

# The Blazer Bulletin

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION



***A New Face and a New Field for Athletics, pg. 5***

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## Foundation Notes

Spring weather is arriving here and it brings the hope for more normal activities at the foundation and college. We are still working remotely with a bit more in-office time. We anticipate we will be back in-office even more this fall.

This edition of the Blazer Bulletin reflects our thoughts regarding the importance of family, with stories of this year's Distinguished Alumni. The Watterson family, all Centralia College alumni, have been strong supporters of the college for decades and you can read about them on page 10-11 as well as on our website - foundation.centralia.edu.

On page 3, we welcome to our family Dr. Erica Holmes, who is Centralia College's newest vice-president. She is leading our Human Resources and Equity department.

The athletics department requests nominations from you for athletes, coaches, and fans you think worthy of Hall of Fame recognition. They also have information on page 9

regarding the status of the new athletic fields across from the Michael Smith Gymnasium.

Page 8 showcases the newly completed trades training center and, per our request from the last edition, you came through in force with your memories about David White. A few of them are shared on page 14. Profiles of a foundation board member follow on page 15.

I hope you enjoy this edition. Please let me know if there is anything you would like to know more about, or a topic for a future edition you would be interested in.

**Christine Fossett**  
**Executive Director**



## Centralia College: Pandemic Edition

It has been a full year now that Centralia College has been operating in pandemic mode: most classes have been online or hybrid with limited face-to-face instruction. Many college employees are still working from home or only coming in to campus on a limited schedule. But in spite of that, the college continues to operate and we are finishing our fourth full quarter in this format. The outlook for Spring 2021 is about the same, but we expect things to open up a bit more over the

summer. By Fall 2021, we hope to be back to normal—or at least near normal—operations.

We are currently making plans for a limited, socially distanced Commencement Ceremony. While we still can't have large crowds congregating, we hope to have an opportunity for students to don their regalia, walk across the stage, hear their name announced, and receive their diplomas. It won't be quite like our normal event, but it is more than we were able to do last June, so that's progress.

Meanwhile, there are plenty of exciting things happening around campus:

- We have restarted the athletic season for all of our student athletes.
- We are now holding the first classes in the brand new SWFT Center.
- The ground has been cleared for our brand new multipurpose athletic field, right in front of the Michael

Smith Gymnasium. We are working on the planning and design now.

- We are making plans for our next bachelor's degree: Bachelor of Applied Science in Behavioral Health. If we get timely approval from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and our accreditors, that program could start during the 2021-22 academic year.
- We are waiting to hear whether the Legislature allocates funds for our new Teacher Education Center; the design process could start as early as July 2021.

So, through all of the challenges of the last year, Centralia College has continued to thrive and go. In spite of the obstacles, we remain committed to student success, academic excellence, and supporting our community.

**Bob Mohrbacher**  
**Centralia College President**



## CC Welcomes Dr. Erica Holmes, Vice President of Human Resources and Equity

Dr. Erica Holmes joined the Centralia College family in January as the Vice President of Human Resources and Equity. Right away, she was launched into the middle of the most significant system change in college history – the college’s conversion to ctcLink, an online system that manages all employee, student, and college records. Needless to say, it’s been a whirlwind couple of months.

Now that the ctcLink dust has settled a bit, Dr. Holmes is focused on building relationships and moving the college forward.

“In addition to continuing the positive momentum of the Human Resources department that exists here at Centralia, I want to work closely with the campus to address strategic planning and equity,” she explained. “By the end of my first year, I hope to see a comprehensive Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plan that echoes many voices and integrates what we do in the classroom, in our offices, and in the community. And, that brings me to a second goal, which is to participate in our planning processes that safely brings us back together on campus.”

Dr. Holmes brings more than 20 years of experience in community colleges. She served most recently as the Associate Provost of Student Support and Administrative Services at Antioch University Seattle. Her other past positions include: Executive Vice Chancellor of the Pima Community College District in Tucson, Ariz.; Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at City Colleges of Chicago: Kennedy-King; Vice President of Academic Affairs at Halifax Community College in North Carolina; and Dean of the School of Business

at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in Richmond, Va.

