We ARE involved in our community

On behalf of all who have been affiliated with the Centralia College - past, present and future - I want to express my appreciation to the City of Centralia for honoring the college by changing the name of Locust St. to Centralia College Blvd. This speaks volumes about the respect and esteem with which the community holds the college. We are truly honored to be part of a great community.

As I reflect on some of the past year’s accomplishments of the college’s outstanding faculty and staff I am proud to point to the exponential growth of our Energy Technology program, which is fast becoming an internationally recognized training Center of Excellence. From this effort we are seeing burgeoning partnerships with the energy industries, other 2- and 4-year colleges, and with labor, all of which will create opportunities for our students.

I am also proud of the role we played in assisting Cardinal Glass. When the glass furnaces fired this summer they had to have a trained workforce in place to run the operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for 10-14 years. Our pre-employment training program has helped them with their successful start.

We are continuing to see tremendous growth in on-line and other distance education delivery modes. It is now possible to earn an AA degree without setting foot on campus. However, we would still love for everyone to come to graduation. The new millennium generation has grown up with computers and instant access to information; as these students enter our system they are forcing us into new ways of teaching and learning - what a great and exciting challenge!!

There is also new activity in our outreach to diverse populations. We are broadcasting RADIO EN ESPAÑOL on a part-time basis through the college’s FM radio station KCED 91.3 FM. We have created a unique support system for Hispanic students and other students of color through our Diversity Center which has been assisted in its philosophy by our Board of Trustees Hispanic community scanning process.

The college continues to expand its wireless capabilities so that students have greater access to educational resources everywhere on campus and we are beginning to take full advantage of the Internet as we explore the uses of Internet2 and develop our Web site to better serve our constituents.

This listing touches on a few accomplishments of the recent past yet leads me to look at our future.

I firmly believe that Centralia College is on the threshold of great things. We are less than a year away from breaking ground on a $32 million science building. We are beginning the capital campaign to raise the last $1 million dollars for a $5 million dollar renovation of our athletic facility. And, we are just a few years away from a new college commons. These projects will do as much as anything to change the landscape of education at the college and improve our ability to serve our students and the community.

My vision for Centralia College is to be the best community college in the state of Washington, a driver in the local economy and the intellectual heart and cultural soul of the community. Our promise to our students is that we will always do our best to serve them and that we will always be there for them and their children and grandchildren.

I am honored and excited to serve as president of the Centralia College Foundation during its silver anniversary year. Twenty-Five years ago a small group of local community leaders had a vision of an organization that would help our college better serve our students and community. This vision took shape slowly, but as the saying goes “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” Each year more of those steps were taken, and while the journey is far from over we are well on our way.

Milestones help mark our progress throughout the journey, and this year, beginning with this report we will be highlighting the accomplishments that reinforce our commitment and direction. From equipment to scholarships and endowments to buildings, the Foundation has helped the college move forward, address challenges, and most important of all, provide students who will become productive citizens and our future leaders an educational opportunity.

Over the past eighty years, thousands of students have benefited from the education received from Centralia College. One of the Foundation’s major goals this year is to re-connect alumni with the college and each other. Our alumni can provide the college and community with a diverse range of supporting activities; from serving on advisory committees to teaching classes, from volunteering for events to obtaining sponsorships for those events, and many other avenues of service. Most important of all, the alumni can help spread the message that their Centralia College experience helped improve their lives and can help others improve theirs. Although not a milestone, our belief is that this effort will speak to the quality of our journey through the product of our educational efforts.

As stated earlier, I am fortunate to have the second year of my term coincide with the silver anniversary of the Centralia College Foundation. Please honor those who initiated our journey and join us as we continue the journey and make the college and our community an even better place to live and learn.
The bus stops here:
college acquires tour bus

A quick conversation in the line at a local bank has turned into a golden opportunity for Centralia College. As a result of a chance meeting between college Athletic Director Bob Peters and Bruce Alves, former women's volleyball coach, the college acquired a 44-passenger, 1985 Neoplan bus. The vehicle was originally owned by former world heavyweight boxing champion Larry Holmes, who in 1989 sold it to the Pacific Cataract and Laser Institute (PCLI) in Chehalis. Bruce bought the bus from PCLI in 2001 and had it stored at the Centralia-Chehalis airport. Once told of the college’s interest, he and the college quickly reached agreement on a $6,000 price and the bus was sold to the college.

Once the bus was received, the Associated Students of Centralia College (ASCC) agreed to pay $5,000 for various repairs and renovations. The diesel technology department went over the vehicle to ensure the safety, and dependability concerns were addressed. New front tires were installed and a windshield was ordered. College baseball coach Bruce Pocklington took the wheel covers to his shop class for renovation.

The major portion of the renovation however, was painting the exterior from beige and white to the blue and gold of Centralia College. Under guidance from Eric Garcia from Larry’s Cars in Centralia, the bus received body work and a coat of blue metallic paint.

Next to step up was Tom Alderson, owner of Alderson’s Awards West Printwares in Centralia. Tom worked up lettering for the college name, logo, and a listing of supporters of the bus project.

Although ready for use, the project continues. Future plans call for new seat covers, carpeting, a DVD system suitable for instructional videos on field trips, and an upgrade to an automatic transmission from manual. The foundation has set up an account to receive donations to help with the upgrades.

“This is a tremendous asset for the college. The contributions and support made by people and businesses in the community are making this a reality,” said Steve Ward, foundation executive director. “This bus upgrades the level of service the college can now provide.”

Centralia College expands its horizon with Visiting Professor program

“The all-too-brief Msiska experience was a splendid opportunity for our community to vicariously visit and appreciate his homeland. Malawi is known as “The Warm Heart of Africa,” for the naive innocence of her people and the characteristic warmth and generosity that flourishes there in spite of grinding poverty.

At the same moment, Dr. Msiska forced us to look at our own society through eyes that had never seen such impossible extravagance or material impatience. Even a person of his learning and intellect, for example, couldn't imagine the prospect of electricity arriving in his residence at every hour of every day. He actually had to learn to use a thermostat to challenge the chilly spring mornings in Centralia; it was something outside his experience. In Malawi, the availability of electricity for a few hours each evening is a nearly unthinkable luxury. Even in the largest cities of Lilongwe, Blantyre, and Mzuzu the theaters and street markets have closed by 9 or 10 p.m. for want of light.

Through his gentle patience Dr. Msiska caused each of us to recognize the struggle faced daily by most of the world's people—and perhaps to better appreciate the embarrassment of riches we routinely enjoy every day.

