

The Blazer Bulletin

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION



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Foundation News

So much has happened since the last edition of the Blazer Bulletin, I hardly know where to start!

In this issue you will see stories on our newest Distinguished Alumni, Centralia College's Outstanding Students, and the recipients of the Exceptional Faculty awards.

There is also an update on the athletic field which is under construction now. By the time this photo gets to you, the field will look very different as each step of the process creates an entirely new landscape. One week they are removing dirt and old concrete roadway, the next they are laying pipe for under the turf field.

The Foundation has a new staff member, Annie Oien. She has hit the ground running and is tackling the marketing and reserving of the SWFT Center for community training in the trades. She will also be part of our events team and I am sure you will get a chance to meet her soon.

Here are photos of some of our newest happenings.

Outside Washington Hall is a lovely area that has been the location of a waterfall sponsored by Judy Greeley Hendrickson. The water system always seemed to be getting clogged with leaves and needles and needed frequent repair. Judy was gracious enough to allow us to put in river rock and lovely large planters to mimic the "waterfall" look. Thanks to Liz Mohrbacher for choosing the planters and trees! Next up are seasonal plants for the planters to finish them off.



We have also recently refreshed the "Ralph and Bonnie Olson" deck. After weeding, adding dirt and large decorative rocks and plants that are agreeable to our summer weather, we have another almost completed project to beautify campus. A number of Foundation volunteers, staff, and the Mohrbachers have made the garden look beautiful again. Thanks goes again to Liz Mohrbacher for the landscape





design. The deck is now ready for a few summer gatherings on our beautiful campus.

Last, is a photo of former trustee, Joanne Schwartz, on our June 17th commencement day. Joanne was awarded an honorary Bachelor of Applied Science degree for her years of dedicated service to Centralia College and our students. She received this recognition

in 2019, and we were finally able to see her at commencement this year. For more photos of the festivities, please go to centralia.edu.

To get the latest updates for events and announcements, make sure our office has your email address. Email us at ccfoundation@centralia.edu or go to this link on our website to update your information. centralia.edu/foundation/about/update.aspx

Happy summer and just wait until you see what we have planned for the next academic year.

Christine Fossett

**Associate Vice President of Advancement,
Executive Director, Foundation**



ANNIE OIEN

Annie Oien has recently joined the Foundation Team as the SWFT Center and Community Outreach Specialist. Having lived throughout Lewis County, including the most rural areas, she

brings an understanding of the vast socioeconomic factors that impact people within the region. Her advocacy and dedication to empowering others to take ownership of their potential, impassions her to speak to the resources Centralia College offers. She has a broad business acumen having instructed at Centralia College for 18 years while also working within the private sectors of sales and project management.

Annie enjoys nothing more than connecting with the heart of people, treasuring the authenticity and triumph of each person's journey. In her spare time, she is filled with the fullness of life that comes from great food and the meaningful moments shared with her husband and their three growing children.

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Centralia College honors five with 2022 Outstanding Student Awards

Centralia College faculty and staff selected five students to receive the 2022 Outstanding Student Award.

The Outstanding Students are chosen for overcoming obstacles in the pursuit of their degree, for achieving their educational goals, and for being an active and engaged member of the college community. Students are nominated by faculty and staff, and the winners are chosen by a selection committee.

“This year we had 21 nominations – a new record,” said Robert Cox, vice president of Student Services. “We had so many deserving students! The five we selected each embody the Centralia College mission and it’s an honor to recognize them as Outstanding Students.”



Lauren Burnett represented Centralia College on the 2022 All-Washington Academic Team and in the Washington State Championship for Public Speaking, where she placed in the top five for her inspirational

speech. She has been an active member in the Speech Club, Phi Theta Kappa, YoungLife, and varsity cheer at Morton High School, where she is the class president and class valedictorian.



Joshua Christensen has persevered through numerous personal and college challenges to finish his degree at Centralia College with nearly a 4.0 GPA. Joshua received

support through many important people on campus as he proceeded through his degree and decided to give back by serving as a peer mentor in Blazer Central. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Gender and Sexuality Alliance Club.



