

LEGACIES

Central Oregon Community College Foundation • Winter 2015

Long-Time Supporters Shirley Ray, Craig Moore and Betsy Skovborg Reflecting on the Importance of Student Scholarships

The passion for helping students runs deep with many of the COCC Foundation donors. Three long-time supporters spoke about this passion and their deeply held commitment to help students reach their goals, and their own decades-long involvement.

Shirley Ray and her late husband George have been supportive of COCC from its beginning. Both had benefited from scholarships while going to college; George was eligible for the GI Bill, and Shirley received a couple much-appreciated scholastic awards.

When Shirley graduated from Oregon State University in 1949, COCC was just opening its doors for the first time that fall. She remembers taking some community education classes at Bend High School.

The Rays set up their endowed scholarship in 1983 after selling a small piece of land that George felt they did not need. They decided to support the COCC Foundation scholarship fund with the profits from the sale. “We both felt COCC and its graduates were the best ‘natural resources’ Central Oregon had,” says Shirley. “They are—and have been—our future.”



Shirley Ray

photo by David M. Morris

“Scholarships are the lifeline for so many of COCC’s students,” she says. “So many are older, single parents holding down jobs as they try to find some time for their own education. A boost from scholarships must be a big relief. Many have expressed this to me, saying they hope to give back later.”

Craig Moore, the retired CEO of Bigfoot Beverages (formerly Pepsi), first became involved with the college in 1978 when he and his late wife Linda served on the college’s special events committee. It was this group that staged a yearly fund-raising event for scholarships, which eventually became known as the Meal of the Year. He continued serving on the special events committee for 10 years. That same year, a friend, Dennis Karnopp, persuaded him to also serve on the Foundation Board of Trustees. He served from 1978 until 1989 and also served as board chair 1983 to 1989.

Pepsi began donating to the scholarship fund since before donation records were started in 1984. Several years ago, the Moore family established the Linda Jackson Moore Memorial Scholarship in memory of Craig’s wife Linda.

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A Message from Dr. Shirley I. Metcalf



*Dr. Shirley I. Metcalf
COCC Interim President*

“I have been fortified by the incredible support we have from our community, for COCC and the COCC Foundation.”

- Dr. Shirley I. Metcalf

This year has been an incredible experience for me. I have worked in community colleges for more than 40 years, as a faculty member and administrator, in Hawaii, Washington and for the past four years here at Central Oregon Community College. Being given the privilege and responsibility of serving as Interim President here at COCC has allowed me to broaden my experience and to work with so many new people and projects. When I was asked by the COCC Board of Directors about whether I would be interested in spending the year as Interim President, I told them that I love this college and the mission of community colleges and would do whatever I could to help advance our efforts.

This experience has only deepened my passion for the community college mission, for COCC and for the students and residents of our District. I have been fortified by the incredible support we have from our community, for COCC and the COCC Foundation. I certainly enjoyed meeting with the Foundation Board of Trustees and chatting with them about my plans and goals for the year and hearing their commitment to helping our students succeed.

The history of COCC is incredibly rich and so intertwined with the history of the Central Oregon region over the past 65 years. The College has been such an important part of the community and the community

has embraced the college, from our beginning in the basement of what was then Bend Senior High School in downtown Bend, to the moving to the “new” campus 50 years ago, and to supporting our expansion into Redmond, Madras and Prineville. Speaking of the Bend campus, we are currently gearing up to celebrate the 50th anniversary milestone of being in this location. On May 14, we will host an Open House here on campus, celebrating the past, present and future of COCC. I sincerely hope that you will join us that day so that I can meet you and we can share with you some of the great programs and other offerings we have here at COCC.

Prior to that, I know I will have a chance to see many of you at our great COCC Foundation events – Taste of the Town and Meal of the Year, on February 27 and 28. These are such enjoyable evenings and both showcase the generosity of our community, the dedication of our scholarship recipients and the bond between the two. If you have been in the past, you know you don’t want to miss it this year, and if you haven’t, please consider attending one of the events that weekend.

In closing, I would like to thank Jim Weaver for his incredible tenure as Executive Director of the COCC Foundation. Having served briefly in a similar role while I was at Lake Washington Technical College, I so appreciate seeing how Jim has worked tirelessly on behalf of our students and has helped so many students achieve their goals. He has done an outstanding job and has put our foundation in a great position as we begin our search for a new leader.

