

# The Blazer Bulletin

A PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION



Dan Haskins: Centralia College's 2019 Distinguished Alumnus

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# Nexus Gets a New Name

We appreciated hearing so many positive comments from everyone regarding the new look for our newsletter. A special thanks to those who gave us suggestions for a new name for our beloved Nexus. The suggestions were very creative and thoughtful. After careful deliberation, The Blazer Bulletin was the choice! This name was suggested by Doris Wood-Brumsickle. She is the winner of a \$25 Starbucks gift card. Congratulations, Doris!



CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

GALA  
2019

SAVE THE DATE

*Mark your calendars for the Centralia College Foundation's Annual Gala*

Your official invitation will arrive by mail in September.

**Saturday, November 2 • \$50 per person • 5 p.m. Social Hour • 6 p.m. Dinner/Program**  
Bowman Rotary Banquet Room/TransAlta Commons • Cocktail Attire • Featuring a Silent Auction, Raise the Paddle, and optional Afterglow events • To sponsor a table, contact the Foundation Office at 360-623-8942.



# BAS by the Numbers



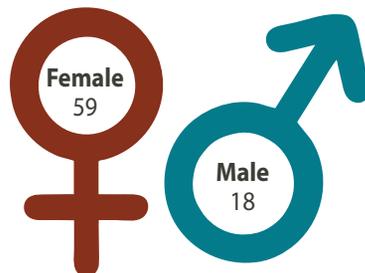
## Program - Students Preparing to Graduate this June 2018-19

Applied Management.....	26
Diesel Technology.....	9
Information Technology - Application Development .....	11
Teacher Education .....	48

## Age (BAS) 2018-19

17 or younger.....	0
18-21 .....	22
22-30 .....	22
31 and above.....	33

## Gender (BAS) 2018-19



**Johnathan McMillan**

TRiO Director Liisa Preslan and Student Life Director Shelley Bannish both encouraged Jonathan McMillan to finish his bachelor's degree. He was working in the restaurant industry at the time and school seemed a long way off. "Liisa would say, 'What are you doing? You need to be in school. You smell like chicken fried steak,'" McMillan recalled with a laugh. But he took their advice to heart. Now Centralia College's assistant men's basketball coach and TRiO Upward Bound specialist, McMillan is just one quarter away from graduating with his bachelor's degree in Applied Management. He's come a long way from chicken fried steak.



**Cari Leet**

When Cari Leet found herself jobless and homeless, she made a decision. "I thought, if I'm going to change my life, I'm going to have to do it myself," she said. She enrolled at Centralia College, earning her associate degree before joining the Bachelors of Applied Management program. She'll graduate with her bachelor's in June and her future looks bright. "I'm looking at state jobs making more money than I've ever made in my life," she said. "Just having that bachelor's degree opens that door." Her oldest daughter is taking note. "She's told me I've inspired her," Leet said.

# Designer Madison King Matches Business With Education

**It's hard to imagine more of a go-getter than Madison King. She is both a full-time student earning her bachelor's degree in Applied Management and a full-time employee at Willie's Sport Shop. She invests in the stock market and recently opened her first retirement account. And that's not all.**

Motivated by a class project, King opened her own business in April 2018. King Country Apparel is the perfect union of King's passion for business and her love of the outdoors. Her clothing is currently for sale on Etsy and at Country Sass Boutique in Napavine.

This driven young woman knows how to accomplish a goal. In high school, she set an ambitious one: to earn her bachelor's degree debt-free. "A lot of people I talk to are getting out of college \$100,000 in debt," King said. "I decided, if I go, I'm going debt-free."

As White Pass High School valedictorian, King



qualified for a scholarship granting her free Centralia College admission for the first two years. She was also awarded the Matthew Swena Memorial Scholarship and the Centralia College Foundation Bachelor's Scholarship. Her job covered additional costs like living expenses, fees, and books.

It wasn't easy juggling full-time work, school, a growing business, and a personal life, but King pushed through. "My goal of being debt-free kept me going," she said. "I'm the type of person who, if I set a goal, I reach it."

She's slated to graduate in June - debt free.

