

## Now Open – TransAlta Commons

Centralia College celebrated the grand opening of the TransAlta Commons building May 2.

While some offices and departments moved prior to the grand opening, the majority of the moves will take place later in the month. Eventually, the TransAlta Commons will be home to admissions, registration, financial aid, cashier, bookstore, advising and counseling, and much more.

The Centralia College Foundation raised \$1 million for this project through its capital campaign. Stop by and take a look, or attend one of the many events already scheduled for this amazing space!





*Ellis Oliver Speaker Series presents*

# Start With Why with David Mead



## Feel inspired and inspire others!

Every person on the planet knows WHAT they do. Some people even know HOW they do it. Very few people know WHY they do it.

Do you know your WHY- the purpose, cause, or belief that inspires what you do?

The Ellis Oliver Speaker Series is proud to sponsor Start With Why with David Mead at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 25, in Corbet Theatre. He will help you articulate your unique WHY statement.

There will be a social hour in the lobby of Washington Hall from 5 to 5:45 p.m. The presentation will begin at 6p.m.

This event is free and open to the public, however, registration is requested at [startwithwhy.bpt.me](http://startwithwhy.bpt.me).

## 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.

# Alumni Spotlight: Lindsey Hoogkamer



Lindsey Hoogkamer always knew she'd attend Centralia College. After all, her parents met as students at the college, and both her older siblings attended. Earning a full tuition scholarship was simply a nice bonus for the Winlock

High School graduate.

"Since I was awarded a full-ride to Centralia College, I didn't need to worry about finances while earning my associate degree," she explained. "I also applied for financial aid and received grants to help cover my personal expenses. Attending CC was a smart decision financially."

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Having her tuition paid also allowed her to get involved on campus. She served on the Student Activities Team and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the honors society for two-year college students. She took as many psychology classes as she could, and ultimately earned her associate degree from Centralia College.

"I'm a huge advocate for community colleges," she added. "You will earn just as strong of an education as a university (if not better!). Your classes will be small and personal. Your teachers will know your name and remember you. You will have opportunities to get involved and campus and feel like you're a part of a community that matters. Oh, and you will save money."

Hoogkamer went on to earn her bachelor's degree from Western Washington University in 2010 and her master's degree in education from Seattle University. She has been working in International Admissions and Advising at Seattle Central College since 2011.

"I feel a strong connection to the mission and values of community colleges, and I love being able to support students in their educational journey," she said.

## *Literacy Council Seeks Volunteers*

Our Literacy Council is housed on the Centralia College campus and is in need of adult volunteers.

Our Literacy Council provides tutoring to adults seeking to:

- Pass college or high school courses
- Complete a GED
- Learn English
- Prepare for higher education

You can reach the volunteer coordinator at 360-623-8429.





# 2017 Exceptional Faculty Award Winners

The Centralia College Foundation has selected Connie Smejkal and Jeff McQuarrie to receive the 2016-17 Exceptional Faculty Awards. They were chosen for their commitment to and excellence in their subject areas, and participation in campus activities.



*Connie Smejkal*

As soon as a full-time teaching position opened, Smejkal applied and soon found herself on the tenure track. She took a hiatus from teaching to serve as the assistant dean of the bachelor's degree program, but she returned to teaching full-time after one year.

She now teaches a variety of business and accounting courses. Her favorite class is Human Relations in the Workplace.

"This class helps students work on their interpersonal skills," she explained. "Since the course is required of all workforce students, I appreciate the diversity in the classroom. The course is engaging, contains material everyone can relate to, and provides a lot of opportunities for fun learning experiences for students."

Conne Smejkal came to Centralia College in 2006 with no previous experience teaching. In fact, she started as an office assistant and was promoted twice, first to program coordinator and then to dean of Workforce and Continuing Education. Spurred by her success, she finished her master's degree and began to teach classes part-time. Something clicked immediately.

"I caught the teaching bug. I loved the classroom and watching students learn and grow. I was hooked," she said.



*Jeff McQuarrie*

2011. I've lived all over the country, but Lewis County people are special."

McQuarrie started teaching communications part-time, first at Centralia College East and then at both campuses. He now teaches nearly all of the communications studies courses available at CC, including Public Speaking, Intro to Mass Media and Debate. His favorite class is Advanced Public Speaking.

"That class attracts some gifted characters, who really know how to make learning fun," he said. "Most days, when I leave that class, my jaw hurts from laughing so much. It's so cool to have a new student who is frightened to death on the first day of an introductory public speaking course, who then goes on to take the advanced course. Guiding them from "frightened to fanatic" about public speaking is one of the biggest joys I've ever felt."

Jeff McQuarrie spent much of his early career in business. He was the president and marketing director of a fishing resort in Alaska, and had his own video production company. But, he wanted more.

"Although both jobs were fun, I didn't feel I was really making the world a better place," he said. "I think we all have a deep craving to change people's lives for the better, and teaching does that. I still keep in touch with students from the first class I taught here in

# Join us for Capstone Presentation Day June 9

The Centralia College Foundation unanimously approved \$10,000 to fund student research projects in 2017. The funds are being used to complete Capstone Projects across all disciplines.

This is the fifth year of the Capstone Projects at the college, and the third year the Foundation has offered financial support to complete the high-profile projects.

“The Foundation is excited to assist students by providing a source of funding to encourage them with their projects,” said Julia Johnson, director of alumni and donor relations.

“This funding also sets Centralia College apart from other community colleges, as no other community college in the state has such opportunities for students to participate in research-related projects.”

The Foundation will host the Capstone Project Presentation Day on Friday, June 9, in the TransAlta Commons building. Students will present their work to the Foundation and community. Oral presentations will be from noon to 1 p.m. and posters/static presentations will be from 1 to 3 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

## *The State of the* **Centralia College Foundation in 2017**

The Foundation Board held its annual planning meeting in April to review the past year, set goals, and plan for the upcoming year.

Gene Christian, of Planned Giving Northwest, led a discussion on the future and importance of planned giving, noting that, as the population ages, it is a good time to share with our supporters and donors how the Foundation can assist with planning for their future. Supporting the Foundation, with the option of including their children and grandchildren, creates a living legacy.

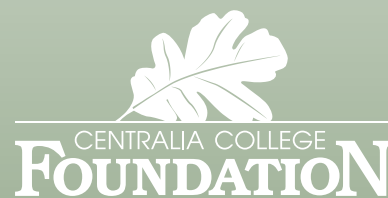
The discussion continued as the college president, Dr. Bob Mohrbacher, recapped the goals set last year, which included:


- Increasing our asset base to \$25 million by 2025;
- Forming a committee to develop a planned giving strategy for the next 10 years;
- Forming committees for Cultivation, Stewardship, Solicitation, and Social Media.

Dr. Mohrbacher noted our goals for the year were at the forefront. In addition to the progress made on the 2016-17 goals, the Foundation took on complete oversight of the colleges scholarship process. This necessitated creating and funding a new position in the Foundation Office. With the

reallocation of duties in the Foundation Office, it is hoped more time and effort can be given to planned giving.

As the discussion continued, the focus shifted to upcoming staff transitions and what the future of the Foundation's staff, structure, and organization could look like in the future as we reach toward our goal of \$25 million by 2025. After all, our organization has grown from an asset base of \$2 million in 2008 to more than \$16 million today.





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*Good things  
come to those  
who give*



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