As I begin my sixth year with Centralia College, I am impressed with the progress we have made and encouraged by our prospects for the future. What we have accomplished so far serves as a prelude for even higher levels of service to our students and our community.

Our community involvement was exemplified this past year when TransAlta closed its mining operations, putting 600 people out of their jobs. The college’s actions demonstrated how quickly we are able to respond to an overwhelming community crisis.

We opened our doors to the dislocated workers and their families to provide career guidance. We then partnered with business, industry, community, and political leaders to craft new training programs and revise existing programs to prepare the workers to rejoin the workforce in a short period of time.

One component of our growth that reflects our commitment to higher levels of service is the birth of Centralia College Online. We recognized that increasing numbers of learners are turning to the Internet. With the work of our dedicated staff and faculty, we quickly put together an associate in arts degree option for online learners.

I want to point out that Centralia College has joined with other colleges and universities across the nation to be a part of a Presidents’ Climate Commitment. This requires us to model ways to minimize global warming emissions, and to do what we can to educate students to help achieve climate neutrality.

These examples help mark our pledge of service to our students and to our community and more about our progress is available within the pages of the Report. These and other initiatives are possible because of the high quality of faculty and staff who have chose to be a part of the Centralia College family.

These are, indeed, exciting times for all of us.
Governor Gregoire announced that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) expanded the Opportunity Grants program, totaling $10.6 million, to include all 34 colleges in the system. Centralia College’s share of the grant is $340,000.

“To be competitive in the global marketplace, businesses in Washington seek to hire skilled workers,” said Governor Gregoire. “Public investment in the Opportunity Grants builds pathways that allow low-income students to pursue education leading to employment in high demand jobs.”

Durham plans to major in music, but she insists that is a means to a special end for her. “My eventual goal,” she explained, “is to go into the Christian youth ministry, particularly in a music setting.” For that reason, she hopes to transfer to Vanguard College in Costa Mesa, California for her Christian academic work.

Durham describes her decision to attend Centralia College in the most practical of terms. “It is just the smartest thing to do because it is saving me thousands of dollars,” she said. “I can make the transition to college while I stay in a family setting, and the educational advantages of Centralia College are common knowledge.”

When she earned a Centralia College scholarship, Durham conceded that it might have been the single event that opened the college experience for her. “Without the scholarship, I might not have succeeded,” she acknowledged. “With it, the pressure is a lot less and my chances to succeed are a lot better!”

Major grant helps Centralia College create access for the region’s low income population

When Kaylen Durham graduated from Toledo High, she left behind an enviable record of academic and extra-curricular involvement. An exemplary student, Durham was captain of her volleyball team, member of a national student honor society, and secretary of the Associated Student Body.

Durham plans to major in music, but she insists that is a means to a special end for her. “My eventual goal,” she explained, “is to go into the Christian youth ministry, particularly in a music setting.” For that reason, she hopes to transfer to Vanguard College in Costa Mesa, California for her Christian academic work.

Durham describes her decision to attend Centralia College in the most practical of terms.

The sound of student success

Scholarship makes Kaylen’s decision “the smartest thing to do”

Each college’s direct costs for infrastructure and support services – such as counseling and advising, mentoring, tutoring, outside-of-the-classroom support services, campus project coordinator – are also supported by the grants.

Currently, Centralia College is making Opportunity Grant funds available to students who choose to enter Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, and Accounting. The Certified Nursing Assistant program, a 16-credit program that provides certification in the basics of care giving, which can lead to immediate employment or can put the student on track to enter other college programs is also available.

The pilots at community and technical colleges showed excellent results, with more than 80 percent of students staying in school and completing their classes.

Those interested in the program at Centralia College need to contact Bev Gestrine or Durelle Sullivan at 736-9391, ext. 351 or 378.

A high school diploma or a GED is no longer enough to get a good paying job with benefits, and the Legislature is committed to creating opportunities for more students to obtain higher education to succeed in high demand areas.

Opportunity Grants help address the real costs of low-income adult students while they are in college. The average household income for participants in the pilot phase was less than $11,500 per year for an household of three.

“This program fits the priorities of our two-year colleges to improve academic achievement for all students, implement innovative delivery models, and be responsive to the needs of businesses and the economy,” said SBCTC Executive Director Charlie Earl.

“This is a totally new and innovative way of delivering financial support. And it works.”

“Public investment in the Opportunity Grants builds pathways that allow low-income students to pursue education leading to employment in high demand jobs.”
Do you want evidence that Centralia College produces quality graduates? Check out this year’s Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient, Dr. Jill Wakefield. This 1972 Centralia College grad rose through the ranks to become president of South Seattle Community College. While her education was setting the stage to qualify her for the presidency of a community college, her energy and vision set the tone for the college’s future.

“It is exciting to see how education changes lives. Every day I talk to students who turn to the community college to improve their standard of living, students who are training for and getting great jobs. There is real change in that individual, in his or her family, and in society. I see people who develop their self-esteem, learn, and succeed,” said Dr. Wakefield. “Those who work for community colleges get to make a difference in lives and in this country.”

Dr. Wakefield was appointed president of South Seattle Community College in January 2003.