The inaugural chapter of the visiting professor program at Centralia College was all we could have hoped it would be; Dr. Msiska treated us to a brilliant image of modern Africa even as he held a mirror to our eyes.

That is how learning happens, and we eagerly look forward to the next diverse leader who comes to our campus.

By sharing knowledge with people from other cultures we improve our understanding of the world in which we live. This exchange of ideas, culture, and life experiences makes us better people and better equipped to deal with the world. It is our responsibility to do this.” Dr. Jim Walton

When the spring quarter began earlier this year, Centralia College welcomed the first in a proposed series of visiting professors, Dr. Augustine Msiska, from the University of Livingstonia in Malawi, Africa.

Dr. Msiska’s three-month tenure was remarkable for the great insight he provided into one of the world’s poorest emerging nations. His charm and social honesty also allowed us to examine our own cultural attitudes and lingering biases from an altogether different perspective.

“The bus stops here:
college acquires tour bus

Bus, with root traced to boxer Larry Holmes, PCLI, now geared to transport college passengers

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In January 2007 a stretch of Locust Street east and west of Centralia College will disappear. In its place, thanks to the Centralia city council, will be Centralia College Boulevard, the city’s tribute to the college for the many contributions it has made to the overall quality of life in the region since its beginnings.

The name change will affect what is now W. Locust between Tower Avenue and Hemlock Street.

“We sincerely appreciate what the city is doing,” said Dr. Jim Walton, college president. “I believe that, in reality, the city of Centralia and Centralia College have been two organizations that have worked very closely together for a very long period of time. We depend a great deal on each other and share so much.” Walton added that the city and the college have and will continue to benefit greatly from each other.

While the change of address officially takes place in January, the post office, also to be located on Centralia College Boulevard, will continue to recognize the West Locust address for one year.

Centralia College has developed unique partnerships with industry leaders to develop a training program that will meet industry standards. The college is pushing the bow wave of training through partnerships.

It was noted at the city council meeting in August, when the change was approved, that new street signage will also note the historic name of West Locust Street, thought to have been named by Centralia founder George Washington.

There will be a financial impact as the college and affected businesses change business cards, letterheads, and address on publications.

“For Centralia College, the change is most welcome,” said Walton. “We have been working on the recommendation to change the name for several years; this is an appropriate step as we continue to fill out our long-range growth plan. As we grow we want to have a stronger connection with the city.”

Walton noted that many colleges in the state reside on a street named in honor of the college.

“Community colleges throughout the state play a prominent role in their respective communities,” said Walton. “And city governments recognize the value a college holds.”

College’s Energy Technology program explodes with potential

It was a few short years ago Centralia College teamed with regional energy producer TransAlta to develop a program to train a new cadre of workers to fill a looming shortage in energy’s workforce. That seed, once planted, has grown into a program that is now providing training for energy workers from throughout the United States.

Out of that partnership has come a Center of Excellence, one of the state-recognized best training programs for students. It is one of the 11 COEs, and because of its potential, it has captured the attention of national legislative leaders and has developed strong partnerships with Labor.

“Our potential is tremendous,” said Barbara Hins-Turner. She cited the plan to utilize the Satsop facility, which remains a state-of-the-art campus that was initially constructed as a nuclear energy site. “This is a multi-million dollar campus that has not been fueled. It represents an opportunity for training students not only in energy technology but in other fields as well,” she said. “This is one reason why Labor leaders are excited about using the Satsop site: The facility is large enough to house energy technology as well as training programs for many of the trades,” said Hins-Turner.

One innovation that has come out of the Energy Technology training program is the concept of credit for prior learning.

“We are finding individuals who have a vast history of work experience in energy technology and who can benefit from having a degree. The college has teams in place to evaluate that work experience and is able to translate it into college credits. This moves them closer to a degree, which can mean high pay, career advancement or can position them to train for different jobs. It will also help fill some of the upper level vacancies throughout the industry,” she said. The credit for prior learning concept will also be applied to individuals in other fields who can benefit from a college degree.

“The fact that we’ve come so far is a real tribute to the ability of this college to generate quality training on a large scale in a short period of time,” she said.
Centralia College, in recognition of the fast-growing Spanish-speaking population in the region, has launched Spanish-language radio programming. The Spanish-language format is filling unused night and weekend time slots and runs on the frequency assigned to the college's radio station KCED-93.1 FM.

According to Dr. Jim Walton, college president, Spanish-language broadcasting will air 88 hours a week. The voice of the new station format will be Angel Hansen, a well-known regional Spanish-language radio and TV host and a leader in the Spanish-speaking community.

“We recognize the tremendous growth of Spanish-speakers in the region,” said Walton. “Centralia College has a responsibility to reach out and support that population. We are able to do that by making better use of our existing radio station and transmitting capabilities.” He said the Spanish-language broadcasting has funding, through a federal Perkins grant, that will carry the effort until more permanent funding sources can be put in place. College staff and the Centralia College Foundation are supporting the fund-raising effort.

Dr. Michael Grubiak, the college’s vice president for Student Services said that demographic studies peg the Lewis County Hispanic population of at least 4,500 and is considered one of the fastest-growing populations in the region.

“There is a growing number of Spanish-speakers in this region who want to learn. Centralia College has done an excellent job of helping to meet the needs of this population but it must continue to demonstrate its commitment to serving all populations. It is our duty to engage the region’s Spanish-speaking population,” said Grubiak.
The Centralia College Foundation does make a difference. Just ask these students.

Conner Hogue
“The scholarship helped me realize that my hard work was being repaid, in a way. It took a load off me, both in providing recognition and the financial help I needed to go to college. I probably could have managed, but it would have been a struggle.”

Tyler Johnson
“My scholarship was very important to me. I sincerely thank all the donors who care enough to make scholarships possible. Those contributions do make a difference.” Tyler completed studies at Centralia College in 2006.

Amy Hall
“Since I’m earning my own way through college, it was a great relief to get the financial support from the Centralia College Foundation. It’s also nice to be recognized for your hard work and past achievements. That’s an important kind of support.”

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2005-06 CENTRALIA COLLEGE/FOUNDATION REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

30-YEAR VETERAN OF SCIENCE PROGRAM STEPS DOWN

The fall quarter opened in September with a conspicuous vacancy in the teaching ranks. Greg Garman, senior faculty member and one of the most highly respected professors ever at Centralia College, retired from full time service last spring. He left behind an unblemished record of service over his distinguished career.

