

The Blazer Bulletin

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRALIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION



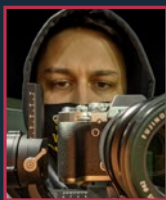
**Distinguished Alumnus –
Bill Watterson – p. 4-5**

Blazers at the Port of Chehalis – p. 9-10

2021 CCF Gala – p. 14-15

Meet the Advancement Team

In July, Centralia College President Dr. Bob Mohrbacher announced the formation of the Advancement Team, created with the merger of the CC Foundation with College Relations under the leadership of Christine Fossett as the new associate vice president of advancement. The team's charge is promoting and marketing the college and its programs, and identifying non-traditional revenue sources to benefit programs and students. As Kylea says proudly, "Our team is small but mighty!"



Drew Burghardt is the college's photographer/videographer. "Days? Nights? Weekends?" Drew asks. "If someone needs a photo or video for the school, I'm there."



Kylea Johnson manages the Foundation's operations, which includes things like donation receipting, database management, and reporting. Kylea also started the Alumni Association (please join!) and helps with events, social media, and anything else that needs done. Our team is small but mighty!



Christine Fossett is also the executive director of the foundation and manages the business side, real estate, and projects that the Foundation, community, and college collaborate on. She also

manages the campaigns and fundraises for scholarships and all Foundation projects. If you are wanting to financially benefit a scholarship or program, contact Christine.



Margie Linn works part time to help the Foundation keep up with its abundant filing and office management. If you have received something from us promptly, it is likely her organizational skills that made it possible. You may have spoken with her if you call on Mondays or Tuesdays!



Amanda Haines is the director of College Relations. She is responsible for the college's website and social media, public relations, advertising and marketing, promotional materials, and publications. She's been at the college since 2014.



Brendan Morrison has been working at Centralia College for just over a year now as the graphic designer. He is responsible for creating the majority of the graphics for the college, including

this Blazer Bulletin. From publications to posters to signage around campus, Brendan has his hands in just about everything.

MEET THE STUDENT LEADERS

Centralia College has welcomed new students to the Student Advocacy Activities Leadership Team, the student government group on campus. Here are the students advocating, leading, and planning activities at CC this academic year.

Students with an asterisk (*) by their name are receiving a 2021-22 scholarship from the Foundation.



Marisol Vargas*
ASCC President
Major: Nursing

Why did you decide to come to CC?

I think CC is a great stepping stone to develop athletically and academically. I am preparing for nursing school while getting experience on the (soccer) field. Also, it was a good choice financially for my family. Not to say the campus is ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL

Why did you choose to get involved on campus?

I am a very gregarious person and I love meeting new people! It just seemed so fun, and you get to learn so much about college.



Ayden Ruminski
Vice President
Major: Business

Why did you decide to come to CC?

CC provided an opportunity for me to stay close to home, get an education, and play a sport that I love.

Why did you choose to get involved on campus?

I chose to get involved on campus because I want to see others succeed, as well as help the school continue to be an inclusive environment for all.



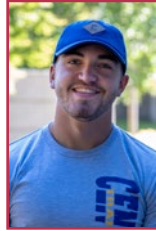
Dean Williams
Coordinator of Executive Affairs
Major: IT

Why did you decide to come to CC?

CC is a close school to my parents, and its generally cheaper so I'm able to afford it.

Why did you choose to get involved on campus?

It started on the first year when I was here. There was a new program starting up called eSports, so I joined it thinking I will get better at a videogame. Over time, it felt amazing just to be a part of something and work with friends all to achieve the same goal of becoming better. I was told that SAALT was looking for new people for the year, so I decided it would look amazing on a resume and took the opportunity. So far, I had a blast putting on events and just handing out fun things to do. Heck even giving popcorn for free feels amazing compared to selling it at a theatre.



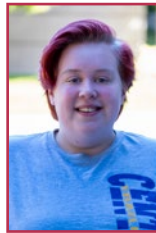
Kollin Jurek*
Coordinator for Publicity
Major: Physical Therapy

Why did you decide to come to CC?