“Centralia College has a great relationship with the community and that is important to me,” she said. “Lewis County is a lot like my home county in Virginia, where I grew up and where I raised my children. I am appreciative of the opportunity to reach so many people.”

Dr. Holmes holds an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Sarasota-Argosy; a master’s degree in Information Resource Management from Central Michigan University; a bachelor’s degree in Organizational Management from St. Paul’s College; and an associate degree from Southside Virginia Community College.

“We are very excited to have Dr. Holmes join our team at Centralia College,” said Bob Mohrbacher, president of Centralia College. “As we have gotten to know her, it has become clear that she has a great passion for community colleges and the role they play in the community.”

Dr. Holmes and her husband Antonio have one daughter and two grandchildren. In her spare time, Dr. Holmes enjoys cooking and spending time with family.

“I cook many different dishes, including Soul Food and Italian. Those are my favorites. I love to make pizza at home and throw in different toppings,” she said. “My family also loves sports: basketball, hockey, football, baseball, soccer, tennis, water sports, gymnastics, etc. When I’m not attending a sporting event, I love to watch them on television.”



## New partnership to help students intending to go to WSU

Though not an official medical diagnosis, some students are born bleeding the crimson and gray. For them, the only path is to Washington State University.

For local would-be Cougars, however, a detour through Centralia College makes good financial sense. And, thanks to a new partnership, transfer to WSU is getting much, much easier.

For the last year, Centralia College has been partnering with WSU to develop easy, direct transfer pathways for students who know they want to transfer to WSU.

"We met with WSU last year to talk about barriers to transfer and the faculty there, especially the science faculty, said students were coming to WSU with 20 credits they didn't need," said Christian Bruhn, CC's dean of arts and sciences. "Hearing that really got us thinking about what we could do here to get students to WSU with exactly the credits they need for the degree they want."

The first degrees that have been clearly mapped between CC and WSU are in agriculture. WSU currently offers five bachelor's degrees in agriculture and now CC has designed distinct pathways to align students with each one. The bachelor's degrees are in the following subjects:

- Agriculture and Food Business Economics
- Agricultural Education
- Agricultural Technology and Production Management
- Agriculture and Food Security
- Organic and Sustainable Agriculture

Students interested in one of these agriculture degrees at WSU can simply take a predetermined sequence of classes at CC for their first two years and transfer with junior status at WSU in the exact degree they want.

Pathways to other WSU programs are now in development. In addition, Centralia College has started collaborating with The Evergreen State College in Olympia to draft pathways for students interested in transferring there.

"We definitely see these partnerships as a way we can streamline advising, get students on the path they want, and get them to their goals faster and for less cost," added Bruhn. "It takes some coordination and effort by the colleges, but the impact to students will be huge."

For more information on the WSU transfer pathways, visit [www.centralia.edu](http://www.centralia.edu).

# CC WELCOMES NEW ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Jonathan McMillan is a busy guy. He started his job as assistant athletic director on Feb. 22 and it's been nonstop ever since.

"We're doing every sport in the space of two months right now, so it's been a crazy first month on the job," he said during a short mid-day break in March.

McMillan is no stranger to CC. He finished his bachelor's degree in Applied Management at CC in 2019, earning his degree at night while working three years in the college's TRIO program, helping students in Rochester, Chehalis, and Toledo transition to higher education. He's also been the assistant basketball coach for nearly a decade.

When the opportunity to work in Athletics opened up early this year, he jumped at the chance to work full-time with Bob Peters, the most respected athletic director in the state.

"Bob has OG status in the NWAC," explained McMillan. "To be able to learn from him, to watch him and see how he does things, is an amazing opportunity. There's no one who is more respected and more knowledgeable about sports. And, if I can help him at the same time, that's everything for me."

McMillan said his primary focus now is getting seven sports through a truncated two-month season. All CC teams are playing shortened seasons in April and May, and managing that effort has been challenging. The college has partnered with Valley View Medical Center to provide rapid COVID testing to athletes during the season, and has been coordinating complicated schedules with other colleges in the state to ensure games are safe and follow strict guidelines.

