

The Blazer Bulletin

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION



Legacy Donors – pg. 8

Centennial Celebration – pg. 15

CCF Annual Report Data – pg. 16-22



Foundation News

It's a new year and we have new a new staff member. Between the three of us, I think we have way too many resolutions and goals for the year. Who could possibly accomplish what we hope to!?!? But, we are going to do our best. Alexis started last April and has been offering

new opportunities for alumni to connect with the college and each other as she revitalizes the Alumni Association. She has also been a whiz with our events. Amber White, our newest staff member, started in October. Her profile is below and we appreciate her enthusiasm as she completes software and accounting tasks and will manage the scholarship awarding this year. Whew! I can't tell if I am more tired or enthusiastic about what is ahead of us. 2025 will start the college's centennial year. Look in this issue for a sneak preview of the events and activities planned, as well as where you can get updates throughout the year. I hope you have a wonderful 2025 and thank you for your support of our students and projects again this year!

Christine Fossett

**Associate Vice President of Advancement,
Executive Director, Foundation**



Welcome, Amber White!

Amber White joins the Foundation as its new fiscal specialist/program coordinator. She is both a current CC student and an alumna. She earned her associate degree in Business Management here and is currently working on her bachelor's degree in Applied Management. She expects to graduate in June. She previously worked on campus as an accounting clerk in the Bookstore.

I wanted to continue down this path. Now working for the Foundation, I feel as though I am part of something bigger that helps so many students, staff, and faculty with their academic and career needs."

Her time off-campus is spent mostly outdoors with family and very close friends. They enjoy camping, hiking, harvesting mushrooms and berries, fishing, and hunting.

"Come spring, you can find my husband and myself with our son at the Little League baseball diamonds practicing or attending games," she added. "My son's love for the sport has been so infectious that I have become a true baseball mom and enjoy every second of it."

"The generosity and care that everyone offers is what drew me to the college," she said. "I have met so many wonderful faculty, staff, and students, which made me feel like my decision to work for the college was the right one and



Looking Back at 2024

Let's Celebrate Some of the Foundation's Accomplishments

As always, the Foundation staff and board started 2024 with a long list of items we wanted to accomplish – and thanks to you, we saw a number of them come to fruition.

Batting Cages & Apartment Remodel

The Foundation completed construction of batting cages for the college baseball and softball teams. Thanks to the great number of donors who helped complete the field construction with this final building. The Foundation also assisted the college by coordinating the remodel of the Silver Street Apartments. These units were modernized for student residency. This project will allow up to 140 students to live around the campus.

Scholarships & Endowments

Scholarships and endowments are always a primary focus and this year several endowments received large gifts to increase the number of scholarships they can fund.

Two new endowments were created this year to benefit trades students. One was from the Chehalis Order of the Eastern Star and the other was from Hampton Lumber. Both will begin funding scholarships in the fall of 2025.

Longtime Centralia resident Rosemarie Hartgroves also set up a scholarship to benefit

first generation or new immigrant students. We appreciate those community members and alumni who choose to help a student with the financial aspect of their education. In total, through its more than 270 individual scholarships, the Foundation awarded just over \$495,000 last fall to 436 students.

Bequests

The Foundation has also been blessed with a number of donors who have designated a bequest to the Foundation. Several have indicated a gift of a percentage of their estate after their family is taken care of and some have given a bequest of their physical assets or life insurance.

This year we are adding Peter and Diana Wolf, Ed and Cindy Mund, Joan Kuder Bell, and Judy Ely to our list of generous legacy donors. We will be hosting a planned giving luncheon in February if you are interested in learning about the easiest ways to leave bequests to the charities of your choosing. Let us know and we'll get your reservation secured.

What a year of generosity! Thank you to everyone for their kindness toward our students.