# Upcoming Events

Hosted by the Centralia College Foundation



## Capstone Presentations

12-3 p.m. June 7

Come see the impressive, innovative, and groundbreaking projects completed by our Centralia College students. Their classes inspired these projects, but the students have expanded on the classroom training in an area of their interest. The Foundation supports the materials needed for these beyond-the-classroom presentations. You will be impressed and amazed. Presentations and displays will be in the TransAlta Commons. Complimentary event.



## Commencement

4 p.m. June 14

Celebrate with us as a new cohort of students receives their degrees and certificates from Centralia College. This ceremony is outdoors on our newly expanded lawn, ensuring sunshine and blue skies. Our Distinguished Alumnus, Dan Haskins, will be on campus to participate in the festivities, as will our faculty and trustees. No RSVP is required. Seating is limited.



# Dan Haskins:

Centralia College's 2019  
Distinguished Alumnus



**Dr. Dan Haskins first encountered 10-year-old Benard Ongwae at an elementary school in Kenya. The bright young boy had fallen into a fire years earlier, leaving him with crippling scars that bound his leg. "I realized he was going to be handicapped for the rest of his life," Haskins said.**

After sharing his veterinary expertise in Haiti, Brazil, Belarus and the Ukraine, Haskins was in Kenya cultivating his nonprofit, The Boscovet Project USA. "We've put in 42 wells in villages outside of Kisii serving approximately 4,000 people with clean drinking water," Haskins said.

This led to a proliferation of other projects including community gardens, latrines, microfinance, school supplies, Days for Girls menstruation kits, and ultimately construction and staffing of a 10-room schoolhouse.

Haskins was well-equipped for the challenge. The 1971 Rochester High School class valedictorian earned his associate degree from Centralia College in 1973. "It was a quality education," he said.

He graduated from Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine in 1978 and began focusing on equine and camelid medicine. He went on to become CEO and president at Northwest Veterinary Group, a member of the Washington State Veterinary Board of Governors, and an adjunct professor at Washington State University. In 2005, he received the

Washington State Veterinarian of the Year award. He also helped found Mixed Animal Veterinary Associates North America Inc. (MAVANA), which endows independently-owned veterinary practices with the benefits of corporate structure.

Haskins and his wife, Linda, have a passion for helping those in need. The couple used their resources and connections to bring Benard and his father to the Shiners Hospital in Sacramento. Two painful graft surgeries were required to repair the damage. "Linda stayed in the hospital with him for a month, sleeping on a cot," Haskins said.

Today Benard is back in Kenya, enrolled in a private boarding school and thriving. "He has a perfectly normal leg," Haskins said. "He runs and he plays soccer ... I get emotional just thinking about it. He's got a bright future ahead of him."

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Left Top Photo:  
Dan and Linda Haskins

Bottom Left Photo:  
Haskin's family

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# Charles Cook: A Legacy of Service

**Every month, 90-year-old Charles Cook walks to the Centralia College Foundation with a \$20 donation in hand. He's been doing this without fail for the past 13 years.**

When asked why he makes the trek, Cook said he likes to support CC students. He knows how beneficial higher education is to local communities. "I like to be able to help out," he said.

Cook has been helping out for a very long time. Born in Chehalis, he attended school in Winlock and Napavine. "The year I graduated, we had a big class," he said with a twinkle in his eye, "all of 14, including myself."

He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force which took him across the country and around world. Over his 21-year career, he enjoyed assignments in England, Thailand, Greenland, and Guam, among others. After that far-flung experience he says, "There's no place like home."

Now retired, Cook remains vibrant and involved in his community. In addition to Centralia College, he also donates to two other colleges. "I think they do a lot of good," he said. "I really do."

He also supports the local gospel mission. "I enjoy helping out the needy and the less fortunate," he said.

Cook was recently honored at a surprise 90th birthday party. "It was something else," he said. "I thought we were just going for lunch but I opened the door and they all yelled out 'surprise!' I got kind of teary." After all he has done for others, it was well-deserved.



# Centralia College Looks Deeper With New Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer

They call it “The Instrument.” This mildly ominous moniker is fitting for the powerful Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer (NMR). Thanks to a Lovington Grant and Office of Instruction funds, a brand new NMR now resides in Centralia College’s chemistry department.

