

Centralia College's first-ever bachelor's degree cohort graduates

After much anticipation and a lot of hard work by students, faculty, and staff over the past two years, the first cohort of the Bachelor of Applied Science in Management (BASM) students have now earned their degrees. This has proven to be a huge success for Centralia College with a 93 percent graduation rate for the BASM class of 2014, said Larry McGee, associate dean of bachelor's programs.

"These kinds of graduation rates demonstrate the value of the program," said McGee. "The need for this program is without question and the support from the community is excellent."

With a 90 percent retention rate, the second cohort of BASM students are on track to graduate next spring, and the third cohort of students have been chosen with only a few spaces left to be filled.

"The quality of students is excellent and, because of the success of the first two years, we expect to have students on a wait list before too long," said McGee.

Several BASM students have reported a combination of new jobs or job promotions over the past two years, including the much publicized promotion of Julie Lind.

After 21 years of service with WSECU, last year Lind accepted a position with America's Credit Union as vice president of lending.

She attributes her promotion to her participation in the BASM program and to her experience with WSECU.

"The long term benefits are worth the short term sacrifices when it comes to getting an education," said Lind. "If I wasn't in the BASM program, I wouldn't have been eligible for the promotion."

The need for the BASM program was evident in the support from the community at large. Individuals and businesses throughout Lewis County stepped up with financial support and internship opportunities for the students, said BASM leadership and organizational behavior instructor Dr. Atara MacNamara.

"Our job is to supply high quality graduates to fill the need for a better educated workforce in Lewis County so that employers won't have to look outside the community to fill management and supervisory positions," she said.

With the continued success of the bachelor's programs, the college is launching a Bachelor of Applied Science in Diesel Technology (BASD) program this fall, and is in the early exploratory stages for a bachelor's program in special education.

Graduating Class of 2014, Bachelor of Applied Science, Management





A record-breaking year of firsts for Centralia College

On June 13 on the Charles Littel Commencement Field, Centralia College broke a few records and even celebrated a couple firsts in its 89-year history.

More than 500 students were awarded a record number of degrees and certificates. Of those, approximately 300 earned transfer degrees in fields that will allow them to further their educations at four-year colleges.

Another approximately 250 students earned degrees in Workforce Education programs, including electronics and robotics, early childhood education, welding, diesel technology, criminal justice, medical assisting, and more. More than 60 students earned Certificates of Proficiency in a wide variety of fields. Many students earned dual degrees and certifications creating potential for success in their fields of study and careers of choice.

Boasting a 93 percent graduation rate and marking a huge milestone, the college awarded its first bachelor's degrees

to 20 students in the Bachelor of Applied Science in Management (BASM) program. Of those 20, six are considering graduate school and one is considering law school.

For the first time, the college awarded three honorary degrees to members of the community, Bob and Judy Guenther, and Gail Shaw; all three have worked tirelessly on behalf of the college and the community.

There were several notable speakers during the ceremony, including Pat Kemp, a 1973 Centralia College graduate, and this year's recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award. Kemp went on to have a distinguished career in transportation for the state of Alaska. He is presently the commissioner of Highways and Public Facilities for Alaska, overseeing 3,200 employees and a nearly \$2 billion budget.

Finally, the record crowd of more than 1,500 proud families and friends were entertained by the Tiger Women's Quartet as they celebrated the hard work and accomplishments of Centralia College's class of 2014.



Centralia College student on track for patrol



John Meyers

Centralia College student John Meyers is proving a strong work ethic can yield huge results in a relatively short amount of time.

A graduate of Winlock High School, Meyers began his studies in the criminal justice program at Centralia College during summer 2013. By the end of that fall, he expressed a sincere desire to pursue a career in law enforcement with the Washington State Patrol.

Knowing that the state patrol hires cadets as young as 19, Greg Gilbertson, an associate professor of criminal justice at Centralia College, spent the next several months guiding Meyers through the WSP application process. Meyers juggled the challenging application while taking up to 20 credits per quarter in Centralia College's accelerated criminal justice degree program and working part-time as a logger to pay for his education.

After nearly nine months of extremely hard work, Meyers has successfully completed the WSP application and is presently awaiting an offer of employment.

"I have no doubt John will be hired by the Washington State Patrol and become a

tremendous state trooper," said Gilbertson. "He is a remarkable young man."

Meyers is currently taking summer classes at Centralia College with nearly 50 other criminal justice students. Summer courses allow criminal justice students to earn their associate degree in just 15 months – jump-starting their careers a full year ahead of most other programs.