"Right now, I'm just trying to get through COVID," said McMillan. "After that, we need to look at fundraising. Our biggest fundraiser (the Seattle to Portland Bicycle Classic) has been canceled two years now and that's a huge loss to our athletes and our program."

Part of that fundraising will be working on community engagement. As a coach, McMillan's players partnered with local elementary schools for appearances, educational activities, and special events. He's hoping to do similar things with all the teams and athletes at the college as soon as it's



safe to do so. He's also developing strategies to engage more alumni in athletics and support the college's efforts to build a new multi-sports athletics complex on the northeast end of campus.

"It will be nice to have a place to call our own and we'll be able to expand what we offer our community," he explained. "One thing we've always wanted to do is kids' camps -basketball camps, soccer camps, volleyball camps. Without our own facilities, camps haven't been possible."

McMillan said his biggest challenge so far is not trying to do everything all at once.

"I have a lot of enthusiasm and there's a lot I want to do," he said. "I just need to remind myself to take it one step at a time and to learn as much as I can."

# DONOR PROFILE:

## JOAN AND STEVE ROBINSON



Growing up in Centralia, Steve and Joan Robinson got the message early on that education was important. Both of their parents had a strong connection to Centralia College and the community, and instilled in them a desire to keep that commitment moving forward for future generations.

Their mother, Esther Robinson, was an amazing artist. She had taken art classes at the University of Washington and the Art Institute of Chicago, and art was a lifelong pursuit for her.

“She was a really great artist,” said Steve Robinson. “She could sketch anything. She did oil painting, portraits, and she later began sculpting in clay. That’s when she started taking classes at the college. The college had a kiln, so she would take classes in the evening and work on her sculptures.”

In 1929, their father, Jerry Robinson, had his life all planned out. He was going to graduate from Centralia High School

in 1930 and move to Chicago to go to Northwestern University and eventually law school. Those great plans blew up in October 1929 when the stock market crashed and the Great Depression had Jerry enrolling in classes at Centralia College instead.

“For my father, Centralia College became a matter of necessity,” said Steve. “When he needed an education, Centralia College was there for him.”

Jerry Robinson played basketball for two years at Centralia College before transferring to what is now Western Washington University. He went on to





When Jerry Robinson passed away in 1996, his children started a second endowment in his name with an annual scholarship benefitting a student from Lewis County.

“With our long family history with the college, it seemed like an appropriate memorial for both of them,” added Steve. Joan and Steve Robinson have both left the Centralia area, but they continue to donate to the endowments in their parents’ names. After high school, Steve attended Centralia College for a year before transferring to the University of Washington to earn a degree in pharmacy. He later earned his master’s degree in business administration and currently works in IT consulting in Seattle. Joan Robinson attended the University of Washington and ultimately graduated from law school. She’s been a practicing attorney since 1977.

“It’s been important to me to continue supporting Centralia College because I was a small-town kid. I wasn’t ready to go to the big city to college right out of high school,” said Steve. “I knew I wanted to go to pharmacy school, but, even then, the freshman chemistry classes at UW had 500 students in them. I couldn’t learn in that environment, so starting at Centralia College was perfect for me.”

Now, through the endowments dedicated to their parents, Joan and Steve Robinson are ensuring other “small town kids” get a high quality, affordable education – an education that can take them anywhere.

be a teacher and principal, and continued being active in sports, serving as a player, coach, referee, and announcer. He was the principal of Oakview and Fords Prairie elementary schools, and served many years as the stadium announcer at Tigers’ football and basketball games, where he was widely referred to as “the voice of the Tigers.”

“My dad was very well-known. For at least 10 years, he was the assistant fair manager and did all of the emceeing at the fair every summer. He was on the radio doing play-by-play and the news before he started doing the public address announcing at CHS,” said Steve Robinson. “He was loved by a lot of people.”

