

The Blazer Bulletin

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION



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Foundation News

Another Amazing Year is in the Books

I am torn on the calendar. Personally, I work off a calendar year, but at the Foundation, we work off the fiscal year. It often feels that we are always closing one year and setting goals for another. On the other hand, it can temper the intensity of the “end of year in all caps” feeling. Either way, 2023 is going down in the books as one amazing year.

- We celebrated the completion of student housing in November. Students love the modern space and amenities, and the community is happy for more housing.
- Bob Peters Field was completed and dedicated. You can often see students on the field practicing or competing. We are still raising funds for batting cages and bleachers. See pages 10-11 for details.
- The annual gala was held in November and was an immense success. See pages 4-5 for photos.

Our amazing year would never have happened without you. Your support of programs and scholarships, especially in tough economic times, is most appreciated. You will see on pages 6-7 some of the grants and corporate gifts we have been blessed to receive this year. Everyone is pitching in to make sure our students get the financial support they need.

The Foundation is experiencing change at the end of this year, as Kylea Johnson starts a new career outside of the Foundation. If you have called, applied for a scholarship, or received correspondence from the Foundation in the last six years, Kylea was responsible. We have appreciated her dedication and hard work in serving our students and donors. She will be amazing in her new role and is missed in our office. You can learn about our new team member on the next page.

As we move into 2024, I would ask for your help in a few ways. On page 14, we have several upcoming events you can attend. And, if you know of an alum who should be nominated for the Distinguished Alumni Award, the Legacy Award, or the Sports Hall of Fame, please let us know.

I want to thank you again for your help making 2023 amazing. I look forward to what we will accomplish together in 2024. Best wishes for a wonderful new year.

Christine Fossett

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



Welcome, Andrea Capps!

Andrea Capps, who has joined the CC Foundation Office as a Fiscal Specialist 2. In her new role, Andrea will be overseeing scholarships, managing reporting, handling correspondence, and taking charge of database management. You can anticipate engaging with her across various aspects of our operations.

As a Centralia College alumna, Andrea brings a wealth of experience, having previously worked in different departments on campus. She earned her associate degree in Business Administration and Office Management in 2020 and initiated her career at CC's IT department, initially as a student-worker and later as a part-time staffer. In 2021, she transitioned to a full-time Office Assistant 3 position in Athletics, where she excelled

in managing tasks such as player paperwork, reporting for the Northwest Athletic Conference, team travel logistics, budget management, and more. In 2021, Andrea took on the responsibility of planning and organizing Centralia College's role as the official midpoint of the Seattle to Portland Bicycle Classic.

Originally from Alabama, Andrea now resides in Centralia with her partner and 15-year-old daughter. She has plans to continue her education, with the goal of earning her bachelor's degree. Andrea is enthusiastic about collaborating with students and donors, and continuing to contribute to the success of Centralia College as an outstanding place for both learning and work.

2023 CCF GALA

The Centralia College Foundation Gala successfully raised funds to support the accompaniments to Bob Peters Field, where batting cages, bleachers and entry art is still needed. The silent and live auction items provided enthusiastic fundraising and friendly competition as attendees tried to outbid each other. Guests enjoyed beautiful decorations designed by Liz Mohrbacher in our "Raise the Barn" theme, with music by Guava Jam and wonderful food and desserts. More than a dozen student athletes who received scholarships or will benefit from playing on the new turf field assisted attendees throughout the night and helped make the evening even more special. We would love to have you join us for the 2024 gala scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024.







Donation Briefs



From scholarships to battling cages, our community steps up for CC students

A number of local and regional organizations have shown their support for the Centralia College Foundation and the Trailblazers we support. These life-changing donations and grants are helping Centralia College students complete their degrees and transform their lives. Here are a few of the major donations and grants the Foundation has received this fall.

New scholarship announced for criminal justice students

In a final act of service to its community, the Lewis County Sheriff's Office Reserve Association donated its remaining funds - \$5,250 - to the Foundation for a new scholarship. The Lewis County Sheriff's Office Reserve Association Scholarship is for \$1,000 per year and will be awarded to a second-year Centralia College student studying criminal justice. The scholarship will be awarded in the spring and annually through the Foundation's normal scholarship awarding process.



