BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN MANAGEMENT
Larry McGee – Executive Director

BASM
- All faculty are now identified for the eighteen BASM courses. The faculty for BASM is split evenly with seven permanent Centralia College employees and seven adjuncts. Ten of the eighteen courses are instructed by permanent faculty. So BASM is a 50-50 faculty split and a 56-44 course split. Our use of adjuncts that combine deep real world experience with strong education is clearly different than a number of our peer colleges. It should also be noted that a number of our permanent faculty teaching in BASM program bring significant real world experience to their instruction. The collaboration and communication being fostered has been especially valuable to the adjuncts.

- We have asked several local employers to participate in BASM internships and Medrice Collucio, Chief Executive SW WA Sisters of Providence and Christine Fossett, President Lafromboise Communications have responded favorably. However, 90% of the burden of identifying internship providers has been intentionally placed upon the students. We have worked closely with Vice President Julie Ledford and campus risk manager Marla Miller regarding liability and related issues that are a part of internship activities.

- Planning has already started to ensure proper recognition and ceremony accompanies the first-ever baccalaureate graduates from Centralia College on Friday, June 13.

BASM - Accounting
- We continue to investigate the option of a “concentration” or a “strand”, as the term currently being used, where we would replace six or seven of the BASM courses with courses tightly focused on accounting. This potential program would be aimed at those who have a goal of becoming a CPA. There is still uncertainty as to whether the NWCCU would categorize this as “minor” or “substantive” change. We believe there are 20 students currently enrolled who would find this of significant interest if offered by Centralia College.

BASD
- Marketing materials are prepared and the website has received significant work in anticipation of a SBCTC approval on Thursday, February 6. We intend to submit our change request to the NWCCU on February 7 for their determination of the designation of change. Word from peer colleges is that the NWCCU is modifying some of their review processes given the surge in BAS programs at WA colleges. Jake Fay has started course development while he is on sabbatical at Idaho State. Meetings are scheduled over the next few weeks at Portland Community College (the largest associate diesel degree program in this part of America) and with Bates, both of who are interested in a pathway for their students to enroll and succeed in BASD.

ACADEMIC TRANSFER
T.R. Gratz - Academic Transfer Programs

English
- Kimberly Loomis-Bennett, adjunct English instructor, has completed a Masters in Fine Arts, Creative Writing, degree through Wilkes University and will be representing that college as well as ours at the Associated Writing Programs Conference in Seattle this February.
Kelly Erickson, adjunct composition instructor, has joined a campus work group coordinated by eLearning support manager Carrie Powell, that's looking into methods of enhancing online tutoring for our students. Ms. Erickson has experience with online tutoring in her work with Smarthinking and two WSU writing centers.

Linda Foss is continuing on two-thirds release time as eLearning faculty liaison and has entered a nine-month certificate program “eLearning Design & Development” offered online by Renton Technical College.

Rosemary Reigle, adjunct online English composition instructor, recently completed an Open Resource Training course. Rose reports that the SBCTC instructor was very kind helpful. Rose supports the use of OER but thinks that each department would need to get together and figure out what sources would be best for their disciplines and for meeting their courses’ learning objectives.

The Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) has announced that Sharon Mitchler will be speaking at the CCCC 2014 Annual Convention. Mitchler, of Centralia College, will be presenting during the session, “Getting a Job in a Two-Year College.” Mitchler's presentation is titled “Finding Job Openings in Two-Year Colleges.” The session will be held March 21. Each year the CCCC convention draws college faculty members from around the world. They gather to hear award-winning keynote speakers, attend presentations by colleagues on the latest innovations in education, and network to gain knowledge of best practices in the field. The 2014 convention will be held March 19-22, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sharon also has served on a special task force for CCCC working on “Principles for the Postsecondary Teaching of Writing,” and after two years, the group has finally finished the project. The task force included eight writing/English professors from across the United States, representing a variety of institutions (community colleges, private college/universities, public universities, research one universities). The finished document has been accepted as a position statement and is now available on the CCCC website: http://www.ncte.org/cccc/resources/positions/postsecondarywriting

Associate Professor of English and Humanities, Dr. Susanne Weil, and her Seattle University colleague Christine Mower, have been accepted to run a special session on women and work in literature at the Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association (west coast MLA division) conference at the University of California-Riverside next November. This will be the sixth time they have coordinated this research session, and they have been invited to make it a standing session for future conferences. Susanne and Christine co-edited an anthology of critical articles on the topic of how 18th through 20th century literature in the U.S. and Britain represented the work of women; the anthology was published in 2011.

Social Science
- Dr. Jody Peterson spoke to Chehalis Rotary January 8 on the topic of “The Power of Travel.”

Science
- On November 9, Pat Pringle gave a public presentation at SW Oregon Community College in Coos Bay as part of their formal geology lecture series. The title of his talk was “Buried and submerged forests: time capsules with secrets of past earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.” The lecture series and link to a YouTube video of Pat's presentation is at: http://www.socc.edu/faculty/rmetzger/pgs/lecture-series/index.shtml

- Pat also attended the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado October 26-29. He participated in a day-long short course “Helping Students Succeed in Geoscience Courses at Two-Year Colleges” and also gave an oral presentation “Using tree-ring research and radiocarbon dating for class projects and undergraduate research — Centralia College Tree-Ring Lab.” Pat received partial funding from the National Science Foundation and Geological Society of America to attend the meeting.
Upcoming presentations Pat will be providing include the following: February 11, geologic history presentation, Alpha Centauri Lecture Series, Triad Theater Yelm; February 28, presentation to the Centralia College Science Club; March 5, training session for the Mount St. Helens Institute naturalists, Vancouver, Washington; May 3, presentation on Mount Rainier to Quimper Peninsula Geological Society Lecture Series, Port Townsend; June 4, presentation to the Nisqually Stream Stewards.