After earning an undergraduate degree in California, a master’s at Oregon State, and a tour at the Army Medical Field School, Garman joined the faculty at Centralia College in 1973. “It was my first and only ‘real’ job,” he laughed. Garman spent more than 30 years in classrooms and laboratories here, and to the continuing benefit of the students at Centralia College he expects to continue teaching on a more relaxed, part-time schedule.

Garman said he considered his position at Centralia College as “one of the chief advantages of my life.” He continued, “I’ve been able to have a greater impact on students here than I could ever have had at a large university. This college has a heart.”

Besides being one of the most effective and popular teachers on the faculty, Garman has been active in virtually every phase of college administrative activities, from accreditation, marketing, and research to being science division chairman for more than a decade.

Garman has brought a level of innovation and achievement to his classes that has resulted in unqualified success for thousands of Centralia College students. Surveys have shown that his students have enjoyed an especially high rate of acceptance at colleges and universities as they pursue their further education. Garman twice won the college’s “Exceptional Faculty” award.

“The quality of our faculty continues to be a hallmark of this college,” said Dr. Jim Walton, college president. “Since it opened in 1925, Centralia College has been recognized for the outstanding cadre of instructors who bring a commitment to students, teaching, and learning. Greg Garman is a splendid example of the extraordinary level of dedication and experience our faculty brings to work every day.”

The college’s science program remains in capable hands with the arrival of Dr. Stephen Norton who takes on teaching responsibilities.
A leading electronic design engineer, inventor, and business leader was the Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient for 2006. John M. Wright, a 1960 graduate, earned his Associate of Arts in engineering at Centralia College before transferring to the University of Washington.

After earning his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in electrical engineering at the UW, Wright joined the Boeing Company on the Minuteman Missile project.

Wright joined Texas Instruments in 1968, where he helped develop a wide range of missile and weapons systems for the military. He was a leader in the development of infrared thermal imaging systems that today provide firefighters with instant victim location data in fire emergencies, constant-scan security systems for homes and businesses. These technologies are also being refined to provide a new level of automobile safety.

Another of the inventions Wright helped to develop was the GPS system, forerunner of the ubiquitous Ground Positioning Systems used today by hikers, campers, motorists, boaters, and almost everyone else in modern society.

While his expertise was in engineering and inventive thinking, Wright was recognized as a skilled leader and astute business executive. After several promotions to manager and director positions, he became executive director of three of Texas Instrument’s key divisions and was named a TI vice president of Advanced Programs.

Centralia College was and is an outstanding college. The quality of education and life experiences I received served as the foundation for the rest of my life. I continue to appreciate what the faculty did for me,” said John Wright.

Many younger students seem eager to get just enough education behind them to land a job. Others have the patience to work toward longer-range goals that offer a deeper sense of satisfaction. A case in point is Laura Scharber, a second year student with her sights set on a future in the U.S. State Department, preferably in the foreign service.

Scharber was born in Olympia and home schooled until she entered Academy Northwest in Winlock. “I enjoyed the Academy experience immensely,” she said. “It allowed me more time to study in my areas of greatest interest while still fulfilling my academic needs.”

Her immediate goals are to major in political science and to study foreign languages. She is currently studying French and Hebrew. “I hope to get a chance to study Hebrew in a synagogue or other Jewish school,” she explained. “I would really like to work in a state department job in Israel.”

A recipient of a Centralia College scholarship, Scharber agreed a scholarship was important to her success. “I can work less hours at a supplemental job to help pay my college expenses,” she explained, “so I can devote more time to studying. I think the scholarship is also an important recognition of my work and study before I came to Centralia College. Besides, “she smiled, “it makes my family pretty happy.”

Scharber was the first generation of her family born outside the New York City environment of her family ancestry. That may explain to some extent her deep interest in the culture and languages of Judaism. “In the neighborhoods where my parents and grandparents grew up,” Scharber said, “there were Italians, other Europeans, and Jewish families on the same block, and marriage between the cultures was really rather common. As a result, families might adopt the ethnic practice of one side, but not reject the religious or cultural beliefs of the other.” She paused a moment. “That’s sort of where I am,” she laughed. “I grew up in a Christian home but still have a deep desire to understand my Jewish heritage.”

Scharber came to Centralia College for the two primary reasons most students choose it. It is convenient to the family home and offers a top-class education at a fraction of the cost of resident colleges and universities elsewhere.

“We’d been told Centralia College was an excellent choice,” Scharber said, “and I found that to be the case. I am especially happy with the consideration the students receive in class. We get a well-rounded education while we are treated with respect.”

Sometime before her graduate degree program is over, she also wants to study overseas. That adventure will begin relatively soon.
There is little doubt that James Lonborg (class of 1950) was a bright young man, destined for success. It took two years at Centralia College to convince him of that. Lonborg parlayed his skills and education into a prestigious 41-year career as an engineer for the famed Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He was a prime engineer on the Cassini spacecraft, the Saturn orbiter/probe, and other mission projects for JPL and its parent organization, California Institute of Technology.

Second time’s still a charm for Exceptional faculty

It has been said that faculty are the lifeblood of a college. That fact is recognized at Centralia College and serves as the foundation upon which the college builds. To ensure that quality instruction continues, the college places a tremendous emphasis on bringing in exceptional faculty. This past year, two individuals who met the requirements as “exceptional faculty” received that honor.

Continuing the high standards of classroom instruction and service to the college and the community are Doris Wood, associate professor of English, and Greg Garman, professor of Biology. The two received the Centralia College Exceptional Faculty Award for 2006. Both are previous award recipients. They join 30 other faculty who have received this award since 1992.

Just before he was named a Centralia College Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient in 1983, Lonborg wrote:

“Centralia College ... was a vital link in the transformation of a rurally-reared, green-as-grass, 16-year-old high school graduate who knew little more than that he wished to become neither a logger nor a farmer ... I still feel that this linking, or transitional function, between high school and the large university, is a very important role for community colleges . . .”

His wife, Jean, backed that sentiment this year when she presented the foundation with a $5,000 gift honoring James. She made the gift during the foundation’s Scholarship Night.

Jean said that Jim had a wonderful career that began with his excellent foundation at Centralia College. She said that Jim valued his schooling at Centralia College and felt that he got more attention from his professors at Centralia College than if he had started at a four-year school. And he was right.

“He never stopped learning even when diagnosed with cancer two years before he passed away,” she said. He had four computers he worked on, and even made a device that magnified the letters to three inches so he could see them.