I decided to come to CC because it's easier for me financially and is closer to home. CC allows me to grow into the college setting at a slow and steady pace. Instead of being thrown into a big university as a freshman in college, I decided it would be better to start somewhere local and small.

Why did you choose to get involved on campus?

By getting involved, not only am I making a difference within the college/community, but I am leaving behind a legacy I can be proud of. I don't want to look back at college and regret not doing anything. This is a time in my life where I can do so much. So, I want to make sure I use that to my advantage.



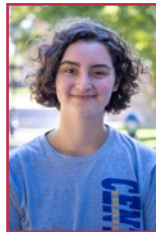
Lillian Durham*
Coordinator of Health and Sustainability
Major: Elementary Education

Why did you decide to come to CC?

I decided to attend CC because it was a local college that was able to provide me with the education I wanted while staying close to home.

Why did you choose to get involved on campus?

I choose to get involved on campus because during my high school career I was not really involved. I wanted to . . . meet and interact with other students who had similar interests or goals.



Madison Tibbetts*
Student Engagement Coordinator
Major: Education

Why did you decide to come to CC?

I loved how the staff made me feel welcome and supported at this college, and I knew that it would be the best place for me to pursue my career goals.

Why did you choose to get involved on campus?

I chose to get involved on campus because I love going to school at Centralia College. I didn't want to just take classes here, I wanted to be a part of the campus community and be a part of what CC offers to its students. Being involved on campus makes my experience in college so much more fun.



BILL WATTERSON – CHARTING NEW TERRITORY

The second in a four-part series honoring the four Watterson siblings – Ed, Bill, Marilyn, and Jim

Bill Watterson wasn't exactly recruited to play basketball at Centralia College by the late great George Gablehouse, CC's famed athletic director. It was more that he asked and Gablehouse agreed. You see, Bill knew he was headed to CC anyway. Playing basketball was just icing on the cake.

"I never had aspirations to go anywhere else those first two years," he said. "I still say that I got as good of an education at Centralia College as I've gotten anywhere – and that includes the University of Alaska Fairbanks or Stanford."

Bill started taking pre-engineering classes at CC and playing basketball that fall. At the end of his second year at CC, he met a baseball player from Juneau whose former coach was looking for a point guard at the

University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). There were no scholarships, but he was promised a job. While he had intended to transfer to the University of Washington, Bill decided to change course and head for Alaska.

"I went to Alaska that June," he said. "My wife, Helga, had emigrated from East Berlin in 1957 and we met as students at UAF. I didn't plan to stay in Alaska, but I wouldn't have had it any other way."

After earning his bachelor's degree in civil engineering, Bill worked two years as a project engineer for the State of Alaska before going back to school, this time to Stanford University, to earn his master's degree in construction management. He worked for a Seattle contractor in Thailand, Korea, Alaska, and Arizona, before



Jim and Bill Watterson

returning to Alaska full-time in 1972. Bill and Helga started Watterson Construction Company (WCC) in 1981.

They knew the kind of company they wanted.

“We have five rules. We trust our people. We promote from within. Everyone makes mistakes. Civility is important. And, don’t call me Mr. Watterson,” he said with a hearty laugh. “We enjoy what we do and have low turnover. I’m very proud of that.”

WCC is one of the largest Alaskan-owned building general contractors and is regularly recognized as one of Alaska’s top employers. In 40 years, WCC has worked on more than 241 jobs in Alaska, including jobs for the military. Between the Anchorage and Fairbanks areas, WCC has built numerous battalion headquarters, 15 barracks/dormitories, six aircraft hangars,

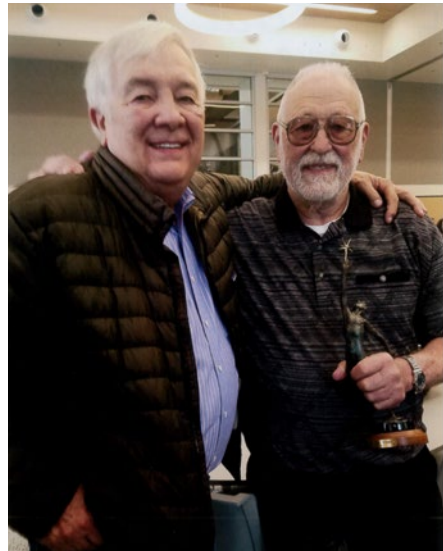
three housing projects, and two missile control buildings at Ft. Greely. For the private market, they have built several projects for Fred Meyer, FedEx, First National Bank of Alaska, Princess Tours, Odom Corporation, and freight handlers. Over the last 20 years, most of the military projects are designed and built by the WCC team and have received Best Value to the Government awards.