When Esther Robinson passed away in 1984, Jerry and the kids started the Esther Robinson Endowment with the Centralia College Foundation to provide a scholarship every year to an art student.

**If you are interested in donating to an existing scholarship or creating a lasting scholarship in your name, contact Christine Fossett at [christine.fossett@centralia.edu](mailto:christine.fossett@centralia.edu) to set up a time to discuss.**



## SWFT CENTER COMPLETED

The Centralia College Foundation's trades training building - the Southwest Washington Flexible Training (SWFT) Center - is complete and already serving students.

After COVID-19 restrictions and a few small material delays, the building is ready for community use and student instruction. Healthcare courses are the first to utilize the building in April with the start of Centralia College's spring quarter. The Foundation anticipates that, as COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed, the SWFT Center will increase to full utilization. Meanwhile, the size of the building will accommodate all social distancing requirements.

If you are interested in a tour of the facility, contact the foundation office at [foundation@centralia.edu](mailto:foundation@centralia.edu) and we will add you to a list as time is available.



A mobile classroom promoting trades education will be ready to visit local high schools this fall.



The Arbor Health Education Center in the SWFT Center is ready for healthcare training for students and community courses.



## Submit Hall of Fame Nominations Now

Centralia College is now accepting nominations for its Sports Hall of Fame, an annual honor that recognizes athletes, teams, coaches, and supporters of Trailblazer athletics.

To be considered for Hall of Fame induction, nominees must have contributed in an outstanding and positive way to the Centralia College athletic programs, and brought prestige and pride to the college through their achievements in the field of intercollegiate, interscholastic or professional sports and public life.

Nomination forms are available online at [www.centralia.edu/athletics](http://www.centralia.edu/athletics). The Sports Hall of Fame Council will begin reviewing nominations May 1. For questions, email Sandy Ingle at [sandy.ingle@centralia.edu](mailto:sandy.ingle@centralia.edu).

The 2021 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be Friday, May 21, in the Michael Smith Gymnasium during halftime of the men's basketball game.

### Athlete nominations

Athletes may be nominated five years after athletic competition at Centralia College. They must have played on a varsity sport team at Centralia College and been enrolled at Centralia College for a minimum of one academic year.

### Coach nominations

Any Centralia College athletic coach who participated on a Centralia College varsity team is eligible. Others must have coached a minimum of five years at Centralia College.

### Athletic staff nominations

Any Centralia College athletic staff member who is a Centralia College alumnus is eligible for nomination.

### Team nominations

Eligible teams must have attained memorable achievements as evidenced by the win-loss record and/or championship honors.



## CENTRALIA COLLEGE BEGINS WORK ON NEW ATHLETICS FIELD

One of Centralia College's longest-term projects – the construction of a new multipurpose athletics complex – is getting closer every day.

As of this writing, all parcels of land between Silver and Rock streets (from the Centralia Post Office to the college) have been cleared and a major power line that once ran along Iron Street has been relocated.

The college is currently accepting bids from architects and will soon focus on finalizing the field's design and amenities. The student body has already crafted and approved a concept draft, which is being reviewed and built upon by current Centralia College athletes and coaches.

The complex will include soccer, baseball, and softball fields, and use modern turf composed of grass-like fibers supported by soft, tiny balls of cork or other material that works like dirt to hold each blade aloft. The turf is porous, allowing rain to flow straight through into a drainage system. There's no need to wait for the field to dry out to play.

The site – officially known as the Multipurpose Athletic Field - is scheduled to be completed in 2021.

The new field will encourage more athletic participation and enhance Centralia College's recruiting power. The college plans to add a men's soccer team once the field is completed. It already fields teams for women's soccer, baseball, and softball. Those teams currently play on shared community fields in Centralia.





## THE WATTERSON FAMILY 2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HONOREES

Cover photo is the Watterson Family in Anchorage, Alaska in 2015. Left to right: Ed, Bill, Marilyn, Jim.

The Watterson family has a long legacy of hard work, dedication, and commitment to service. All four

Watterson siblings – Ed, Bill, Marilyn, and Jim – attended Centralia College and worked hard to build strong careers and even stronger families. Now, they are the first family to ever be honored together as Distinguished Alumni.