Among her accomplishments, Dr. Wakefield is responsible for reorganizing and developing new instructional programs and for her leadership of college-wide strategic planning and accreditation, which received commendations in six major areas. Her research, presentations and publications have been focused on business and college partnerships that lead to more effective training and fund development. She was honored as Communicator of the Year by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations and was selected for the Institute for Executive Management at Harvard University and the Executive Leadership Institute sponsored by the League for Innovation.

Under her leadership at South Seattle, Dr. Wakefield has implemented a bachelor’s degree-granting program, one of the first in the state for a two-year college, that allows students to earn a bachelor’s degree in Hospitality Management. She also put in place the popular Northwest Wine Academy, an innovative program at the community college level.

She has also provided the leadership that has led South Seattle Community College to have the highest enrollments of people of color among all the state’s community and technical colleges.
Centralia College Online expands to embrace a new world of e-learners

College’s quality education provides launching pad for quality students

Sean Wylan now has the kind of job a lot of young people dream about: he’s writing code for a software company. While it isn’t code for games, his new employer, TransCore, is on the cutting edge of transportation technology.

Wylan, a Centralia College Running Start student who earned his Associate in Science degree and his high school diploma in 2004, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Washington in 2007. He has a minor in Spanish.

He is quick to compliment Centralia College for the quality education he received here and the faculty who made a lasting impression on him.

“I can look back on my education at Centralia College and compare the experiences at both schools. The classes and the teachers at Centralia College were every bit as good,” said Wylan. “I enjoyed the classes, the teachers were solid and I was able to take advantage of the social activities that were available. I was prepared when I went to the UW.”

One of the positives that moved Wylan through the educational system more quickly was the fact that he was able to transfer his credits seamlessly. He wanted to attend the UW because of the quality reputation of its electrical engineering department but taking the first two years while living at home saved on living expenses and tuition costs. Through Running Start, he paid no tuition.

Wylan said he considered himself shy while in Centralia High School. “Coming here helped open me up a little. I was able to talk to classmates, and teachers made it easier to connect.” Wylan, while attending Centralia College, was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the college’s honor society.

He appreciates the quality of his time at Centralia College for other reasons as well. “The experiences here were different, much more personal. I really liked the smaller classes because I could ask questions and communicate with other students. I learn better in a small class environment,” said Wylan.

And the Spanish? “It is more of a personal thing for me. It isn’t tied too closely to his major but then who knows, with his skills he may open up a whole new world for transportation engineering.

In today’s fast-paced computer environment individuals can do just about anything online. Whether it’s paying bills or earning a college degree increasing numbers of people are plugging into the electronic age. And Centralia College is in the race to provide online learning to that emerging population.

This fall, the college broke ground with CC Online <http://cconline.centralia.edu>, a convenient route to a two-year college degree.

“We recognized that there is a growing number of people who learn online and we needed to respond to that trend,” said Dr. Jim Walton, college president. “It is exciting to see how fast and how efficiently the college got up to speed on this. We have a very aggressive approach.”

Probably the greatest benefit of online education is the incredible convenience that it offers.

Unlike a traditional class, online courses usually don’t have regular meetings (though there are still due dates for assignments and exams, and you may have scheduled meetings or “chats” occasionally). Delivery of all education comes through the computer. This obviously has huge implications for those who have jobs, a family, or both. Instead of trying to juggle classes around a 9-to-5 job or family commitments, online education provides the flexibility to take classes when you can fit them in.

“Online learning was considered the wave of the future, but this is the method increasing numbers of people are using to work toward their degree,” said Walton. “People of all ages are choosing to take college classes or earn their college degree online.”

Centralia College Online offers the ability to earn an associate in arts degree. Through this program, you can access course work from any Internet-connected computer – in a home, at the public library, or using one of the college’s computers, located in college computer labs.

The AA degree online is fully accredited and credits earned are transferable. Additional information about online education and other distance learning options is available by visiting the college’s Web site at <http://www.centralia.edu/DistLearning/>.

Classes that are available online have been developed and are taught by faculty at Centralia College and other colleges and have gone through a curriculum review process.

Individuals taking classes online will interact with instructors. It might be through e-mail or a discussion list, but students will definitely interact with the faculty and will have the opportunity to engage with other students.
Much has been said about the giving tendencies of Americans. Whether you believe that they don’t give enough, or that they are generous, there are several points that are worth consideration:

- Every American should know more about their giving options in overall retirement and estate planning.
- As the nation ages rapidly and wealth continues to grow, there will be more people than ever pondering questions such as:
  - How can I increase cash flow as I go into my retirement years?
  - How much is enough of an inheritance for my children?
  - Should we protect and control the way in which our children receive their inheritance?

Since the Great Depression, many older Americans have considered estate planning as a way to provide money to succeeding generations in order to make their lives better than the generation before. However, during the past 10 years that thinking has begun to change. Today, as a result of overall prosperity in our country, many retired Americans are actually concerned about their loved ones receiving too much of an inheritance too soon.

During the coming years a tremendous opportunity will rise for many Americans to think about how, and why, they should include philanthropy in their overall retirement and estate planning.

Have you considered how you might “partner” with your favorite local charitable organization as you do this kind of planning? If not, talk to your professional advisors or the trained staff at Centralia College Foundation. Take control in this area of your life! Be sure you know what your charitable planning options are during your retirement years. You just may be glad you did—and likely so will many, many others around you!