Ana Encinas-Estrada is the perfect representation of a non-traditional student balancing life while excelling in college. Ana is a mother of three who provides support to numerous other

family members all while completing her bachelor's degree. Ana serves as the Veteran's Center coordinator, president of the Veteran's Club, president of the Latino Unidos Club, and vice president of the Medical Assistant Club. She is also a peer mentor in Blazer Centralia and a member of the Art Club and Phi Theta Kappa.



Isaac Pope is a very accomplished young man who has excelled as a Running Start student at Centralia College. While completing his degree and preparing to transfer to Colorado School

of Mines, he has received numerous awards, including being recognized as the All-USA Academic Team, Lemke Scholar, numerous scholarships, and has been on the President's List many times. In addition to his exceptional academic performance, he serves as the secretary of the Speech Club, president of Phi Theta Kappa, and as a STEM tutor.



Jun Wang 王俊 started at Centralia College as an international student from China pursuing an Associate in Arts degree and leaves Centralia College as the very first international student to receive a bachelor's degree. While Jun successfully completed her degrees, she was involved in the cultural café events, represented her country at student events and club fairs, and volunteered at her children's school.

The students received special recognition as they received their degrees at the commencement ceremony June 17.

LYNNE THOMPSON – 2022 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS



Air Force veteran and lifelong educator named 2022 Distinguished Alumnus

The Centralia College Foundation has selected retired Air Force Colonel Lynne C. Thompson as the 2022 Distinguished Alumnus. Col. (ret) Thompson, Ed.D. is a 1970 graduate of Centralia College, who has served over 44 years in the Department of Defense, both in the Air Force and in Federal Civil Service primarily as an educator and administrator for high-level leadership training and education.

Col. Thompson is the son of teachers. His mother taught at Edison Elementary School and his father taught math at Centralia High School. When he graduated from Centralia High School, he wanted to attend Centralia College

for his first two years of college because of the college's opportunities.

"Centralia College was life-changing for me," he shared. "I was nerdy and introverted in high school. I learned I needed to grow beyond that stereotype and Centralia College provided me the opportunities to do that."

Col. Thompson was involved with Circle K and partook of many of the service club's civic activities. Furthermore, the college had just finished building a TV studio to teach students skills associated with television production. Col. Thompson shepherded an initiative to produce a Centralia College

version of the “Dating Game” show, broadcasting internally via the college’s CCTV system.

Col. Thompson finished his last two years of undergraduate schooling at the College of the Ozarks in Missouri to earn his bachelor’s degree in speech and communications. While there, he started a Circle K Club on campus, organized a 32-mile trash pickup for the first Earth Day, and was elected the student body’s Vice President. His plans for what to do after graduation altered when he received a draft number of six early in his senior year. The Vietnam war was happening at that time, so he knew what his destiny would be after graduation. He decided to fulfill his military obligations by enlisting in the Air Force, rather than waiting to be drafted.

“I thought I’d do my patriotic duty, be out in four years, and go back to college. As it turned out, I was in the Air Force for almost 32 years.”

Because of the anti-military media at the time, he expected a close-minded, authoritarian environment. Once he finished basic training, Col. Thompson found reality didn’t match the picture painted by the anti-war media. His first assignment was to become a linguist by attending the Foreign Service Institute in the Washington, D.C. area. While living there, he led an initiative sponsored by a couple of senior Air Force generals and their wives to establish the first-ever First-Term Married Airmen’s Group to help the lowest-ranking airmen and spouses adapt to military life and cope with living in the Washington, D.C. area.

The group was so successful in helping young married airmen and spouses that it became a model duplicated at many Air Force bases both in the States and overseas; the name was changed to Married Airmen Sharing Together (MAST).

Shortly after finishing language training, Col. Thompson was selected to attend Officer Training School with a follow-on assignment to learn to navigate B-52 aircraft. In less than five years after being commissioned, he became an instructor radar navigator/instructor navigator in B-52 aircraft. He was responsible for maintaining the operational skill level of all radar navigators and navigators assigned to the 43rd Strategic Wing at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

“The exciting thing about being at Guam was working with our allies in the Pacific, doing joint training activities, and being a part of initiatives like instituting training flights over Australia and conducting missions to the Indian Ocean from Guam,” he described.