When Jean asked him why he did that he said, “I have to get smarter and I’ll never quit learning.”


Jean Lonborg, wife of preeminent space scientist James Lonborg, presents a scholarship certificate to Centralia College student Paul Allen. During Scholarship Night, Jean also presented the foundation with a donation of $5,000, which will help make education a reality for additional students. The gift was in memory of James, a 1950 grad.
Down the road, when you hear about residents of underdeveloped countries powering their refrigerators from a neighborhood solar panel, you might think that Centralia College graduate and physicist-to-be Darick Baker played a part in making that possible. Baker, a 2003 graduate of the college, is now working on his Ph.D. at the Colorado School of Mines. His research centers on developing organic solar cells, which can be used in making solar energy generation much more affordable.

Currently, large solar panels are made with non-organic material which, while reliable, place the panels out of the reach for of all but large energy producers. Baker is researching a process to build the panels from renewable resources that could lower the cost of solar power generation, giving people who have access to near-constant sunlight a cheap source of energy.

Whatever he does, Baker will be quick to recognize the role Centralia College played in his development.

Baker came out of high school not sure what he wanted to do with his life. He was offered a scholarship to attend Centralia College and accepted.

“It was the right choice for me,” said Baker, who could have attended almost any college he wanted. “I knew I would save money while living at home and that would help pay for my education when I transferred.” Baker added that there are not many students with bachelor’s degrees who do not have loans to repay.

“I thought that if I started at a four-year college I might be wasting time because I wasn’t sure of a career choice. I don’t think I would have been as happy starting at a bigger school,” he said. Starting his education in familiar environs also allowed him to focus on his education.

Another benefit of attending Centralia College was that he could explore different fields. One of those fields was electronics. After completing classes taught by Cal Taylor (electronics assistant professor), Baker said he was considering a career as an electrical engineer.

“I learned so much and realized what might be possible,” said Baker. “The electronics program was really challenging and the way the instructors taught the subject made it worthwhile.”

He took his Centralia College education to Seattle Pacific University where he earned his bachelor’s degree.

“It still wasn’t sure what I wanted to do but I found a strong interest in physics and thought that I would like to pursue my education in that field.” After earning his bachelor’s degree at SPU, he packed his bags and newfound interest and headed to the Colorado School of Mines where he is a graduate assistant.

“There’s a lot of electronics in physics,” said Baker. As a teaching assistant, Baker has the electronics skills to build equipment needed to conduct some of his experiments. “A lot of those skills I learned in electronics classes at Centralia College,” he said.

Baker’s overall education at Centralia College is serving him well as he works his way up the education ladder.

“There’s no doubt that I was ahead of a lot of other students at SPU. I knew I was better prepared, especially in math, than most of the other students. I know that I received a quality education at Centralia College,” he said.

In addition to his classroom work at Centralia College, Baker connected with four other students to form a band, The Locust Street Taxi. Band members, who all were members of the college’s jazz band, continue to perform together as much as possible. The band, in fact was on tour this past summer with a full schedule of performances.

“It has been a lot of fun but it’s going to be more difficult for me to participate but it is great when we do get together,” said Baker. It’s apparent, he noted, that Centralia College provided exactly what he needed in terms of an education and college-life experience. “I really appreciate what this college has done for me,” he said.

“Overall, Centralia College was a great experience for me,” said Baker. “Sometimes I wonder how my life would differ if had not been for Centralia College. I know that the experience prepared me for where I am now. There’s no doubt that it was the right choice.”
Foundation History

The Centralia College Foundation was born in late November, 1982, when Articles of Incorporation were filed. The move was an early effort to counter shrinking state and federal funding for the community colleges.

The purpose of the new foundation was to solicit and receive money from the private sector to compensate for the drastic cutbacks in government support. The foundation would be patterned somewhat after similar organizations that were springing up at other two-year colleges in the northwest that faced similar budget shortfalls.

The Centralia College Foundation set an equally important goal of increasing community involvement with the college. The success of the foundation for these twenty-five eventful years can best be appreciated through the following “time line” vignettes.

1982

- Founding Board met; Articles of Incorporation filed; first fund drive raised $3,500 for scholarships.

1983

- First scholarships awarded; a membership drive drew 110 members; supported the Distinguished Alumnus Award program; sponsored a new Alumni Relations program.

1984

- Continued scholarship awards and gave $10,000 to the Human Performance Lab/Fitness Center and CAPRI program.

1985

- Expanded scholarship campaign to raise $100,000 for Art and Science Center; created program to match money raised at local high schools to provide two scholarships for each on an annual basis.

1986

- Set campaign goal of $25,000 and held first community “Kickoff Dinner;” first Alumni Association meeting held 6/20; cosponsored inauguration of Sports Hall of Fame; increased high school matching program to include 10 students.

1987

- Awarded $33,000 in scholarships and mini-grants; sponsored the Business Roundtable with members who contributed $1,000 or more; surpassed $100,000 campaign goal by over 50 percent; supported first student honors society on campus.

1988

- Foundation president Scott Hamilton issued a “$250,000 Challenge” as the campaign goal—a total of $585,000 was received; scholarships and mini-grants reached new funding levels.

1989

- Dedicated Minnie Lingreen Building; sponsored senior citizen classes; raised more than $150,000 for scholarships; renovated Blazer Hall, created the Batie Natural Science Center and the Kiser Botanical Gardens.

1990

- Surpassed a $125,000 scholarship campaign goal by raising $210,000 from the community; new college library dedicated; Alumni Association refurbished 2 of the original 5-globe lamps from the old CHS building.

1991

- Began property purchases adjacent to campus; started the Exceptional Faculty Endowment; the campaign raised $196,000; scholarships and mini-grants continued; Foundation assets reached $1 million for the first time.

1992

- Annual campaign surpassed $250,000, including a gift to establish the Small Business Development Center; began fund raising for a Child Development Center; 116 students received over $70,000 in scholarships.

1993

- The campaign netted nearly $165,000; over $60,000 went for scholarships and educational mini-grants; received a Ronald McDonald grant for the Child Development Center toddler playground.
1994 The first of two grants from the Hanke estate swelled the available funding to $696,000 for the year; began Heritage Court, launched “Leadership Lewis County,” and continued an unbroken series of scholarship awards with $80,000 in grants.

1995 Began planning for Centralia College East; the planned giving program received the second part of the Hanke grant, raising the year’s total to over $1,310,000; the annual campaign raised $170,000 from the community at large.