Foundation offers philanthropy in retirement, estate planning

Have you been thinking for some time that it is time to get your estate planning affairs in order? The Centralia College Foundation has resource material and people who can help you in this often-complicated and confusing area of our lives.

There is no cost for the service, and no one will attempt to sell you life insurance or investments in the process. It truly is a service being offered to donors, friends and clients associated with the Centralia College Foundation.

If you would like to receive our free will and trust planning guide and estate inventory form, or you would like to schedule an appointment to get started on your planning, call the Centralia College Foundation office at (360) 736-9391, ext. 290.

Distinguished graduate funds service endowment

A former Centralia College graduate and career U.S. Foreign Service officer has announced the establishment of an endowed scholarship that will benefit students planning for a career protecting battered women and female victims of domestic violence.

Patti Morton, a 1954 graduate of Centralia College, also graduated from Western Washington University before joining the U.S. Department of State and embarking on a distinguished career. Morton would become America’s first female special agent for the State Department and hold U.S. Foreign Service positions of increased responsibility in worldwide locations.

Morton was the first woman to receive Centralia College’s Distinguished Alumnus Award, earning that honor in 1979.

Throughout her international career, Morton actively worked for women’s protection and provided direct support for battered women and those suffering from psychological or physical domestic violence. She supported similar causes in almost every country in which she served.

The endowment will be named the Patti Haase Morton Scholarship to honor both sides of her pioneering Lewis County family heritage. The annual awards will specifically seek to help female students who have set their career sights on helping deal with the effects and prevention of domestic violence against women.

In establishing her generous endowment, Morton wrote, “…a career related to stopping or preventing abuse should be considered a great high-profile career benefiting people and businesses at all levels. Even if one person helps only one or two others, the ripple effect could greatly expand the improvement in many lives.”

The first Patti Haase Morton Scholarship was awarded fall quarter 2007.

Since the Great Depression, many older Americans have considered estate planning as a way to provide money to succeeding generations in order to make their lives better than the generation before. However, during the past 10 years that thinking has begun to change. Today, as a result of overall prosperity in our country, many retired Americans are actually concerned about their loved ones receiving too much of an inheritance too soon.

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The first Patti Haase Morton Scholarship was awarded fall quarter 2007.
Centralia College sets the stage for going green

It is a fact that global warming is an issue of concern. If the consequences of that climate change continue the apparent trend, whether it’s a naturally occurring phenomena or the result of human activity may not matter. The question might better be: What are we going to do to slow or reverse the process?

Centralia College is taking a leadership role on the issue as a charter signatory to the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, a pledge to model ways to minimize global warming emissions, and to provide educated students who will continue the effort to achieve climate neutrality.

The Commitment asks the college to ensure that all new campus construction will be built to at least the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver standard or equivalent, a step that the college has already undertaken with the new science center; and adopt an energy-efficient appliance purchasing policy requiring purchase of ENERGY STAR certified products in all areas for which the ratings exist, a process that is under the control of state purchasing regulations.

Further actions call for the college to encourage use of and provide access to public transportation for all faculty, staff, students and visitors; begin purchasing or producing at least 15 percent of the college’s electricity consumption from renewable sources. In Washington state, energy from hydroelectric sources is not classified as renewable.

The college will begin assembling a plan to achieve climate neutrality, a plan that includes completion of a comprehensive inventory of all greenhouse gas emissions (including emissions from electricity, heating, commuting, and air travel). The college will also develop an institutional action plan for becoming climate neutral.

The letter that Dr. Jim Walton, college president, signed states that college presidents are “deeply concerned about the unprecedented scale and speed of global warming and its potential for large-scale adverse health, social, economic, and ecological effects. We further recognize the need to reduce the global emission of greenhouse gases by 80 percent by mid-century at the latest, in order to avert the worst impacts of global warming and to re-establish the more stable climatic conditions that have made human progress over the last 10,000 years possible.”

It is a fact that global warming is an issue of concern. If the consequences of that climate change continue the apparent trend, whether it’s a naturally occurring phenomena or the result of human activity may not matter. The question might better be: What are we going to do to slow or reverse the process?

Centralia College is providing a way to bring the goal of a college education closer to reality.

Students at Centralia College are now able to make tuition payments on a monthly basis. Under an agreement reached with NELNET (National Educational Loan Network), students now have the option to choose an interest-free, monthly payment plan to finance their quarterly college tuition costs.

NELNET is the nation’s largest student finance service firm, and Centralia College admissions director Scott Copeland says the monthly payment plan will make it easier for many families to afford tuition costs and will allow more students to realize a college education.

“It’s easier to make a series of payments on a monthly basis than to raise $1,000 or more at the start of each quarter,” Copeland said. “This new program will provide a pathway for more first-year students to attend, and it will certainly be a great opportunity for returning students to reach their education or training goals.”

The monthly payment plan will require a modest $15 quarterly service fee, but the student pays no interest on the tuition principal. Students who receive a scholarship or partial-tuition financial aid will also be eligible for the no-interest payment plan on the remainder of their tuition.