Pat also was interviewed by Jason Baker of KELA about the Mima Mounds. This was for an interview show called “Evergreen Journal” regarding a San Jose State geology professor’s recent ideas about the mounds. Jason interviewed that prof, Manny Gabet, as well. According to Gabet’s mathematical models, he proves ancient gophers made the mounds (“mystery solved” so he says – although he’s never seen the mounds).

On Friday, January 10, the science and math faculty (Chris Carlson, Karen Goodwin, Ruby Nagelkerke, Steve Norton, Pat Pringle, and Michael Threapleton) presented a STEM workshop: “Everything You Need to Know to Prepare for Graduate School in Math, Engineering, and Science.” The round-table discussion contrasted the life of an undergraduate vs. a graduate student, the criteria for selection, support in graduate school, and how students can prepare now to best position themselves for success in graduate school.

On Friday, January 24, Dr. Norton spent the morning at White Pass discussing careers in STEM, the STEM program at Centralia College, and the STEM scholars program with middle school and high school students.

On Friday, January 31, Karen Ripley, forest entomologist, Washington Department of Natural Resources, presented a seminar “Insects that influence wood decay: studying, and communicating technical information about their effects on forests” as part of the Rising Tide Seminar Series.

On Friday, February 7, Dr. Buddy Ratner, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Washington, presented a seminar “Reconstructing Humans with Biology, Chemistry and Physics” as part of the Rising Tide Seminar Series.

Music

Dr. Donna Huffman will be adjudicating the Chinook Solo/Ensemble festival held at Timberline High School on February 8. The other adjudicators will be from Seattle Pacific University, Pacific Lutheran University and the greater Seattle area.

The Centralia College Jazz Band, under the direction of Dr. Huffman will perform on March 7 for the Rotary-Foundation Murder Mystery Dinner. The playwright for the evening will be by Kaaren Spansky-Dreffin, a Centralia College music and theatre alumnus.

Dr. Huffman will be adjudicating the Olympia Choral Society Scholarship Auditions on March 8. The winners of the competition are awarded college scholarship to enable them to attend college. In the past, four of the scholarship winners have chosen to attend Centralia College.

The Lewis County Community Band Concert, part of the Continuing Education Program at Centralia College, will be performing a free concert in Corbet Theatre, on Tuesday March 11 at 7:30 p.m., free of charge.

The Centralia College Choir, under the direction of Dr. Huffman, will be presenting a St. Patrick’s Day Concert March 17, at 7:30 p.m. at Harrison Square Presbyterian Church. A free will offering will be taken for the Lewis County Food Bank.

Dr. Huffman will be traveling to New York City in March with the Centralia College Theatre Department and will view the two new musicals, *Kinky Boots* which won six Tony Awards and *Motown the Musical* which had five Tony Award nominees.
Wellness and Intramurals

- A continuation of the “Walk to Westport” along with two categories in a wellness challenge, fitness and fat loss, are being offered to faculty and staff this quarter. There are 19 people signed up for the fitness division and 22 signed up for the fat loss division. This involves individuals working out on their own along with attending some group education and workouts. The first group activities had a good showing with much enthusiasm amongst the participants in making healthy exercise and lifestyle choices. The communication for these challenges is taking place in Canvas, exposing more people to this effective communication and educational tool. These groups will be signing up for this program as a class earning credits with the tuition coming from a fund that has been set to cover this.

- Volleyball intramurals are in their second week with both students and staff participating. There are four teams that have turned out to play these Thursday games. During the first week of February, basketball intramurals will begin. There are five teams signed up for this activity.

- Many students and faculty can be seen in the fitness center during the non-class hours working out and utilizing this resource.

- Board members are always welcome to participate in any of these activities and utilize the fitness center.

Lyceum

February 19 – African American History 101

- When an inquiry is made as to what comes to mind when one thinks of African-American history, an overwhelming response is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, civil rights and slavery. This presentation will impress upon you that African-American history “did not” begin in the 20th century, by exploring the African-American experience beginning "Before the Mayflower." This presentation will be made by Dan Johnson, consultant and trainer.

February 26 – Life Happens, Live It!

- Never look at the phrase “can’t do” the same way again. This is goal number one for Jake French, who is a 2008 graduate of the University of Idaho and was working as a forester in Oregon when a devastating accident happened. In an instant his life was turned upside down after a spinal cord injury left him a quadriplegic. A stereotypical life in a wheelchair seemed like giving up to Jake, and there was no way he would throw in the towel at just 23 years of age. His “it is what it is” response initiated a change in mindset and the beginning of a new journey. Committing to a “can do” attitude opened many doors and allowed him to turn the worst thing that ever happened to him into one of the best. Today, Jake is a well-known, sought-after inspirational speaker and author of “Life Happens. Live It!” He has developed a deep passion to share his message about the power of a positive attitude, choices we face, and successfully dealing with change. www.jakefrenchinspires.com

March 5 – The Warning System-Are you Ready to Respond?