Scholarship Night Pairs Donors with Students

Each new academic year brings a new set of students who received scholarships. Many donors and students were able to attend and celebrate together on campus. The event was hosted in the TransAlta Commons on Sept. 11. Without a formal agenda for the evening, donors and students had time to get to know each other and visit for an extended time. Students and donors had their photos taken throughout the evening and you can see their smiling faces and read their words of thanks on these pages.





“Thank you for your generosity, as it is allowing me to continue my academic career at Centralia College.”
- Liam

“Thank you so much for awarding me this scholarship. Your support means the world to me and is a huge encouragement as I work towards my degree.”
- Morgan



“I am so unbelievably grateful for this scholarship. I have such a strong desire to obtain my degree, but have been worried about the financial side of things recently. This award has helped to put my mind at ease.”
- Ryan



GALA RAISES FUNDS FOR ATHLETICS AND KNOLL UPGRADE

What a great night! With the theme of Autumn Adventures, several hundred supporters gathered on Nov. 2 to raise funds for soccer shelters and a revitalization for the Kiser Natural Outdoor Learning Lab (KNOLL).

The food was excellent and both the live and silent auction items experienced energetic bidding, which was significantly helped by the enthusiasm and expertise of our auctioneer, Todd Mason. In addition, we received a lot of help from staff and students who volunteered to assist us.

We are happy to report that the gala fully paid for the soccer shelters. Estimates are currently being accepted for projects that will improve use of the KNOLL and you will see progress on that in 2025.

The gala for 2025 will be held on Oct. 11. In keeping with the college's centennial, we will have a theme of The Bootleggers Ball and it's already exciting people. We hope to see you there!





LEGACY SOCIETY

The Legacy Society is a gathering of those who have chosen to include the Centralia College Foundation in their planned giving, estate plans, and other future plans. If you're thinking about estate planning or if you wish to update an existing estate plan, call Christine Fossett at the foundation at 360-623-8451 for details.

If you would like to learn more about giving plan options, join us for a complimentary lunch on February 26. Call the office to secure your seat for this short presentation from noon - 1pm. 360-623-8942.

Legacy Society members include:

Richard Blake
Marjorie Bennett
Ron and Brigitte Burger
Joyce Butkus
Barbara and Norman Extine
Paul Fagerness
Dan Foster
Marles Geist
Judith Greeley Hendrickson
Guy and Marlene Hodge
John W. Karvia
Neil Kirby
Audrey Kimball
Hank and Jenny Kirk
Thorlea Kirtz
Willard Latimer
Dave and Barbara Martin
George and Merle McCullough
Larry and Rebecca McGee
Atara MacNamara
Ed and Cindy Mund
Judy Ely

Nadine Murphy
Linda and Thomas Nore
Brian Nupen
Robert H. O'Neill
Jim Paulus
Carroll Pearson
Janet Rusin
Marie Sareault
James and Lanette Scapillato
Roy and Julie Seiber
Jean Sheridan
Joe Sidorski
Brian Torgersen
Bob Thompson
Jim and Pam Walton
Steve and Kathleen Ward
Bill and Helga Watterson
Bill and Doris Wood-Brumsickle
Ester Witte
Peter and Diana Wolf
Joan Kuder Bell

2025



Wishes and Events

In 2025, the Foundation staff and board will be working toward several significant projects this year (although more opportunities will certainly come to our attention.)

New Support for Athletes

Due to a change by the Northwest Athletic Commission (NWAC), Washington community colleges can now offer more financial support for athletes. This will allow Washington colleges to be on par with recruiting amounts offered by other states. At the Foundation, we are setting up an endowment for athletic scholarships to assist the college with this additional opportunity for athletic recruitment.

New Scholarships for Certificates

Centralia College offers a lot of scholarships and financial aid to students, but most of the scholarship offers require full-time enrollment for degree seeking students. We have a number of students who are not degree seeking, but are working toward receiving certification in a healthcare, trades, early education, or other

career-related field. These certificates will help them secure employment or gain skills to enhance their abilities at their current job. These students may need a bit of financial help to complete this goal, and this new scholarship will support their education.