PSE Supports Trailblazer Food Pantry

This fall, the Centralia College Foundation received a \$2,250 check from Puget Sound Energy to benefit the Blazer Food Pantry, the on-campus food pantry for current Centralia College students. PSE has donated for the last several years, allowing the pantry to buy students the food and supplies they most need.



Donation to benefit Diesel Technology students at Centralia College

In September, the Foundation received a \$5,000 donation from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation to fund scholarships for Centralia College students

earning their bachelor's degrees in Diesel Technology. Dennis and Phyllis Washington purchased Modern Machinery, a heavy equipment dealer, which now has 10 locations in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. Delivering the check to the CC Foundation was Jeff Bell, the branch manager at the Grand Mound location. Centralia College has the only bachelor's degree program in Diesel Technology in the Pacific Northwest.



Grant supports construction of batting cages at Bob Peters Field

The Foundation was awarded a \$35,000 grant from the Ben B. Cheney Foundation to support the construction of batting cages at Bob Peters Field at Centralia College. The Foundation applied for the grant over the summer and was notified of its award in October. Construction of the batting cages is expected to be completed in time for the start of baseball and softball team practices in February. Fundraising for the field is ongoing, as additional funds are needed for the bleachers, press booth, and other amenities. Donations can be directed to the CC Foundation through its website at foundation.centralia.edu. For information, call 360-623-8942 or email ccfoundation@centralia.edu.



Scholarships helps local students become healthcare professionals

Coordinated Care, a Washington State provider of low-cost and free health insurance, has committed \$25,000 to the Foundation to provide scholarships and emergency grants to CC students in healthcare programs. Half of the funds will be awarded in the spring through the Foundation's normal scholarship process. The other half of the funds will be awarded to students facing one-time financial hardships that threaten their ability to continue their education. These funds will be awarded through the college's existing emergency grant process.



College News Roundup



CC faculty to share their insights from Malawi visit

Centralia College Library Director Julie Nurse and math Professor Lisa Spitzer spent three weeks in Malawi, visiting colleagues at Centralia College's partner college, the University of Livingstonia. The pair met with administrators, students, and faculty at the university and exchanged experiences in teaching, learning, libraries, information literacy, and so much more. They both said it was a life-changing experience and they're eager to share it with the campus. An open forum will be scheduled for 2 p.m. Jan. 24 in TransAlta Commons room 122. It is open to everyone.



Cedar Street Park gets a glow-up (photo)

On Sept. 30, more than 30 volunteers, including Centralia College employees and family, CC students from Phi Theta Kappa, student government, and the Diesel Club, the CC Foundation, and Centralia Rotary cleaned up Cedar Street Park on the CC campus. They picked up trash, trimmed trees and shrubs, pulled weeds, edged walkways, mowed grass, picked up leaves, and more. The park hasn't looked this good in years! See more photos on the college's Facebook and Instagram pages.

Corrections program builds a national reputation

CC's Corrections Education program presented at several major conferences this year. They presented at the Corrections Education Association (CEA) national conference in New Orleans in April, and at the CEA international conference in Portland in August. They also presented at the Washington State Corrections Education Conference in Spokane in May. Faculty members Rick Cowan and Bruce Carley presented on the Construction Trades Apprenticeship Preparation program and apprenticeships at all three conferences, and then-faculty member Liselotte Thompson (now dean of transitional studies) and Corrections Dean Lyz Grant presented at the CEA conference in Portland. The team received very positive feedback from participants.

Diesel celebrates new partnerships

The Diesel Tech program recently joined with Papé Kenworth (dealer) and Kenworth (manufacturer) to become a dealer partner school. Papé Kenworth donated a six-week rental of a 2023 Kenworth T880 for the Bachelor of Applied Science – Diesel Technology (BAS-DT) emissions class. Kenworth donated a data link and the Kenworth diagnostic service software. The BAS-DT program is also utilizing the Kenworth Essentials online training modules.



