

The Blazer Bulletin

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION



**2023 Distinguished Alumni
Judy Greeley Hendrickson – pg. 9**



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Foundation News

Happy almost summer!

It feels like we should name this the Awards, Events, and Amazing People edition of the Blazer Bulletin. On these pages, you will read about the newest member of the Distinguished Alumni Association at Centralia College. Judith Greeley Hendrickson, who graces our cover, is no stranger to our campus or programs. We are very excited to have her on campus for our Night of Celebration on June 15. If you don't have your tickets yet, get them quickly, as mid-June will be here before you know it. They are available on the Foundation website.

For the first time, the Foundation is awarding the Legacy Award. The first recipient is Dave Blanchard, a name many of you will recognize. Dave has been a candidate for Distinguished Alumnus in the past, but

that award cannot be given posthumously. The new Legacy Award recognizes the people, living or dead, who have benefitted the college and who may or may not be alumni. The awards committee determined that Dave was the perfect recipient of the first Legacy Award. His widow, Pennie, and members of the Class of 1963 are planning to represent him at the Night of Celebration. The information on Dave is on page 4-5.

Also in this issue, you can read about the amazing faculty chosen this year for the Exceptional Faculty award and the students chosen for the All-Washington Academic Team. They, as well as the 2023 Outstanding Student Award winners, will be recognized at the Night of Celebrate event on June 15. What a night it is going to be, followed by commencement the following day. I am going to need a nap afterward!

At the heart of everything is you. All of the work the Foundation staff and board do is because of you. You are our alumni, our donors, and our cheerleaders. You make it all happen. You inspire us to do our best every day for our students and continue your hard work.

The students who benefit are appreciative and we are so thankful. A Night of Celebration, Commencement, Scholarship Night...it all happens because of you.

Thank you.

Christine Fossett

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



This is the first concept of batting cages for baseball and softball. Fundraising for the cages and bleachers has begun.

CC students named to All-Washington Academic Team

Both were honored in Olympia by Gov. Jay Inslee

Centralia College has named two students to the 2023 All-Washington Academic Team. Each student received \$250 in scholarships from Key Bank and are eligible for additional transfer scholarships from in-state universities.

All 75 of the state's All-Washington Academic Team members were recognized formally at a ceremony April 27 at South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia. Governor Jay Inslee was the keynote speaker and presented the awards. He declared April 27 as All Washington Academic Team Day in the state.

In addition, CC's representatives were recognized at the May 11 meeting of the Centralia College Board of Trustees.



CC President Dr. Bob Mohrbacher and Ethan Myers

Ethan Myers, 18, of Centralia, is a Running Start student at Centralia College. He is studying engineering and expects to graduate high school and the college this spring. He is the captain of his high school robotics team, president of CC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, and works as an airframe and powerplant apprentice at Northwest Helicopters. He will continue his education at California Polytechnic State University this fall. He plans to earn his master's degree and work as an aerospace engineer. Myers was named to the Top 16 of the All-Washington Academic Team and received an additional \$750 scholarship from WSECU.

In addition to his inclusion on the All-Washington Academic Team, Myers was named to the All-USA Academic Team (\$5,000 scholarship) and received the New Century Transfer Pathways Scholarship \$2,500. He received his award in Denver earlier this month at the American Association of Community Colleges national conference.



CC President Dr. Bob Mohrbacher and Andrew Thompson

After experiencing homelessness, alcoholism, and drug addiction, Andrew Thompson, 39, of Oakville, brings compassion and understanding to his studies, his work, and his volunteering. In addition to earning his degree at Centralia College, he works as a counselor aide at a drug and alcohol treatment center, volunteers at his church and at a local homeless shelter, and helps other alcoholics through his 12-step group. He does outreach to the homeless community and seeks to use his education to "ignite hope" for recovery.