"The criminal justice program has dozens of students that are presently pursuing similar academic paths and realizing their dreams of careers in public service," added Gilbertson. "Washington State Patrol is projecting up to 400 trooper vacancies over the next several years, but it is not the only agency or employer seeking qualified applicants in the criminal justice or social service fields. Jobs are plentiful in Washington and throughout the country in criminal justice at this time and for the foreseeable future."

For more information about a career in criminal justice, contact Gilbertson at 360-736-9391, ext. 663 or ggilbertson@centralia.edu. Information on the criminal justice and other programs at Centralia College is also available at www.centralia.edu.

Centralia College awards first-ever honorary bachelor's degrees

she was named Trustee of the Year by the Washington Trustee Association of Community and Technical Colleges.

Her business experience and local connections helped the college build a close relationship with the business community, and be more responsive to local training needs. For example, input from the business community was critical to the creation of a registered nursing program and to the expansion of the criminal justice program.

Bob Guenther, Judy's husband, was also given an honorary bachelor's degree for his contributions to the college's Center of Excellence for Clean Energy. He has been integral to the success of the center since its inception in 2005 and has continued to serve on the industry/organized labor advisory board and grant governance boards. In 2007, Bob encouraged the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 77 to nominate the Center of Excellence for the Governor's Best Practice Award, which

it won. In 2009, he successfully lobbied to codify the Centers of Excellence into state legislation.

Gail Shaw was given an honorary bachelor's degree for longtime contributions to the college and community. Shaw chaired the Industrial Commission, an economic development group he formed in the 1950s for the purpose of creating an industrial park south of Chehalis. Shaw most recently supported the creation of the bachelor's degree program, noting the importance of the program to the community, and has provided scholarship funds for many students.

Shaw passed away in early June; his wife, Carolyn, son and daughters accepted the honorary degree on his behalf.



Judy and Bob Guenther, Centralia College honorary bachelor's degree recipients

For the first time in its history, Centralia College honored three community leaders with honorary bachelor's degrees. The degrees were conferred at the June 13 commencement ceremony and recognized the contributions of Judy Guenther, Bob Guenther, and Gail Shaw.

Judy Guenther served 15 years on the Centralia College Board of Trustees. In 2010, in recognition of her ongoing leadership and contributions to higher education,



Gail Shaw, recipient of Centralia College honorary bachelor's degree. (Photo: The Chronicle)



Robert Godsey



Dr. James Walton and his wife Pam



Corbet/Kemp Statue

Dedications celebrated across campus

In June, Centralia College celebrated three important dedications honoring the contributions of college supporters and leaders.

On June 3, the college named a classroom in the Walton Science Center in honor of Robert Godsey, who taught math classes at the college from 1956 to 1988, and chaired the math department for a number of years. Godsey was also involved in forming the Timberland Regional Library system and a charter member of the Friends of Seminary Hill Natural Area.

The Godsey Classroom is Room 215, on the second floor of the Walton Science Center.

On June 11, the science center became

the Walton Science Center in honor of retiring college President Dr. James Walton in recognition of 12 years of service and leadership.

Walton oversaw the construction of the science center, remodeling of the Health and Wellness Center, and creation of the Kiser Natural Outdoor Learning Lab and the bachelor's degree programs. Walton accomplished these feats during massive budget cuts from the state and a catastrophic 500-year flood.

On June 12, the college unveiled "Keep the Doors Open," a life-sized bronze statue honoring Margaret Corbet and Katharine Kemp, the two women credited with keeping Centralia College open during the Great

Depression and World War II.

Margaret Corbet was the college's first principal. She was responsible for day-to-day operations of the college when it opened in 1925. Katharine Kemp became the dean of students seven years later. During the Depression, the two women went from business to business seeking pledges to pay the college's operating expenses.

Over their combined 61 years of service, the women wielded tremendous influence on education and the lives of thousands of men and women. The statue was made by Jim Stafford, a Centralia College graduate, and is located on the northwest side of the Kirk Library, just along the Aadland Esplanade.

Don't miss your shot!

There's still time to get your tickets for the 2014 Dave Sherwood Memorial Elk Hunt.

Tickets are \$25 each. The winner will receive a weekend of hunting for a single bull elk (three-point minimum) on TransAlta Centralia Mine lands during the modern rifle general hunting season in November. The winner must still purchase a Washington state hunting license and tag, and coordinate their hunt with a TransAlta representative.