“I think because of the pandemic of 2020, I have been challenged to think more locally,” said John Klumper, vice president of the CC Foundation and a member of the Distinguished Alumni selection committee. “The Watterson family exemplifies exactly how I’m thinking. They’re very much into family and community, and doing great things for others. I am very excited for the Watterson family to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award this year.”

Clarence and Doris Watterson raised their four children on a dairy farm in the Salzer Valley in Centralia. Doris especially instilled in her children the importance of education, and all four children graduated from Centralia High School and attended Centralia College.



Back left to right: Bill, Ed, Marilyn.  
Front row: Clarence, Jim, Doris.

“I realize now that I’m older that mom would have liked to go to college,” said Bill Watterson, who played basketball at Centralia College and graduated in 1961. “She graduated from Centralia High School in 1933 and just couldn’t afford it.”

"She was the greatest person in the world and such a hard worker," added Ed Watterson, the oldest of the Watterson children and the first to attend CC in the mid-1950s. "She could outwork anybody. We had a milk route then and she worked in the milk house, cleaned the bottles, cooked and fed the whole crew – she did it all. Nobody worked harder than she did. Nobody."

Doris and Clarence famously "met over the fence" – their families shared a property line. Doris and her family moved to the Salzer Valley in 1922. Clarence's family came in 1926. They were married in 1935.

"Dad's brother married mom's sister and they were all partners in the family dairy for 50 years," said Jim Watterson, the youngest of the Watterson children and a 1973 graduate of Centralia College.

The children all worked on the dairy as kids and paid their way through college. The three boys ended up in construction. Ed has been a superintendent at Schwiesow Construction since 1979 and had his hands on much of the Centralia College campus, heading the construction of the Kirk Library, Aadland Esplanade, clocktower, Washington Hall, Technology Building, and Walton Science Center. Bill was a basketball standout, who went on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees, and start one of the largest construction companies in Alaska, Watterson Construction. Jim earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Washington and worked all over the west before joining Watterson Construction in 1989. He moved to Alaska in 2006 and is now company president.

Marilyn broke ground in a different way. After graduating from Centralia College in 1963, she earned a bachelor's degree in business education from Washington State University and went on to be a pioneer in business education, teaching computers and eventually designing and implementing custom software systems, primarily for companies in the biomedical field.

At a time when most women were encouraged to "stick to secretarial work," Marilyn, like her brothers, built something completely new on her own. She gave a lot of credit to Alice Forth, who started teaching business education at CC

in 1958 and eventually led the business division and became dean of students in 1988.

"Alice Forth encouraged me to stay with secretarial studies and business education," said Marilyn. "She said it would take me places if I wanted, and it really has. I ended up being in the right places at the right time, and ended up on the cutting edge of technology."



Bill and Ed at the TransAlta Commons dedication.

As individuals, each of the Watterson children has exemplified the Trailblazer spirit through hard work, commitment to service and community, grit, and dedication to family. As a family, they really stand out.

"The Watterson family of alumni are uniquely special among Centralia College families due to their varied significant contributions individually to their professions and communities in such a widespread way throughout the U.S. Yet, as a group, they still choose to recognize and remember their roots at Centralia College, said Renee Lawson, who has served on the selection committee for eight of the last 13 years. "The family establishing an endowed scholarship in memory of their parents, Clarence and Doris Watterson, is a heartwarming example of that."

The Wattersons will be honored as individuals throughout the year in the Blazer Bulletin and will be honored as a family as part of the 2021 commencement celebration.



## SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT HONORED FOR TRANSFORMING HIS LIFE

Centralia College student Friedrich Ross never imagined he'd be a successful college student at age 47, but he is now working towards an associate degree and a career in mathematics. Friedrich is Centralia College's selection for the Association of College Trustees Transforming Lives Scholarship. He also is the recipient of several Centralia

College Foundation scholarships, including the Beverly Noyes Scholarship, Phi Theta Kappa Endowed Scholarship, and the Earnest C. and Edith C. Driscoll Endowed Scholarship.

