

# Foundation Awards Grants to College Faculty and Staff

The Centralia College Foundation has announced this year's recipients of the Hanke Faculty Achievement Awards and Staff Mini-grants, named for Walter Hanke, one of the foundation's longtime supporters.

Centralia College employees were eligible to apply for grants to cover expenses outside the scope of state resources, including special projects, activities, or equipment.

"Where foundation scholarships support students in a very direct way, the faculty awards and staff mini-grants support the college's overall learning environment," said Christine Fossett, Centralia College Foundation director. "This additional funding supports the projects and equipment our staff and faculty need in and out of the classroom."

## Faculty Achievement Awards

Toby Avalos, anthropology professor, was awarded a grant for purchase of a stone tool collection for the lab portion of the biological anthropology course.

"I currently have to teach this lab with pictures/graphics on the overhead projector along with paper cut-outs of the stone tools - a real shortcoming in lieu of physical specimens," Avalos explained. "Having the actual stone tool specimens (replicas) for this lab in the future will allow students to fully grasp and conceptualize the significance of these tool types within their paleoanthropological and cultural context. I am excited the funding provided by the Hanke award will be enough to allow us to purchase this indispensable lab material, completing most of the stone tool collection necessary to teach this course effectively."

Steve Norton, biology professor, received a grant for equipment to create a Virtual Field Trip for his marine biology and oceanography classes. The funding is for underwater meters, sensors, and a camera to record and produce virtual field trips for students who cannot go in person.

"Because the Virtual Field Trips will be available on the web, I hope that instructors who teach sections of these



courses at Centralia College and at other colleges will use these resources, too," Norton said. "I presented an outline of this project at the recent annual meeting of the Northwest Biology instructors and the attendees were quite enthusiastic."

Norton will use the equipment to record field trips of Australia and the Great Barrier Reef this summer.

## Hanke Staff Mini-Grants

This year, \$9,600 was awarded to support 10 projects.

- Outreach materials for enrollment services
- Security lockers for the testing center
- Event tents
- Camera equipment
- New lawn mowers for the campus grounds
- A small refrigerator for a science laboratory
- Hand/ground tools for the campus
- Promotional materials for the 2019 job fair
- Gloves and snacks for KNOLL work parties
- Grocery items to assist stocking the CC food pantry
- Gift cards and giveaways for the Trailblazer Kickoff event in the fall

Recipients were officially recognized at the college's staff breakfast on June 15.



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# NEXUS

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## Congratulations, Class of 2018

On June 15, 389 students walked across the stage to earn a total of 823 degrees, certificates, high school diplomas, and GEDs from Centralia College. The oldest graduate was 60, the youngest was 17. Robert Dowling, the 2018 Distinguished Alumnus was the keynote speaker, who ended his presentation with a bit of a juggling act for the graduates.

"This first ball represents your past," he said, juggling one, two, then three balls in the air. "As they say, it is what it is, and it is what got you here today. This second ball represents your present. When you mix your past and present, you can't help but think about how exciting your future will be. Finally, this third ball, the only one made of clay, represents your moldable, malleable, flexible, resilient, bright, and star-quality future now that you are graduating from Centralia College."

While juggling three balls with one hand, he concluded, "When you integrate your past, present, and future, it gets very exciting and kind of scary. Will you drop the ball? Of course you will. And when you do, don't be afraid to pick it up and start again where you left off. Just don't give up and never ever quit."



## New Cording Ceremony Honors Veterans

Centralia College hosted its first ever Veteran's Graduation Cording Ceremony on June 1 in the TransAlta Commons. More than 50 people attended this event, in which 11 Centralia College veterans and three veterans' spouses received a special red, white, and blue cord to wear at graduation. The event was a huge success and the ceremony was heart-felt. Organizers are already looking forward to making the Veteran Graduation Cording Ceremony a new tradition at Centralia College.