Two years ago, Bill stepped down as president and his brother, Jim, stepped in. Bill is not retired, however.

Bill credits his success primarily to his parents, the support of his wife, family, and a loyal workforce.

The start Bill received at CC and his subsequent education has enabled he and Helga to travel extensively. They have been around the world, including five visits to Africa and three to India.

“CC was the right fit for me educationally, financially, and personally,” he said.



Ed and Bill Watterson

JESSICA RAMIREZ FEATURED IN NATIONAL MAGAZINE

CC's assistant director of Student Life Jessica Ramirez was recently featured in the summer issue of Campus Activities Programming magazine, a quarterly publication of the National Association of Campus Activities. The article, *Shifting from Imposture to Impactful*, featured three perspectives on Imposter Syndrome, a psychological phenomenon that occurs among high achievers who struggle to accept their success. They often credit their accomplishments to luck rather than to ability and fear others will eventually reveal them as a fraud.

The article included the perspectives of three higher education professionals; Jessica was the first. She spoke about her experience as a Latina woman at the college and her initial reluctance to display her culture and experiences openly.

"As a young professional, I was very self-conscious of using my ability of speaking Spanish in the workplace," she wrote. "At that time, I didn't realize that I was the Latinx representation for a lot of our Latinx students on campus. Once students knew that I spoke Spanish, they would find me in my office to ask questions about the college in general."

At the time, she didn't understand why students would come to her asking questions about areas of the college she wasn't involved in. It was only in grad school when she realized why so many students sought her out.



"I realized I was someone who looked like them and navigated the college system," she continued. "I was able to speak with these students in their language and connect with them culturally."

That awareness has led to her expressing her culture more openly, speaking Spanish in professional settings, and counseling students who may have had similar cultural experiences.

The full article can be found online at <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/967819574/12/>.



TAX DEDUCTIBILITY OF DONATIONS

Take advantage of the tax benefits that come from year-end donations. Consider this information below from Mountain View CPAs.

INDIVIDUALS

To deduct charitable donations, individuals normally must itemize their deductions. To receive benefit from itemized deductions, the total deductions must be greater than the taxpayer's standard deduction. Standard deduction amounts for 2021 are as follows:

- **Married Filing Jointly** **\$25,100**
- **Head of Household** **\$18,800**
- **Single** **\$12,550**

Common itemized deductions include medical expenses, mortgage interest, taxes, and charitable donations. If the total of all these deductions is greater than the individual's standard deduction, the taxpayer may benefit from making charitable donations.

Donations are further limited in that only cash donations of up to 60% of the individual's adjusted gross income may be deducted. Noncash donations have lower income limits. However, for the 2021 tax year, individual taxpayers are able to deduct up to 100% of their income as cash donations.

In addition, for the 2021 tax year, there is a charitable donation deduction available to taxpayers who do not itemize. For those that use the standard deduction, they can deduct up to \$300 in cash donations or \$600 if they file married filing jointly.

Continued on page 8...

CORPORATIONS



Corporations may deduct cash and noncash donations on their corporate tax return. Normally, these donations are limited to 10% of the corporation's taxable income. However, for the 2021 tax year, this limit has been increased to 25%.

For noncash donations, corporations must reduce the allowable deduction by the amount of gain that would have been recognized if the property had been sold instead.

TRUSTS AND ESTATES



Trusts and estates can deduct up to 100% of their net income as a charitable donation. To do so, the terms of the donation need to be described in either the trust document or the will. In addition, trusts need to be set up as complex trusts in order to make tax deductible donations.