- Being prepared is a personal responsibility. Are you ready? The Warning System is critical to saving lives and property. What is the Warning System? What does it mean to you? Learn about the Warning System and some successes and failures along with learning about the meteorologists of the National Weather Service behind the curtain at this engaging and interactive presentation. Ted Buehner, Warning coordination meteorologist of the National Weather Service-Seattle/Tacoma will be the presentor.

March 12 – Saving the Chimps of Cameroon

- Founded by former Portland, Oregon, veterinarian Dr. Sheri Speede, the Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Center provides sanctuary for chimpanzee orphans in Cameroon while promoting social and cultural conditions that ensure endangered great apes survive and thrive in their natural habitats. In this presentation, Dr. Speede will talk about her work and the efforts being made to save the Chimpanzees of Cameroon. www.ida-africa.org
LIBRARY/eLEARNING/INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH
Sue Kennedy - Dean, Library Services and eLearning

Information Literacy & Technology
Submitted by Julie Nurse, Information Literacy & Technology Librarian
- Microsoft IT Academy—we continue to move closer (in the next month) to providing access to Microsoft IT Academy for faculty, staff and students.
- Outreach - continue outreach of library service to CC East campus.
- Primo catalog - migration to a new library catalog within the next month.
- New library website - preparing to launch new library website during spring break.

Library
Submitted by Margaret Snyder, Reference & Instruction Librarian
- Librarians working with faculty to create LibGuides for classes and subjects
- Dale, Julie, and Margaret on Library sub-committee of Retention Committee: Researching and discussing ways the Library can help in the college’s effort to retain students.
- Librarians going on a field trip to SPSCC and Pierce College to see remodeled libraries—to get ideas for our future expansion into the rest of the Library building.

eLearning
Submitted by Carrie Powell, eLearning Support Manager
- We recently installed a white board & projector screen and equipped all available machines with webcams and headsets.
- We are offering one-hour sessions covering topics such as Conferencing, Managing Quizzes, Intro to Homepages, Visual Presenters and Smart Boards, etc. One unanticipated result of the workshops has been increased participation from our adjuncts and interdisciplinary collaboration from the faculty who have made the effort to attend. A Canvas course serves as a repository for the information & ideas generated from the sessions.
- Thanks to SBCTC funding we were able to offer our faculty a 2-hour online workshop with a Tegrity trainer. Linda and I learned a lot about web conferencing, and even our 5-year lecture-capture veterans picked up few new Tegrity tips and tricks.
- The eLearning staff is working with our deans to establish publishing deadlines for online, hybrid and web-enhanced Canvas courses. We are starting to hear from students who are expecting to see their face-to-face classes in Canvas as well.

CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES
Cristi Heitschmidt – Associate Dean, Child & Family Studies

Early Childhood Education (ECE)
- Five students are taking advantage of the Early Achievers Opportunity Grant, taking 72 credits winter quarter. This grant has provided access to education that many working in the early learning field would not have been able to afford.
Parenting Education (PE)

- Love and Logic classes are being offered both in Onalaska and at Centralia College have filled to capacity. In Onalaska, we are serving both English and Spanish speaking students. These classes offer opportunities for families in various communities to have access to Centralia College parenting education offerings and to underserved populations.

- Child and Family Studies is pleased to be the recipient of two grants, one through the Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Agency (NWHIDTA) and the other through Lewis County Chemical Dependency-Mental Health-Therapeutic Courts Sales and Use Tax. These grants help us expand the parenting class programming into the greater Lewis County communities, again providing access to all of Lewis County.

- Learning and Playing (LeaP) has been reintroduced for Spanish speaking parents and their young children. This class offers an opportunity for parents with children birth through 48 months to learn and play together. Weekly class discussions focus on physical, social, emotional, cognitive and language development of young children. This class helps families begin the idea of school and promote the value of education at an early stage in their children's lives.

- Child and Family Studies staff attended Homeless Connect at the SW Washington Fairgrounds. This provided opportunity to talk with individuals and families in attendance about parenting classes and programs. It was also an opportunity to promote the rich resources available at the college - GED, Basic Ed, Technical programs, etc. and to provide attendees with names and phone numbers to contact on campus regarding specific programs. This connection provided access to education for families of Lewis County.

- The first week of February, Parenting a Teen class will begin. In response to many calls from community members, schools, agencies and the campus TEEN program, this class is designed to increase parental understanding about adolescent development including brain development, to improve parent -teen communication and to enhance problem solving skills. Parents will attend four parent-only sessions followed by four youth-parents sessions. Each session will include a meal, which will be provided by CC TEEN program. Funding for this class is provided in part by Lewis County Chemical Dependency- Mental Health-Therapeutic Courts Sales and Use Tax.

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)

- The program is contracting with a Master’s Level Registered Dietician, Paula Moll, who will contribute her expertise to help families eat healthier. Promoting health helps children remain in school.

- Program Manager, Christina Martin met with Debi Hood, Executive Director of Lewis County Head Start to discuss future collaborations. The two programs will host a joint Health Advisory Committee. This committee will offer opportunities for families to put healthy decisions in place, and remove barriers to education.

- During our next Parent Policy Council meeting on January 31st, Parent Ambassador, Yolanda Herrerra will introduce herself to members and share highlights from her first training which took place at Dumas Bay Retreat Center on 1/13-15. Yolanda is eager to share the knowledge learned as a Parent Ambassador, and to use her growing leadership skills to gather together a group of parents to help disseminate information to other parents, helping act on the value of education to families.

