Thank you very much for playing a part in advancing educational opportunities at Centralia College through your support of the Future Leaders Fund.

I am pleased to support your continued efforts to provide opportunities for deserving students in Lewis and south Thurston counties by helping them to reach their full potential by attending Centralia College.

Centralia College

600 Centralia College Blvd
Centralia, WA 98531

or

Tel: 360.736.9391, ext. 290
E-mail: foundation@centralia.edu

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Community Catalyst for Excellence in Education

July 2012 Vol. 5 No. 3

Mark Johnson gets a charge out of supporting the foundation

Mark Johnson, retired and former director of the Center of Excellence at Centralia College, has made big contributions to education.

He began his career at the Centralia College in 1969 as the Director of Information Technology. He retired in December 2009, and served as the part-time director of the Center of Excellence in February 2009. As the director, Johnson started the energy technology program at the college, which was developed from a request from TransAlta. He had 18 students complete the first pilot year and an associated program advisory board members. Johnson retired in July 2005.

"Mark was very instrumental in building the successful energy programs," Barbara Hines-Turner, executive director of the Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy at Centralia College Partnership, said. "He did a great job laying the foundation for energy education by building partnerships and guiding the curriculum.

His donations to the college foundation, which created the Mark and Laura Johnson Funds, purchased the new state-of-the-art wind turbine, called The Energy Ball. It will be producing energy through a dual generation system within the Kiser Natural Outdoor Learning Lab (KONOLL).

"Why energy?" Johnson said. "Energy technology is perhaps the most important field in which top level training and education is necessary," Johnson said.

As an example, an event Johnson cited occurred in Japan, where a tsunami caused a nuclear disaster and resulted in shutting down Japan’s nuclear reactors.

"The tsunami was an act of God, but the lack of preparation and training of managers and technicians caused the disaster to be much greater than it should have been," he added. "The knowledge that the transmitting plants were not well managed led the citizens of Japan to force the shut down of almost half of the electricity generating capacity. A good training program at all levels might have avoided a national disaster."

Though Johnson was at Centralia College a few years before the event, he had a vision of the future and realized the importance of having a solid foundation for energy programs. "The knowledge that the transmitting plants were not well managed led the citizens of Japan to force the shut down of almost half of the electricity generating capacity. A good training program at all levels might have avoided a national disaster."
Foundation exceeds campaign goal, sets higher standard for coming year

The Centralia College Foundation, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our community of donors, again has reached and exceeded our annual campaign goal of $450,000. That target was the latest one set by the foundation.

"It's truly amazing how well the community responds," Julie Johnson, director of Alumni and Donor Relations. "People recognize the importance of higher education and the role Centralia College plays in educating and training the men and women who choose to come to school here."

Johnson said the goal for the coming year will be $512,000. Most of the money raised will be in the form of "challenge dollars," which are intended to be used to recognize faculty excellence in the classroom and special achieve ment by student members.

"The time continues to eat at the college's budget and asking students to take on a larger portion of the cost of their education," Johnson said. "It's an unfortunate reality, and we need to see higher campaign goals to cover the deficits." She noted that 32 percent of state funding is lower than the 16 percent increase set by the state's higher education budget for the coming year.

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Johnson's fund energy turbine to power KNOLL Foundation.

The Centralia College Foundation received a major boost in scholarship funds following the raffling of an elk hunt opportunity made possible through the Dave Sherwood Memorial Scholarship funded by TransAlta.

Do something you’ve never imagined! (Manage your money by giving it away)

In the Centralia College Foundation through a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust, and you’ll help invest in the Centralia College Foundation through a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust, and you’ll help the college change lives and brighten the future for students who could earn an immediate federal income tax deduction, some of which may be tax-free. Also, your charitable donation could provide you and your spouse a lifetime of income.

By donating, you can receive income payments for life, which can be made to the Centralia College Foundation for the college’s Distinguished Alumnus Award. This prestigious award is presented during commencement exercises in June.

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Centralia College named Best in State for graduation rate

Centralia College may be among the smallest of community colleges in the state—but stands tall when measuring graduation rate and student success. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, the leading publication for higher education, Centralia College ranked 25th out of all two-year colleges in Washington and 32nd in the nation in Student Success Rate.

Centralia College's graduation rate of 40.5 percent of students who want a degree or certificate is almost twice the national average of 20.4 percent.

“Centralia College’s reputation for fostering student success doesn’t end there,” according to CNN Money, working with College Measure, a joint venture of the American Institute of Research and the Matrix Knowledge Group, Centralia College compared to other comprehensive two-year colleges ranks second in the state of Washington and 26th in the nation in Student Success Rate.

