

The Blazer Bulletin

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

**Scholarships
Fall 2020**
Page 13

**Award Winning
Staff and Faculty**
Pages 7 and 11



CENTRALIA COLLEGE
FOUNDATION





Foundation Notes

Progress. That is what we are making, slowly but surely. Thanks to you, our generous donors, we had a very successful fiscal year and hope to get off to a good start for this next one. We are still working remotely but we are getting a lot accomplished. In this edition you can read about the scholarships that students will receive this next academic year, and an update on the trades building under construction. We are currently raising final funds for its completion. The foundation acknowledged a number of very deserving faculty and staff with awards these past months and with all of our events cancelled through the summer, we are using that time to explore expanding scholarships even more. We are working with the college on how we can assist with their law enforcement and trades programs, and the foundation is evaluating future student housing needs. I hope you are well and thank you for your support of our students and the foundation!

Christine Fosset
Executive Director

In 1955 Centralia College prepared you for success. You can return this favor in 2020.

Or in 2022 or 2040...no matter when you earned your degree, you can help the students of tomorrow with the gift of planned giving. Adding the Centralia College Foundation to your will allows you to enjoy your success now and help the students of tomorrow too.



Your advisor will help you align your goals for giving with the tax benefits you can enjoy from the gift.

Inform the foundation staff and we will announce and celebrate your gift today and tomorrow.



360-623-8942 or foundation@centralia.edu

In Appreciation – 2020 Retirees

Centralia College wishes to honor and recognize the service of the following 2020 retirees.



Nancy Keaton – 35 years
Director of Family Development



Bonnie Myer – 40 years
Director of Central Services and Purchasing



Judith Aguilar – 26 years
Associate Professor of Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language



Tony Petzold – 19 years
Technical Director/Stage Manager



Sharon Libby – 20 years
Program Coordinator

Gala 2020

Mark
Saturday,
November 7
on your calendar
for our annual
celebration. We are
still hoping to meet in
person but watch your
email and our website
for updates. Email us
if you would like to
sponsor the event.

Want to see your name in lights?



We are currently offering naming opportunities for the SWFT Center, classrooms and industrial space. Industry and students will think of you as they come in for training.



Congrats, Class of 2020



Giske Image Design

Nearly 750 students completed their educational journeys at Centralia College in June. While there wasn't a traditional commencement ceremony due to the pandemic, Centralia College worked to ensure all graduates were honored. Each graduate was recognized on a Class of 2020 webpage and received a complimentary celebration package,

which included a cap, tassel, keychain, degree cover, handwritten message of congratulations, and the opportunity for a professional graduation photo on campus.

In addition, the college's five trustees, Aaron Fowler, the ASCC president, and Jimmy Ritchey, the 2020 Distinguished Alumnus each recorded

special messages of congratulations and support for the graduates.

It was a weird year, but the Class of 2020 deserves kudos for their grit, determination, and flexibility in admittedly difficult circumstances. Watch the videos and view the graduates at www.centralia.edu/about/news/2020-grads.aspx

TRIO programs help students succeed

Syllabus. Credits. Transfer. Prerequisites. Placement tests. Higher education comes with its own intimidating language. And, if you've never been introduced to that language, it can be difficult to navigate. Since 1965, a federal program has been helping students - from teens to returning adults - transition to college and careers successfully, and it's available to Lewis County students starting in middle school.

"TRIO programs were established under the Higher Education Act of 1965 and were meant to provide equal opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic circumstances," explained CC's TRIO Director Liisa Preslan. "In practice, TRIO staff are available at the schools to provide educational and career planning, college visits, academic skills development and tutoring, financial literacy training, and help with financial aid and college admissions. We focus on helping students who are motivated to earn a college degree - vocational/technical or transfer - understand how to navigate the system to achieve that goal."

At Centralia College, there are three distinct TRIO programs



Even COVID-19 couldn't keep TRIO students from celebrating! Student Success Specialist Jason Moir poses with 2020 TRIO graduates Selena Cudney and Taylor Peppinger wearing their masks.



Upward Bound students take a break after a walking tour of Saint Martin's University in Lacey, WA.

that provide support services to low-income, first-generation students, and students with disabilities. They help teens and adults prepare for college, succeed in college, and earn a degree.

All services are free to

everyone who qualifies.

TS
TRIO TS is a career and college prep program for students in grades 7-12. Eleven school districts in Lewis and south Thurston counties receive services

from CC's TS program. TS helps students identify their career interests and help them find the colleges and programs that will best meet their needs. Program staff can also help students prepare for pre-college entrance exams, college admission applications, and financial aid paperwork.