In addition to his operational activities, he took time to be a sponsor for the MAST group at Andersen Air Force Base. Col. Thompson earned his master’s degree in Sociology from Pepperdine University in 1979.

After departing Guam, he was sent to Headquarters, Strategic Air Command. Initially, he was responsible for writing war plans, but eventually became an expert in planning and managing crisis action plans and operations. The research paper he authored while attending the Air Force’s Air Command

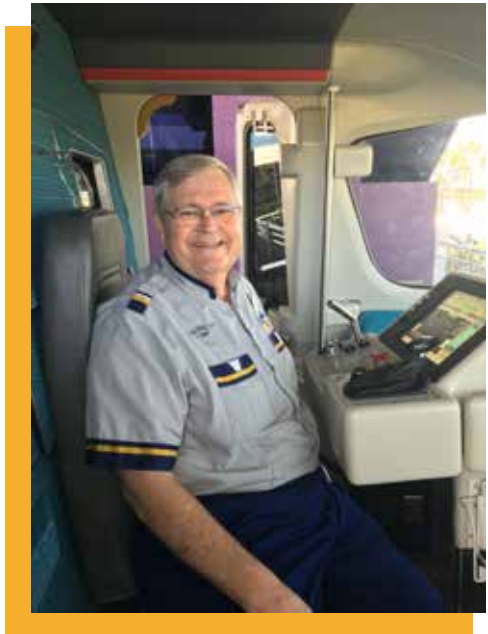
and Staff College detailed the challenges of coordinating the activities of 60 different offices to achieve mission objectives during a crisis.

Because of his expertise in crisis action planning and operations, Col. Thompson was sent back to the Headquarters, Strategic Air Command to add that aspect to the command's largest annual training event, Global Shield. That exercise provided 10 days of training involving all of the Strategic Air Command's bombers, tanker aircraft, command and control aircraft, and continent-spanning missile forces to test the readiness of U.S. forces to respond to a wide range of threats to the U.S. from non-nuclear crisis action options to responding to a nuclear attack.

Afterwards, he was sent to the Pentagon to manage the Air Force's tactical deception program, including training. With his team, he traveled the world teaching Air Force members the tenets of tactical deception for both planning and operations. After that assignment, he returned to Headquarters, Strategic Air Command to work on the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), to draft opening statements to Congress made by the Commander in Chief of Strategic Air Command, and to provide internally coordinated and approved responses to questions from Congressional committees.

Next, Col. Thompson joined the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff and became the Deputy Chief of the Analysis and Simulation Division, which was the office that analyzed all U.S. strategic nuclear war plans.

Subsequently, he was selected to be the senior Air Force member of a five-person team. They were tasked with designing a single command that would be responsible for all strategic nuclear weapons and whose principal mission would be to deter military attack and, if deterrence failed, counter with nuclear weapons. Once the concept was approved by the President, the team was charged with making the U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) a reality.



After USSTRATCOM became operational on June 1, 1992, Col. Thompson was sent to attend Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base (Alabama). After graduating from that college, he became the Director of Plans and Programs at the Ira C. Eaker College for Professional Development at Air University on Maxwell AFB. Col. Thompson introduced computer-

based instruction, web-based data gathering and distance learning into that college's capabilities. He was also a member of the team that created a leadership preparation course for Air Force lieutenant colonels who had been selected to become a squadron commander.

In 1997, he entered a doctoral program in Human and Organizational Learning at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and was transferred to the Pentagon, where he oversaw all Air Force policies for modeling and simulation. Col. Thompson led a diverse group of engineers and operators in analyzing technical and operational requirements needed to enable multiple, simultaneous, interactive, real-time simulations for training purposes.

In 1999, Col. Thompson was selected to teach leadership at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at National Defense University in Washington, D.C. The Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) was a United States military educational institution tasked with preparing selected senior military officers and senior civilians for national security leadership positions. After two years, he was selected to be the college's Associate Dean of Faculty and Academic Programs. In addition to teaching strategic leadership, he introduced distance learning into the curriculum. He led the college's educational technology program, including research and implementation of distributed learning technologies, collaborative software, and a web-based academic calendar.