DAVE BLANCHARD

to receive first ever Legacy Award from the Centralia College Foundation

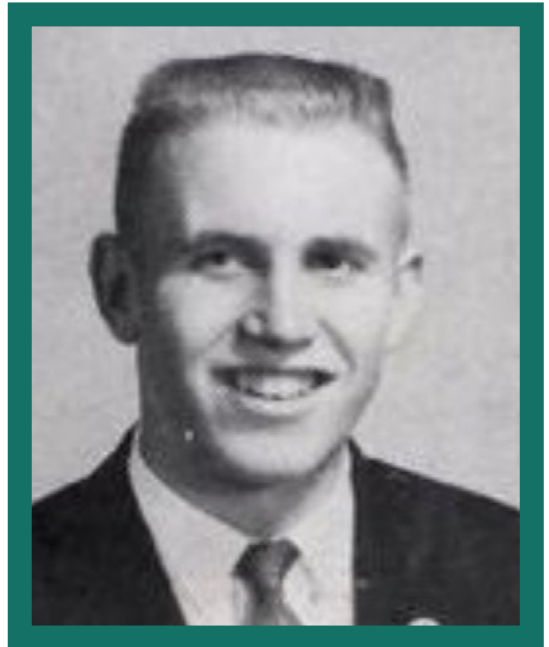
Class of 1963 graduate is a longtime educator and supporter of the college

The first recipient of the Centralia College Foundation's new Legacy Award is alumnus Dave Blanchard, a decorated Vietnam veteran and educator. Blanchard passed away on Sept. 29, 2022, and was a lifetime supporter of Centralia College and its students.

Blanchard was born and raised in Centralia. He was a star athlete at Centralia High School, where he was elected president of the student body in 1960-61, a position his father held 25 years earlier. In 1963, he graduated from Centralia College, where he was also elected student body president.

After graduation, he received a Congressional appointment to the US Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He graduated in 1967 with a degree in engineering and accepted a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army. In 1968, he was deployed to Vietnam, where he earned two Purple Hearts (twice wounded in combat), two Bronze Stars

for heroism and acts of valor in armed combat, and a Valorous Unit Award.



After retirement from active Army service, Blanchard earned his doctorate and served as the dean of graduate students at Hofstra University in New York. Later, he taught as an adjunct professor at St. John's University. Though he never lived in Centralia again, he maintained tight connections to



Our West Point Graduate - Lt Dave Blanchard - preflight Vietnam 1968 - Thank you, Mel Petrie, for sending

the community and established and supported a scholarship at Centralia College in the name of the Class of 1963.

Before his death, Blanchard wrote about the impact CC had on his life.

“Centralia is one of the major highlights of my life and I know for a fact that if I had not attended this great community college, I would not have made it through my first year at West Point,” he wrote in 2009. “In my long career, both in the military and in higher education, when the opportunity arose, I firmly

stated that my two-year college education prepared me for the rest of my life.”

Blanchard’s contributions will be formally recognized at the Centralia College Foundation’s Night of Celebration on June 15. The Legacy Award will henceforth be awarded annually to an individual or group who has shown a dedication, commitment, and contribution to the mission of Centralia College. The recipients are not required to be Centralia College alumni and the Legacy award may be given posthumously.

You can honor Dave with a gift to the endowment he started, the Class of 1963 scholarship.

CC Foundation names 2023 Exceptional Faculty Award winners



Lisa Spitzer

Lisa Spitzer started her career as a math teacher, first in Hawaii for four years and then in Yelm, teaching both middle and high school students for 11 years. She loved it, but a conversation with her sister led her to Centralia College.

“I told my sister that I wanted to teach adults one day and right away she saw a position at Centralia College,” Spitzer recalled. “She said, ‘I think this is for you.’”

Spitzer has been teaching pre-college math at Centralia College since 2013.

“At the pre-college level is where I feel most useful,” she said. “Most students are scared of math. Maybe they’ve never been to college before or they’ve been away for 20 -plus years. I love to build their confidence and show them they can do this.”

In addition to teaching at the main Centralia campus, Spitzer also teaches youth offenders at Green Hill School in Chehalis. The partnership with the college started in 2020 and has grown from initially helping students recover some high school credits to now earning bachelor’s degrees while incarcerated.