New Event in June

We will be hosting a new event June 7th to boost the athletic endowment. If you're interested in attending, send an email to Christine Fossett (christine.fossett@centralia.edu) to receive an invitation to the party. And, while you are here, you can check out the new turf field, the batting cages, and gym, and sit in the new bleachers!

You will see promotions via email and on social media for these goals. If you are interested in assisting with any of these projects, please contact Christine Fossett (christine.fossett@centralia.edu or 360-623-8451) at the Foundation or you can go to the Foundation website to make a direct donation.



Blazer Briefs

Read the latest news from Centralia College

CC trustee appointed to national DEI committee

CC Trustee Petrina Mullins has been appointed to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for the national Association for Community College Trustees. This is a one-year appointment and will include virtual meetings with other trustees from around the country. Their mission is to identify areas that need improvement and advise ACCT leadership on how to move the needle forward for people of color and others.



Faculty go full TILT at assessment workshop

On Dec. 9, a group of faculty members participated in a Transparency in Learning and Teaching (TILT) workshop. TILT is a set of teaching strategies that focuses on making students aware of how and why they are learning and engaging with course content in particular ways. The workshop was led by faculty from Lake Washington Institute of Technology.



ECEAP expands its reach

CC's Early Learning Programs (ELP) has expanded its subcontracted partnerships to include the Oakville School District and Pacific Northwest Early Learning Center (formerly Dell's Children's Center) in Centralia. ELP will offer the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program to 299 families across Lewis County and Oakville. ECEAP provides free preschool to low-income families.

Please update your
email address with
the foundation by sending it to
ccfoundation@centralia.edu

Thanks!



Criminal Justice prof completes her doctorate

Criminal Justice professor Tionna Miller successfully defended her dissertation over the summer. Her PhD is in Criminology from the University of Arkansas of Little Rock. Her dissertation was titled, "Mental Illness Amongst Incarcerated Individuals and its Effect on Gaining Employment." The dissertation analyzes the extent to which the mental health of previously incarcerated individuals affects their employment upon release. Results from this study concluded that having a mental health diagnosis did in fact interfere with previously incarcerated individuals' access to employment.



Blazers help take Camp Victory over the top in fundraiser

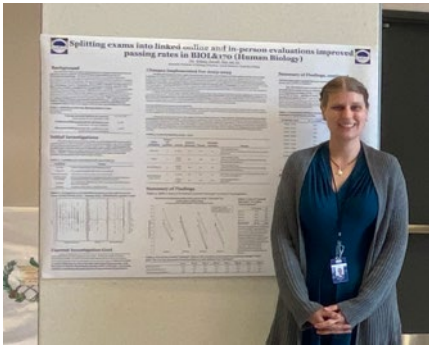
When she's not helping CC students succeed, Faculty Counselor/Advisor Andrea Seabert is the director of Camp Victory, a camp for survivors of sexual abuse. In October, Andrea

delivered a powerful speech about Camp Victory at the 100+ Harbor Women Who Care fundraising dinner at the Hoquiam Elks Lodge. The event gives selected charities 10 minutes to share their story with guests, who then vote for the charity they want to support with the event proceeds. Camp Victory got the most votes, winning more than \$18,000. Andrea credited CC Speech Professor Jeff McQuarrie with helping her take the top prize.



Aman Gill showcases his award-winner research

Electronics, Robotics, and Automation Professor Aman Gill received a Best Paper award for the research he presented at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers International Mechanical Engineering Conference and Exposition in Portland in November. The research was a collaboration between CC, University of Washington-Tacoma, Clemson University, and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and sought to compare alignment of vision-based AI with human image recognition systems. Competition was tough, with other winners hailing from University of California Berkeley, Texas Technical University, University of Stuttgart (Germany), National Taiwan University, and State University of Campinas (Brazil).