In 2003, Col. Thompson was awarded a doctorate of education degree from The George Washington University and, subsequently, he was selected to become Dean of Students and Administration at the Information Resources Management College at National Defense University in Washington, D.C., a position which he kept after retiring from the Air Force in December 2003.

Even though many aspects of the Dean of Students position were rewarding, Dr. Thompson missed the day-to-day involvement with students. So, in 2004, he took the opportunity to join the faculty at The Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy as a Professor of Behavioral Science.

The Eisenhower School is the premier Department of Defense Joint Professional Military Education institution that links national security development and implementation with an understanding of the U.S. industrial base in a global context. The college prepares selected U.S. government senior civilians, military officers, International Fellows (senior foreign military), and senior managers from national and international corporations for strategic leadership positions.

Initially, Dr. Thompson was selected to be the course director for the college's Strategic Leadership course, but was later promoted into the position of Chair of the Department of Strategic Leadership. As department chair, he led a diverse team of 16 senior faculty members (a mix of senior military officers, very senior federal civilians, and professional behavioral scientists),

and two administrative assistants to design and execute leadership development courses and conduct an in-depth Executive Assessment and Development Program.

At the university president's direction, Dr. Thompson selected a team and conducted an organizational diagnosis investigating senior leader assessment and development options for National Defense University. The university's president chose Dr. Thompson's course of action for implementation at the university's other colleges. Subsequently, the university president identified Dr. Thompson's Strategic Leadership Development course as one of the two best courses in the university. Further, Dr. Thompson was chosen to lead an outreach initiative between National Defense University and the Haas School of Business at the University of California-Berkeley. That initiative led to creating an adaptive leadership development program that brought together military, federal government, and private sector civilians unfamiliar with the military.

In 2016, Dr. Thompson decided to retire from Federal Civil Service.

"I really enjoyed working with students who were so bright, competent, and dedicated. And, I enjoyed working with my many colleagues who were very skilled and professional. But, it was time to retire," he said. "Washington, D.C. is a pressure cooker environment and it was time to move to Florida and let my blood pressure drop 15 points."

Today, Col. Thompson resides near Orlando. After retiring, he drove the monorail at Walt Disney World for a couple of years and loved it. He said, "In several ways, working in monorails reminded me of my aircrew flying days: the whole team working together to accomplish the mission, which in this case is creating 'magical' experiences for Walt Disney World's guests."

Presently, Col. Thompson is fully retired and his "uniform" is typically shorts and a Disney t-shirt. His wife and he enjoy time with friends, traveling on Disney cruises, and visiting Disney parks.

After multiple accomplishments, experiences, and a life packed with important, meaningful work, Centralia is never far from Col. Thompson's mind.



"Centralia College gave me the opportunity to explore new subjects, meet new people, get involved and become a contributor to others," he added. "It really was life-changing."



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: BRUCE HANSEN

I joined the Centralia College Foundation Board because of my belief in higher education in all of its forms. The work being done on the SWFT Center was enough for me to know that Centralia College appreciates higher education in a much broader range than just book-learning.

I was born and raised right here in Centralia. Most people knew me because my father was the band teacher at Centralia Middle School as well as at the local elementary schools. After graduating in 2009 from Centralia High School, I began my college career at Centralia College before finishing my bachelor's degree in Business Management at Brigham Young University of Idaho. It was there that I met and married my beautiful wife, Kellie.

After retiring from the school district, my father started working as a financial advisor for Edward Jones. He was the reason that I became interested in becoming a financial advisor myself. I've been with Edward Jones now for over four years and I love the flexibility this career has provided to me as I now get to give back to the community that shaped my childhood.

Kellie and I have two joy-filled children, a 3-year-old son Colby, and an 18-month-old daughter Charlotte. We enjoy camping, cooking, sports, playing at the park, ATVs, and other quality family time.

NOMINATE A DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI!

Centralia College has many amazing alumni and we need to have more of them nominated for our Distinguished Alumni award.

Please send us nomination names, along with any history, stories, or contact information you may have to: ccfoundation@centralia.edu or any foundation staff member.