TS hosts several field trips and career days throughout the year, including the annual Expanding Your Horizons STEM event for middle school girls, Life Management conference that helps ninth grade students transition to high school, and Rotary Mentorship Day, which pairs students with local professionals for a day of job shadowing.

Upward Bound

Upward Bound provides year-long academic support (tutoring, study skills and test preparation), career exploration (workshops, conferences, guest speakers, job shadowing, classes and mentoring), and cultural enrichment (field trips, performances and special events) to students in grades 9-12. Upward Bound also offers a six-week summer program to help students prepare for the next academic year. Student receive instruction in science, math, English, and foreign language.

Student Support Services

Student Support Services provides support and assistance to first-generation (neither parents have a 4-year degree), economically disadvantaged, and adults with disabilities. Its goal is to help these students stay in college and/or transfer to a four-year college to earn a bachelor's degree.

SSS staff do this through education planning, advising, financial aid information and application assistance, scholarships, tutoring, educational workshops, college visits, and career and social events.

"We serve a large portion of adult returning students in our college program," explained Preslan. "The challenges for adult learners are typically very different

from those faced by more traditional age students. It's really important that each student get personal attention and help for their unique circumstances."

Offering multiple programs helps students stay connected and inspired to continue their education.

"The TRIO students know – many from the time they're in middle school – that TRIO staff at the college are here for them, no matter what's going on in their lives," added Preslan. "I think that's why TRIO is so successful. We have the students' backs at every stage of their journey."

For more information and eligibility requirements, visit www.centralia.edu/resources/trio-programs.aspx.



TS TRIO Students at Pacific Lutheran University. This day included a tour of Saint Martin's University and PLU with a presentation and question and answer session from the admission staff of both universities.

Award Winning College Faculty

CC Foundation names 2020 Exceptional Faculty Award winners

The Centralia College Foundation has selected Georganne Copeland and Emmy Kreilkamp to receive the 2020 Exceptional Faculty Awards. They were chosen for their commitment to and excellence in their subject areas, and participation in campus activities.



Georganne Copeland

Georganne Copeland has experienced Centralia College on both sides of the teaching podium. She was a Centralia

College student first and, in 1985, returned to the college as a part-time keyboarding teacher. She was hired by Alice Forth, who became dean of students in 1989; Copeland took Forth's full-time teaching position at that time. She's been teaching business technology classes at CC ever since.

Keyboarding remains one of her favorite classes to teach.

"Keyboarding has been a consistent part of my workload and I enjoy helping students develop strong skills that help with their college work, in their personal life, and in the workplace," she said. "But, I also enjoy teaching Business Communications for those same reasons. Recently, my interaction with the (bachelor's degree) students has been a highlight. I appreciate their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn."

Copeland said she enjoys watching students build confidence as they progress through her classes.

"I always knew I wanted to teach, but it took my Centralia College instructors, Alice Forth and Marge Wieland, to show me this path," she added. "I am grateful to them for opening that door."



Emmy Kreilkamp

Emmy Kreilkamp came to Centralia College from Chicago after being offered a full-time tenure-track theatre position in the spring of 2016. She said she was attracted

to the position because it allowed her to teach theatre, direct plays, and experience all the Pacific Northwest has to offer.

"The Pacific Northwest won me over with its proximity to the coast, mountains, and plentiful hiking and camping areas," she said. "I am happy to claim this region as my new home."

Kreilkamp currently teaches all of CC's drama classes from acting to playwriting, and some English classes such as Shakespeare and Screenwriting. She also directs 3 plays a year, is the faculty advisor for the Theatre Club, and oversees the summer theatre program for young people.

"I think teaching Beginning Acting is my favorite," she said. "Many students take it for a new experience (as it is different from their other classes), which allows me to engage with many different majors and people of diverse interests. I enjoy seeing people transform into characters and use their imaginations in an interactive way."

She said teaching has been an exceptionally rewarding choice of career and she's grateful for the opportunity to connect with students.

"Seeing students move from being lukewarm on a topic on the first day of classes to engaged and passionate about the subject matter is the most rewarding part about teaching," she said. "Regardless where they end up, I hope my students leave my classes with a stronger appreciation for and understanding of the arts."

Alumni Spotlight

CC Nursing Graduate Serves COVID-19 Patients in NYC

There was a time when she couldn't envision herself going to college much less becoming a nurse, but all that changed when she decided to take one small step and apply to become a certified nursing assistant.

Meet Keri Buehring, proud graduate of the Centralia College Registered Nursing program and Class of 2017.