*Help us update our records!*

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# Foundation Announces 2018 Exceptional Faculty Award Winners

The Centralia College Foundation has selected Preston Kiekel and David Peterson to receive the 2017-18 Exceptional Faculty Awards. They were chosen for their commitment to and excellence in their subject areas, and participation in campus activities.



## Preston Kiekel

Preston Kiekel started as an adjunct math instructor at Centralia College in 2013. A community college graduate himself, Preston went on the earn his bachelor's degree from California State University, and his master's and doctorate degrees from New Mexico

State University.

He was a statistician at nonprofit organizations for over ten years. His work at universities and colleges drew him to teaching.

"I love the connection of helping someone learn new ideas and reach new goals," he said. "The great thing about education is that, at the end of it, you have become something new and have achieved goals you could not have imagined before. Knowledge is transformative."

Dr. Kiekel is now a tenured professor of math, including statistics, industrial math, and other topics. He teaches both at Centralia College's main campus and at Cedar Creek Corrections Center. He has even taught psychology.

"I love teaching them all in different ways. Helping someone to learn the math they need to be an auto mechanic is rewarding in a different way from inspiring a motivated student to take Math 246 (intermediate statistics)," he explained.

In his free time, Dr. Kiekel enjoys playing medieval music.



## David Peterson

David Peterson starting teaching classes in Centralia College's Electronics, Robotics, and Automation program in 2011. He had just finished his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Washington State University – Vancouver. He didn't anticipate a

career in teaching initially.

"At the time, if I had looked ahead, I would have predicted I'd be teaching engineering, but now it's the hands-on stuff I really like. That's how I learned and everything I do now is hands-on," he described. "I wouldn't have predicted that in 2011 when I first started teaching."

Peterson has since earned tenure and manages the ERA and Mechatronics programs. He works closely with local and regional employers and is constantly modifying and updating the programs to ensure graduates succeed in the workplace. Centralia College's program is the model for the entire state.

Personally, he's enjoyed the connections of being in a smaller community.

"I always wanted a job here," said Peterson, a Boistfort native and Centralia College graduate. "I really value this community. The ability to connect with our local workforce and our schools has really made this job personal to me – it's my home and I'm glad to be able to stay here and to be invested in my hometown."

# Fossett Takes the Helm at CCF



Centralia College has named Christine Fossett the new director of the Centralia College Foundation. Fossett replaces longtime foundation director Julia Johnson, who retired June 1.

Fossett, a Centralia College graduate, has been a member

of the Centralia College Foundation board since 2009. She became board president in September 2016. Fossett worked for The Chronicle newspaper for 30 years, starting as a sales rep in 1988 and working her way up to publisher and chief operating officer of Lafromboise Communications.

"I am very excited to expand my role from serving on the foundation board to working full time for the benefit of the college, students and faculty," said Fossett. "I feel very passionate about leading a team to generate funds that will assist students in achieving their educational goals. Education and technical training plays such an important role in improving the quality of people's lives and I am happy to get to play a part in that."

In addition to her work on the Centralia College Foundation board, Fossett previously served on the boards for the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce, the Lewis Economic Development Council, and the Pacific Northwest Newspaper Publishers Association. She has also assisted with projects for United Way, the Chehalis Foundation, and Business Week.

"What Christine brings to the table are strong management skills and community connections, and a deep understanding of the relationship between the college and the foundation," explained Steve Ward, vice president of finance and administration, and executive director of the Centralia College Foundation. "The connections she's fostered in this community mirror those of the foundation,

so she'll come up to speed quickly and start working hard to support the college and its students."

In her free time, you can often find Christine out on the water, in the kitchen, or spending time with family.

"I enjoy fishing local lakes with my husband, who is a great 'guide' and always has the right bait and gear ready. I really like 'catching' but the fish aren't always helpful on that," she said.