- ECEAP has begun the process of joining Early Achievers program, Washington’s quality rating and improvement system for early learning providers. By participating in EA, the program will gain extra support and opportunities for continuing education of team members. The opportunities through participation in this program will continue to enhance the professionalism of staff, positively impacting classroom experiences for children.

- ECEAP continues to involve parents in their children’s education process, helping retain children in their first experiences with school. Parent, Suzanne Hawkins, a longtime parent volunteer, was chosen as one of the ECEAP/Head Start Unsung Hero Award recipients. She will attend an honorary event in Olympia this month with other awardees.
Teens Entering Education Now (TEEN)/Passport to College (program for students having been in foster care)

- Trans Alta presented a giant cardboard check (like winning the publisher’s clearinghouse) to TEEN students involved in the CCGrow Project. The grant was written by Kari Winsor of Blue Earth Farms and will be used to support student employment, equipment and garden supplies. This is another example of collaboration with the community that provides students opportunities through education, encouraging them to stay in school.

Children’s Lab School (CLS)

- A full-time lead classroom teacher position has been filled. Melissa McLaughlin – a graduate of Centralia College, works in a preschool classroom on campus at the Child Development Center. Being able to provide full-time staff for each classroom helps students and parents maintain a connection with the educational system, allowing them to remain in school.
- The annual Winter Concert performance occurred January 22nd and was well attended by parents and families. This offering builds connections for parents with their child’s classroom activities, promoting retention of families to this first experience with education.
- A CPR/First Aid class was offered for staff, updating them on safety procedures, enabling them to respond to classroom emergencies, and offer reassurance to parents providing them with yet another reason to keep their children in the quality care of Centralia College.

TRANSITIONAL EDUCATION
Brigitte Kidd – Dean, Transitional Education

- Winter quarter brought several staff changes to the Transitional Education Division. Erin Baker, adjunct ABE instructor, accepted an Instructional Technician position in eLearning. Erin has been a much appreciated member of the ABE team and we are very excited for her new career opportunities. Joe Burr, adjunct instructor at Centralia College and at St.Martin’s University, jumped in and filled a vacancy for IEP (intensive English Program) Speaking and Listening courses. Joe also agreed to teach the winter quarter student success courses and support the retention efforts of the international program.

Basic Skills (ABE/ESL)

- Brigitte Kidd, Dean of Transitional Education, attended the quarterly Council for Basic Skills meeting January 15, 16, and 17 at Olympic College in Bremerton. The council’s agenda focused among other items on the new Master Grant application, which is coming out in March, as well as on HS21, the newly developed high school completion option for basic skill students. Currently Centralia College is one of five other colleges that have started implementing HS21.
- As one of retention and recruitment strategies, the ESL Department is planning a GED Recognition Night on Wednesday, February 12 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Student Center Cafeteria. All the ESL students who earned GEDs and their families and friends are invited to this event. The students will be able to have pictures taken for which the program will have caps and gowns available. Each student will also receive a medallion in recognition of his/her effort. The Latinos Unidos Club has offered to help with the decorations and other host duties.
- ESL student numbers have increased due to enhanced recruitment efforts. At the last orientation students were asked how they had heard about the ESL program. Three or four students had received information from their employer, National Frozen Foods, some from their church, one from the college website and others from friends and family members. All from areas that staff connected with and handed out informational materials.
- ESL faculty and students are very appreciative to have the Kirk Library Building open until 9 p.m. again. The atmosphere in the Phoenix Center is one of activity and enthusiasm. Our two evening employees are very welcoming and helpful to the public and to the instructors. They answer phone calls, help with correspondence, administer CASAS tests, and do other work as needed. They have even been able to help students with e-mail problems and online job applications.
International Student Retention Efforts

- Joe Burr is teaching Centralia College’s first Student Success class solely for international students. Fifteen international students taking pre-college and college level classes are enrolled. The class has regular activities with Joe on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and tutorials led by Math faculty member Lisa Spitzer and English faculty member Randy Johnson on Tuesday and Thursday. The class is modeled on the regular Student Success class Centralia College has offered for years, with the addition of the Tuesday, Thursday tutorials which focus on English and math classes, which can be challenging for international students. So far the student response has been positive, and additional tutors are being sought in Economics and Chemistry. The class will be evaluated at the end of the quarter, and recommendations will be made for improvements. The Success class is being considered as a requirement for all international students to assure their success in college level courses.

Counseling

- Counselors Peggy Goldberg and Sheryl Mercer attended training sessions offered by the Veteran’s Training Support Center in Seattle. The workshops train participants to better understand issues that veterans may face and how to communicate effectively and respectfully in counseling, referral, and service provision settings.

- On the tenth class day Counselors were out and about providing guidance and information to students regarding procedures and policies. The counselors also staffed “ASK ME” tables in NSC and WAH to answer student questions about classes, schedule changes, etc. This service will be provided at critical times of the quarter usually the 10th and 35th class days.

Pre-College

- Roberta Ziegler reports that members of the Outdoor Club did a community service cleanup project at the Skookumchuck River to commemorate MLK day of service. The club’s Facebook reach went up 1500% that week! The group also met with Ed Riley to plan some stream restoration projects.

- In addition, Roberta met with the downtown association to coordinate an effort with juvenile detainees and community members to mentor a cleanup at Riverside Park. She also serves on the Math Faculty hiring committee.