Buehring has always loved helping people and feels it is her calling. In the past, she had office jobs and found them satisfying, but she kept coming back to the idea that nursing would be the ultimate career for her. After some gentle encouragement - and a bit of prodding from family and friends - Buehring decided to take one small step and get her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) degree. If she was successful, she knew she could always take the

additional courses needed for a RN degree.

The Texas native was living in Yelm and took a good look at the programs offered at Centralia College, where she knew there was a strong track record of excellence in the nursing program. "It was a highly rated program with a good student to teacher ratio, and it was close to home, which was a bonus," said Buehring.

Everything she had researched about the program was true and the instruction was exactly what she had hoped for. Instructors were enthusiastic and



willing to help whenever needed, advisors offered support, and her fellow 31 nurses-in-training became trusted mentors, friends, and a strong support group. Buehring was also happy with the resources provided by the college, including the array of equipment and simulators in the nursing lab.

Although everyone in the nursing program helps the student succeed, several instructors had an extra-strong impact on Buehring. Teneal Gustafson was always there to support the students, giving reaffirmation about their goals and purpose. Mary Capen also played a leading role as she shared stories about her path through nursing. Buehring

was considering a career in the surgery department and Capen shared her experiences in that field.

Gustafson said of Buehring, "Keri was such an enthusiastic student! Her passion for patient care was evident in every encounter. I am so proud to have been a part of her education."

Capen also spoke highly about her, saying, "Keri was such an engaged and kind student nurse. She had a passion for understanding each new topic and her enthusiasm for learning was an inspiration to her classmates, as well.

She had a smile that always brightened the day regardless of how early the morning may have been in clinical. Her heart for nursing makes being a nursing instructor a rewarding career. It doesn't surprise me that she dropped everything to help those in need in New York. Nursing is a family and she is a team player!"

After graduation, Buehring moved back to her native Texas to be closer to family. Currently, she serves in a surgery center, where she serves as an operating room nurse. Her routine changed when the coronavirus started

becoming a stressor to the hospitals in New York City. Buehring had been keeping track of the news and the reports of the need for nurses back east, especially crisis nurses. Again, she felt the call to help, and her own workload had slowed down due to the cancellation of many of the surgeries at her center.

Buehring had a number of long, thorough discussions with her family and her supervisor and, with their strong support, made the decision to take a 21-day tour. We're not talking about a "tour" to New York City in the traditional



sense - there were no Broadway plays or Yankee games on the schedule - this was to be difficult work.

And difficult it was. With the affirmation that her family was there for her and her husband would listen to her each day and help her de-stress, that was all the support she needed. Buehring flew to New York and spent the first day learning how the program would work and the protocols the visiting nurses needed to follow. She first worked at a hospital and then a long-term care facility. The nurses working alongside her were from all over the country and many were not working in their normal "job," which fostered an environment of collaboration among them as they supported and replace the staff from the facility.

Buehring's typical day consisted of rising at 4:45 a.m. and loading onto an appointed bus by 5:45 a.m. with all of the other visiting nurses to be delivered to their assignments. She would

work her shift from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and then catch the bus back to the hotel where they were staying. By 8:30 p.m. they would be back at the hotel to shower and catch some sleep before repeating again - for 21 straight days! After her first tour, Buehring took a few days off, then re-signed for another 21 days.

When asked what she was doing to relieve the stress, Buehring replied, "When you are working 84 hours a week, there really isn't time to stress, you just do your job."

One of the shining moments that inspired her and her comrades to carry on was watching patients recover. One in particular, at the long-term care facility, was very ill. Watching him struggle to regain his strength and heal a bit more each day was wonderful. He worked hard and celebrated each accomplishment, no matter how small. Buehring related that to watch his progress from working just to breathe on his own to walking down the hallway was

very rewarding. It was reaffirmation that she chose wisely in her career path.

When we spoke in late May, Buehring indicated that the number of patients had declined in New York City and the need for visiting nurses was slowing. She anticipated that she would be headed home soon, back to family and friends. Now though, she has the additional lifelong friends who she worked with in NYC.

Buehring stressed that she could not have done all of this without Centralia College. She is a first-generation college graduate and the support and help she received from the staff at the college got her through each stage to the next and then to commencement and her career.

The people of Centralia College made a difference in Keri Buehring's life. Now Keri passes that on by making a difference in the lives of others.

Additional Award Winning College Sta and Faculty

Hanke Mini-grant Recipients

Six staff members applied and were awarded Hanke Mini-grants for this next academic year. The mini-grants are a \$1,000 award to benefit a specific project.