Goodbye, yellow gym haze (photo)

Be sure to bring sunglasses the next time you're in the Michael Smith Gymnasium. Phil Strodemier (maintenance mechanic 3) spent

much of Monday and Tuesday installing new lights in the gym, replacing the very yellow and much larger lights with compact, bright white LEDs. He estimated the old lights were installed in 2008. Be sure to check out a Blazer basketball game this winter to experience the new lights in all their glory!

Green Hill celebrates commencement

Seven Green Hill students graduated from Centralia College on Dec. 6 with their associate degrees. They are: Rik JK England, Cameron T. Beck, Travis Switalski, Benito S. Marquez, Elias Velasquez-Volkart, Ron D. Ackerson, and Bryan E Rodriguez-Hernandez. The commencement ceremony was at Green Hill's new recreation center.



CDL program celebrates new home and trucks

CDL trucks The CDL program celebrated its two new dedicated trucks and a new driving range. The new site for the CDL classes is off of North Pearl Street in Centralia. The long-term lease is a huge development for the program, which has been running two full cohorts per quarter for several quarters. (The CDL program previously borrowed trucks from the diesel program.) The new trucks and the lease are funded by a grant from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. A third truck will be coming soon. Also at the event, the CDL program recognized Rayonier Forest Products for its support. A donation to the CC Foundation from Rayonier was used to fund GPS systems in the new trucks.



Centralia College Athletic Director Bob Peters retires

Bob Peters, Centralia College's longest-serving athletic director and the namesake for the new Bob Peters Field, retired Oct. 31. A retirement celebration will be held at a later date. Those details will be announced when they are finalized. In the meantime, Bob will continue his involvement with Centralia College and the Centralia College Foundation, and promises he will forever bleed blue and gold.

"Bob has been such an amazing leader at the college for so many years and will be greatly missed," said Robert Cox, vice president of Student Services. "There's no way to express our appreciation for all of the great things Bob has done. His mentorship and role modeling for thousands of student athletes has had a profound impact on their lives."

Bob grew up on Silver Street a block from the college and spent his childhood days sneaking into the gym and playing on Noble Field. He graduated from Centralia High School in 1979 and came to Centralia College that year to play basketball and start working on his Associate of Arts degree. After graduating from CC in 1981, he transferred to Western Washington University, where he played basketball and completed his degree in education. He wanted to teach PE and health and coach basketball, but wasn't sure where. He came back to Centralia and started looking for work.

After substitute teaching at local area schools for a few years, an opportunity came at Centralia College, when his former coach and CC Athletic Director Bob Reimer offered him a position. He



started at CC in the fall of 1986 as a part-time assistant men's basketball coach. He also taught health and PE part-time.

Bob served as the men's basketball assistant coach from 1986-90 and even pulled double duty for a few years, coaching both the men's and women's teams at the same time. He was the head women's basketball coach from 1988-91. He married his wife Shawn in 1988. Shawn has taught Kindergarten and Special Education and is currently working as an Instructional Facilitator for the Centralia School District.

In 1991, Bob took over as the head coach of men's basketball and was named CC Athletic Director. He also continued to teach health and PE classes. CC only offered four sports then. Today, there are eight. On May 22, the new Centralia College athletics complex was officially dedicated as Bob Peters Field in honor of Bob's contributions to CC athletics.

Bob and Shawn have three children, Hillary Hull, Bailey Moon, and Christian Peters, and three grandchildren.

"It was the family environment that kept me here for so many years," Bob said. "I love working with kids and seeing them succeed. We provide a good experience for them and help them get on the right track. Plus, all my family is here. I always wanted to be close to my family."

Men's basketball coach Joe Chirhart has been serving as the interim athletics director since Oct. 16.





Chris Thomas appointed to Centralia College Board of Trustees

Gov. Jay Inslee has appointed Chris Thomas to serve on the Centralia College Board of Trustees. Thomas was introduced at the Oct. 16 meeting. Trustees are appointed by the governor for five-year terms for a maximum of 10 years.

Thomas replaces Doris Wood-Brumsickle, who ended a 10-year stint on the board in September.