Testing Center

- The testing center staff continue to encourage new GED grads (so far only a few) to become Centralia College students, especially as the new test is closer to reflect college readiness. One GED grad has offered to take a COMPASS test, to see how the GED scores correlate with our college placement test. It will be interesting to see if the new GED tests reflect a higher level of academic achievement.

- The staff is focused on delivery and effectiveness of the COMPASS test and as part of that effort plan to invite a rep from ACT to visit/present on campus to increase overall understanding of the test and its application.

- The Pearson annual survey results for Centralia College testing center showed a 100% student/test-taker satisfaction rate, which gives high kudos to the testing center staff.

Tutor Center

- Mary Wiebe reports that the tutoring center has expanded its services. In collaboration with eLearning, a link in Canvas makes it now possible to post announcements and start interacting with the students directly. This quarter Marty met with all the math lab classes to introduce the students to the tutoring services and invite them to the tutoring center. She intends to personalize peer tutoring even further to make it more inviting and less scary. To support the developmental students more strategically, Marty scheduled a tutor to be available in the Phoenix Center on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00pm to 5:00pm. Joselyn, the peer tutor during that time period, has already helped several students there. Marty’s project for winter quarter is to provide live online tutoring. For this quarter it will be only offered to the math lab classes but services will be expanded to other disciplines as well after most of the glitches have been resolved.
WORKFIRST/WORKER RETRAINING
Bev Gestrine – Director, Workfirst, Basic Food Employment & Training (BFET) & Worker Retraining Programs

Worker Retraining

- Jessica Mehr and Joan Meister canvassed Centralia and Chehalis with fliers targeting veterans and other dislocated workers. They traveled 20 miles and made 20 stops. While handing out fliers Joan also recruited small business owners to join the Worker Retraining Advisory Committee. They plan to go out again and extend their recruiting to south Lewis County.

- Joan Meister and Bev Gestrine have captured the attention of the State Board about the Veteran’s Marketing Plan. Karen Mahoney, Program Administrator, Workforce Education from the State Board noticed Centralia College’s Worker Retraining data. The program has coded 30% of the veteran population, which Karen stated is very high. Joan Meister and Bev Gestrine met with Karen Mahoney on February 11. They shared the long list of marketing efforts specifically in recruiting veterans.

- Joan Meister and Bev Gestrine attended the Project Homeless held on January 24 at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds. Staff met with others assisting veterans and they made contacts to further their marketing efforts. They are interested in holding a Veteran’s Fair on campus when a traveling veteran’s bus is in the area. They are planning to work with The Gather in this endeavor.

- Another excellent recruiting tool that reaches many households is the back page of the spring schedule. In the past, Worker Retraining has used the back page and targeted dislocated workers. When schedules are released there has always been a sharp increase of walk-ins and phone calls about the program. Staff are ready to serve Veterans as well as other dislocated workers.

- Joan Meister researched the State Board’s site and learned the number of military exiting the service at Joint Base Lewis-McChord is projected to nearly double to 13,000 in 2014, from 6,000 to 7,000 in 2013. Also, Washington State is among the top five most popular states for military personnel separating from the service.

- Joan Meister and Bev Gestrine are in the planning stages of holding a Transitional Opportunities event for Veterans on campus in spring quarter. They are going to be recruiting staff and community members to help plan the event.

- For the month of December 2013 the Unemployment Insurance rate raised to 10.7% from 10.4% in November. Lewis County is in fifth place while three counties were over 11.0%, which are all in eastern Washington.

- The Worker Retraining Plan/grant is slated to be released on March 2, and will be due May 5. The annual plan brings in over three quarter of a million dollars! Joan Meister is in the preliminary stages of identifying which in demand programs to fund. The winter quarter Worker Retraining Advisory Committee members will assist in determining fundable programs.

WorkFirst

- The WorkFirst study hall has seen increased attendance over the past two quarters. Students are using the room to complete homework, work on the computers and as a meeting space for study groups. The busiest times are in the mornings. The study hall helps students meet their Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) participation requirements, and is also a great resource and retention tool.

- On January 22, staff were notified of a WorkFirst Participation Policy Change as of February 1. Most parents will be required to participate an additional three hours per week. According to DSHS the requirements are being strengthened to make it more likely to meet the federal Work Participation Rate (WPR) and to make the best use of limited Temporary Aid for Needy Families months. This change in requirements emphasizes the importance of maintaining the availability of our study hall so that students can meet their participation.
Connie Robertson is going back to teaching Options on Thursday and Friday every other week. The seminar Connie teaches, “Thought Patterns for a Successful Career”, works better in this format.

Bev Gestrine and Connie Robertson attended Project Homeless Connect on January 24 at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds. This event serves as the annual homeless count and connects the homeless with needed services. Participants also received a free lunch, haircuts, clothing, blankets and information on available resources.

The State Board recently requested staff complete a budget survey regarding the current funding and the potential need for additional dollars. Staff requested an additional $25,000 to be used for added work study slots and/or WorkFirst tuition; however, it is not clear if additional funds will become available this year.

Margret Friedley is working with Lorraine Coots from Washington Service Corps on applying for a potential AmeriCorps position in the WorkFirst program. We are looking at the requirements and designing a project around the use of the study hall. The request for application (RFA) process will open in mid-February.

The WorkFirst Local Planning Area (LPA) has had several discussions recently regarding the new GED/HS 21. Brigitte Kidd, Dean of Transitional Education, has been invited to our February 20 LPA meeting to join a discussion on whether GED should be considered a full time pathway for WorkFirst students. We are looking forward to have Brigitte share her insight with LPA members.

