program and the Northwest Viticulture Center (NWVC). He has had a pivotal role in the planning, organization, and implementation of the program and the design and construction of the center. His leadership has been essential to the significant growth and development of the program and center during the 11 years of their existence.

The VMW Program was launched in 1999 in response to a request from the Oregon wine grape industry for a more locally trained workforce. NWVC, its physical home, was dedicated in 2003. Chemeketa was the first college in the Northwest to offer training in this area. The NWVC is a leading wine industry resource that provides continuing education and degree programs in all aspects of viticulture and enology – from the growing of the grape to selling of the wine. The center emphasizes strong alliances with the Northwest wine industry, associated educational institutions, and the community.

The VMW Program is the major supplier of trained workforce for the Oregon wine grape industry. A student can earn an associate of applied science degree in vineyard management, winemaking, or wine marketing or a certificate in vineyard operations. Hands-on training is facilitated by an eight-acre teaching vineyard and a 1,400-square-foot teaching winery. On-the-job work experience is provided through Chemeketa's Cooperative Work Experience Program at commercial vineyards and wineries. The teaching winery is licensed and bonded with its own label, and the wine is available for sale.

Since its inception there have been about 6,000 student enrollments in the program, which equates to 3,000 individual students, and between 80 and 90 graduates. Approximately, 80 students, who come from a wide variety of U. S. and international locations, are currently pursuing one of the three degrees or the certificate. For more detailed information, go to eola.chemeketa.edu.