Despite the very low service charge, Copeland says NELNET provides complete education financial service to each student. “Each student will have an individual account, a PIN for access, and they will be able to get account information 24/7 to keep track of their payments or other issues,” he said.

“This payment plan is a first step in solving some of the financial issues that students face,” said Dr. Jim Walton, college president. “It will help a lot of families and many students working to change careers with answers to the biggest question of all: ‘How can I afford to start college?’”

Walton noted that three times as many students drop out of college because of financial questions rather than academic problems. Establishing a zero-interest payment program is a major first response by the college to help solve student financial issues. For more information on this new tuition payment option, check out the Centralia College Web site at www.centralia.edu.

Making it easier to finance education

The rising cost of tuition may be driving some people away from the education or training that could lead to a more secure future. Centralia College is providing a way to bring the goal of a college education closer to reality.

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In December 2006 the largest single employer in the region, TransAlta—a Canadian-owned power producer—closed its coal mining operation, putting 600 union workers out of a job. The loss included some of the highest-paying jobs in the area with estimates of up to $70,000 annual income per worker. The loss of TransAlta mineworkers was compounded as up to 1200 members of the region's workforce became unemployed due to the loss of payrolls and taxes generated by the now-jobless mine workers.

Centralia College leaders recognized the crucial role the college would play in the recovery of the regional economy and its role in providing training opportunities for the dislocated workers. Dr. Jim Walton, college president, immediately called together representatives of the union, TransAlta management, the community, and college administrators. This team, with extensive community input, would determine training options that could be made available through the college.

Their goal was to provide training to create new employment opportunities for an 1,800-person workforce. Reaching that goal was clearly a matter of community and social survival.

The college used initial survey results and available instructional resources to develop additional training programs that would address specific career development needs. The funds also helped purchase equipment and allowed the college to hire additional instructors for the new programs identified by the survey.

Administrators simultaneously modified existing college programs so workers could receive training that would qualify them to be job-ready in a matter of weeks or months, rather than the one year or more of the programs otherwise required.

Today, the unemployment rate is closer to historic norms, retrained workers have found new jobs, and our towns are again growing.

The college's response was a measure of how quickly and efficiently the leadership is able to meet a crisis situation head on. The college and the community demonstrated the ability to form partnerships, to think innovatively, and to work together to bring about positive results that impact the lives of many people.
Centralia College Expenditure Statement  
(Unaudited)

**June 30, 2007**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<td>Total Expenditures</td>
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**Employees** – During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, the college employed 230 full-time and 352 part-time faculty and staff. Of the total faculty and staff, 425 resided in the college’s service district, which includes Lewis and south Thurston counties.

**Local Government** – Included in the expenditures listed above are payments to the county and city governments of $367,318. 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 $1.15 million of taxable sales revenue, which resulted in sales tax collections of about $91,000.
Mr. and Mrs. Kyle MacDonald
Richard and Joan Malzahn
John and Joellen Martens
Connie McArthur
Mr. Duncan McCaig
Jermaine J. McCarthy
Mr. Philip Meany
Meskill Ranch
Marla and Chuck Miller
Steve Miller
Mr. and Ms. Raymond V. Monroe
Ms. Louise O. Moon
Richard Moore
Fred and Sharon Mueller
david and susan muler
Bonnie Myer
Ruby Nagelkerke
Nalco Chemical Company
Ms. Norma J. Nelson
Tom and Cara Nicholas
Mr. and Ms. Roger Norberg
Stephen Norton
Brian and Vicki Nupen
Ms. Brenda O’Connor
Gary and Kathleen Odgaard
Margaret Oliver
Ralph and Bonnie Olson
Ms. Anna Ovanesova
Mr. Stanley Ozbolt
Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Perko
Yvonne A. Peterson
Mr. Bob Peters
Anna Marie Pizzariello
Plaza Jalisco
Mr. and Mrs. Rocky Poyns
Mr. Patrick Pringle
Mrs. Florence Rakoz
Helen Ramspeck
Paige Read
Margaret Reimer
Dr. Robert Reiswig
Rene and Susan Remund
Chris Richardson
Joanie Rogerson
Craig S. Ruthford CPA
Helen Rycroft
John Scheel
Ken Schwartz
Gordon Schwiesow
Norm Selchert
Jean Sheridan
Joe Sidoski
Kathy Simonis-Bennett
Phil and Connie Small
Mr. and Mrs. Gregg Smith
Loma Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Snider
Mr. Alan R. Spady
Rose Spogen
Courtney Stanley and Kelly Zuck-Ste&
Mr. Eric Steffensen
William and Clairce Stefon
Carolyn Stevens
Lee and Carolyn Stevens
Stihl Northwest
Gilda Stubbs
Randy and Durelle Sullivan
Mr. and Ms. Paul E. Swidecki
Art and Glenna Symons
Taco Bell
Dr. Richard Tausch
Calvin Taylor
Ms. Danice Telitzel
Ms. Ellen D. Termine
Mr. and Ms. Craig A. Thomas
Harlan Thompson
Thorbecke’s FitLife-Chehalis
Mr. Michael Thrapleton
Tractelbe North America Services, Inc.
Betty Truett
Ann Tuning
Nancy K. Turner
Madonna L. Tweit
Mary Lynn Twowy
Ms. Debra Vaillancourt
Ms. Carmen Van Tuyll
Mr. and Mrs. Vander Steep
William Veroske
Eileen Vervalen
Loualta Vogel
Bernice Wagner
Ron and Jackie Wagner
Alan E. & Anna E. Walter
Walter Hanke Estate
Kenna Walton
Mr Siu Wan and Mrs. Jermina Tso
Kathy Warner
Washington State Employees Centralia/ Chehalis Local 862
Ms. Susanne Welil
Wells Fargo Fdn. Ed. Matching Gift Program
Mr. and Mrs. Pete Wendler
Stewart and Elaine West
Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
Alicia Wicks
Elliot and Kathleen Wicks
Phillip and Netta Wicksstrom
Mrs. Margaret Wildhaber
Arthur and Evelyn Williams
Cheryl and David Williams
Ms. Nikki Williams
Mr. Ross Willison
Ms. Carol L. Wood
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald K. Wood
Tom and Pat Zimmerman