Due to limited travel to workshops and conferences, especially regional or out of state, Bev Gestrine reviewed print and video material for use in staff training. Staff have purchased several items by nationally recognized speakers for the library. Items purchased to date include books and workbooks such as “Bridges out of Poverty” and “A Framework for Understanding Poverty” by Ruby Payne and “See Poverty… Be the Difference” by Donna Beegle. These topics support more extensive material available through the LPA.

Basic Food, Education and Training (BFET)

Debra Caviness has implemented an online classroom through Canvas. Currently, it is on a volunteer basis. The goal is to open a better line of communication, and give busy students an online option to complete required monthly reporting. Also, the green effect is to save resources by using less paper, and to save program funding.

During the BFET meeting held on January 29 staff learned that at the federal level 200 million dollars has been added to the Department of Agriculture Farm Bill (food stamps) earmarked for the expansion of training programs such as the BFET program here in Washington State. The successful program is a model for the rest of the nation.

PROFESSIONAL TECHNICAL PROGRAMS
Durelle Sullivan – Dean, Workforce Education

Position openings – We will be advertising for faculty positions in the following areas: Nursing (tenure track), Business & Business Tech, Computer Science, and Electronics, Robotics, and Automation (pro-rata’s)

Mary McClain – Pro-rata faculty member Mary McClain has accepted a full time exempt position at South Puget Sound CC. Mary has been with us for twelve years and Workforce and Continuing education staff will miss her. She has been a big contributor to our Continuing and Community outreach in computer education and most recently has been a very busy faculty member in our Business program. We are excited for this opportunity for Mary and are pleased that she will continue to teach online for us.
Job Skills Training grant – Our training grant for Hampton Lumber in Randle has been approved and will start in February. We have contracted with Impact Washington to work with Hampton in creating a more focused operations system designed to drive the organizational goals more effectively.

Medical Assistant
Submitted by Linda Murray

- Carrie Jacobsen, RMA (AMT), MA-C is CC’s 1st MA graduate to pass her national boards. She is now nationally credentialed, as well as licensed in the state of WA to practice as a Medical Assistant. Carrie spoke to the current 2nd-year MA group on 1/22/14 about her position with South Sound Women’s Center in West Olympia, passing her boards, her career goals, etc. Carrie had the class in the palm of her hands as she talked!

- Ashley Smith, RMA (AMT) is CC’s second graduate to pass the national boards. She will be speaking to the 1st-year MA students on 1/28/14 about self-motivation to be your best in your career & changing/doing whatever it takes to accomplish your goals.

- Kaitlyn Jaques, RMA (AMT), MA-C (WA State) to the list of accomplishments. She is the 3rd graduate to attempt the national boards & the 3rd to pass (just yesterday)! Kaitlyn works for Valley View Health Center in Centralia; she was offered her position before graduation!

- There are several 2013 grads scheduled to take their national boards in the next couple of months; most have received their MA-C interim license, or are in the process, that will become permanent once the national boards are passed.

- Second-year students are currently preparing externship letters/résumés for May-June externships in local medical facilities; again we are greatly supported by the local medical community as they express excitement in selecting their spring extern; some of which are doing so early to select top students!

- The MA program is thrilled to be in our new classroom/lab, WAH 146, & even more excited about the new equipment that will enable our students to receive the best possible hands-on training. Thank you to all staff that made this possible for the MA program. We invite any board members & faculty/staff to come visit us anytime!

Accounting
Submitted by Otto Rabe

Academic

- Second quarter of “FLEX” classes – overwhelming responses that students appreciate this option.

- All four winter quarter course have articulated outcome functions established within the CANVAS course-spaces for assessment purposes.

- Project “Live Audit” has added Wolf Electric, Embody, McInaw’s, Brownstone Coffee, and possibly Cascade West Vet Hospital to the list of community partners.

Club

- Winter leadership challenge “Scavenger Hunt” is set for 11 February.

- Guest Speaker: Larry Grove “Lewis County Auditor’s Chief Accountant” speaking on Leadership within the community of accounting.


Centralia College VITA

- Opens to the campus and general public on 3 February until 15 April, M-F, 0900-1500.

- Rehearsals and practice ongoing this week
Business Administration
Submitted by Connie Smejkal

- Russ Serventi, a 2013 graduate of the business program, has currently received employment as a receiving manager for Growing Places Thrift Shop. Russ is excited about this opportunity and has reached out to current students to volunteer in the shop and gain some real-world experience.

- The business department is excited to welcome Regina King as an adjunct instructor. Regina is currently teaching Human Resource Management in the AAS Business Administration program in addition to a course in the BASM program. Regina incorporates a lot of examples from her work experience into the classroom to help the students have a great learning experience.

In addition to Regina, I would like to thank Lee Coumb, Mary McClain, and Zoe Vandegrift for the excellent instruction they provide in the business program. The students have a great opportunity to learn from a variety of instructors that bring a wide variety of workplace experiences to the classroom.

- Mary McClain, Zoe Vandegrift and Connie Smejkal are working on the third quarter of the new five credit Human Relations in the Workplace course that was revamped based on valuable feedback from the community during last year's board scan. We are using several hands-on, small group activities throughout the course to teach the students to work together and apply the concepts being taught. Students are enjoying this approach and we will provide a report of student achievement at the end of the year. With the use of Canvas we have created a resource “classroom” so as instructors we can easily share great videos, discussion boards, assignments, activities, and more. This collaborative effort is not only providing some consistency between classes but is a great experience for the instructors to learn from each other.