1996 The campaign brought in $228,220; another $250,000 was received from the US Forest Service to apply to construction of Centralia College East; Staeger Small Business Development Center opened.

1997 The campaign raised $222,700, well over the goal set earlier; Centralia College East was dedicated; Foundation assets climbed to over $4.5 million while scholarship and mini-grant totals continued to increase.

1998 The campaign raised $688,000 even as a capital campaign was planned to supplement funding for the Education Complex, which would become Washington Hall; 120 students received scholarships.

1999 The $233,000 goal was met and $165,000 in scholarships was awarded; scholarships, Exceptional Faculty, and Distinguished Alumnus programs continued; the capital campaign was kicked off and over $1 million was raised.

2000 The capital campaign raised more than $1.35 million for equipping the new EDC; annual campaign again supported scholarships, mini-grants, and property purchases; Associated Students awarded the Foundation $75,000 to continue funding valuable programs; the Education Complex was formally opened.

2001 Scholarship funding continued to rise with increasing community support; over $104,000 in scholarships and $15,000 in mini-grants was awarded.

2002 This marked the 21st consecutive year the Foundation awarded scholarships; faculty and alumni awards continued; sponsored the President’s Scholarship Performance series.

2003 The campaign goal was set at $300,000, while 170 scholarships went to students in the amount of nearly $162,000; supported theatre and community events; awarded a special grant to Dr. Mary Pack to participate in the Oxford Round Table.

2004 Renewed support for an alumni program; began discussion of a remodel of the gymnasium; awarded 174 student scholarships valued at over $190,000 including $15,000 in athletic grants and improvements in the 20-year practice of awarding scholarships to each valedictorian and salutatorian in local high schools.

2005 Awarded $160,000 in scholarships; planned a new capital campaign to support remodel of the 1937 gymnasium structure and facilities; hosted the Seattle to Portland bicycle event as a fundraiser; expanded community outreach programs; began planning for this year’s “Silver Anniversary” celebration.

2006 Awarded an all-time high of $287,000 in scholarships and financial aid to 187 students, another record; hosted the STP bicycle event again, brought the Centralia Go-cart Grand Prix to campus as another fundraiser; scheduled our 25th anniversary kickoff, and we’re just getting warmed up!
Centralia College Distinguished Alumnus
Established in honor of Distinguished Alumnus Award recipients.

Centralia College Exceptional Faculty
Established in 1991, annually recognizes outstanding faculty members.

Centralia College Faculty
Established in 1989 to provide scholarships for students of Centralia College.

Centralia College Foundation
Established to provide tuition for students who demonstrate academic excellence.

Chehalis American Legion, Post #22
National organization founded in 1919 by a group of veterans working for veterans.

They owned and operated the N. Churchill Glove Factory.

Vincent Coates (1917-1990)
Math and engineering instructor and registrar at Centralia College from 1948 to 1979.

Margaret Corbet (1886-1971)
First dean of Centralia College, serving from the opening of the college in 1925 until her retirement in 1949.

J.O. (1874-1942) & Lillian Taylor Davis (1884-1969)
J.O. worked as a railroad engineer. Both were very active in the Masonic Lodge.

Lloyd B. Dysart (1893-1979)
Centralia attorney and business law instructor at Centralia College from 1946 to 1965.

Arthur Ehret (1899-1974)
Chemistry instructor and registrar at Centralia College from 1925 to 1967.

Arne Fagerness (1910-1981)
Centralia resident who, along with his wife, Julia, raised nine children, most of whom attended Centralia College.

Alice Forth
A 1951 graduate of Centralia College and the first Margaret Corbet scholar. Served from 1958 to 1991 as an instructor, counselor, chair of the business education division, and dean of students at the college.

Victor Freund ((1945-2005)

Cleave E. Fuller (1912-1987)
Employee of the educational system for 12 years and a strong believer in higher education.

Fuller Market Basket
The first of three Fuller stores was opened in Chehalis in 1941 by Ed and Bill Fuller, Jr.

George Gablehouse
Physical education instructor and athletic director at Centralia College from 1958 to 1979.

George Godding/EDC
In recognition of George Godding, the first president of the Lewis County Economic Development Council. Scholarship sponsored by the EDC.

John V. Griel
Chemistry professor at Centralia College from 1947-1976.

Walter & Helen Hanke
Established by Walter Hanke prior to his death in 1996. The college received the residual of this estate in 1996 to formally establish the endowment. The Hanke’s were long-time Lewis County farmers.

Dr. Nels Hanson
The first president of Centralia College; served from 1968 to 1981.

Dr. Garrett Heyns (1891-1969)
Washington State Director of the Department of Institutions who established the Education Center at Washington Corrections Center in Shelton.

Dave Hillbiber
Former faculty member of the professional technical program at Centralia College.

Harry S. Hill, Jr.
Long-time supporter of Centralia College and its many athletic programs.

Hamlet Hipert Music
An active community citizen with a keen interest in Centralia College music programs.

Olive Irelan (1908-1995)
Teacher for 42 years and employed by the Centralia School District from 1944 to 1973. Charter Foundation board member.

Helen R. Jaeger (1929-1991)
An artist, well-known for her pottery design, and a teacher of art and elementary children.

Mark & Laura Johnson
Mark and Laura have served the state of Centralia College music programs.

Dr. Henry & Jenny Kirk Endowment
Established in 1997 to promote arts and humanities in the community.

Mattie Kirk Music Scholarship
Established by former Centralia College President Dr. Hank Kirk and his wife Mattie prior to her death in 1996, in recognition of her love and devotion to music.

Dr. Henry P. Kirk Scholarship
Former president of Centralia College, having served from 1966 to 2002.

Theolia Peterson Kirtz
Centralia College class of 1968. Teacher at Maple Lane school.

Rufus Kiser (1907-1995)
Forestry division chair at Centralia College and zoology and physical science instructor from 1941 to 1973.

Kiwanis Club of Chehalis
International service organization established in 1915. The Chehalis club formed in 1922.

Al & Marge Kuder Family
Established in 1996 by the family of Al and Marge Kuder whose five daughters attended Centralia College on scholarships and have all gone on to establish themselves in careers. Susan Kuder Dunn is a Centralia College Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient.

Lewis County Demolition Derby
Formed in 1980, provides recreation for Southwest Washington residents.

Lewis County School Retirees’ Association
Established in 1950 and affiliated with the Washington Retired Teachers Association.