In-kind (in support of college programs and Foundation activities)
Ms. Roberta Abarca
Ayala Brothers Furniture Co.
Azteca Restaurant
Barnett Implement Co.
Baskin & Robbins Ice Cream
Lois Beck
Big Band Association/Sounds of Swing
Birchfield Winery
Bocatta Deli & Market
Dr. and Mrs. Foster Bucher
Camera Exchange
Campbell Chrysler-Dodge, Jeep, Eagle
Cedar Village IGA
Centralia College Bookstore
Centralia OK Tire Factory
Centralia Starbucks Coffee Co.
Coca-Cola Bottling Company
Comp-Prime Computers
Mr. Lee Croumb
Country Frame and Art
Country Tractor Lawn & Garden
Custom Security Systems
Dan Hull Distributing Inc
Darigold Farm Store
Deco Gifts & Bridal
Mr. Mike Driscoll
Dulin Construction Inc.
Virginia Eger
John and Karen Fastler
Ferguson
Fuji Teriyaki
Gea Box Inc.
Good Health Nutrition Center
Gooette Chev-Buick-Pontiac
Hal Parks Winery
Heymann Whinery Etc.
Home Carpet Warehouse
Joy-Nus Executive Catering, LLC
Judy’s Country Kitchen
Kaija’s
Katie’s Candies
Angie Keaton
Kilmer’s Flooring America
Ms Cheryl Kimbel
Kluh Jewelers
Kresky Auto Repair
Dave LaLond
LaTarsca Authentic Mexican Food
Lincoln Creek Lumber
Loving Touch Therapeutic Massage
Lucky Eagle Casino
Madsen’s Shop & Supply Inc
Market Street Bakery & Cafe
Mt. St. Helens Reforestation
Ms. Mary Myhre
Northwest Carpet Cleaning & Services
NOVUS Auto Glass Repair
NW Sausage & Deli (Dick’s Brewing Co.)
Grover and Vicki Oakerman
Ocean Sky Restaurant
Ken Olsen
Pacific Design Architects
Patriot Motors
Pearl Street Express Lube
Perkins Pacific Inc
Reach One Internet
Reichert’s Choice Meats
RE/MAX-Key Land Co.
Rogeron Lithographs
Rose’s Furniture
SafeWay
Salewsky’s Jewelry
Santa Lucia Coffee
Sausage House & Deli
Sears Roebuck & Co.
Seattle Seahawks Community Outreach
Service Saw Workwears, Inc.
Shanghai Cafe
Sphere
Sunscapes Fairway Center
The Alignment Shop
The Gilbertson Group
The Olympic Club
The Power Shop
The Salon & Company
Tumwater Printing
Twin Cities Line-X
Brian and Jana Tyrrell
Uhlmann Motors
Union Bank of California
Valley View Health Center
Ms. Tami Weinmann
Wedgeon Hill Winery

Event Sponsorship
We are grateful to the following sponsors of Centralia College Foundation events:
Lucky Eagle Casino - Annual Kick-off
Security State Bank - Scholarship Night
Sterling Savings - Wine Tasting Event
Union Bank of California - Annual Kick-off
West Coast Bank - Night at the Theatre

Memorials and Tributes
Ms. Thelma Baxter
Novo Blankenhip
George Duby
Dorothy Harmanson
Mary Hecomovich
Bob Jenkins
Helen Lucier
Marjorie McGee
Becky McGee
Muhammad Mir
M. Helen Peterson
Nadine Pye
May Richardson
June Squires
Linda Swart
Ann Tuning
Bill VerValen
Margaret Walton

*Combined Fund Drive
We would like to also thank employees from the following state agencies who have contributed to the Centralia College Foundation via the state-wide Combined Fund:
Department of Revenue; Washington State Patrol; Department of Labor & Industries; Social & Health Services; Department of Health; Higher Education Coordinating Board; Department of Ecology; Department of Agriculture; and Centralia College.
Endowments

Willard E. Abel
Established in 1996 by Hazel Abel in memory of her husband who was a member of the original graduating class of Centralia College in 1927.

Alan Allie (1942 - 1996)
Established in Alan Allie’s name by former Centralia College basketball teammates.

Colleen Allison Memorial
(1928-1983)
Bus driver for the Centralia School District for 10 years.