Nursing
Submitted by Nola Ormrod

- Nursing students have started planning their June Pinning Ceremony, closer to the date you will be receiving a formal invitation. The Pinning Ceremony is tentatively set for Saturday, June 14 at 1PM in Corbett Theater. Nursing Club had a successful fund drive for the Area Agency on Aging during the winter holidays. In addition to funds they also solicited goods and services from local businesses. Donations of pet and livestock feed were especially appreciated.

- First year students have completed their Pharmacology and Medication Administration Units (and passed the dreaded Math for Medications and Patient Care exam) and are now able to pass medications (under their instructor’s direct supervision) to residents in the Long Term Care facilities where their clinical experiences are based. It is a very exciting time! Providence Centralia Hospital Pharmacy has provided us with a list of the most frequently prescribed medications in our community to help the students get a head start on all of the medication research that they need to do before administering any medications to actual patients. In campus skills lab, after extensive practice on manikins and injection pads, and again under the direct supervision of an instructor; the students gave 2 sterile normal saline injections to a classmate (one into a muscle and one into adipose tissue). Both the “patients” and the “nurses” did very well.

Welding
Submitted by Mike Driscoll

- I wanted to report on our efforts to begin offering a CAD course for our welding program students. I have been working with Ann Alves setting up a course that we will run this Spring term that would be available for equal credit to our manual drafting course. Students would gain basic skills in CAD and develop computer generated part drawings.

- A 2nd CAD course is in the planning stages which would be more specific to 2nd year ATA degree welding students interested in employment as a computer-aided plasma cutting operator. Students would gain skills in computer generated parts that would be converted to tool paths for running on our Torchmate computer-aided plasma cutting system.

- Upon completion of the CAD II course, students would gain hands-on skills operating our new Torchmate computer-aided plasma cutter to cut out the parts that were developed in the CAD II course.
• Ann Alves learned advanced skills in CAD when she was employed at the Centralia Coal Mine, so she is an excellent choice to teach these new CAD classes.

• Thanks to the efforts in the Workforce office, we have the CAD course ready to run this Spring term. Students are excited to learn CAD, and I am going to take the class myself. I’m not too old to learn new tricks!

Center of Excellence for Energy Technology
Submitted by Barbara Hins-Turner, Director

Centralia College Sustainability Committee, Jan. 8
• Monica Brummer has agreed to co-chair this committee with Beverly Gestrine. The group met to discuss this year’s tree planting event (place and date TBA) as well as creating a mission statement for the committee.

Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD), conference call, Jan. 9
• CEWD is a national non-profit consortium of utilities and associations that was formed to help develop workforce solutions. A conference call was held with Avista Utilities and Washington State Labor Council to discuss future projects that are promoted by CEWD – such as Careers in Energy Week which will be held Oct. 13 – 19, 2014. We agreed that this fourth annual week should continue and that PNCECE and WSLC will co-lead the planning committee again this year.

Centers of Excellence-WA: FAQ #6, Jan. 13
• Monica gathered information from all of the directors and produced a double-sided fact sheet that will be distributed through SBCTC to WACTC, WEC and other contacts. Our highlights on FAQ #6:
  o Clean Energy – The Center released findings which echo national forecasts about future labor shortages in the energy workforce. The study, Workforce Challenges of Electric Power Employers in the Pacific Northwest conducted by Washington State University’s Energy Program, reveals how energy employment and workforce needs have changed since 2008, before the onset of the U.S. recession. Sixteen electric power employers, who employ nearly 28,000 workers across the five-state Pacific Northwest region (Wash., Ore., Mont., Idaho and Utah), provided data for the capstone project which was funded through a $5-million (leveraged to $12-million) U.S. Department of Energy Smart Grid Workforce Training grant. cleanenergyexcellence.org

Regional Education and Training Center (RETC) Board of Directors meeting, IBEW Local 77, Seattle Jan 15
• Barbara Hins-Turner, representing the Centers of Excellence, is a RETC board member which includes representatives from IBEW, industry, Whatcom and Columbia Basin Community colleges. This meeting focused on budget, grants and future funding opportunities.

9th Annual Energy and Construction Best Practices Summit (several meetings throughout the month)
• The planning committee toured Centralia College’s campus and unanimously chose to move the event from RETC, Satsop, to our campus this spring (June 18-19). Most of the activities will occur within the HWC/gym. Breakout sessions will occur in the Hanson boardrooms and the student center cafeteria. This year’s keynote, Yoram Bauman - the Stand Up Economist, will present a light-hearted presentation on carbon tax, economic growth and the environment. Mark your calendars for the signature crab feed and scholarship auction – to be held in the gym June 18. This year’s theme: Sustaining our industry’s infrastructure.

Edmonds Community College National Science Foundation Grant meeting, PSE/Bellevue, Jan. 21
• The NSF focus group met at Puget Sound Energy to review skill profiles for two key energy management occupations: Energy project/program manager and commercial building analyst. The group discussed expanding the project which ends June, 2014.
Energy Technology Marketing Meeting, Jan. 22

- Met with Energy Technology staff from Centralia and Grays Harbor (GH) colleges as well as the Lewis Economic Development Council’s Energy Program to discuss challenges, enrollment and program outreach. GH reported that their energy program enrollment has decreased 75 percent due to lower worker retraining numbers and cutbacks in unemployment benefits. We are brainstorming ideas to increase outreach to high school students and veterans.