A Message from Jim Weaver



*Jim Weaver, COCC Foundation
Executive Director*

“There are two ways to spread light. One is to be the candle, the other is to be the mirror that reflects it.”

-Edith Wharton

In this column, I am holding up a mirror to you many, many readers who are donors to so many causes. I want to share my experience to reflect what you make possible, and to share that I am going to enter into the next chapter of my life.

I have been working since I was 16. My first job was working as a box boy in a small corner grocery store, which included cleaning the butcher department equipment and sweeping up and spreading sawdust. I followed that, while still in high school and after high school, working as a transporter and then as an orthopedic orderly in a major hospital. After acquiring my Speech Communication degree from San Diego State University, I worked in corporate sales for 10 years.

My career epiphany came when I found how the not-for-profit sector inspired me, which then led to 28 years in the field. I was campaign director for United Way of Lane County, in Eugene; director of development for Sacred Heart Medical Center, also in Eugene; director of community relations and development for The Heart Center of Spokane; and for the last 13 years, executive director of the Central Oregon Community College Foundation.

It is one thing to read national statistics stating that most Americans are generous; it is another to see it in play. It is one thing to know conceptually that charitable giving makes wondrous events take place; it is inspiring to see it firsthand. Along the way, I came to see that givers

are charitable to more than one cause—in so many great ways, we are a nation of givers, comprised of generous individuals following what touches their hearts, giving back and making a difference.

Mother Teresa said, “I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.” It is a perfect analogy for charitable giving.

Through all the organizations for whom I have worked, and especially here at the college, I have seen how giving changes lives forever. I have seen how your charitable giving makes even more possible than you might know, and it is an honor for me to have been part of what might accurately be called ongoing, huge acts of kindness.

What it represents cannot be well enough expressed: thank you for what you make possible.

The next chapter of my life: as you may have heard, I will retire from here at the end of June. Tamara, my wife of 30 years, retired two years ago and we have realized it is time to take advantage of our health and mutual interests in order to, well, have fun. I am giving plenty of notice so the college and the Foundation Board of Trustees can conduct a comprehensive search. It also allows me to have one last great season of raising scholarship dollars for the next academic year – and I am sure they will hire a wonderful new executive director.

For me, I want to add further thanks to the thank you for what you make possible. I thank you for having shown me the better part of humanity. I thank you, so very much, for having given me the best “job” a human being could ever want to have.

COCC Staff Supported Scholarship Fund

“I welcome the opportunity to help our students.”

After high school, Todd Monroe served as an Army combat medic for four years. Returning to Bend, he enrolled at COCC as the first step toward his goal of becoming a physician assistant. Despite two part-time jobs and living with relatives, the father of three found that the family budget was stretched to the breaking point. A COCC staff Foundation scholarship has provided him with some breathing room this year.

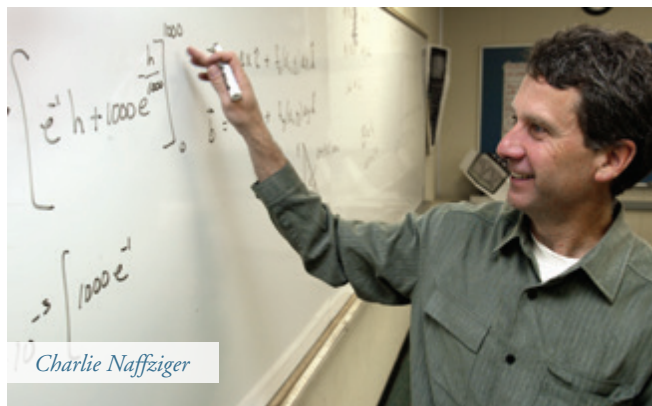
“I am immensely grateful not only for receiving this scholarship, but also to the staff members who understand the value higher education has in our society,” says Todd. “Having received a staff-funded scholarship is even more impactful to my life because it really reinforces the fact that the staff of the college I attend believes in what this place has to offer—so much so that they put part of their own paychecks into funding my education.”

The idea for the staff endowment scholarship fund originated with Susan Harless, acting director of the Foundation about 15 years ago. The Foundation trustees agreed it was appropriate to begin directing staff contributions to a specified endowment fund.