Altusa Club
Altusa is an international service organization founded in 1917. The Centralia-Chehalis Club was chartered in 1948.

Margaret Alvord (1907-1986)
Was an accomplished for the college’s music department for 20 years.

Harvey (1908-1991) & Tressa Yoakum Barnes (1912-1991)
Long-time residents of Lewis County and owners of the Bamer-Swanson Fuel Company for 30 years.

Rachel Bartlett Memorial
(1971-1986)
Centralia High School student who planned to pursue a career as a dental technician.

A Centralia College student in 1947 & 1948.

William A. & Etha Bate
He was the biology instructor at Centralia College from 1940 to 1972 and Dean of Instruction from 1965 to 1967. She followed a career in banking.

Batie Health
Established in 2002 in honor of William A. Bate, to support and promote health and science programs.

Lloyd (1899-1968) & Bertha Baumgart
They owned and operated Baumgart Hardware and Plumbing Company from 1944 to 1958.

Big Band Scholarship

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

Dr. Ralph O. Carlson
Established 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 1996 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.

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)
Foreign Languages instructor at Centralia College 1986 – 2005.

Claire 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 1938 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 instructor at Centralia College from 1947-1976.

Walter & Helen Hanke
Established by Walter Hanke prior to his death in 1995. 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. Neils Hanson
The first president of Centralia College; served from 1966 to 1981.

Patricia (Patti) Haase Morton
Former Centralia College graduate, career U.S Foreign Service officer and 1979 Distinguished Alumnus recipient.

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 Hillibber
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 Hilpert 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 Washington as civil servants for over 25 years.

Beautician and resident of Lewis County.

Dr. Henry P. Kirk Scholarship
Established in 1997 to promote arts and humanities in the community.

Mattiie 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 1986 to 2002.

Thorlea 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 timber man who founded Mayfield Youth Camp.

Daniel J. (1896-1989) & Anna B. McDonald (1897-1989)
Chehalis couple who owned and operated Mac’s Sporting Goods and the McDonald Motel in Chehalis.

Harrece L. McGee (1905-1965)
Worked as a precision machinist for the U.S. Navy and later for private companies.

N.C. Machinery
Located in Chehalis and is a supporting company in the Skinner Foundation.

Jack and Agnes Miller
Established in honor of their parents by siblings Cliff Miller, Gene Miller, and Karen (Miller) Paul.

Patricia (Patti) Haase Morton
Centralia College graduate, career U.S. Foreign Service officer and 1979 Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient.
Lena B. Neggerson (1985-1990) 
Superintendent of nurses at Tacoma General Hospital until 1933.

Harold J. O'Connor 
Harold is a 1930 graduate of Centralia College. He is a Centralia resident.

Helen O'Connor (1905-1994) 
Established in 1968 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 Hempfi-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-time 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 Lakeshore 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.

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.

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

Fay Benjamin (1889-1964) & Mary Burcham 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. Helens 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.

Gary & Neena Stoskopf 
Gary is the owner of The Housing Mart, Inc. Neena is a former employee of Centralia College.

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 38 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) 

Jim (1891-1958) & Laura Bamer 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.

Well's 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 Clemens 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 Sports Hall of Fame in 1998.

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.

Jim (1968-1977) & Alice L. Paulus Trust 
Established to provide business scholarships to Lewis County students.

Weyerhaeuser employee. Lane was his oldest son.

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

The quality of faculty is the foundation on which any college builds. Centralia College helps extend its tradition of excellence by selecting one or more “Exceptional Faculty” award recipients each year. The 2007 honoree is Jack Bishop, a long-time faculty member at the Garrett Heyns Educational Center at the Washington Corrections Facility at Shelton.

“For about 20 years I had the privilege of helping thousands of students earn high school diplomas, vocational certificates, and two-year associate degrees,” Bishop said. “Knowing that these folks did well in the community and had the lowest recidivism rates is a treasured part of my career.”

In 1995 Bishop began teaching the Victim Awareness Education Program.

“The is an intense class,” he explained, “that has helped offenders begin to understand the impacts their crimes had on victims.” Bishop said his most rewarding work at the center was breaking through the resistance and seeing some of the insights that students would develop. Bishop helped develop and write a statewide curriculum for the program.  

Garrett Heyns counselor named Exceptional Faculty honoree

Jack Bishop
When Centralia College inducted four former athletic standouts into the Sports Hall of Fame in late February, officials were unprepared for the surprise the athletes brought for their Alma Mater. At the induction ceremony, incoming Hall of Fame members Michael Smith and Lowell Wood presented the college with a $50,000 endowment for sports scholarships.

The story began with the W. F. West High School state championship basketball team of 1960. Wood, Smith, and several other members of that squad enrolled at Centralia College the following year. The bond they had created between themselves lasted from high school through college and for nearly fifty years longer.

One of the players was Alan Allie, a gifted athlete and storied baseball star at Centralia College. Allie died in 1996 after a career as a basketball and baseball coach. His former teammates keenly felt the loss of their affable comrade. "We felt it important to do something to honor our old friend," Smith explained. "We had been teammates and friends with Alan for half a century, and we felt the induction ceremony would be a good place to show our love and respect for our long-time comrade."

