

DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNUS
OF THE YEAR

Sherlyn Brockway



Ms. Sherlyn Brockway, Principal Architect of Brockway, Opfer, Raab Architecture, PLLC, is this year's recipient of the YVCC *Distinguished Alumnus Award*. Ms. Brockway received her B.A. in Architecture in 1988 from Washington State University after transferring from YVCC. She has experience in all phases of project development with a specific emphasis in the areas of the Pre-Design Phase and Project Feasibility Research. Ms. Brockway has contributed significantly to various buildings on both the Yakima and Grandview campuses, as well as many other places in the Yakima Valley. "I've had outstanding experiences with faculty and staff at YVCC. Yakima is lucky to have these kinds of people here," she said. After completing her B.A. she moved back to Yakima and began working at her father's architecture firm. In 1994 she opened Brockway, Opfer, Raab Architecture, PLLC with partners Allen Opfer and Richard Raab.

"Sheri has a real knack for working with people to understand their issues and needs and incorporate this information into the project design. She works diligently to create a team approach in her design projects by facilitating the process to include everyone's input to move toward a common goal," said business partner Allen Opfer. Her work is new every day in a profession that is rarely dull, and allows her to learn about what others do in their professions and what tools they need to succeed. She incorporates this knowledge into her designs and building models to create buildings that are functional for clients and spaces that allow them to work more effectively, producing higher quality work. "To be a good architect, to design a building properly, you need to see how the clients do their jobs every day," said Ms. Brockway.

Ms. Brockway has spent the last 19 years involved with YVCC in various capacities. Most recently she contributed the architecture services for the new Glenn Anthon Hall, which is a replacement project for Glenn Hall and Anthon Hall originally built in the early 60's. "Her tireless efforts to get it right by listening to multiple members of the administration, faculty, and staff resulted in Glenn Anthon Hall which will be the envy of schools all across the Northwest. It is a gem and so is she," said YVCC Biology Instructor Mike Harves. Ms. Brockway also contributed to Jane's House Child Care Center, the Grandview Campus, Hopf Union Building addition and alterations, and the Sundquist Hall renovation. "I have a real connection to YVCC, because I was a student here, and I have tried to make it a high-quality institution for future students," said Ms. Brockway.

Ms. Brockway has contributed her talents in many ways other than architecture. She is a current trustee for St. Paul Education Foundation, and is a member of Yakima Sunrise Rotary Club. She is involved with the Yakima Greenway Foundation and is serving as a Start/Finish line coordinator for the eighth year in the *Gap to Gap* relay. She has worked on a number of projects which have earned the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce Yakima Extra Special (Y.E.S.) Awards. These awards are given to recognize projects that improve the community either through new construction or renovation.

Ms. Brockway and her husband Mike live in Naches. They have two teenage daughters. They enjoy hiking, traveling, and the outdoors.