This tool allows students to both identify and understand the structure of various molecules. “This is the molecule equivalent of a MRI,” said Associate Chemistry Professor Karen Goodwin. “If you go to a hospital and get a MRI, they can use

that to figure out what’s in your body. If it’s chemical information you’re looking at, you need an NMR. It does the same thing.”

The new NMR gives Centralia College students an edge. “Undergraduate research at the lower grade levels generally doesn’t happen in university,” Goodwin said.

But at Centralia College, students are personally using the NMR as freshmen and sophomores. Even high school Running Start students use it. This makes graduates highly

competitive for upper-level graduate research positions. “My students can step in and successfully compete for those positions because they’ve had experience,” Goodwin said. “Here you’ll actually be able to use the machine and you’ll be in a class size of 10 instead of 200.”

This prepares students for a variety of career fields including pharmaceutical research and forensic science. “This is the kind of tool scientists are using to study our world,” Goodwin said.

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To donate to the science department (or another specific department or program), simply note it with your donation.

# CENTRALIA COLLEGE INTRODUCES

# New Alumni Program

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Despite enjoying an enthusiastic alumni population, Centralia College lacks an official alumni association. But that's about to change, thanks to Program Coordinator Kylea Johnson.



Johnson attended Willamette University and was inspired by their longstanding alumni association offerings. "They have career resources and events," she said. "And it's a good way to make friends. You can get tickets to sporting events and things you may want to go to. If you don't have anyone to go with, you can go with the alumni."

A strong alumni association facilitates networking and community building

opportunities. It's a powerful way to connect with others and become more invested in the community.

Johnson is collaborating with the Centralia College Counseling Center to get the program up and running. The new alumni association will offer career resources, information and events. Johnson also plans to offer community service outings for alumni, much like CC student groups currently

provide. "The college is the biggest group in this community," she said. "We can make a difference."

But first, they need some information from Centralia College alumni. "We want everyone to take the alumni association survey so we know what's most important and what you want to see in our association," Johnson said.

Alumni are invited to visit **CentraliaCollegeAlumni.org** and click the "survey" button. This is your opportunity to help shape the program and its offerings. Once you've finished, return to the homepage and click "sign up" to become a Centralia College Alumni Association member. When the program officially rolls out in the fall, you'll be the first to know. For more information, call 360-623-8942 or email **foundation@centralia.edu**.

# MEET THE CC FOUNDATION BOARD



## Chuck Higgins

Chuck Higgins is a Centralia native who enrolled at Centralia College following service in Vietnam. He later completed a bachelor's degree

in Business from City University through a program offered on the Centralia College campus. He recently retired following a 44-year career with TransAlta.

Chuck is married to Nan Reber, a retired special education teacher. They have four children and three grandchildren. Chuck is a tree farmer and past president of the Lewis county Farm Forestry Association. When not "working on the farm," he enjoys restoring collector cars/trucks, skiing, and travelling with Nan.

Chuck said, "I have always been amazed at the quality of instructors and staff CC has been able to attract over the years and now, with the beautiful facilities and campus, it is a truly first class educational facility. Everyone should take a walk through the campus to see how beautiful it has become.

Chuck has followed the Foundation since hearing news of its inception and became an early donor.

"I am honored to serve on the board and delighted that we are on track to make our goal of 25 million in assets by 2025. This will allow us to help even more people make their educational goals a reality".



## Julie Lind

Julie Lind is a new member of Foundation board. She is a graduate of Centralia College, earning her Associate in Arts in 2012. She continued as part of the inaugural

cohort for the Centralia College Bachelor of Applied Science in Management program, ultimately graduating with her bachelor's degree in June 2014. She was a Centralia College Foundation Scholarship recipient.

Julie has made her career in banking and is Vice President of Consumer and Small Business Lending at Washington State Employees Credit Union (WSECU).

She has many family and professional ties to the Lewis County and Centralia College communities. Julie is passionate about encouraging adult learners to make the investment in formal education.

## Campus Updates

The Gordon Aadland Esplanade expansion project.





CENTRALIA COLLEGE  
**FOUNDATION**

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## Help us update our records!

Please take a moment to review the name(s) addressed on your NEXUS. If you would like to be addressed differently, please let us know at **360-623-8696**. Ready to receive emails from us? Send us your address to **[foundation@centralia.edu](mailto:foundation@centralia.edu)**

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