Community Solutions Initiative (CSI)

- Partnering with website designer Cindy Lawrence, we launched a much-needed highly improved website for CSI at http://communitysolutionsinitiative.org/. The site moved away from an outdated list of blogs to an organized showcase of pages and stories that can be used to secure funding, sponsors and partners. CSI is supported by Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Power & Energy Society (IEEE PES) which in turn, supports our energy and pre-engineering students through membership opportunities (scholarships and mentors).

Reports were submitted:

- SBCTC Center of Excellence Quarterly Report, Jan. 15
- Dept. of Commerce grant, semi-annual report – a partnership between Centralia, Peninsula and Grays Harbor College.
- U.S. Department of Energy Smart Grid Workforce Training Grant, Jan. 29. A 68-page final report that highlights the exemplary success of the Center’s three year smart grid project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy (PNCECE), headquartered at Centralia College in Centralia, Washington, is a nationally recognized model providing strategic coordination for the energy industry's skilled workforce in the Pacific Northwest. Washington’s Centers of Excellence are community colleges designated by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges as statewide leaders in specialized workforce education and training for industry sectors that help the state’s economy grow. PNCECE’s long term and ongoing partnership includes: consumer-owned and investor-owned utilities; a federal power-marketing administration (the Bonneville Power Administration); organized labor; a national laboratory (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory); and numerous community colleges and universities.

Through the $5-million, leveraged to $12-million, smart grid workforce training grant provided by the U.S. Department of Energy, the Washington state model was replicated to serve five states in the Pacific Northwest (WA, OR, ID, MT and UT) and established energy training satellites to identify smart grid and energy efficiency training needs across select supply-side and demand-side energy occupations. The grant application was endorsed by four governors, 11 U.S. Legislators representing Washington, Oregon and Idaho, and the Northwest Energy Efficiency Taskforce (NEET) Executive Board. NEET’s 2009 Energy Workforce report charged the Center with leading a coordinated, strategic approach to clean energy workforce development for the region in which the Center would work with regional partners to: 1) define energy efficiency jobs, 2) establish skill standards and identify job classifications for use regionally, and 3) create a regional clearinghouse for energy efficiency job openings.

Core to the exemplary success of the Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy Smart Grid Workforce Training project was establishing an effective Governance Board structure and framework to administer and operate the project. Centralia College president, Dr. James Walton, made the initial appointments of the board including Chair Troy Nutter, Training and Operations Manager, Puget Sound Energy. Equal representation was appointed from industry, labor and education to the project’s Governance Board. Articles of Governance were created and adopted to establish the structure and framework for administrating and operating the project to meet goals and objectives.

- Success is evident in the numbers:
  - Training targets: The project exceeded the grant’s training target of 1,215 individuals. The project ended with 6,051 individuals receiving smart grid related training (this includes pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship and incumbent worker courses, as well as high school students participating in hands-on learning sessions and high school STEM teachers receiving in-service training).
Job creation and new hires: The job placement target for the project was 234 individuals. The project ended with 339 individuals (144.9%) finding employment with organizations across the western United States (in occupations such as, ground crew, substation operator apprentice, plant operator trainee, boiler operator and hydro utility worker at an average starting wage of $15-24 per hour).

Match and leveraged funding exceeded more than $500,000. We grew and developed partnerships with businesses and organizations that had never had the opportunity to meet and produce solutions to developing a more capable workforce.

The grant opportunity has created an effective, sustainable, replicable and scalable model as a blueprint for other regions around the country to engage their energy sector partners to advance the skill-up of incumbent workers, inform the education and workforce system of the knowledge, skills and abilities required of the future workforce and leverage work through a collaborative portal for sharing best practices broadly. PNCECE successfully led the multi-state consortium to expand collaboration between power utilities, educators and organized labor across the Pacific Northwest in support of the goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)—to rebuild the economy of our state, region and nation as a whole.

CENTRALIA COLLEGE EAST
Kelli Bloomstrom – Associate Dean, CC East

- Julie Nurse, Librarian from the Kirk Library, provided a training on Jan. 27 for the CCEast students in the Women’s Health class on online research, as well as policies and procedures. A number of additional guest speakers are scheduled, covering various aspects of women’s health issues. The class is taught by Gretchen Jones.

- Students from the Environmental Science class took two field trips in January to the Cowlitz Falls Hydroelectric facility near Randle. The class is taught by John Mullenix.

- Centralia College East Organization of Students (CCEOS) hosted officers from ASCC at their January meeting. The goal was to connect CCEOS officers and students to the resources and activities available to students on main campus. ASCC officers were given a tour of the CCEast campus and spent time describing ways the CCEOS officers can get involved in main campus committees and student organizations.

- Also during the January meeting, CCEOS officers developed the following mission statement: CCEOS is committed to:
  - Leadership development
  - Building community
  - Strengthening connections with main campus & local communities
  - Expanding lives through cultural experiences
  - Serving as catalysts for community service opportunities
  - Providing student advocacy

- CCEOS is sponsoring the winter production of “Arabian Knights” which is directed by Fred Schwindt, with performances scheduled at the Roxy Theater for students from the local school districts. CCEOS is also planning a book exchange to encourage reading as a way to broaden perspectives. Students will be invited to bring in books to contribute and will be able to borrow books. Lastly, CCEOS is planning a community service project in partnership with the Heritage House in an effort to provide an opportunity for students to interact with seniors living in the community.