

# The Blazer Bulletin

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION



**Food Drive Results in Full Shelves- pg. 7**

**Scholarships Abound - pg. 8**

**Albright Delights Concert Attendees - pg. 10**



## Foundation News

Happy new year and welcome to 2023

It's going to be a very exciting year for Centralia College and the Foundation. We have several projects that will come to fruition this year. These projects will have an impact on students, as well as the entire community.

On page 12 is a photo taken in early January of the new athletic field. Students will be playing on this field in the spring and details are included. This field was primarily funded by the students of Centralia College and will be available for intermural use as well as soccer, softball, and baseball teams. The community may be using this for other sporting events, when it's not in use for our students.

Centralia College, Collegiate Housing International, and the Foundation have entered

into agreements to build and manage a new 112 bed student housing building on Centralia College Boulevard. This is the first official student housing complex for our students and the excitement is palatable. Athletes, bachelor degree seeking students, international students and any student looking to live closer to campus in a collegiate environment are being invited to apply for the spaces. Students will live in "apartments" with eight students sharing a common living area. Each unit has four bedrooms with four baths, so students live with a small group but also have quality personal space. The complex is slated for completion in August of 2023, just in time for students to arrive for fall quarter. A photo of current construction and a rendering of the final building are below.

The Foundation staff will continue to stay focused this year on scholarships for our students as the need is still very real. Tuition has remained level, but the higher cost of living has pressed student financial need in their personal lives.



We are also committed to a number of events this year, including an inaugural event on June 15th to celebrate the many and impressive distinguished alumni in Centralia College's history. Save the date for this alumni event and our annual gala on November 4th that will benefit a program on campus.

I hope you had a wonderful New Year celebration and will come celebrate with us this year as we close out a few projects and embark on new adventures together to benefit our students and the college we all love.

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





## NEW SCHOLARSHIP HELPS LOCAL STUDENTS BECOME HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Coordinated Care scholarships and emergency grants launched in November for CC students

Centralia College students pursuing careers in healthcare have a new resource to help them continue their education. Coordinated Care, a Washington State provider of low-cost and free health insurance, committed \$25,000 to the Centralia College Foundation to provide scholarships and emergency grants to CC students in healthcare programs.

Half of the funds were awarded in November through the Foundation's normal scholarship process and were used to cover students' tuition and fees. Eligible students could be working

towards a two-year degree, a certificate, or a bachelor's degree in Behavioral Healthcare.

The other half of the funds are being awarded to students facing one-time financial hardships that threaten their ability to continue their education. These funds are being awarded through the college's existing emergency grant process.

"For too many CC students, a one-time emergency expense, like a car repair, medical bill, or even a dead laptop, is all it takes to force them off track permanently," explained Christine Fossett, executive director of the CC Foundation. "Those relatively small expenses contribute to workforce shortages and prevent students from escaping poverty. Being able to cover those expenses and keep students in college is a relatively easy way to generate long-term changes in the availability of local healthcare workers."



Coordinated Care awarded funds to 10 colleges across the state through its Community Scholarships program. The intent is to remove barriers and support students pursuing careers in healthcare.

“As we looked at ways to reinvest in the community to impact the health of Washingtonians, we saw a need for more healthcare professionals at all levels,” said Beth Johnson, President and CEO at Coordinated Care. “Centralia College is strategic in how they build solutions for their students and the healthcare field. Their Bachelor of Applied Science in Behavior Healthcare program, for example, is designed to graduate students with knowledge and skills to work with diverse clients and recognize barriers to access and equity within healthcare systems.”

Currently, Centralia College has about 115 students enrolled in healthcare programs. CC students are training to work as nurses, nursing assistants, mental health counselors, paramedics, substance use disorder professionals, medical assistants, and completing coursework to transfer to four-year colleges for further training to become doctors, physical therapists, and more. Nursing is the second highest enrolled program at CC.

**For more information on CC’s healthcare training programs, visit [www.centralia.edu](http://www.centralia.edu). For more information on Coordinated Care’s programs, visit [www.coordinatedcarehealth.com](http://www.coordinatedcarehealth.com).**



# CC GRAD MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN NAPAVINE

Foundation scholarship recipient Brennan Keller describes his experiences in CC's bachelor's program in Teacher Education

Brennan Keller is a sixth grade math teacher at Napavine Elementary School. He graduated from Napavine High School in 2007 and earned an associate degree from Centralia College in 2009. He returned to CC and earned a bachelor's degree in Teacher Education in 2021. To help him in his journey, Brennan received the William and Alice Bloom Scholarship in 2020-23 and the Estella Littel Korsgen and Bernice Warner Little Endowed Scholarship in 2019-20 from the Centralia College Foundation.