Fail rate analysis leads to meaningful changes in Biology 170

Professor Kelsea Jewell (biology and nutrition) is one of three faculty members who completed a research project as part of the college's assessment efforts. She analyzed student pass/fail information for fall 2015–spring 2022 for her human biology (BIOL&170) course with the goal of reducing the fail rate to 10 percent or less. For that period, her average quarterly fail rate was 14.7 ± 4.2 percent. "After testing many factors, including class size, class modality, textbook type, and exam type, I found that by splitting my exams into combined online and in-person formats I managed to have the greatest reduction in my student failure rate," she explained, adding she used the data to significantly change how she offers tests. "Last year was my first trying this new exam format, and I was able to achieve my goal of a lowered failure rate (6.6 percent over combined fall/winter/spring) while being satisfied that I am still maintaining academic rigor." Stay tuned to future Briefs to learn about the other two faculty research projects.

New virology book features CC professor

Dr. Kelsea Jewell, professor of biology and nutrition, co-authored a chapter in a newly-published book on methods and

protocols for poxviruses. The book is *Vaccinia, Mpox, and Other Poxviruses: Methods and Protocols*. Dr. Jewell is co-author of chapter 16. "The audience is professional and academic research scientists (PhD, DVM, or MD) working in the area of virology, and graduate students in those labs," Dr. Jewell explained. "The types of viruses are used primarily in medical research, but the techniques could be more broadly applied to what gets called 'general' research for anyone interested in questions dealing with viral evolution. It's a reference book more than a teaching text, although it could be used in a doctoral-level program. Think of it like a gourmet cook book!"

TRIO TS receives 2024-25 grant award

TRIO TS received its Grant Award Notification for 2024–25. Funding will remain at a flat level of \$475,977 for the academic year, but this is great news when funding for many Department of Education programs/departments was expected to be reduced. TRIO TS is one of three TRIO programs offered at CC. It provides career and education planning for college-bound middle and high school students from mostly disadvantaged backgrounds.

BAS-BH faculty featured at conference

Lori Sirs, BAS-Behavioral Healthcare professor, was the keynote speaker at the National Association for Social Workers, Washington Chapter (NASW-WA) conference in Spokane in September. Her talk was titled, "Harnessing the Mind-Body Connection: Poi Spinning as Embodied Self-Care." This was the first in-person conference that NASW-WA has hosted since 2012. There were more than 200 social workers in attendance. The conference theme was Building Connections for a Socially Just Future.

Nursing Program Achieves **100%** Pass Rate

Centralia College has confirmed that 100 percent of its 2024 Nursing program graduates passed their National Council Licensure Examination on their first attempt. All 24 program graduates are now licensed and most are already working in the medical facility of their choice.

"I could not be more proud of our faculty and students," said Jenny Bauska, CC's Director of Nursing. "We've repeatedly heard from our clinical partners that our graduates are among the very best they hire for their facilities. The fact that we had

a 100 percent first-time pass rate demonstrates that level of excellence."

Pass rates have dropped nationwide since the COVID-19 pandemic, but are starting to rebound. Centralia College had a pass rate of 71 percent in 2021-22 and 85 percent in 2022-23. Before the pandemic, CC's pass rates were typically in the low-90s.

"This is especially meaningful coming out of the dark days of Covid," added Bauska. "It was a lot of work to get here and we're over the moon!"

