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**Inspirus grant helps boost graduation rates
for nontraditional students at Green River College**

TUKWILA, WASH. – “You don’t have to be the techiest of techies or a 4.0 Ivy Leaguer to be a successful software developer. You just have to work at it and to *want* it.”

That mantra and embrace of nontraditional students in its IT programs helped earn Green River College a Time Magazine ranking as the nation’s most diverse college. It’s also one of the reasons Inspirus Credit Union has pledged \$20,000 over three years to the school’s Completion Fund, which helps students close to graduation overcome hurdles to getting their diploma.

Green River student Melissa Curry is a single mother who has gone from casino dealer to software developer, thanks to her exceptional perseverance, a four-year degree from Green River, and plenty of financial and inspirational support along the way. “From my experience, those around you will notice your hard work and strength, and it’s amazing how much help and support people are willing to give when they see you doing your best to help yourself,” Ms. Curry said.

Inspirus Credit Union presented the 2017 installment of its Completion Fund grant on Wednesday. “It’s our mission to give back to education,” said Inspirus Vice President of Marketing Sherry Lotze, “and Green River’s exceptional work in helping women, in particular, break barriers in IT is a model for the nation.”

One-third of Green River’s IT students are women, and the program is looking to increase that number to one-half by 2020. Inspirus’s Community Wall in Tukwila features stories of women at Green River overcoming adversity through its IT program. This fall, the school will consolidate its day and evening software programs at its Auburn Center. Learn more about Green River College [programs](#) here.

Green River’s IT Program is on display at Inspirus Credit Union in Tukwila and is open to the public for viewing.

Inspirus Credit Union – 5200 Southcenter Blvd., Seattle, WA 98188

About Inspirus Credit Union

Founded in 1936 by a Seattle math and journalism teacher, Inspirus serves 80,000 members across Washington who share a passion for education. With \$1.1 billion in assets, Inspirus operates branches in Seattle, Spokane, and Lynnwood. Its philanthropy model includes education-giveback programs that allow members to direct charitable contributions to schools in their communities. Inspirus employees donate upwards of 1,000 volunteer hours each year in support of education. For more information, visit inspirusCU.org.

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