## Why did you choose Centralia College?

Among the reasons I chose Centralia College were the typical "It's close to home" and "It's affordable," though once I decided I wanted to pursue a career in education and began looking at programs, another factor came into play. To satisfy application requirements for Centralia College's Bachelor of Applied Science in Teacher Education (BAS-TE) program, I needed to take some Education courses, as I had not completed any when I earned my AA in 2009. Field experience in these courses put me into elementary school classrooms where I noticed that many teachers regularly sport their college gear. After completing



the courses and being accepted into the BAS-TE program, the time came to either commit to CC's hybrid program or another school's fully online program. I have nothing against any of the online programs out there, but after careful consideration, I felt that representing Centralia College to my future students had potential to be a more tangible avenue for them to pursue themselves than an online school halfway across the country.

## **What did you like most about Centralia College?**

My favorite thing about Centralia College was the commitment from the faculty and program directors toward training teaching candidates to be impactful in the field. Their dedication to the field of education, to equipping and enabling quality educators to positively influence young people in their communities, and to building a reputable and sustainable program is inspiring.

## **What do you like most about teaching?**

My favorite thing about teaching is the opportunity it provides. Every day, I get to try to help students feel more confident in themselves and in their abilities. While I certainly love being a part of those “AHA! Moments,” when a light bulb goes off and a student starts to “get it,” I am of the mindset that if my students can leave my class as better humans while also learning something about math, I will have done my job well.

My mom was a teacher, and she was the best that I knew at making sure students felt seen, known, and heard. I am honored to get to continue her legacy.

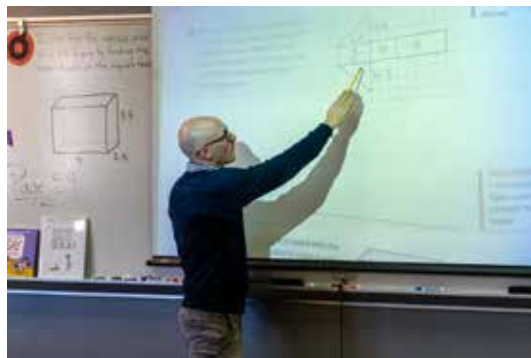
## **How is teaching different than you expected?**

I am the son of two teachers, so I thought I knew a lot about teaching before I entered the field. What I have been most humbled by is recognizing just how little I knew. Teaching is a commitment to continual, lifelong learning. I now know that I will always be learning new things about my students and how they

learn. Throughout my career I need to be perceptive to new mindsets, approaches, and strategies to help better serve the students I work with.

## **What advice do you have for others interested in a career in teaching?**

Thoughtful reflection is foundational to impactful teaching. I encourage anyone interested in a career in teaching to first reflect on their motivation. Consider why you might want to enter the field. If your motivation is “Summers off sound nice,” perhaps reflect a little longer. I also encourage those interested to get a little experience by getting themselves into classrooms by either volunteering, applying at a local school to be a paraprofessional, or even looking into getting an emergency substitute certificate. The more time a person can spend in classrooms working with students, the better they will understand both the rigors and rewards of teaching.



If your reflection leads you to the decision that you'd like to pursue a career in education, I strongly recommend considering Centralia College's BAS-TE program.



# CAMPUS FOOD DRIVE EXCEEDS ALL EXPECTATIONS

In November, Centralia College held a food drive for the Trailblazer Food Pantry and collected 9,375 items!

Human Resources challenged the staff and faculty in each campus building to collect food and toiletries for the campus food pantry. The winning building was the Technology Building (TEC) with 3,263 items. The TEC folks will be getting a pizza party in January for their efforts. Second place went to the Early Learning Center and third place was the TransAlta Commons.

Vice President of Human Resources and Equity Joy Anglesey kicked off the food drive Nov. 4 and cited some sobering statistics about hunger among two-year college students. Roughly 39 percent of students at two-year college reported facing food

insecurity in the last year. In Lewis County, 21 percent of children went hungry.

"These were sobering statistics, but I knew we could help," Anglesey said. "It really surpassed anything I had hoped for, and I so appreciate everyone who was able to get into the spirit of giving – not to mention the friendly competition. The students really won!"

Centralia College's on campus food pantry is located in room 137 of the TransAlta Commons. It is open to all current CC students and provides non-perishable food and toiletry items. The food pantry accepts donations year-round. To donate, bring items to TAC 137 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays (closed during holidays and other campus closure days).

# Scholarship Night

Students and donors meet and celebrate



September brought a new academic year and a new set of students who received scholarships. Many donors and students were able to attend and celebrate together on campus. The event was hosted in the TransAlta Commons and was a less formal event this year. No formal agenda for the evening, allowed donors and students to get to know each other and visit for an extended time. Students wrote thank you notes to scholarship donors and had their photos taken throughout the evening. You can see examples of their comments, and smiling faces on these pages.



*"I'm a wife of a veteran, and served with him while he was active. We are now a Law enforcement family for Washington State Patrol. Everything I have done up until now, has been in support of my husband, and getting him to his place in the world where he can be successful in a career. I'm now focusing on me and what I want for myself and my future with his support."*







"I am resilient. I have had to overcome various obstacles in my life, such as financial, health, and an unconventional home life growing up. I want to better myself further, by pursuing higher education to elevate myself professionally and personally. I've chosen the harder path before in my life to grow and better myself. I'm committed to doing that once again by attending Centralia College and my chosen course of study. I would greatly appreciate the donor's and scholarship committee's support in achieving this next chapter of my life. Thank you."