Making individual donations before an estate is established may be a way to avoid paying transfer tax on date of death. Estates pay federal transfer tax if their gross value is over \$11.7 million in 2021. They will pay WA state transfer tax if the estate value is over \$2,193,000. If the individual makes charitable donations to reduce the value of their estate below that threshold, they will not pay tax when the estate is established.

Make a Donation Fast

To make fast year-end donations go to www.centralia.edu/foundation/donate.aspx.

Port of Chehalis has deep ties to Centralia College

If you're looking for Blazer alumni, you'll have a good chance of catching a few at the Port of Chehalis. Four employees have taken classes, have graduated, or will soon graduate as CC Blazers.

"Education is definitely something we need as an employer, whether it's training to come into a job or training we need to grow and develop," said outgoing Chief Executive Officer Randy Mueller. "The college has been a great partner for us." Mueller started taking radio broadcasting classes at CC right after graduating from Centralia High School. He was hired to

work in radio as a CC student and had a cross-country career on the radio and as a mobile DJ. He went on to earn his bachelor's and two master's degrees. He's been CEO at the port since 2014 and will be taking a similar position at the Port of Ridgefield in December.

"My whole family has used Centralia College in one way or another," he added. His wife, Stacy Mueller, went to CC, as did his daughter, Carly Noble, who is currently earning a degree in social work at the University of Washington-Tacoma.

Continued on page 10...



Taking over for Mueller as CEO in December will be Lindsey Senter, the port's current director of operations and administration. She earned her associate degree from CC in 2016 and is now in her final year of CC's bachelor's degree in Applied Management with an emphasis in accounting. Senter is earning her degree online while working full-time at the port and having a family.

"I did a lot of research on online programs," she said. "Centralia College won out because it had the coursework I wanted. I wanted something with a focus in management and accounting. And, it's local."

For Dana Lampert, the port's facilities manager, the college helped him get the welding skills he needed to maintain the port's buildings, vehicle fleet, equipment, and nearly 200 acres of property. He took a welding course through CC's Continuing and Community Education program.

"It was hands-on, which I liked, and it covered a lot of the shop setup and tools," he said. "It was exactly what I needed."

The port was exactly what Justine Pense needed in 2019. At the time, she was a Centralia College student earning an associate degree in criminal justice. She took a work-study job at the port and, when she graduated in December 2020, she was hired on full-time as the port's office manager.

"I really appreciated Monica (Brummer) in the Student Job Center," she said. "She helped me through the work-study process and she was right there to help me and answer all my questions. And, that got me into this job right away."

All four port employees said the college has provided direct benefit to their careers. Whether it's a single class to learn or perfect a new skill or earning an entire degree or certificate, training can yield big benefits.



Justine Pense, Dana Lampert, Lindsey Senter, and Randy Mueller stop for a photo at the 2021 Foundation Gala on Nov. 6.



FOUNDATION AWARDS \$462,250 IN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2021-22

The scholarship night celebrations were canceled this year due to pandemic crowd restrictions, but there is much to celebrate. For 2021-22, the CC Foundation awarded \$462,250 in scholarships to 319 students – 223 two-year students and 69 bachelor's degree students.

"We really miss having the scholarship night celebrations on campus, but we were able to bring a small group of donors that wanted a direct connection with their students to campus for photos and a meeting," said Christine Fossett, vice president of advancement and foundation executive director. "Hopefully by the time next year, we'll all be together in person."

You can meet and see the faces of the 2021-22 scholarship recipients at www.centralia.edu/about/news/2021-scholarships.aspx.

Donate to a student's education by making a donation today www.centralia.edu/foundation/donate.aspx. For more information on how to establish a scholarship in your name or in someone's memory, call Christine at 360-623-8451.