“Doris is irreplaceable, but we’re so excited to bring Chris Thomas on board,” said CC President Bob Mohrbacher, Ed. D. “Chris is deeply connected to Centralia College through his work with Centralia High School and the Centralia School Board, and he has important connections with the healthcare sector, which is an important field for many of our students. He’s engaged in the community and brings a great perspective and energy to the Centralia College board.”

Since 2006, Thomas has been the senior communications manager for Providence South Puget Sound, which includes Providence Centralia Hospital, Providence St. Peter Hospital, and the clinics of Providence Medical Group Southwest Washington. Prior to that, he

worked 14 years as a journalist, copy desk chief, and editor at The Chronicle in Centralia. He has a bachelor’s degree in communications from Seattle University.

He currently serves on a number of local community organizations. He is an executive board member for the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce, and a board member for Centralia High School Dollars for Scholars and Riverside Golf Men’s Club. He previously served on the Centralia School District board.

“I’m happy to be here,” said Thomas. “I’ve always been interested in the college and I’m happy to serve the college in this way.”

Thomas shared that he graduated from Centralia High School and took calculus at the college in the days before Running Start. He also did on-air play-by-play during some early television broadcasts of Blazer basketball games and wrote articles for the Blue & Gold, Centralia College’s former student newspaper.

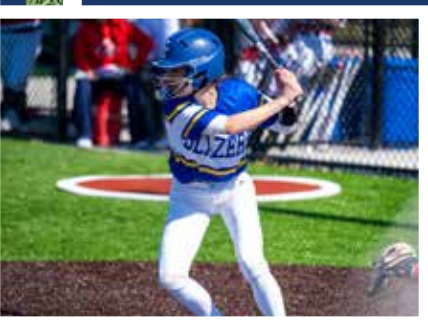
Our Community Our College Our Future

Boost your business by marketing at the new Bob Peters Field at Centralia College

The multi-sport turf field hosts teams from all over the northwest throughout the year. Spectators, family, and community members will see your promotion during men's baseball, women's softball, and men's and women's soccer seasons.

Marketing Opportunities

- Outfield Banners
- Scoreboard Signage
- Naming Opportunities



Contact the CC Foundation

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OPEN HOUSE NURSING SIMULATION LAB

Thursday, January 11th
4:00pm – 5:30pm

Walton Science Center - WSC 202

Join us for a ribbon cutting and tour the new
Nursing Simulation Lab at Centralia College

We hope to see you there!



It's Nomination Season for the CC Foundation

Centralia College and the Centralia College Foundation are accepting nominations for all three major awards in 2024 – Distinguished Alumnus, Legacy Award, and Sports Hall of Fame.

Distinguished Alumni Award

A selection committee comprised of Centralia College and Foundation representatives is currently seeking nominations for the Distinguished Alumnus Award. The award is presented annually to an individual who attended Centralia College for at least one year and/or has made significant contributions to his or her profession or society in general. The recipient of this prestigious award is named in the spring and recognized at the Foundation's Night of Celebration in June. Nominations can be submitted online at www.centralia.edu/foundation/about/award-nominations.aspx.

Legacy Award

The Centralia College Foundation is currently seeking nominations for its Legacy Award. It is awarded annually to an individual or group who has shown dedication, commitment, and contribution to the mission of Centralia College. The recipients are not required to be Centralia College alumni and the Legacy Award may be given posthumously. Nominations can be submitted online at www.centralia.edu/foundation/about/award-nominations.aspx.

Sports Hall of Fame

Inductees may have made an especially positive and outstanding contribution to the college through their achievements in intercollegiate, interscholastic, or professional sports, or they may have been selected through exemplary activity in public life. Members are listed by year inducted, from the most recent to the first inductees. Nominate and individual or a team online at centraliablayers.com. Click on the Inside Athletics tab for a link to the nomination form.

Yes, I definitely want to support the Centralia College Foundation



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 please 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

\$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 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 of the Legacy Society and including the Foundation in my estate.

Centralia College Foundation
360-623-8942
ccfoundation@centralia.edu
www.centralia.edu/foundation



CENTRALIA COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

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Join the Alumni Association

Join the Centralia College Alumni Association at
centraliacollegealumni.org.

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

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