"What I would love for your donors and scholarship committee to know is that I am a hardworking student and with all the challenges with covid, being back and forth between my home and relatives. I always try my hardest and commit to everything I put my mind to. I am determined to build and pursue a future for myself and to be a contributing member of society."



"I am attending Centralia College as a member of the baseball team. I work hard on and off the field. On my high school team, I was awarded the "true grit" award. This award is handed down by a graduating senior and the team, to the hardest worker on the team. I am very hardworking and like to show effort in everything that I do!"



"I am 38 a first-time college student with a 7-month-old son. I am dedicated and hardworking I plan to make everyone in my family and college proud. This is adventure will be challenging and so worth it. If I'm chosen for a scholarship I will not disappoint."



# A Classical Christmas *with* Charlie Albright

On a very cold November night, almost 500 attendees enjoyed Centralia College alumnus Charlie Albright perform in Corbet Theatre. Charlie's performance was stunning and inspiring. He is a master of interacting with the audience and asked for input on which holiday pieces he should perform. A number of family, friends from Charlie's childhood, instructors, elementary school teachers, and budding piano enthusiasts were in the audience. Charlie signed cds after the event and chatted with the appreciative audience. We feel very privileged to be able to host this world-class musician as he returned to his hometown for a grand performance. **You can follow Charlie at his website at [charliealbright.com](http://charliealbright.com).**





# Athletic Field Update

Centralia College broke ground on the new athletic field in spring 2022. Demolition, site prep, electrical, lighting, and water systems prep continued into the summer with fall work including fences, curbs, and the field base. Turf installation and finishing work was expected to be completed in October-November but weather created a few delays. The field will be completed January 2023 and games are scheduled almost immediately after it is done.

The new fields will enhance Centralia College's recruiting power and the college will add a men's soccer team to begin competing in the next academic year. The college already has teams for women's soccer, baseball, and softball. Those teams currently play on shared community fields in Centralia but will now be moving to their own "home" field.

The college has been planning for this addition since 1999 and students have contributed more than \$3 million toward the project through student fees. The last time the Blazers had a home field was 1989. At that time the Noble Field area was converted to make way for the Kirk Library.

Students funded this project but some ancillary items are needed to enhance the student and fan experience.

**If you are interested in supporting the effort to complete batting cages, bleachers, and general field needs, please contact Christine Fossett at [Christine.fossett@centralia.edu](mailto:Christine.fossett@centralia.edu) or 360-623-8451.**

# 2022 CCF GALA

## ANNUAL EVENT BENEFITS THEATRE LIGHTING

The Centralia College Foundation Gala successfully raised funds to support Corbet Theatre upgrades and purchase a new lighting board for the theatre. Corbet Theatre is widely used by students, but is also a premier location for community events. The lighting system is in need of upgrading to LED lights and the gala provided the first needed item to accomplish this. A silent auction and live auction items provided competitive fundraising and quite a few laughs. Attendees enjoyed beautiful decorations designed by Liz Mohrbacher, music by the Blaser Band, and wonderful food and desserts. More than a dozen students who received scholarships assisted staff throughout the night and helped make the event even more special. The 2023 gala is already being planned and will be held on Saturday, November 4.





# Yes, I definitely want to support the Centralia College Foundation



**Pay  
Securely  
Online**

## THANK YOU!

The Centralia College Foundation (CCF) is registered as a charitable organization with the Washington Secretary of State Tax ID #91-1195403

I am pleased to support your continuing efforts to provide opportunities for deserving students to help them reach their full potential through education at Centralia College.

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of

\$500  \$200  \$100  \$50  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am happy to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be billed monthly / quarterly / annually

I would like my contribution to support:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to Centralia College Foundation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Pay securely online at <https://centralia.edu/foundation/donate.aspx>

Centralia College Alumni class of \_\_\_\_\_

Gift made in the memory of or tribute to \_\_\_\_\_

- Please contact me for a tour of the campus
- Please send me information on the Legacy Society and including the Foundation in my estate.

Centralia College Foundation  
360-623-8942  
[ccfoundation@centralia.edu](mailto:ccfoundation@centralia.edu)  
<http://foundation.centralia.edu/>



CENTRALIA COLLEGE  
**FOUNDATION**

Centralia College Foundation  
600 Centralia College Blvd  
Centralia, WA 98531



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 111  
Centralia, WA  
98531

**CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION STAFF**



**Christine Fossett**  
Executive Director



**Kylea Johnson**  
Program Coordinator



**Margie Linn**  
Office Assistant



**Annie Oien**  
Foundation Specialist

## Join the Alumni Association

NEW! Join the new Centralia College Alumni Association at  
[centraliacollegealumni.org](http://centraliacollegealumni.org).

Creating opportunities to improve students' lives, enable success,  
and strengthen our community.

Centralia College Foundation • 360-623-8942 • [foundation.centralia.edu](http://foundation.centralia.edu)