Smith contacted his brother Orin and enlisted the help of younger brother Kevin to get the ball rolling. With Wood’s help, they talked with other members of that 1960 championship team and got the project underway. Many of the members of that team—some already in the Sports Hall of Fame—pitched in to raise the initial gift of $50,000. Among the contributors were Michael Smith and Orin Smith, Lowell Wood, Bud Wedin, Jerry Kaija, Dick Melhart, Dave Dowling, Gary Wood, Allen Spady, and Joe Balanga. The former teammates have pledged to continue the fund drive.

The Alan Allie Memorial Scholarship will provide scholarship assistance to deserving athletes from the local area, and Smith hopes it will continue to grow in importance in the Centralia College sports program.

It is also a powerful statement on the positive impact the coaches—Tom Smith, Rod Giske, and George Gablehouse—had on the lives of their team members.

Endowment created to honor memory of Alan Allie

Foundation plants seed to grow alumni contacts

Since our doors first opened, tens of thousands of us—families, grandparents, friends, folks, and neighbors—have bettered ourselves at Centralia College. It’s a rich heritage of which we can all be proud.

Last spring, almost by accident, we met Eva Allen, a respected teacher who had come to Centralia College as a young woman in 1929. She became our oldest living alumnus, and the stories she shared of those days were priceless. Eva is gone now, but she taught us that the bonds we have forged through the decades are among our greatest treasures. That’s why the foundation has set about to reconnect with every former student we can find.

We want to know where you are, what you’ve done, hear your stories and meet your families. While we’re at it, we hope to help you find old classmates, rekindle past friendships, and rejoin the extended Centralia College family.

Please contact the foundation by phone, email, or send us a letter. If you know where a former student is that we might otherwise miss, please let us know about them, too. Our collected experiences are too valuable to let lie fallow.

We want to share your triumphs and perhaps help ease the setbacks we all seem to have had. Remember those oh-so-dark moments when we all said, “Someday, we’ll look back on this and laugh?” We think our elusive “Someday” is here now.

Contact us today at: foundation@centralia.edu, (360) 736-9391, ext. 290, or Centralia College Foundation, Office of Alumni Affairs, 600 Centralia College Blvd, Centralia WA 98531

Connecting with the college
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 a major remodel. Soon to begin is the effort to raise $1 million necessary to help pay for the remodel of the college’s landmark facility.

“This is an ambitious project,” said Steve Ward, foundation executive director. “The facility is a tremendous resource that is used by the college and community. It has served us well but is in need of a major overhaul.” Already the state has made available $3 million in repair appropriations and minor project funding. The foundation is looking to raise $1 million to match a state $1 million grant to bring the price tag to $5 million.

“This is an excellent opportunity for donors to leverage their gifts on a 4-to-1 ratio,” said Ward. Every dollar raised will be matched to four dollars of state funding (three from repair appropriations and minor project funding and one from the matching grant). “We will be able to bring this facility up to college standards and maintain our heritage by keeping a classic facility deeded to us by the Centralia School District,” he said.

“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 Ward. 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 kinesiology and plyometrics labs, which will extend the building into what is now the south side parking lot.

MSGS Architects of Olympia was awarded the renovation design contract, and is nearing completion of the finished design. The remodel project is expected to go to bid in spring 2008. For more information on how to assist with the fundraising for this project please contact the Centralia College Foundation at (360) 736-9391, ext. 290.
Energy Technology program shares in multi-million dollar DOL grant

One of the professional training choices in highest demand at Centralia College is the Energy Technology program. A growing number of students are opting for a career in the energy industry because of high pay and benefit packages and attractive working conditions in an industry marked by stability and growth. The demand for trained energy personnel is growing almost daily.

Students in the Centralia College energy technology field will soon have the very latest in lab equipment, training modules, and possibly a full-size power plant training simulator, thanks to a regional grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The college will receive more than $1 million from a $5 million Department of Labor energy initiative.

The grant, administered by the Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council, is intended to provide economic stimulus to Southwest Washington by hastening development of energy capability in the region. Centralia College, in partnership with industry, labor, education, and government, provides the workforce training component for an expanded power industry.

“This grant may ultimately allow us to build a central energy and construction trades training facility at the former Satsop Nuclear Plant,” program director Barbara Hins-Turner explained. “Until then, we’ll use the new equipment to continue to turn out qualified power operators, distribution workers, and transmission specialists at the Center of Excellence.” Virtually every graduate of the Centralia College program so far has found a career position in the energy industry.

The Center’s advisory board and two industry skills panels will make the choice of equipment and training devices, both actual and simulated, that will be secured through the federal grant. “These support groups draw their membership from industry leaders and top-level skilled union workers who best understand the training needs of the industry,” Hins-Turner said.

Hins-Turner said other DOL funds are available to help up to a half-dozen students with tuition costs this year. Those interested in further information should contact the Center of Excellence at 736-9391, ext. 280 or 477 as soon as possible. The toll free number from the Olympia area is 753-3433, ext. 280 or 477.
Josh Kaiser balanced his high school career with sports and intellectual pursuits, including the Knowledge Bowl and editing the school yearbook.

At a Centralia College education fair, Kaiser learned about the opportunities in sports broadcasting and knew that would be his career choice.