“Working out at Green Hill has really rejuvenated my love of teaching,” she said. “If they can get a degree before they’re released, they’re the least likely to reoffend. At that point, it’s not just opening doors, it’s saving lives.”

The Centralia College Foundation has selected Lisa Spitzer and Dan Taylor to receive the 2023 Exceptional Faculty Awards. They were chosen for their commitment to and excellence in their subject areas, and participation in campus activities.

Both will be formally honored at the Centralia College Night of Celebration on June 15.



Dan Taylor

Math professor Dan Taylor began his career at Centralia College in 1995 as a math tutor through the TRIO Student Support Services program (a federal support program for first-generation, low-income students and those with disabilities). That position led to teaching pre-college math through the college's Transitional Education program. When he went back to school for his master's degree, he continued to

teach at Centralia College part-time in the summers before being hired as a full-time math professor nearly 20 years ago.

Though Taylor teaches math at all levels, he loves calculus the most.

"Calculus is kind of like the bridge between what most people think of as math and the science behind math," he said. "I love calculus. I've always loved math, though. I was the kid all the other kids went to when they had problems with their math homework."

In addition to his work in the classroom, Taylor has been working on two larger projects for CC math and science students. He is working with The Evergreen State College to build direct transfer routes from Centralia College to Evergreen's science programs. He is also working through the details of a new bachelor's degree at CC, a Bachelor's of Science in Computer Science, which Taylor hopes to launch in fall 2024.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
A
Night of
CELEBRATION

June **15th** 2023

CENTRALIA COLLEGE

**Please join us to recognize
Centralia College's Distinguished Alumni,
our first Legacy Award recipient, and the winners of the
College's 2023 Achievement Awards**

5:30 p.m. - Social Hour (Hosted Bar)

6:00 p.m. - Dinner/Program

TransAlta Commons

Bowman Rotary Banquet Room

\$35 per person

Please get your tickets online at

<https://tinyurl.com/CelebrateCentraliaCollege>

or scan the QR Code and order your tickets now



Guests are encouraged to show CC spirit and dress in
Centralia College attire from their era.

If business casual is more your style, come as you would like.

We're excited to see you there!



Centralia College Foundation names Judith Greeley Hendrickson its 2023 Distinguished Alumna

Class of 1960 graduate finds success in corrections, sports, music and international business

Centralia College's 2023 Distinguished Alumna honoree, Judith Greeley Hendrickson, is arguably a most versatile woman. Even now, Hendrickson can rattle off a list of philanthropic projects she's working on and non-profits she's assisting. She is energetic and funny, and full of joy for all the things she devotes her considerable energy.

Hendrickson was born and raised in Centralia. Her grandfather, Harry Bradford, was on the school board when Centralia College was founded in 1925. Hendrickson was a creative, energetic child and started exploring her many interests early. Initially, it was tap dancing.

"When recitals would come up, the tap instructor would say to my mother, 'Judy isn't quite ready for the recital. Let's have her sing instead.' That tells you all you need to know about my dancing skills," she recalled with a laugh.

Hendrickson was a gifted singer and earned \$5 per service singing at churches across the Twin Cities every Sunday. She auditioned for the Metropolitan Opera and did well, but that was not a realistic option for her future. She continues to be involved in singing and was fortunate to solo at National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, and at Bruton Parrish in Williamsburg, Va., as well as several churches in Seattle and Raleigh.

In high school, Hendrickson had many interests and she made time to perfect them. After graduating from Centralia High School, she earned a music scholarship for Centralia College. She played bass clarinet in the high school and college bands and sang in all the vocal groups. She was selected for the All-Northwest band in Boise. After graduating from Centralia College in 1960, she transferred to the University of Washington, where she studied music. She sang and soloed in UW choral groups and also played bass clarinet in the UW concert

band. When Washington played in the Rose Bowl, Hendrickson played tenor saxophone and marched in the Rose Bowl Parade and during pre-game and halftime at the games.

In the summer, she worked at the Centralia and Chehalis swimming pools as a lifeguard and swim instructor and was selected as a member of the UW women's synchronized swimming team.