"I am an avid reader of mysteries, books on business, and cookbooks, which I read cover-to-cover in order to explore cultures, new cooking techniques, and ingredients. My favorite new recipes are Smoked Trout Spread and Herring Under a Fur Coat – both from a Russian cookbook written by a restaurant owner in Portland. My grandson, Grady, also participates in a lot of sporting events and a summer play program, and I enjoy those as well as family gatherings, where we cook together or play board and card games."

## Leave a *Living Legacy*

Your legacy gift develops our community leaders today and in years to come while supporting the values that mean the most to you. With careful planning, you can provide for your loved ones and establish a legacy of education.

You can give in a variety of ways, including through a bequest, will or Revocable Living Trust, through beneficiary donations (such as retirement plans and life insurance policies), as well as through real estate, annuities, and Charitable Remainder Trusts or Charitable Lead Trusts.

For more information on how you can invest in the future of Centralia College and its students, please contact the Foundation at 360-623-8942.



# Capstone Day is Huge Success

Nearly 50 student projects were showcased June 8 at the Sixth Annual Centralia College Capstone Presentation Day. A Capstone Project is a student's culminating project. It is meant to incorporate their learning with a practical application.

For Capstone Presentation Day, members of the community were invited to campus to view the presentations and projects, meet the students, hear talks on a variety of topics, and celebrate academic excellence.

This year, the Centralia College Foundation provided 15 students just under \$5,000 for their projects. This is the fourth year the Foundation has provided funding for Capstone projects.

"The foundation is very happy to provide funding for the Capstone event and the students producing Capstone projects," said Christine Fossett, Foundation director. "This program allows students to take their quality classroom experience and expand on that learning with

a project that goes above the requirements of the coursework. The breadth and quality of the students' work is really impressive."

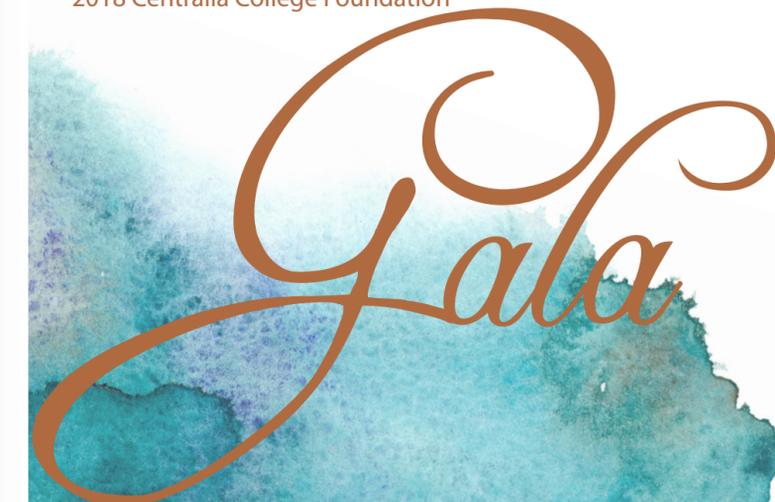
## *This year's projects included:*

- A smart mailbox system to secure mail
- A mineral ID app
- Posters and newsletters about children's health issues
- A study of the toxicity of silver particles on brine shrimp
- An automated small batch brewery system
- A tree-ring analysis of a Douglas fir from the 1962 Seattle World's Fair
- A panel of English 102 students presenting their research papers

Students can typically begin applying for next year's Capstone funding in January.



## 2018 Centralia College Foundation



## Saturday, November 3

\$50 per person

5 p.m. Social Hour

6 p.m. Dinner/Program

Bowman Rotary Banquet Room/  
TransAlta Commons

## Cocktail Attire

*Dinner catered by Elite Banquets  
Featuring a Silent Auction, Raise the Paddle,  
and optional Afterglow events  
Formal invitations will be mailed in August.*

Call the Foundation Office at  
360-623-8942 for more information  
or go to [foundation.centralia.edu](http://foundation.centralia.edu).