CC FOUNDATION NAMES 2022 EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY AWARD WINNERS

The Centralia College Foundation has selected Joe Burr and Brian Rauscher to receive the 2022 Exceptional Faculty Awards. They were chosen for their commitment to and excellence in their subject areas, and participation in campus activities.



BRIAN RAUSCHER

Brian Rauscher grew up in the Midwest, but fell in love with the Pacific Northwest as a graduate student at Lewis and Clark College in Portland. After working in Colorado for ten years, a faculty counselor position opened at Centralia College in 2018 and Rauscher jumped at the chance to return.

Rauscher advises between 100-130 students every quarter, and also teaches human resources classes. For the last three years, he has also been co-chair of the Guided Pathways Committee, which has been working toward a comprehensive revision of CC's educational offerings to better serve students and to make degree completion easier to navigate.

"I love the wide range of students coming in with amazing backgrounds, interests, and goals," he said.

He added that it's an honor to be recognized as an Exceptional Faculty Award winner.

"It's very humbling," he said. "I'm very fortunate to work at such a dynamic institution and fortunate to work with so many amazing people."

CC FOUNDATION NAMES 2022 EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY AWARD WINNERS



JOE BURR

Joe Burr teaches pre-college English and college-prep classes and serves as the faculty advisor for students in Centralia College's youth education program at Green Hill School in Chehalis. He's been at Centralia College since 2013. At that time, he taught part-time both at CC and St. Martin's University, and was a student in graduate school. In 2019, he was offered a full-time, tenured position at CC.

"I love the students I teach and the faculty I work with, and the programs we offer," he said.

Of all the classes he teaches, English is his favorite.

"I loved English until high school and it became a struggle for me. I lost my writer's voice. I hear that from a lot of students. They loved writing until they got to the red ink stage in high school, and they struggled," he said. "I know what that felt like and it doesn't have to be that way."

Burr, a native of Lacey, said it was a great honor to be chosen as an Exceptional Faculty Award winner.

Support Future Teachers and Athletes!



MULTI-PURPOSE **ATHLETIC FIELD**

Give our athletes a home field advantage!

The construction of the athletic field will give our baseball, soccer, and softball athletes a home field at Centralia College. Since the elimination of Noble Field in 1989, Centralia College athletes have played on local fields, but not on a field they could call their own.

This field will allow the ability to host teams from across the northwest and showcase our beautiful campus. The field will also serve intramural sports for Centralia College students.

The field will be located across from the Michael Smith Gymnasium, home to the basketball and volleyball athletes. The field and gym amenities compliment each other and will allow for improved access.

The athlete and fan experience will be phenomenal!

Funding for this project was primarily provided by the students of Centralia College. Students determined that this field was so important that they assessed themselves a fee to pay for it.

There are still a few items to be funded and with your support, the Centralia College Foundation can provide final funding to complete this project.

Your help will bring our student athletes home!

Donate today at:
<https://centralia.edu/foundation/donate.aspx>

Contact the foundation for recognition opportunities such as the dugouts.

TEACHER EDUCATION AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

**Let's create a safe and
secure space
for children and
teachers-in-training**

Centralia College is the only local opportunity for students to receive a teaching degree. Those new teachers specialize in the instruction of children in kindergarten through eighth grade, and special education. The Teacher Education and Family Development Center will bring the teachers-in-training and the small children they work with into one safe, secure and comprehensive location on campus. This new building will provide a facility for an inclusive learning environment that will replace the multiple aging facilities currently in use.

Primary funding for this project will be provided by the taxpayers of the state of Washington. The legislature included this in the state's list of capital projects for design in 2022-2023, and construction to begin in late 2023. Local schools are in need of quality teachers and this building will provide a dynamic learning environment so important to children.

The Centralia College Foundation board of directors is so committed to the importance of this project they enthusiastically agreed to help raise funds to complete the center.

**Your help will provide
that safe, inclusive
learning space!**



Centralia College Foundation CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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**I would like my support of this capital campaign to
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Multi-Purpose Athletic Field

Teacher Education and Family Development Center

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CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

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Join the Alumni Association

NEW! Join the new Centralia College Alumni Association at
centraliacollegealumni.org.

Alumni, contact us to update your records and make sure we have
you listed as CC alumni. Email us at cfoundation@centralia.edu

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