"I knew I needed to somehow change my life for the better. However, I had no idea how transformative the process would be," Friedrich wrote in his scholarship essay. "Originally, I was just coming to Centralia to get my GED and a take an algebra class so that I could join an electrical apprenticeship. I had a meeting with an advisor at 10:30 in the morning, and by noon that same day I was in my first class with a full course load."

Friedrich said he felt supported at the college and knew his advisor and all of his instructors had his back. Friedrich also connected with TRIO, a federal program that provides support to first-generation, low-income, and disabled college students, providing tutoring and support, career exploration, and much more.

Friedrich was able to secure housing with some relatives and leverage the resources at the college to continue his education. After he finishes his associate degree, he plans to transfer to a university to study mathematics or statistics.

"Eventually I will pursue a master's and doctoral degree," he wrote. "Ultimately, I would like to research climate change and issues of social inequities."

Friedrich wants all adults to know it's never too late to make a change.

"For future or new students, I would like to encourage them to believe they are capable of far more than they know, to understand that doubt and fear are normal, and come along with new challenges, but they will not be alone in overcoming these obstacles," he said. "Believe in yourself and work hard; soon your fears and doubts will be transformed into the satisfaction of success."

# TICKETS AVAILABLE MAY 1 FOR ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP ELK HUNT RAFFLE





## SCHOLARSHIP PROFILE: MICHAEL HOSKINSON

Centralia College was a smart choice for Michael Hoskinson, who will complete a bachelor's degree in Applied Management in June. Michael started CC through the Running Start program, a state-funded program that allows high school juniors and seniors to take classes at CC tuition-free.

"I was homeschooled all the way through my second year of high school," he said. "I had heard about Running Start and it almost seemed too good to be true. I would be able to go to college at an incredibly low cost, get high school and college credits at the same time, and graduate high school with my (associate degree)? Yes, sign me up."

From there, Michael stuck with CC and used the Gordon Sweany Endowed Scholarship from the CC Foundation to help him pay for it. As a student, he's been a standout.

"Michael, though an introvert by nature, exemplifies leadership qualities through respect, encouragement, and support for others," said Atara MacNamara, psychology instructor. "He is an exceptional student and mentor who wants others to succeed along with him."

Since starting at CC, Michael says he's learned the importance of getting involved on campus and making connections with other students.

"My first year at CC, I didn't join any clubs or attend any special events. I didn't really pay any attention to them," he said. "I wanted my second year to be different, so I started going to clubs and events regularly. It changed my experience from good to life-changing, as I met people and made relationships that I would not have without these events on campus."

Now, as an almost-graduate, Michael is planning for his future. His family owns Auto Tech and he plans to work there. He also wants to do some videography and marketing. Most of all, his experience at CC has taught him to be fearless. It's that lesson he wants to pass on to future students, as well.

"Be fearless. You have overcome every other obstacle in your life up to this point, so why would this be the one to stop you?" he said, adding, "Follow your passions all the way through and, whatever you decide to do, be real, be fearless, and be confident."

**Tickets for the Dave Sherwood Memorial Scholarship Elk Hunt Raffle will be on sale May 1 at selected outlets across Lewis and Thurston counties.**

**Since 2012, the raffle has raised more than \$47,000 for student scholarships to Centralia College.**

**Raffle tickets are \$25. The winner will be allowed to hunt for a big bull elk (minimum three-point) on TransAlta Centralia land. The hunt is a modern rifle hunt set for Nov. 6-7.**

**The winner will be drawn Aug. 2 and notified. All proceeds go toward a Centralia College scholarship in Dave Sherwood's name.**

**The winner is responsible for buying a Washington hunting license and permit**

**for westside Modern Firearm. They will be accompanied by a TransAlta representative during the hunt.**

**For a list of ticket locations, visit the foundation website at [foundation.centralia.edu](http://foundation.centralia.edu).**

**Tickets can also be purchased by contacting the Centralia College Foundation office.**

**This raffle and elk hunt are in honor of Dave Sherwood, who passed away from a tragic accident while hunting for elk near Mount St. Helens in 2011. He was a popular and respected manager at the Centralia TransAlta plant.**

**For more information on the Elk Raffle, contact the Foundation office at 360-623-8942 or [foundation@centralia.edu](mailto:foundation@centralia.edu).**



## CELEBRATING DAVID WHITE

Thanks to everyone who sent in memories and congratulations to David White upon his retirement from Centralia College. We don't have room to print them all, but here is a small sampling of the well-wishes we received. All messages and notes were shared with David for his enjoyment.