When she left the UW in 1963, she became the director of recreation at Maple Lane School for girls, a juvenile corrections facility in Grand Mound. She worked there for nine years and found a passion for supporting incarcerated youth, by teaching them survival skills as well as supporting their educational endeavors.

After Maple Lane, she transferred to Cascadia Juvenile Reception-Diagnostic Center and McNeil Island Corrections Center, where she felt she could help people to live productive lives and be better citizens. She was a tireless advocate for education and rehabilitation programs in state prisons and was part of a team of individuals who drafted and lobbied for legislation to allow volunteers and college interns to serve in the Department of Social and Health Services agencies throughout the state.



During this time, she was Chairperson of the United Way Volunteer Bureau of Seattle and King County and was honored for four consecutive years as a Woman of Achievement by the Matrix Table in Seattle. In addition, she was honored for Outstanding Contributions to the field of corrections by the Washington Correctional Association and by the McNeil Island staff and inmates.

As successful as she was, she stepped away in 1985, when she and her husband, Richard, moved to North Carolina, where Richard grew up. Hendrickson's first job in North Carolina was with N.C. Amateur Sports, during which time she met Dr. LeRoy Walker, who was on the board of that organization and chancellor of North Carolina Central University. Her 20-year affiliation with Dr. Walker provided many opportunities as a volunteer, including assisting in organizing two Pan-Africa track and field meets at Duke University; establishing the office in Durham, N.C. for Dr. Walker when he was elected president of the United States Olympic Committee; serving on a Sports Administration and Facilities Management three-week immersion program for graduate students from throughout the United States.

Hendrickson's career, for 18 years, in North Carolina was as corporate secretary for International Lead Zinc

Research Organization (ILZRO), an international trade association that moved from New York City to North Carolina in 1987. ILZRO did not do research, rather they established a wide variety of research programs, based on need, by various member companies throughout the world in the use of lead and zinc. As corporate secretary, Hendrickson traveled extensively in Europe, North America, and Asia, organizing and participating in international meetings.

After taking several years away from a paying position, but continuing her involvement as a volunteer with the Olympic Committee, Judith took a position as director of development and donor relations for The Opera Company of North Carolina. She continued her involvement in singing and was a member of the opera chorus and continues to be involved with the Opera Company in a variety of areas.



Property of Centralia College Kirk Library

“Throughout my life and work careers, I was able to continually grow and build upon my experiences,” she said. “I was fortunate to meet and spend time with many interesting and successful people.”

A short list would include George Steinbrenner (owner of the New York Yankees), numerous Olympic track and field gold medalists, Franklin Williams (US Ambassador to the Social and Economic Council of the

United Nations and Ambassador to Ghana), Roscoe Brown (Tuskegee Airman and President of Bronx Community College of the City University of New York (CUNY).

For all she’s done and continues to do, she credits Centralia College with giving her a good start.

“I encourage people to consider attending a community college,” she said. “Try out a trade. Try out a lot of things. See what appeals to you. It doesn’t matter how smart you are, it matters what you learn and community college allows you to do that.”

“Find out who you really want to be and go do that,” she added.

Hendrickson and her husband continue to be involved in a number of philanthropic projects, both in Washington and North Carolina. They funded a large landscaping project at Elon University in N.C., where the football center is named in honor of Richard’s father. Currently, they are supporting Friends of Seminary Hill in Centralia to continue improving that area and to make ADA accessible trails. In NC, they have funded four police dogs (K-9) for the town of Cary. They contribute to a variety of scholarships and simulators for the nursing program at Centralia College and the “Tranquil Waters” feature outside Washington Hall.

Hendrickson is a firm believer in education, trades, sports, and the arts, and she puts her energy toward those projects as much as she is able.

“There isn’t just one path and you don’t have to stick to one path,” she said. “Take advantage of opportunities along the way. I think that is where community colleges come in. It is more important to be diversified and to do many things well. That is how to be successful on any path you choose. Finally, if you are able, be sure and give back.”