Minnie Lingreen (1901-1995)
History and social science instructor at Centralia College from 1939 to 1971.

C.L. Littel (1895-1966)
Established Centralia College in 1925 while superintendent of the Centralia School District.

Todd Lovington (1951-1997)
Centralia College math instructor, chair of the college’s Strategic Planning Committee.

John H. Markham (1892-1980)
Centralia timberman who founded Mayfield Youth Camp.

Daniel J. (1896-1989) & Bertha Baumgarten (1900-1993)
They owned and operated Baumgarten Hardware and Plumbing Company from 1944 to 1958.

Thelma Brooks (1907-1976)
English instructor at Centralia College from 1958 to 1972.

Dr. Ralph O. Carlson
Established in 1996 by Janet Carlson in honor of her husband, Ralph, who was a longtime psychology instructor at Centralia College.

Centralia Advanced Education Association
Established in 1984 to provide scholarships for graduates of Centralia High School.

Centralia College Board of Trustees
Established in 1906 by the Board of Trustees.

Centralia College Booster Club Athletic Scholarship
Comprised of individuals in the community who support the Centralia College athletic program.

Centralia College Council
Established to help further student success at Centralia College.
Harold J. O'Connor
Harold is a 1930 graduate of Centralia College. He is a Centralia resident.

Helen O'Connor (1905-1994)
Established in 1988 at the same time that her husband established scholarships and the Harold O'Connor Endowment Fund.

Ellis Oliver (1920-1997) Memorial
Established by family members to honor Ellis and his commitment to education. Promotes and supports business programs.

Robert Harold O'Neill (1890-1981)
Co-founder of Hempfl-O'Neill Lumber Company in 1947, was in the lumber business for 67 years.

Pacific Cataract & Laser Institute
The largest eye surgery center in the Pacific Northwest. Founded January 1985, by Helgi Heidar, M.D., and Robert O. Ford, M.D.

Francis J. & Alice L. Paulus Trust
Graduates of Centralia College, retired and living in Centralia. Francis was employed by the railroad and Alice worked for the telephone company.

Performing Arts Society
Created to help further the performing arts.

Thor J. (1919-1975) & M. Helen Peterson
Thor was a teacher and coach at Centralia High School. Helen is a retired pharmacist.

Petra Insurance Scholarship
Long-term insurance company that recognizes the importance of education to enhance the quality of life in Lewis County.

Phi Theta Kappa
Centralia College Honors Society for students pursuing an associate degree. Dedicated to the memory of Timothy Scott Kirk (1957-1992).

Arthur Plummer (1911-1978)
Owned and operated Twin Cities Sand & Gravel, and later, the Lakeside Motel.

Bob Reimer
Established as a memorial to the former Centralia College Athletic Director.

Ruth Reynolds (1926-1983)
Nurse at the former Centralia General Hospital and St. Helens Hospital in Chehalis.

Jerry Robinson
A long-time Centralia School District teacher and administrator.

Esther Robinson (1917-1984)
Endowment Fund for Art Scholarships
Art student and librarian in the Centralia School District.

Rotary District 5020
Rotary is an international service organization founded in 1905. District 5020 represents Rotary clubs in Washington and British Columbia.

Security State Bank
Established to provide business scholarships to Lewis County students. Long-time banking institution with great community support.

June M. (Lake) Sippola (1917-1993)
Founder and director of the LPN program at Centralia College – 1954 to 1977.

Delilford M. Smith
Centralia College class of 1950; Distinguished Alumnus in 1991. Founder and owner of Evergreen International Aviation, Inc.

Fay Benjamin (1988-1964) & Mary Burkham Smith (1900-1970)
He taught school for over 40 years, many of those years in Chehalis. She was a nurse at the former Chehalis St. Helen's Hospital.

Society of American Foresters, SW Washington Chapter Memorial Scholarship
Memorial to Joseph M. Jackson, a Native American, who died in 1988.

Earl Schwiesow
A quality contractor who believed in the importance of education.

Sterling Savings
Providing continuous service to the community since 1921.

David Spogen
A life-long advocate for education and dedicated to promoting students in vocational callings including diesel technology.

Olga Kraus Stewart
Centralia Junior College’s first music instructor. Continued to teach and write original compositions until her retirement.

Eva Knight Swartwood (1887-1964)
Lewis County Auditor from 1918 to 1921; operated the Edison (First Street) Grocery in Centralia.

Gordon Sweany (1913-1986)
First Distinguished Alumnus (1978) and former CEO and chairman of the board at SAFECO.

Darold Talley (1929-2002)
Established by the Centralia Junior College Reunion Committee to provide tuition support for a student athlete at Centralia College.

Tanaka Family
Created as a memorial by Tanaka family members.

The Chronicle
Local newspaper staff members who recognize the importance of educating people for positions in communications.

Founders of Lincoln Creek Lumber and West Coast Mills.

He was a business administration instructor at Centralia College from 1951-1967. She had been a teacher and a homemaker.

Title Guaranty Co. of Lewis County
Has been issuing title reports and closing real estate escrows in Lewis County since 1959.

TransAlta
(Formerly Centralia Mining & Widco)
Has operated the Centralia Coal Mine since 1971.

Dr. A. R. Twiss (1912-1994) Memorial
Family doctor in Chehalis for 36 years; retired in 1987.

Uhlmann Motors, Inc.
Established by Mr. Richard Uhlmann, a successful businessman who has proven to be a valuable community resource and supporter of higher education.

Dr. Cornelia Van Prooyen (1925-1987)
First female doctor in Lewis County. A charter Foundation board member and president in 1965-1986.

Jim (1891-1958) & Laura Barner Ward (1892-1985)
Jim was manager of the J C Penney store in Centralia. Laura was the paymaster for Eastern Railway & Lumber Co.

George Washington Minority Leadership (1817-1905)
Founder of the city that has become Centralia.

Wells Fargo Bank
The Coffman-Dobson Branch has provided service to Lewis County residents for over 100 years.

Lynn (1941-1977) & Lane Westlund (1968-1977)
Lynn owned and lived on a farm in Curtis and was a Weyerhaeuser employee. Lane was his oldest son.

Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
Weyerhaeuser has a long and productive history in Lewis County. Weyerhaeuser established the Clemmons Tree Farm in 1941, the first in the nation.

Owen C. Wicks (1903-1995)
Economics and forensics instructor at Centralia College from 1947 to 1969.