Ann Grande	Faculty, Teachers-Ed	Swivel robot
Heather Scannell	Early Childhood Learning	Emergency radios
Lauri Dennis	CC East	Window blinds
Antonio Mendoza	Facilities	Pressure washer
Nicole Zock	Student Services	Academic writing workshops
Andrea Dulaney	Facilities	Commercial dryer
Amanda Haines	Public Information	Giveaways for campus open houses

Capstone Projects

Even though most classes were completed remotely this spring, these students completed Capstone projects to show their competency regarding a topic of their choosing, above the requirements of their coursework. Due to in-person restrictions, we were unable to showcase their work for the community this year.

Elizabeth Hill	A Greener Diels-Alder Reaction
Olivia Braun	Using Nuclear Magnetic Resonance as a pH Probe
Isaac Pope	The Mima Mound-Tanwax Flood Connection
Ariel Williams	Of Quartz it's Quartz
Laurel Oster	Breastfeeding Promotion in Teenage Mothers
Jennifer Risenhoover	Impact of Social Media on Body Image in Adolescent Girls
Trula Mullins	Teen Brains vs. Marijuana
Travis Davis	Safe Sleeping For Baby and Me
Angela Goode-Taylor	Children and the Internet
Jennifer Harold	Prevention of Alcohol Poisoning in Adolescents
John Abella	Juvenile Type 2 Diabetes
Jeseeka Hughes	Preparing Children for Floods

Foundation Board Updates

Bruce Hansen

New Board Member

I joined the Centralia College Foundation Board because of my belief in higher education in all of its forms. The work being done on the SWFT Center was enough for me to know that Centralia College appreciates higher education in a much broader range than just book learning.

I was born and raised right here in Centralia. Most people knew me because my father was the band teacher at Centralia Middle School as well as at the elementary schools here locally. After graduating in 2009 from Centralia

High School, I began my college career at Centralia College before finishing my Bachelors Degree in Business Management at Brigham Young University of Idaho. It was there that I met and married my beautiful wife, Kellie.

After retiring from the school district, my father started working as a financial advisor for Edward Jones. He was the reason that I became interested in becoming a financial advisor myself. I've been with Edward Jones now for four years and I love the flexibility this career has provided



to me as I now get to give back to the community that shaped my childhood.

Kellie and I have two joy-filled children, a 3-year-old son, Colby, and an 18-month-old daughter named Charlotte. We enjoy camping, cooking, sports, playing at the park, ATVs, and quality family time.



Board Member Retiring

The foundation staff, past and present, as well as the board of directors thank Brian Nupen for his exemplary service to our students and the college. Brian served on the board since 2001

filling the role as committee chair, enthusiastic fundraiser, and the board treasurer for the last few years. Brian continues to be a strong supporter of the foundation and has even included the foundation in his will. He has moved to be closer to his family and will be missed at our events and meetings. Thank you Brian!

Summer and Fall at Centralia College

Centralia College has just finished its 94th year of operation and it would be fair to say that the spring of 2020 was one of the most unusual on record. The college had to scramble to figure out how to operate almost entirely remotely in a very short period of time. Through all of this disruption, the college has remained open and continued to offer classes and services to students. As we move into summer and fall, some things are new and some things remain the same.

- During summer quarter, a few more classes are being offered on campus in the classroom.
- We have extensive cleaning and safety protocols in place to make sure the campus maintains a clean and sanitary learning environment.
- Many of our services for students have new ways to

get students the support they need—the library has drive through pick-up for books, tutoring services have ramped up online delivery, and a number of offices are available for face to face meetings by appointment, including financial aid, advising and enrollment services.

- Classes are offered in a variety of different formats, from traditional face to face classes; to hybrid classes that have some face to face time and some online work; and some virtual classes that meet online at specific times using tools like Zoom and WebEx.
- We expect fall quarter to offer a full range of options—more face to face classes but also many online and hybrid classes to meet a variety of styles and schedules.
- There is money available to



help pay tuition and other expenses. The Washington College Grant is available to more students. And there is an assortment of grant and scholarship funding for many programs.

As Centralia College enters its 95th year of operation, we are ready to meet the current challenges and to support the needs of our community.

Fall 2020 Scholarships

Scholarships Offered to Bachelors Students:

Number of Students: 71
Amount: \$136,500

Scholarships Offered to 2-Year (Associates) Students:

Number of Students: 278
Amount: \$379,850

Total Number of Students:

349
Total Amount Offered:
\$516,350

Scholarship Facts:

A total of \$16,350 will be awarded to 16 second-year nursing students for the 2020-21 academic year.