Student success is determined by the percentage of students who graduated within three years of beginning college or who transferred to a four-year college. Sixty-one percent of Centralia College students successfully graduated or transferred compared to a statewide average of 44 percent.

Further statistical information shows that Centralia College mandates students achieve grade point averages equal to, if not better than, students who enter a four-year school directly after high school, an indication that academic rigor at Centralia College is solid.

“These reports validate Centralia College’s commitment and dedication to providing a quality education,” Dr. Jim Walton, college president, said. Among the reasons for the high student success rate are the quality of the faculty, the advising process (which was accocodated during the latest accreditation visit from the Northwest Commission for Colleges and Universities), and the commitment of all staff to help student experience rewarding.

“Our student success rate also has a major financial impact on students who enter Centralia College and transfer. For the most part, these students have completed all the requirements for the first two years of a baccalaureate degree without having to pay the higher tuition rate and fees charged by four-year institutions,” Walton said.

Although no official records are kept, this year saw the highest number of eligible students take part in the June 15 commencement ceremonies. More than 240 students took part in the event.

Centralia College provides students the opportunity to advance their educational opportunities for deserving students in Lewis and south Thurston counties. To make your tax-deductible donation to support Centralia College, please contact us.

Phone: (360) 736-9391, ext. 290
State/Zip: ___________ City: ___________
Address: ___________
Company/Title: ___________
Email: ___________
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Though Johnson was a Centralia College graduate, he currently resides in Southern Illinois University and continues to make contributions to higher education in retirement. His commitment to the future is an inspiration to all.

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Centralia College is a special place,” Johnson said. “It was important for me to give something more, something beyond last workshop efforts or an employee.”

“Community catalysts are one of the most important forces in maintaining and advancing a strong society,” he added. “The funds provided by state legislators are necessary to provide for growth and development of a campus. Private contributions allow the college administration to showcase to the community and the legislatures that there is a local support for the programs provided by the college. Centralia College is indeed fortunate to have an excellent management team — those making it easy to make these contributions.”

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Invest in the Centralia College Foundation through a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust, and you’ll help to sustain Centralia College and ensure that the foundation can continue to have a favorable impact on deserving students.

By donating, you can receive income payments for life, some of which may be tax-free. Also, your charitable donation could earn an immediate federal income tax deduction.

Giving something away has never felt so good.

One important option that allows individuals or families to make a difference in the lives of Centralia College students is the Legacy Society. The Centralia College Foundation conceived The Legacy Society to welcome donors who have committed to a future gift through a will or bequest. Such generosity will help the college change lives and brighten the future through innovative facilities, program initiatives, and especially scholarships for deserving students.

Visit http://foundation.centralia.edu/trusts, or call the foundation at 360.736.9391, ext. 290.

Distinguished Alumnus nominations sought
A Centralia College selection committee is seeking nominations for the college’s Distinguished Alumnus Award. This prestigious award is presented during commencement exercises in June.

The award is given to an individual who attended Centralia College for at least one year and/or who has made significant contributions to his or her profession or society in general.

In all, 35 individuals have received the honor.

An overview of each of the Distinguished Alumnus Award recipients is available on the college’s Website: foundation.centralia.edu/pubs.html.

The selection committee depends on members of the community to make nominations, asking the public to share information about those who have attended Centralia College.

For additional information or for a nomination form, call the Centralia College Foundation, 360.736.9391, ext. 290. Nominations may be mailed to: Julie Johnson, 600 Centralia College Blvd, Centralia, WA., 98531, or sent via email to jjohnson@centralia.edu. The nomination should include a statement outlining why the nominee should be considered for the honor.

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Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of:
☐ $500  ☐ $200  ☐ $100  ☐ $50  ☐ Other $________

I am happy to pledge $_________ to be billed monthly/quarterly/annually.

I would like my contribution to support:
☐ Future Leaders Fund  ☐ Scholarships  ☐ Corbet/Kemp Statue
☐ Other  ☐ Yes, I would like to help you save resources. Please e-mail my receipt.

Please make your check payable to Centralia College Foundation.

Name ________________________________
Company/Title __________________________
Address ________________________________
City _____________________________________
State/Zip ________________________________
Phone (_________ ) _______________________
E-mail _________________________________
Centralia College Alumni class of _______________
Gift made in the memory of or tribute to _______________

☐ Please contact me for a tour of the campus
☐ Please send me details on the Legacy Society

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