Phillip Wickstrom

Donald Widell (1931-2002)
Mr. Widell, a 1953 graduate, excelled in sports. He was inducted into the Centralia College Sports Hall of Fame in 1998.

Winlock Alumni Association
Established in 2000; this endowment was created by past Winlock high school graduates to support their current and future alumni as they further their education at Centralia College.

Bert Woodland
Established by Bert Woodland in 1996 to assist students with specific financial needs. Bert was a long-time Centralia College Geology instructor well-known for geology field trips.

Walter Wuerth (1925-1993)
A member of the Centralia College class of 1947 who was a local self-employed accountant.

George Calvin Yackley (1914-1991)
A life-long farmer who raised cattle and sheep.

Vic Freund
This year marked the passing of one of the pillars of the college community. Vic Freund was colleague, mentor, and friend to thousands of students and faculty during the years he served Centralia College.

From his beginnings in the Czech Republic and his postwar flight from the Russian Army to his studies at the University of Washington, Vic faced life’s obstacles with humor, wisdom, and wit.

He came to Centralia College in 1968 intending to stay but three years and then move along. He found what he wanted here, however, and his temporary stay extended to 37 years. Vic confessed that he was attracted by the relatively intimate perspective of a small college atmosphere.

He believed that he had found a place that allowed him to have a positive impact on the world, especially on his students and friends.

As we continue a tradition of excellence, it is proper that we pause to recognize those like Vic Freund who have helped build our reputation into a rock-solid reality.
DONORS

$25,000 and up
Legacy Circle
Chehalis Tribe
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Circle of Distinction
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Willie’s Sport Shop
Doris Wood
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We are grateful to the following sponsors of Centralia College Foundation events:

- Security State Bank - Scholarship Night
- Sterling Savings Bank - Wine Tasting Event
- Union Bank of California - Annual Kick-off event
- West Coast Bank - Foundation Night at the Theatre

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Mr. Oscar Darmon
Mr. Charles L. Dunham
Ms. Gloria Eldred
Mary Ellis
Mr. Victor E. Freund

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As you contemplate the impact of 25 years worth of generous donors, please consider how you can help future students at Centralia College to achieve their educational goals by the following options available through the Centralia College Foundation: gifts of cash, securities, or properties as well as provisions of a will, life insurance, or trusts. For additional information on how you can support the goals of the Centralia College Foundation, please call (360) 736-9391, ext. 290, or e-mail at <foundation@centralia.edu>.

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### Centralia College Foundation Balance Sheet

**June 30, 2006**  
*(As of 6/30/2006)*

#### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>General/Operating</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
<th>Endowments</th>
<th>Scholarships</th>
<th>Plant &amp; Equipment</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pooled Cash</td>
<td>6,032,278.72</td>
<td>156,563.43</td>
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<td>5,355,113.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petty Cash</td>
<td>75.00</td>
<td>75.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>160,280.56</td>
<td>90,841.27</td>
<td>4,457.74</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
<td>63,981.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due From Other Funds</td>
<td>127,752.10</td>
<td>127,752.10</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>6,320,386.38</td>
<td>375,231.80</td>
<td>170,593.61</td>
<td>5,356,113.45</td>
<td>401,336.21</td>
<td>17,111.31</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>114,140.99</td>
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<td>Buildings; net</td>
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<td>Equipment &amp; Furniture; net</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td>434,549.20</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
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<td>434,549.20</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>6,754,935.58</td>
<td>375,231.80</td>
<td>170,593.61</td>
<td>5,356,113.45</td>
<td>401,336.21</td>
<td>451,660.51</td>
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#### Liabilities & Equity

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>General/Operating</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
<th>Endowments</th>
<th>Scholarships</th>
<th>Plant &amp; Equipment</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>581,412.39</td>
<td>137,277.79</td>
<td>15,728.15</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>185,622.76</td>
<td>242,783.69</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning Fund Balance</td>
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<td>Current Year Excess (Deficit)</td>
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<td>31,630.19</td>
<td>32,617.51</td>
<td>520,562.09</td>
<td>33,269.58</td>
<td>(50,645.85)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
<td>6,173,523.19</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</strong></td>
<td>6,754,935.58</td>
<td>375,231.80</td>
<td>170,593.61</td>
<td>5,356,113.45</td>
<td>401,336.21</td>
<td>451,660.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Over the past 25 years, the college and foundation have been blessed with generous and loyal donors. Our accumulated giving records reflect those donors who have reached the following significant milestones:

- Over $1 Million
  - Walter Hanke Estate
  - Thelma M. Baxter
  - Chehalis Indian Tribe
  - Ms. Adelaide Dagasso Estate
  - Fuller’s Market Place
  - Baxter Killian Memorial Trust
  - McCall Foundation
  - Mildred Proffitt Estate
  - Security State Bank
  - Arthur and Lois Staeger
  - State Board of Community & Technical Colleges
  - Title Guaranty Company, Inc.
  - Victor DaGasso Trust
  - United State Department of Agriculture
  - Cornelia Van Prooyen Trust

- $50,000 to $99,999
  - Altrusa Intl Inc of Centralia Chehalis
  - Victor DaGasso Trust
  - Ercel Davis Estate
  - Nels Hanson
  - Dr. Helgi Heidar
  - Hank and Jenny Kirk
  - Robert and Doris O’Neill
  - Olga K. Stewart
  - Ms. Alta Sweany
  - The Chronicle
  - Vondean and Bob Thompson
  - Union Bank of CA

- $25,000 to $49,999
  - Margret Baylis Rev.Trust
  - Community Foundation
  - First Interstate Bank of Washington

- $10,000 to $24,999
  - AAUW
  - John Alexander
  - Bruce and Ann Alves
  - Darlene Bartlett
  - Howard Batte
  - Alice Forth
  - Virgil and Carol Fox
  - Bill Fuller
  - Louise Goldberg
  - Hardel Mutual Plywood
  - Ms. Olive Irelan
  - Lewis Co. Economic Dev. Council
  - Lincoln Creek Lumber
  - Larry and Becky McGee
  - Mr. and Mrs. Harold O’Connor
  - Pacific Cataract & Laser Institute
  - Pacific Foundation
  - Joan Robinson
  - John and Reiko Sato
  - Twin Cities Rotary Club
  - Uhlmann Motors
  - Bill and Helga Watterson
  - Weyerhaeuser Co. Foundation

Visions of the future: gym on shape-up plan

In 1935, near the height of the Great Depression, Centralia High School opened the doors to its new gymnasium. Seventy-some years later that gym, now serving Centralia College, is on the threshold of undergoing a major remodel. Underway is the effort to raise money necessary to pay for the long over due remodel of the fitness center including the gymnasium.

