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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Columbia Credit Union Makes Gift to New Technology Building at WSU Vancouver

Vancouver, WA – Columbia Credit Union donated \$60,000 to the new Engineering and Computer Science building at Washington State University Vancouver. The gift is in commemoration of Columbia’s 60th anniversary in 2012 and will support a radio frequency research laboratory, a computer science open computer lab and six mini-grants for faculty research. The laboratories will bear Columbia Credit Union’s name through 2016.

“Columbia Credit Union’s gift will significantly improve our ability to equip our new laboratories and fund new faculty research programs,” said Dr. Hakan Gurocak, Director, School of Engineering and Computer Science. “We’re excited to provide students with these benefits and congratulate the credit union on their commitment to education.”

“Our gift will foster research and development and innovative collaboration between WSU Vancouver faculty and high tech companies,” said Columbia SVP Marketing and Chief Deposit Officer, Colleen Boccia. “We hope it will inspire other local organizations to make contributions of their own.”

Economists predict a five-year wait for employment recovery in our area, but waiting is not an option for Columbia President and CEO, Steve Kenny. “By acting now, we’re setting the stage for sustainable job creation in advance of that five-year horizon.” The credit union’s donation aligns with Clark County’s 20-year economic plan to promote higher education and research to ensure our area’s

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prosperity. “Clark County’s plan is riddled with reasons for us to move swiftly and with purpose in support of local higher education – in particular, areas of study that will anchor information technology and software companies, near-field communications, multi-media and the healthcare industry,” added Kenny.

“As many as 15,000 WSU alumni live, work and volunteer their time in Southwest Washington and Columbia serves more than one in four of these families. Our gift is a meaningful way to mark our 60th year of service to our members and our community,” added Boccia. Columbia Credit Union has supported the WSUV student scholarship program since the early 1990s; this is the first gift specifically for engineering.

WSU Vancouver’s Engineering and Computer Science building will open for classes in spring 2012.

About Columbia Credit Union: Established in 1952, Columbia Credit Union has \$794 million in assets and 12 Clark County, WA locations. Columbia serves more than 70,000 members with a 2011 satisfaction rating of 95.8 percent - an industry benchmark. Columbia is nationally recognized by PBS Companies for Workplace Excellence and was voted Clark County’s “Best Financial Institution” in 2009, 2010, and 2011, and “Best Overall Customer Service” in 2010. Columbia is a top local lender for auto and home loans, and was named the SBA “Credit Union Lender of the Year” for 2009 and 2010 in the Portland, Oregon district. Committed to sustainability, Columbia built Clark County’s first financial institution branches to strict LEED standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council. Individuals and businesses in Washington State are eligible for membership. For more information, visit www.columbiacu.org.

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