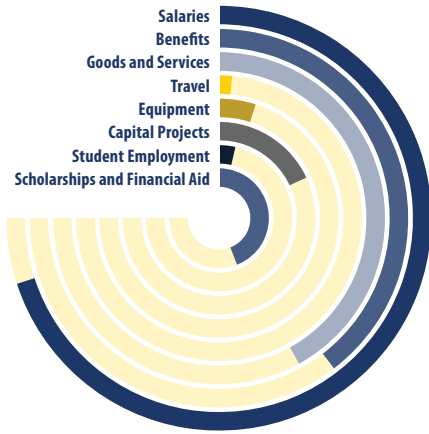


CENTRALIA COLLEGE EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

June 30, 2024

Operations:

Salaries	\$20,829,939
Benefits.....	\$7,590,252
Goods and Services	\$8,144,700
Travel	\$331,708
Equipment	\$926,838
Total Operations	\$37,823,437
Capital Projects	\$4,020,325
Student Employment	\$455,489
Scholarships and Financial Aid	\$8,417,114
Total Expenditures.....	\$12,892,928



Employees – During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the college employed 289 full-time and 291 part-time employees. Of the total employees, approximately 75 percent resided in the college’s service district, which includes all of Lewis County and the southern portion of Thurston County.

Local Government – Included in the expenditures listed above are payments to the county and city governments of \$599,168 for services, fees, permits, street vacation and purchase, facility rental, and utilities.

Taxes – The college is exempt from state property tax. However, the college is not exempt from sales tax. When taxable items are purchased in Washington State, it must pay tax. For 2023-24, the college paid \$21,316 in use tax to the state. The college bookstore generated \$520,741.25 of taxable sales revenue, which resulted in sales tax collections of \$39,549.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, CENTRALIA COLLEGE



In September 2025, Centralia College will officially turn 100 – but we aren't waiting until September to start the party! The festivities will kick off with the commencement ceremony on June 18, 2025. We will unveil our new centennial logo and reveal our big plans for celebrating 100 years of serving Lewis and south Thurston counties.

As a sneak peek, you can look forward to a joint celebration with the City of Centralia for Summerfest on July 4 and an on-campus, old time picnic for the community in September. Watch for Centralia College at the Southwest Washington Fair and in a handful of local parades in 2025, and some new celebration items in the campus Bookstore, as well.



CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION BALANCE SHEET UNAUDITED STATEMENT (AS OF 6/30/2024)

	Total	General/ Operating	Restricted	Endowments	Scholarships	Plant & Equipment
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Pooled Cash	971,492	675,429	1,195,777	0.00	-276,288	-623,426
Investments	23,495,975	60,538	3,190,585	16,485,139	2,953,711	806,002
Accounts Receivable	113,033	0.00	111,033	0.00	2,000	0.00
Total Current Assets	24,580,500	735,967	4,497,395	16,485,139	2,679,423	182,576
Fixed Assets						
Land	1,296,064	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,296,064
Buildings; net	2,342,595	0.00	2,272,814	0.00	0.00	69,781
Equipment; net	71,243	404	60,993	0.00	0.00	9,846
Total Fixed Assets	3,709,903	404	2,333,808	0.00	0.00	1,375,692
Total Assets	28,290,403	736,371	6,831,203	16,485,139	2,679,423	1,558,268
LIABILITIES & EQUITY						
Liabilities						
Accounts Payable	132,957	21,287	114,956	0.00	3,287	0.00
Equity						
Beginning Fund Balance	25,320,153	1,254,157	6,347,422	14,519,177	1,987,072	1,212,325
Current Year Excess	2,837,484	-75,647	321,513	2,339,014	35,349	217,256
Prior Period Adj.	0.00	-335,675	46,952	-373,053	660,841	935
Total Equity	28,157,637	842,835	6,715,886	16,485,139	2,683,261	1,430,516
Total Liabilities & Equity	28,290,594	864,123	6,830,843	16,485,139	2,679,975	1,430,516

Centralia College Facts

4,843 TOTAL STUDENTS

52% Female **48%** Male

21% Career and Technical Education

30% Academic/Transfer Students

18% Basic Skills and Pre-College

35% Students with Dependents

23 Median Age

HIGHEST ENROLLED PROGRAMS

-  Academic Transfer
-  High School Completion
-  Registered Nursing
-  Business Administration/Management
-  Biology