“This is an ambitious project,” said Centralia Athletic Director Bob Peters. “The facility is a tremendous resource that is used by the community and it is in need of a major overhaul.” Peters, working with the foundation, will spearhead the drive to raise the funds. Already the state has set aside $1 million in matching funds and the college will also be able to contribute.

“The gym is a major resource for this college and for the community,” said Dr. Jim Walton, college president. “Our athletic teams are only a few of the teams that use the gym. Other teams hold practices there, we have a host of physical education classes in the gym, the fitness center is in use almost nonstop, and the gym is used by the public for a variety of activities.

“It’s a remodel that is long overdue, and one that will make our gym much more attractive to students and to community users,” said Walton.

Perhaps the most visible outside change will be the revamped front entrance.

“The two entrances on the north were back doors to the gym when it was built,” said Steve Ward, vice president of Finance and Administration. The gym faced the high school, which was located just south of the gym. Ward said an entry midway between the east and west doors on the north side “will serve as the main portal to the building.” The new entry will feature a ticket booth, concession area, and small conference room. There will be new bleachers and an upgrading of the locker rooms.

The remodel will add the kinesiology and plyometrics labs, which will extend the building into what is now the south side parking lot.

The project is expected to cost about $4 million. Over $2 million is currently in hand state matching funds will also be available. Construction on the project, pending availability of funds, could begin in 2007.

In addition to the work on the college’s fitness center, the college will be expecting word from the 2007 Legislature on the $28 million to fund the new science building. Pending approval, construction could begin during the summer of 2007. For further information on these projects, please contact the foundation at (360) 736-9391, ext. 290.
Higher education institutions share many of the same characteristics as their private sector business counterparts. Salaries, benefits, equipment, goods and services and capital projects are expenditures for both private and public entities. Centralia College ranks among the larger operations in the area, with nearly $25 million in expenditures and approximately 800 full- and part-time employees. As a result, the college serves as a major resource to the economic structure of the community. In addition to providing education and training resources, take a look at some of the numbers to see just how the college contributes to the region’s economy.

Over the past year (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006) college employees earned $12.1 million in salaries and $3.8 million in benefits. During the same time period, the college spent $1.2 million on capital projects (construction, remodeling, and improvements) and $656,000 in equipment.

Student workers received $388,000 in wages, as part of a $4 million program that includes financial aid and scholarships. The vast majority of the students are local, thus the aid greatly impacts the region.

Over 60 percent of the employees live in the Lewis and south Thurston counties, making the salaries paid by the college a major factor in the local economy. These family incomes help support local businesses, school districts, fire districts, and the infrastructure provided by county and city governments.

### Centralia College Expenditure Statement

**June 30, 2006**

**Operations:**
- Salaries .................................................. $12,098,582
- Benefits .................................................... 3,789,434
- Goods and Services ................................. 2,957,564
- Travel .......................................................... 187,419
- Equipment ............................................... 656,407
- Total Operations ..................................... $19,689,415

**Capital Projects** ........................................ 1,198,070

**Student Employment** ................................ 388,219

**Scholarships and Financial Aid** ....................... 3,599,151

**Total Expenditures** ................................... $24,874,855

**Employees** – During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, the college employed 253 full-time and 541 part-time faculty and staff. Of the total faculty and staff, 555 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 $395,475. These payments are for services, fees, permits, and utilities.

**Taxes** – The college is exempt from property tax. However it operates a food service and bookstore that generated $1.27 million of taxable sales revenue, which resulted in sales tax collections of $99,000.

**Major construction on the horizon**

In was about five years ago that Centralia College opened its doors of Washington Hall to students and to the public. Now the college is on the doorstep of breaking ground on the proposed science complex, a 68,000+ square foot structure to be built near the center of campus.

It is expected that ground breaking, pending approval by the Washington state Legislature during the coming legislative session, will take place during the summer of 2007. It is expected that the building, which will replace Ehret Hall, Lingreen Hall, and the Bate Science Center, will cost nearly $30 million.

Work could then begin in 2009 on the Student Commons building. Funding for that structure was guaranteed by the students, who voted to impose a fee on themselves. If efforts for that building continue as expected, it will sit on the south side of the Aadland Esplanade on land that is now a college parking lot.

The college will also continue its plans to find suitable accommodations for a growing Child and Family Studies program, which now is using facilities throughout the campus.

“There is no doubt that Centralia College will continue to grow to meet its mandate to become the best community college in the state,” said Dr. Jim Walton, college president.
The Centralia College Foundation attracted another popular regional summer event this year, hosting an exciting weekend of wheel-to-wheel, high-speed kart races. They were the first-ever sanctioned street races to be held in the City of Centralia.

The “Hub City Grand Prix” followed the Seattle-to-Portland bicycle stopover on the college campus. The bicycle weekends attract upward of 20,000 riders and their support groups for a midpoint and optional overnight stay during the grueling ride.

This was the second year for the STP riders at Centralia College, while the inaugural kart-racing weekend was the first time the high-speed karts and street equipped dirt bikes — also known as “Motards” — have visited the area. It brought more than 1200 drivers, pit crews, and supporters to the campus. Organizers for both events had high praise for their reception at Centralia College, the facilities that were made available, and the great cadre of volunteers organized by the foundation for these events. Both will be back next summer.

“Both the STP and the Grand Prix were opportunities for us to bring a lot of people and a solid economic boost to the community, while providing great entertainment for the local citizens,” said Steve Ward, the foundation’s executive director. “Our students, staff, and community volunteers did a tremendous job of making these exciting events come off smoothly,” he continued. “We believe these and future high-visibility events will further cement our growing position in the community we serve.”

Hundreds of spectators turned out for the kart races, in which the undersized cars and motorcycles hit straightaway speeds in excess of 80 MPH. Planners expect a larger crowd next year in the wake of the popular support the races received this summer.

These events also raised nearly $18,000, which is earmarked for athletic program scholarships and expenses for the intercollegiate teams at the college.

“The STP and the kart races are a great way for us to show off our college to the region,” said Dr. Jim Walton, college president. “The foundation and the many volunteers have made these events a resounding success. We commend the foundation,” Walton continued, “for the initiative, energy, and hard work it took to stage these events.”

Centralia College will continue as a focal point for expanded summer activities. To see pictures and other information regarding these events log on to centraliacollegefoundation.org.