“I connected with Educational Talent Search to take the excellent Media Studies program at Centralia College,” Kaiser said. “So I chose to come to Centralia College for two years because of the reputation for academic excellence, the personal attention from outstanding faculty, and the economic advantages my family needed.”

Kaiser earned a scholarship that helped make his dream of college a reality. “The scholarship seemed to recognize my years of hard work,” Kaiser explained, “and now I have the time to devote to my studies. I can work toward my goals and make better decisions about my future without the pressures of working off-campus so much.”

“Centralia College and the Foundation gave my family and me the help we needed,” Kaiser added.

Returning student Ashley Dougherty came to Centralia College in the Running Start program, earning an academic transfer degree. With her sights set on a career in business, she’s back and has received scholarships that will help her focus her Centralia College studies in that direction.

“My first two years were simply awesome,” Dougherty said. “My friends and I came here together, and my circle of friends has grown ever since. I’ve gotten a great education so far, and that’s just getting better. The faculty has been especially open and helpful, and I know I’m on track to earn a degree in business and probably an MBA—it’s an effective way to get a good start in a business career.”

As a third year student, Dougherty’s patience and hard work have paid off. She received the Hanson scholarship, which she says has actually made it possible for her to continue her business studies at Centralia College. “The scholarship has relieved the financial pressure on me and my family,” she reports. “Now I can concentrate on getting the academic and practical courses I need to transfer to a four-year college.”
Construction is underway on Centralia College’s new $30 million science center. The project is expected to take about 16 months with facility opening scheduled for fall 2009.

“This is an exciting time in the life of this college and this community,” said Dr. Jim Walton, college president. “Our ability to deliver quality of education to our students will increase when we open the doors to this science center.” Walton added that he appreciates state legislators and the governor who voted for funding.

“They have recognized that Centralia College is an outstanding educational institution and have endorsed that fact by providing funding for this amazing facility,” said Walton.

Construction of the 70,000-square-foot, three-story building is taking place on a site north and east of Washington Hall, which was completed in 2001 and was constructed by Schiewsow Construction. Schiewsow is the prime contractor on the science center.

The new center will house science laboratories, biology and botany areas, applied health sciences, a greenhouse for plant culture and evaluation, chemistry and physics halls, and classroom and office space. The science center will also have space for community activities. It is considered a “green” building in that it complies with current environment-sensitive construction codes.

The new multi-discipline science center will be the most ambitious construction project yet on the campus, and will be followed by a start on a new student commons and activity center. Also coming up is a substantial remodel of the college gym and health/fitness center that will provide expanded service to the college and community.

Soon after his appointment as president of the college, Dr. Walton called upon the faculty, administration, and staff to make Centralia College the best two-year college in the state. These projects are another giant step toward meeting that goal.

Foundation to begin major capital campaign to support college growth

With three major construction projects either underway or looming on the horizon, the Centralia College Foundation is set to launch its most ambitious capital campaign to date, seeking to raise $3 million to deepen and broaden the college’s excellence in education, health care and community service.

“This is an tremendous challenge,” said Steve Ward, executive director of the foundation. He said there is a compelling need for equipment and other resources, which are not funded through state resources, that are essential to ensure and continue the quality of education students depend on at Centralia College. The funds from this campaign will close that gap.

The campaign, expected to begin early in 2008, will raise funds to complete the gym remodel project, to purchase equipment for the science center, and allow the college to proceed with the college commons project. Construction on the commons is expected to begin shortly after the science center project is completed. Predesign is in process on that facility. Remodel work on the gym will begin in 2008.

“This campaign is critical to Centralia College’s ascent among the state’s best two-year colleges,” said Dr. Jim Walton, college president.

“We have received tremendous support from donors since the foundation began,” said Ward. “It takes a great deal of dedication and collaboration among campus leadership, faculty, alumni, donors, volunteers, and foundation staff to ensure that money is raised for the areas where it’s needed most to help sustain our broad-based excellence,” he said.

Counsel for the campaign will be provided by Lowell Wood, a 1963 Centralia College grad, who led the successful Chehalis Timberland Library construction project.
Foundation, college teamed to host

STP, GRAND PRIX

The Seattle-to-Portland bicycle ride has grown to as many as 20,000 riders and support persons who now are funneled through Centralia College for the annual marathon ride. This year the STP attracted a record number of riders, most of whom spent the first night on the campus before completing the second leg of the 200-mile adventure.

The Centralia College Foundation has recruited a legion of staff, supporters, volunteers, and organizations to assist the riders and help them enjoy a comfortable stay. Local police protect the bicycles and a mountain of luggage as dozens of street-equipped dirt bikes. Both racing types achieved speeds in excess of 80 mph on the protected road course, to the delight of drivers, riders, and spectators.

“The STP and the Grand Prix are great events that help us show off our college,” said Dr. Jim Walton, Centralia College president. “The foundation and their many volunteers, supporters, and local businesses have made these events a resounding success. We commend the foundation, ”he continued, “for the initiative, energy, and hard work of the staff and all the volunteers who helped to successfully stage these events.”

Centralia College and the foundation will continue to host these activities in coming summers and has agreed to support the community Hispanic Festival, which was held between the STP and the Grand Prix.