CCF WELCOMES MALAWIAN GUESTS TO CAMPUS

The Centralia College Foundation hosted a Malawi Cultural Exchange the evening of April 24 in the TransAlta Commons. Rev. Dr. H. Matiya Nkhoma, chancellor and co-founder of the University of Livingstonia, Mariya Nkhoma, his wife, and Owen Singini, village chief, spoke about life in the east African nation of Malawi and what's it like to be a student at the University of Livingstonia.

The University of Livingstonia is the first private university in Malawi and is currently celebrating its 20th anniversary. The university has long held a close relationship to Centralia College. Dr. Henry Kirk, President Emeritus of Centralia College, was the first Vice Chancellor of the University



of Livingstonia and played a key role in the founding of the university. Mrs. Jenny Kirk served as the first Director of University Relations. They continue to foster cultural exchange between their colleagues in Malawi and Centralia College, and are exploring opportunities for students and staff to visit back and forth.



CC VOLLEYBALL PLAYER INDUCTED INTO SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Autumn (Durand) Kanda was honored during the May 6 home baseball game

On May 6, Centralia College honored former volleyball standout Autumn (Durand) Kanda into the Sports Hall of Fame. The formal induction ceremony was held in the Michael Smith Gymnasium during Centralia College's home baseball game against Olympic College. Kanda threw out the first pitch.

"Centralia College is proud to recognize Autumn Kanda's hard work and dedication to CC Athletics, and we congratulate her on this well-deserved honor," said Athletic Director Bob Peters.

Kanda, who received Centralia College Foundation scholarships, played volleyball during the 2017-19 seasons. She led in kills/set, kill percentage, and total kills both seasons and was ranked second in the region with 4.03 kills/set and fourth in the region with 367 kills. She earned her recognition

as a four-time Regional Player of the Week, two-time NWAC Player of the Week, and NWAC Volleyball First Team. She also received the Coaches Award-MVP and competed in the Sophomore All-Star Match.

Kanda is currently a firefighter with the Port of Seattle Fire Department and a volunteer volleyball coach at Olympia High School. She lives in Olympia.





CC DEDICATES BOB PETERS FIELD

Centralia College's new Multipurpose Athletic Field has a name – Bob Peters Field.



CC's student government (SAALT) passed a resolution recommending that the new athletic field be named in honor of longtime Athletic Director Bob Peters for his nearly four decades of commitment to

CC and its students. That resolution came to the Centralia College Board of Trustees in April and was unanimously approved.

Bob Peters has been at Centralia College for almost 40 years as a coach (men's and women's basketball), physical education teacher, and athletic director. Under his leadership, Centralia College twice won the Presidents' Cup, an NWAC award that recognizes colleges whose student athletes have a high level of academic success.

A formal ceremony to name the field in Bob's honor was held May 22. Fundraising to add batting cages, bleachers, and art for the field is beginning. Donations to honor Bob Peters can be indicated in the notes field of the donation.

Yes, I definitely want to support the Centralia College Foundation



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THANK YOU!

The Centralia College Foundation (CCF) is registered as a charitable organization with the Washington Secretary of State Tax ID #91-1195403

I am pleased to support your continuing efforts to provide opportunities for deserving students to help them reach their full potential through education at Centralia College.

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of

\$500 \$200 \$100 \$50 Other \$ _____

I am happy to pledge \$ _____ to be billed monthly / quarterly / annually

I would like my contribution to support:

Please make your check payable to Centralia College Foundation.

Name _____

Company/Title _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Pay securely online at <https://centralia.edu/foundation/donate.aspx>

Centralia College Alumni class of _____

Gift made in the memory of or tribute to _____

- Please contact me for a tour of the campus
- Please send me information on the Legacy Society and including the Foundation in my estate.

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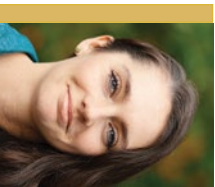
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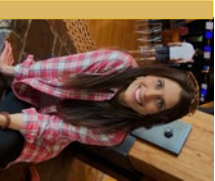
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Creating opportunities to improve students' lives, enable success,
and strengthen our community.

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