Scholarship Voices



Alex Hubbell

Nursing

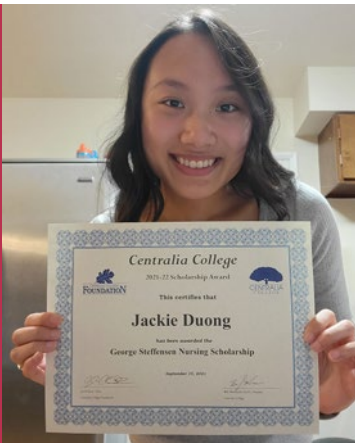
“My first year of nursing school was extremely difficult with the new online COVID-19 curriculum and I am sure this year will also be stressful. But, with your aid, I have one less thing to worry about and that could make all the difference in helping me achieve my goal of becoming a registered nurse.”



Azhia Camps

Associate Degree-Transfer

“Thank you for providing me with this scholarship and allowing me to open doors I would not have been able to open without financial support. Reaching the financial goal for me to attend college, especially in the medical field, has been a burden for me for years. . . This blessing truly lifts a weight off my shoulders and I am very grateful.”



Jackie Duong

Nursing

“You have lifted my financial burden, which will allow me to focus on my schooling. Making a difference in someone’s life is so impactful to me and to them, which has made me pursue it even more. With this scholarship, it would help benefit and push me closer towards my end goal of becoming a nurse practitioner so that I can start helping people as soon as possible. Thank you for your generous investment in me to achieve my career goals.”

CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN SOON ON NEW ATHLETIC FIELDS



Construction of a new multisport athletics complex at the corner of Iron Street and Centralia College Boulevard is set to begin Spring.

The sports complex, which will include fields for baseball, softball, and soccer, will use modern turf composed of grass-like fibers supported by soft, tiny balls of cork or other material that works like dirt to hold each blade aloft. The turf is porous, allowing rain to flow straight through into a drainage system. There's no need to wait for the field to dry out to play.

The new fields will encourage more athletic participation and enhance Centralia College's recruiting power. The college is considering adding a men's soccer team once the field is completed. It already fields teams for women's soccer, baseball, and softball. Those teams currently play on shared community fields in Centralia. The college has been planning for this



addition since 1999, when it started buying up the 40-some lots needed for the complex. Students have contributed more than \$3 million toward the project through student fees, but more is needed to improve and finish the site.

The Foundation is raising funds to provide ancillary equipment to enhance the athlete and fan experience. The foundation's recent gala raised money for sound systems for all three fields, as well as portable bleachers for soccer and overflow seating.

The Foundation will be seeking donors to sponsor other amenities for this turf field. If you are interested or have ideas, please contact Christine at 360-623-8451 or christine.fossett@centralia.edu.



Donors Gather to Celebrate at Gala

Over 100 supporters of the foundation met in person on Nov. 6 to celebrate annual successes and to raise money for the upcoming athletic field accessories. More than \$37,000 was raised to benefit sound systems, portable bleachers, and student scholarships.

Platinum

Union Bank
Lucky Eagle Chehalis Tribe

Gold

Port of Chehalis
Security State Bank
Kaufman Construction

Silver

Columbia Bank
Rainier Connect
SCJ Alliance

Bronze

Farmers Insurance - Corwin-Rey
Joanne Schwartz
Bob and Liz Mohrbacher
Innovations in Eyecare
Hillier, Scheibmeir, Kelly and Satterfield

Jazz Quintet

First Allied Securities
Pacific Mobile

Chocolate & Wine

Awards West
Centerpieces
Schinnell Surveying

If you would like to support the foundation, the athletic field, or the upcoming capital campaign please go to www.centralia.edu/foundation/donate.aspx and help our students today!



The Blazer Band provided top-notch music for guests.



Members of the board of trustees and administration supported the gala in full force.



Joe Dolezal, president of the foundation board, speaks about foundation successes and needs.



Larry and Becky McGee look over the silent auction art for sale.



CC's newest trustee, Pretrina Mullins, and her husband, Ed, look at the hand-turned wood bowl created from the Oregon Myrtle tree that was located on campus.





CENTRALIA COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

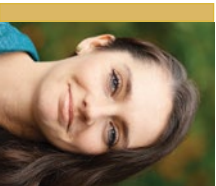
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Join the Alumni Association

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

Alumni, contact us to update your records and make sure we have
you listed as CC alumni. Email us at foundation@centralia.edu

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