Only 500 tickets will be sold for the elk hunt, so interested hunters are encouraged to pick up tickets as soon as possible. The drawing will be held Aug. 4 at the Centralia College Foundation office in the Hanke House, 401 Centralia College Blvd.

Tickets are available by cash or check through either Sandy Yanish (sandy_yanish@transalta.com) or at TransAlta's main office in Centralia. To purchase tickets using a debit or credit card, visit the Centralia College Foundation office, call 360-736-9391, ext. 290, or email foundation@centralia.edu.

Tickets are also available at Joe's Outdoor Sports Shop, Book 'n Brush, Sunbirds (Chehalis), Colton Pharmacy (Morton), Stanley's Store (Onalaska), Ethel Market, Pe Ell Hardware, Grand Mound Licensing (Rochester), Hedden's Pharmacy (Tenino), J&S Guns (Olympia), Four Corners Market (Castle Rock), and The Gun Shop (Longview).

All proceeds from the Dave Sherwood Memorial Elk Hunt benefit the Dave Sherwood Scholarship at Centralia College.

**DAVE SHERWOOD
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
ELK HUNT**

Tickets
\$25 each
MAXIMUM OF 500 TICKETS
AVAILABLE

DAVE SHERWOOD

Giving keeps getting better!

If you hear a collective “wahoo!” from the Centralia College Foundation offices, be assured it’s well earned. The Foundation has exceeded its fundraising goal for 2013-14, raising more than \$763,000.

However, for Julie Johnson, director of donor and alumni relations, the work has only just begun for the foundation. While the accomplishment is important to celebrate, she’s already working hard for the 2014-15 campaign.

“We exceeded our goal and that’s an amazing feeling. We have only our donors to thank for their incredible generosity and commitment to education,” Johnson said. “But, we’re already starting our work for 2014-15 and setting new goals.”

“We have only our donors to thank for their incredible generosity and commitment to education,” Johnson said.

Every year, financial needs at the college increase and the foundation is constantly striving to meet those needs. Some expected demands in the next fiscal year include increased scholarship needs for additional bachelor’s degree programs that will likely be available to students in 2015.

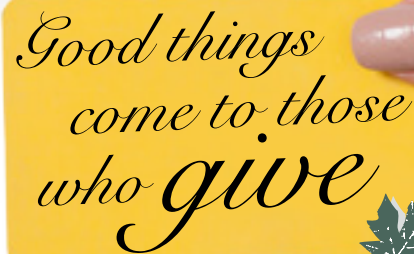
“Tuition for the bachelor’s degree programs is twice what it is for the associate degrees, so scholarship needs are even greater for those students,” Johnson explained.

During the Scholarship Night celebration on Sept. 18, the foundation is expected to give out \$724,200 in scholarships, financial aid, STEM grants, and tuition waivers to 292 Centralia College students. From that total, \$650,000 will go to 254 two-year program students, \$52,500 will go to 26 students seeking a Bachelor of Applied Science in Management, and \$21,700 will go to students seeking a Bachelor of Applied Science in Diesel Technology.

Scholarship Night is one of the highlights of the year for donors, recipients, and the foundation. It’s a night for a celebration, but the fundraising work is never done, said Johnson.

“We love thanking our community and celebrating each goal we achieve, but we’re already working on next year and building support for the next group of students that will come to Centralia College,” she said. “Each victory just builds our energy and commitment, and gets us working even harder for the next year.”

How can you help? Complete the enclosed envelope and give a gift by check or credit card. Your support is an investment in the future.



*Good things
come to those
who give*

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 foundation.centralia.edu/trusts, or call the foundation at 360-736-9391, ext. 290.



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Using your Smartphone to visit the Centralia College Foundation website and see all the features we've got listed.



Look inside to see how helping the foundation can help you!



Pat Kemp, 2014 Centralia College Distinguished Alumnus

CC alumni: we want to hear from you!



Are you a Centralia College alumnus? We want to keep in touch with you and hear about the impact of Centralia College. Who was your favorite professor? How did your time at Centralia College prepare you? What are you doing now?

The Centralia College Foundation now has an easy online way to update your profile and share your stories. Visit foundation.centralia.edu/alumniprofile to quickly and easily update your information. Share as much or as little as you want.

The foundation will use the information you submit to keep you updated on college news and information, including events you may wish to attend, and for future issues of the NEXUS.

Visit our alumni web page at foundation.centralia.edu/alumni.html.