

## Congratulations, Class of 2017



Centralia College held its annual commencement ceremony June 16. Nearly 300 students walked across the stage to receive high school diplomas, GEDs, certificates, associate degrees, and bachelor's degrees. One of the highlights of the event was a moving speech by the 2017 Distinguished Alumna Alicia Wicks.

**Congratulations to the class of 2017!**





# 2017 Hanke Grant and Award Winners

The Centralia College Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to announce this year's recipients of the Hanke Faculty Achievement Awards and Staff Mini-Grants. These awards are made possible through the distribution of the Hanke Endowment – created by longtime Centralia resident Walter Hanke in his bequest to the college.

The **Hanke Faculty Achievement Awards** are awarded to faculty members whose proposals include noteworthy activities, projects, or equipment purchases leading to individual professional development or program development.

These proposals were prioritized by the college's three objectives: e-learning, sustainability, and student recruitment and retention.

**Jake Conrad** (*pictured right*) was awarded a grant for promotional items to be used in recruitment and to increase awareness of the diesel technology program at community events.

**Kelly Erickson** was provided funding for a pilot program in the Kirk Library to loan Internet hotspots to students without reliable Internet at home.



Each year, up to \$10,000 is available to classified and exempt staff through **Hanke Staff Mini-grants**. Applications can be for projects, activities, or equipment; priority is given to items that focus on college objectives.

- Enhancing Native Habitats in the KNOLL (Amanda Pittman)
- Dishwasher for the Chemistry Department (Renae Z'berg)
- Credit card machines for Centralia College East, the Washington Hall ticket booth, and the campus business office (Kelli Bloomstrom and Marla Miller - *pictured left*, and Clifford Frederickson)
- Color printer for the financial aid office (Tracy Dahl)
- T-shirts for the ECEAP preschool program (Debbie Filley)
- Job Fair 2018 (Joan Rogerson)
- Security locks for the gym (Janet Reaume)
- Event tent (Dianne McGuinn)

# Alumni Spotlight: Craig Taylor



Centralia College alumnus Craig Taylor is helping expand access to comprehensive genetic testing, helping to reduce costs and ensure patients have access to potentially life-saving technology.

Taylor works for Congenica, a British software company that specializes in Whole Genome Sequencing, which allows doctors to test a patient's entire genetic makeup in a single test. Congenica's software, which is in use in half of all genetic testing labs in the UK, processes the test results, providing analysis and information that can give patients a definitive diagnosis.

Taylor works as Congenica's head of finance and business development, working closely with the chief executive officer to build the company and expand its services to the medical community across the globe.

"Congenica is on the bleeding edge of genomics, so the pace is very fast and the days are often very long," Taylor described. "Nonetheless, the work we're

doing is very directly helping improve the lives of patients."

Taylor's love of biotechnology started at Centralia High School, where an advanced biology class and teacher Henri Weeks sparked his interest and curiosity. That interest carried through to Centralia College.

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**"Everyone at Centralia College, from the professors to the support staff, truly care about the students and their success."**

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As a co-valedictorian for Centralia High School in 2002, Taylor earned a full scholarship to Centralia College. Though he could have gone anywhere to study, CC was the best choice for him.

"The Board of Trustees scholarship

enabled me to remain at home and have two years of college for free, all while obtaining the caliber of education that rivaled any top institution that I may have gotten into," he explained. "Moreover, once I transferred to Western Washington University to complete my bachelor's degree, I had enough money in my college fund to pay tuition and living expenses for my time there. This meant I came out of university with an amazing education and almost no debt."

Taylor graduated from Western Washington University in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in manufacturing and supply chain management. He went on to Cambridge University in England to earn his master's degree in business administration in 2012.

Living across the globe and working in the fast-paced world of biotech, Taylor never forgets his roots at Centralia College. He encourages all students to complete their first two years at a community college, not only to save themselves from student debt, but because the quality of education he received was top-notch.

"Everyone at Centralia College, from the professors to the support staff, truly care about the students and their success," he said. "At larger universities, there is often much more pressure on professors to publish than to teach, and this often comes at the expense of the education freshmen and sophomores receive. At CC, I can attest that the professors are genuinely dedicated to the students as their first priority."



# An evening to celebrate



The **grand opening celebration for the TransAlta Commons** was held June 2. Several hundred turned out for the event, which included food, music, and building tours.

Guest speakers included college President Dr. Bob Mohrbacher, Doris Wood-Brumsickle, chair of the board of trustees, Christine Fossett, vice-chair of the foundation board, Mark Schiebmeir and Larry McGee, chair and vice-chair of the foundation's capital

campaign committee, Allie Fairall, student body president, Jennifer Massey, student body president from 2004-05, Mickey Dreher, managing director of TransAlta, and Steve Ward, executive director of the foundation.

Music was provided by Centralia College's Pro Musica student ensemble.



# 2017 Sports Hall of Fame Inductees



## **KARISSA SCHERER • WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (2004-06)**

During both years Karissa Scherer played, the team was first in the Western Region of NWAC and set records for the most wins in a season. She led in assists and/or steals and was MVP of the Western Region in 2005-06. Karissa earned an athletic scholarship to Concordia University, but, after getting injured, she decided to pursue a career in athletic training.



## **LUKE SALME • MEN'S BASKETBALL (1997-99)**

Luke Salme earned the MVP and Coaches' Award during the 1998-99 season. He is currently coaching at Adna High School. At Olympia High School, he was the 4A Narrows League Coach of the Year and The Olympian All-Area Coach of the Year 2011-12. He led the team to two 4A Narrows League Championships and two WIAA State Tournament appearances, including a fourth place finish in 2011.



## **VIRGIL MATTHEWS • MEN'S BASKETBALL (2002-04)**

Virgil Mathews played on the 2003-04 team that was first in the NWAC Western Region. He was the NWAC All-Star MVP. He continued his education at the University of Montana and has been playing professional basketball in Germany since 2006. He was the lead camp counselor at three different sport camps: Independent Lake Camp 1998-2005; Camp Pillsbury 2014; and French Woods Sports and Arts Camp 2015.

## *Leave a living legacy with Planned Giving*

The Foundation Board, seeing the need for sustainable support, has made a determined focus for the upcoming years to work on increasing its Planned Giving efforts. As costs for higher education continue to rise and as more and more offerings are being offered by the college, the need for scholarship funds increases.

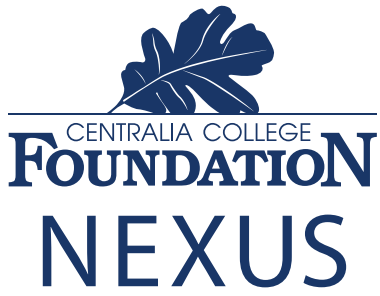
You can make a student's dream of a

quality education come true by leaving a living legacy. As our population ages, several options for future giving can provide income for the foundation. Two options to consider are signing over a fully paid life insurance plan or adding the foundation as a beneficiary to your retirement plan.

One of the most meaningful ways to

express your charitable desires is to name the foundation in your estate, regardless if you use a will or living trust.

If you would like additional information on how you can impact future students at Centralia College, please contact the Foundation Office at [foundation@centralia.edu](mailto:foundation@centralia.edu) or 360-623-8942.



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