

McCullough blooms in Skagit Valley

At 27, Jeremy McCullough juggles his career, family and launches new business venture

By Linda Partlow

OREGON NATIVE JEREMY McCullough fell in love with the Skagit Valley area while attending Skagit Valley College (SVC). Today, at age 27, he is holding down a full-time job as vice president of commercial lending at Business Bank in Burlington, raising a family in Mount Vernon and immersing himself in activities to support and promote his community. He also co-launched the “I Love Skagit County Visitors’ & Newcomers’ Guide” in March.

McCullough’s busy lifestyle shows in a recent e-mail he sent this writer: “I recently joined the Skagit Valley YMCA Board of Directors, have been involved with Skagit Young Professionals since it started, have been working on the Mount Vernon Community Marketing Campaign for the past two years, am a member of the Skagit Valley College President’s Roundtable for Workforce Development ... am a commercial

lender for a community bank in one of the most ‘interesting’ banking environments in recent history and started a business this past year with my wife (Jamie) and Guy D. and Lisa Corp.”

The business is I Love Skagit LLC, which will publish its Skagit County guide annually. This year, 100,000 copies were printed and distributed in the area, and an online version is available at www.iLoveSkagit.com.



Jeremy McCullough of Burlington’s Business Bank stands in the RoozenGaarde tulip field off Memorial Highway.

The first issue features cover art by Jennifer Bowman, winner of the 2004 Skagit Valley Tulip poster contest, and photos by Skagit photographers. Guy also serves as graphic designer.

“Tourism has always been in my blood because of my love for Skagit Valley,” McCullough says. “I’m a benefit in Skagit County because it’s a (growing), small community.”

In fact, after earning his associate’s degree from SVC in 2001 and a bachelor’s degree in business administration in 2003 from the University of Washington, Bothell, McCullough accepted the position of marketing and tournament director for Eaglemont Golf Club in Mount Vernon. From there, he moved on to membership and tourism director for the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce. He switched gears about three and half years ago and joined Business Bank’s Burlington branch as a business development manager, and later moved into commercial lending.

Although he is young, McCullough doesn't believe he has climbed the corporate ladder any faster than others his age. He attributes his banking success to the opportunities small banks provide to move ahead and the chance to "wear many hats."

"I knew early on that the direction of my career would include dealing with people," McCullough says. "Working at a bank is all about working with people ... I guess that's why I have fun."

"I'm fortunate to have a wealth of knowledge from knowledgeable bankers who have worked decades in the industry."

Working with people is a lifestyle habit for McCullough considering his many community activities. One of his passions is his continued participation in Leadership Skagit, a program he graduated from in 2008. He has since been active with the program's recruitment committee.

"Nearly 200 leaders in Skagit

County have graduated from the program, and I recommend it to anyone looking to gain a better understanding of Skagit County and (to) further develop their leadership skills," he

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**Jeremy McCullough,
Business Bank &
"I Love Skagit" Guide**

says.

Free time is never boring for McCullough, who manages to get in daddy time with daughter Avery, 2; his wife; and extended family.

"Family is number one," says

McCullough, who is expecting a second child in June. "I work hard when I'm on the clock so I can play when I'm off."

McCullough lettered in three sports in high school, and he plans to make room in his schedule to coach golf, basketball, track or cross country once his kids become involved in sports.

Despite his many outlets, McCullough insists on maintaining his professional demeanor.

"...I always feel I'm a representative of the organizations that I've partnered with." ■

Linda Partlow is a freelance writer living in Bellingham.