34 valedictorians and salutatorians were offered full tuition scholarships for the 2020-21 academic year.

117 recent high school graduates were offered a Centralia College Foundation Scholarship.

Donor Notes

Nadine Murphy, proud class of 1963 graduate, has created an endowed scholarship. The Jack and Nadine Murphy Diesel Scholarship will begin helping a student with their education this fall. Her generous donation of stock will allow this scholarship to benefit students in perpetuity. Nadine fondly remembers her time at Centralia College where she received the Altrusa scholarship and was president of the Phi Theta Kappa chapter for Centralia College. Nadine chose to benefit a diesel student as her husband Jack worked for NC Machinery for over 30 years in the Pacific Northwest as well as Alaska where they had many adventures.

Ester Witte, class of 1969, was inspired by Rufus Kiser and chose a career in infectious diseases at University of California,

Berkley and Parasitology at UC, San Francisco. Ester has designated the foundation in her will with a gift toward the scholarship in Kiser's name as a tribute to his work, and love of the natural sciences and the nature around him.

We have very generous faculty and staff at the college who support our students in their work and with financial support. There are 26 members who make payroll deductions each month to the foundation and student scholarships. Three actually are building or supporting endowed scholarships in their name!

Several donations were made this last quarter in the memory of loved ones who have recently passed away. The foundation appreciates donations in memory of

Cliff Miller, Ralph Olsen and **Jack Bonafgoski**.

Our condolences go out to their families and our appreciation to those who chose to memorialize them with a gift.

A large donation was made to the **Patricia Clark** scholarship in her name from Patricia's estate.

Doris Wood Brumsickle and husband, **Bill Brumsickle**, have both ensured the success of future students with a designation in their will to benefit scholarships at Centralia College.

Thanks to the individuals who have given to the Emergency Scholarship. This scholarship has been created to help students when they have a small emergency that would halt their education if they did not receive assistance. Examples include a minor car repair, or unexpected utility or medical bill. With your help we have over \$13,000 in the fund now and look forward to more.

We have naming opportunities available for the Southwest Washington Flexible Training Center. You or your business could have your name on the building, the industrial training space or one of the classrooms dedicated to CDL, forestry and healthcare instruction. Call Christine today if you want more information.

If you are connected with a business, the foundation is exploring partnerships with businesses regarding donation matches. Several businesses have employees eager to donate to the foundation who are asking if their employer would be willing to donate as well. A wonderful idea with twice the benefit to our students! Call or email today if you want more information on this idea that could have positive tax benefits too.

Centralia College's training the best in law enforcements and corrections

Students called to a career in law enforcement or corrections need look no farther than Centralia College for nationally-recognized training. With both one- and two-year options and the state's only online option for adults already working in law enforcement, CC has options for every career goal and circumstance.

"All of our Criminal Justice programs are designed with two goals in mind - to serve students and to produce highly qualified, professional graduates," said Professor Gregory Gilbertson. "We personally connect with each student, find out their goals and learn about their life, and get them into the degree or certificate that's right for them."

Centralia College offers two associate degree options - an Associate of Applied Science for students who intend to go directly into the workforce without earning a four-year degree, and an Associate in Arts with an emphasis in Criminal Justice for students who intend to earn a bachelor's degree or higher. Centralia College also offers a one-year certificate in Criminal Investigations.

For adults already working as police officers, deputy

sheriffs, or state troopers, Centralia College is the only college or university in Washington to award 45 credits for that work experience in the Criminal Justice Crosswalk Degree program. The Crosswalk program allows law enforcement officers to fast-track their way to an associate degree by aligning the Centralia College curriculum with the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission Basic Law Enforcement Academy and the Washington State Patrol Academy.

"Officers who have already completed their academy training and at least a year of field work can receive college credits for that prior work," explained criminal justice online Professor Tadd Belden. "The other required courses can be completed online throughout the year. Most officers who have used the Crosswalk option at Centralia College have been able to earn their associate degree in four academic quarters."

For more information, contact Professor Gregory Gilbertson at 360-623-8587 or gregory.gilbertson@centralia.edu or Professor Tadd Belden at 360-623-8176 or tadd.belden@centralia.edu.



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

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Join the Alumni Association
NEW! Join the new Centralia College Alumni Association at
centraliacollegealumni.org.

PARENTS OF ALUMNI

Still getting your kids' mail? Think they should know about the Alumni Association? Call us at 360-623-8491 OR have them update their own record at centraliacollegealumni.org/update.

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