OLDEST

Community College in Washington,
established in 1925

Special Recognition Over \$100,000

Susan and Patrick Dunn
Fortescue Future Industries FFI

Special Recognition \$50,000+

Mr. and Mrs. Jack F. Charneski

Special Recognition \$30,000+

Ms. Judith Greeley Hendrickson
Bill and Helga Watterson

Legacy Circle \$25,000 +

James A Smith Arts Endowment
Bob Berg
Hampton Lumber
Chehalis Chapter No 3 Eastern Star

Legacy Circle \$20,000 +

Mary Webster

Circle of Distinction \$15,000 +

Jean Sheridan
Virgil and Carol Fox
Susan R. Whorton

Circle of Distinction \$10,000 +

Baxter Killian Memorial Trust
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Hemphill O'Neill Co. Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
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John and Marlo Braun
Estate of Norm and Barbara Extime
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Wallace Samuelson
Atara MacNamara
Puget Sound Energy Foundation
Uwe Lembke
Jim and Tricia Murphy
TransAlta
Michael O'Neill
Richard and Sarah Bullard
Mrs. Nadine Murphy
Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel
Jim and Tricia Murphy

Founders \$3,000 +

US Bank
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Estate of Norm and Barbara Extime
Oakville High School Alumni Assoc.
Wallace Samuelson
Puget Sound Energy Foundation
Uwe Lembke
TransAlta
Michael O'Neill
Richard and Sarah Bullard
Mrs. Nadine Murphy
Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel

Donors \$2,000+

Mark Scheibmeir and Wendy Tripp
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Kelly and Court Zuck-Stanley
Court and Kelly Stanley
Fibre Federal
SWW Writers Conference
Craig Voegele
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Anne Steele

Donors \$1,000+

Sean Halligan
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Timberland Bank
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All donors \$500+

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Claudia and William Craig
William and Claudia Craig
Jay and Patty Johnson
Ray and Maribeth Fitzgerald
Douglas Lukascik
Patty and Jay Johnson

LIFETIME DONOR LIST

Since its inception, the Centralia College Foundation has been blessed with generous and loyal donors. Our accumulated giving records reflect those donors who have reached the following significant milestones:

Cascade Club - \$1,000,000 or more

Susan and Patrick Dunn
Estate of Walter Hanke
Robert H. O'Neill
Estate of Dr. Richard Phillips
TransAlta
TransAlta Coal Transition Board

Mt. Rainier Club - \$500,000 or more

Estate of Thelma Baxter
Estate of Earnest C. and Edith C. Driscoll
Bill and Helga Watterson
Estate of Lloyd Fuller
Orin Smith Family Foundation

Mt. Adams Club - \$250,000 or more

Arthur and Lois Staeger
Bob Thompson
Evergreen Charitable Trust
Baxter Killian Memorial Trust
Estate of C L Littel
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
McCaw Foundation
Jack and Luellen Charneski

Mt. Baker Club - \$100,000 or more

Alta Sweany
Carol and David Robinson
Title Guaranty Company
Estate of Adelaide Dagasso
Gail and Carolyn Shaw and Family
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NC Machinery Co
Jean Sheridan
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Caterpillar Foundation
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Van Prooyen
Miles and Lucretia Folks
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James Watterson
Estate of Joe Staeger
Estate of Mildred Proffitt
Lockerby Foundation
Barbara and Norm Extine Estate
Mary Webster
Jim and Tricia Murphy

Mt. St. Helens Club - \$50,000 and more

Lewis County Rotary Foundation
Estate of Victor Dagasso
Estate of Olga Stewart
L & E Bottling Company
Altrusa Intn'l Inc of CC
US Bank
Helgi and Drusilla Heidar
Estate of James A Smith
Judith and Richard Greeley
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Henry and Jenny Kirk
South Seattle College Foundation
Estate of Ercel Davis
John and Reiko Sato
Port Blakely Tree Farms LP
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