*I didn't meet David until I started the BAS-TE program in 2018 and he was my advisor. David was always kind, encouraging, and accommodating. He understands student's struggles and challenges and always made sure I was taken care of. He did so in a most professional and compassionate way without ever sacrificing the program guidelines or my educational goals. As an educator, my advisor, and a fantastic human being with a great sense of humor, David has left an impression on my life that I will never forget. Thank you, David! Enjoy your well-deserved retirement to the fullest!!*

**Tanja Kern**

*He was a super-nice guy. No one cared more about CCC students than Dave. As a member of the Scholarship Committee, I observed that regularly.*

**Rod Rakowicz**

*In September of 1966, I entered Centralia High School as a sophomore. I think that was David's first year teaching at CHS. He taught CWP and other history classes, but his students were seniors and I didn't get the chance to be in his classes. David White has always been a genuine and kind person. I admire the way that he makes others feel appreciated. He is the best teacher that I never had! As things happen, Mr. White would leave CHS after the spring quarter. His departure was a significant loss, but my dad was graduating that same spring and filled the vacancy that David left. I, along with my family, salute you, David White - you are a truly amazing person. Our community and generations of young people have been blessed.*

**Don LeBaron**



**YOUNG FAIR CHAMPIONS** — Top honors in 4-H beef animal showing and fitting at the Southwest Washington Fair went to this young 4-H pair. They are David White, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry White, route 4, Chehalis, who took grand champion honors, and Dianne Hovles, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Hovles, route 3, Chehalis. She took reserve champion. — Chronicle Staff Photo.



## FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER PROFILE: LISA PERRY

I was born and grew up in Oregon. After one attempt at college and working for awhile, I moved to California, where I lived for almost 30 years. When I was offered a position in Centralia for Sierra Pacific Industries seven years ago, I jumped at the chance to move back to the Pacific Northwest, both for the climate and my family. While I moved to Mason County a few years ago, a house at a lake lured me away, I still work in both counties and treasure my connections here in Lewis county.

For the last 20 years, I have been blessed to work in some capacity with the forest products industry. A large part of that work, whether it was for industry

or the university I worked at for seven years, was the opportunity to advocate for careers of all kinds in the natural resource sector. I have worked with students, parents, teachers, counselors, legislators, anyone that will listen, to talk about all of the opportunities that are available. Even while working for the university, I promoted careers that take all sorts of training, and community colleges were always a big part of that. Whether it's preparing for a four-year transfer to become a forester, a degree in diesel mechanics or mechatronics, accounting, or a wide array of trades, Centralia College is such a resource for students of all ages that want good family-wage jobs.

I'm a prime example of someone who took a couple of tries to get a degree. I attended a university right

out of high school, worked for quite a while, then used a community college as part of my path to complete my degree. I was honored to be asked to serve on the Foundation board to help make dreams come true for students.

When I'm not working, I love to kayak, hike, and visit my brothers and their families. I have nieces and nephews now spread all over in the military and at two out-of-state colleges, so lots of travel to stay in touch.

**Thanks to Lisa and all of our dedicated board members for their hard work and their support of the college and foundation!**



CENTRALIA COLLEGE  
**FOUNDATION**

Centralia College Foundation  
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to improve students'  
lives, enable success,  
and strengthen our  
community.

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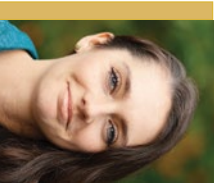
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