Todd Monroe

“Meeting and working for so many students in so much need—students whose lives were changed, and indeed saved, by the simple act of giving a scholarship made me realize just how special the college, the staff and the boards of the College and Foundation have become to so many people.”



Charlie Naffziger

When Jack retired, Charlie Naffziger, professor of math, took the reins as the board’s staff liaison. The staff endowment fund has grown from a “piddle” to \$360,000 and the earnings fund three scholarships each year.

Julie Mosier, COCC purchasing coordinator, contributes to the Foundation staff endowment fund because it offers an opportunity to help the students be successful. “The scholarships provided by the staff fund can make the difference between a student being able to attend COCC or not; that’s impactful in someone’s life, and I welcome the opportunity to help our students.”

As a faculty member, Charlie says he often gets to see a student succeed as a result of scholarship funding, but being on the Foundation Board has given him access to more of these able students who simply need a little help.

“With that help, they show incredible growth and are always so grateful,” says Charlie. “It is nice to know that I am a small part of many students getting the education that will ultimately change their lives for the best.”

In Todd Monroe’s case, the scholarship he received has not only helped him, but will eventually benefit untold others as well.

When he graduates next June, Todd will be one step closer to his long-term goal of providing medical care to those people who need it most: “I am highly attracted to a career with an organization like the World Health Organization, which responds to global epidemics, such as the Ebola outbreak.”

Anthony's Fundraiser

This Year's Feast at the Old Mill Raises \$27,400

Anthony's at the Old Mill District hosted its tenth annual "Feast at the Old Mill," a benefit for Central Oregon Community College's Cascade Culinary Institute last October. The event included a riverside reception, a four-course dinner with specialty wine pairings and a raffle.

The event raised \$27,400 this year and more than \$200,000 in the last 10 years to benefit the COCC culinary program.

Anthony's at the Old Mill District, which specializes in fresh Northwest seafood, Northwest wines and local microbrews, closes this one day every year in order to accommodate this special event. The executive chef specifically created the menu just for this event from the best of the last 10 years.

Restaurant staff volunteered their time, along with the college's culinary students. Anthony's Restaurants donated all the food, labor, venue and other costs. Executive chefs and executive team members were brought in from corporate headquarters to help coordinate and then enjoy this unique evening.

This is a wonderful event that COCC is lucky to be a part of. We are honored to have been chosen to be part of this event.



Craig Moore & Betsy Skovborg

Long-Time Supporters

(continued from front page)

"We are all aware that the cost of education has been rising," says Craig. "Scholarships are hugely important.

"All you have to do is to look at the thank you letters sent by the scholarship recipients to the donors to get a sense of how life-changing scholarships are."

Craig's daughter, Betsy Skovborg, vice president at Big-foot Beverages, has served on the Foundation's Board of

Trustees since 2000. When she returned to Bend in the late 90s, Trish Smith and Susan Harless asked her to serve on the board. Betsy agreed to serve, she says, because she believes in helping people get an education, which betters their lives and improves the community. She has continued serving these past 14 years because she believes in the Foundation's mission to support the college, its faculty and students.

She is very proud that through the generous support of the donors and the board's hard work over the years, the Foundation's endowment has now reached \$19 million. As she also points out, though there were hundreds of deserving applicants that were not awarded scholarships because of insufficient funds, raising more scholarship dollars through annual gifts and endowment giving is important.

Central Oregon Symphony One of COCC's Musical Links to the Community



photo by Benjamin Edwards

The Central Oregon Symphony, formed in 1967 as a part of expanding the college's Fine Arts department, has grown to become a major player in the local fine arts scene. A collaboration among COCC, community musicians and community supporters, the symphony is truly the community's orchestra. With the generous support of donors, sponsors and advertisers, unreserved tickets are available at no cost, making the concerts free to all community members. The symphony presents three concerts each year; last year more than 8,000 people enjoyed symphony concerts.

"This symphony is unique in that its volunteer musicians devote countless hours to create a magical season of classical concerts," says Michael Gesme, director of the symphony and professor of music at the college. "The Central Oregon Symphony's success is grounded in the tremendous generosity of its members, who give of their time and talent for the love of orchestral music."

The symphony is one of four flagship ensembles sponsored by COCC, including the Cascade Chorale, Big Band Jazz and Cascade Winds Symphonic Band. Each group is directed by a member of the COCC music faculty, and all participants are registered students.

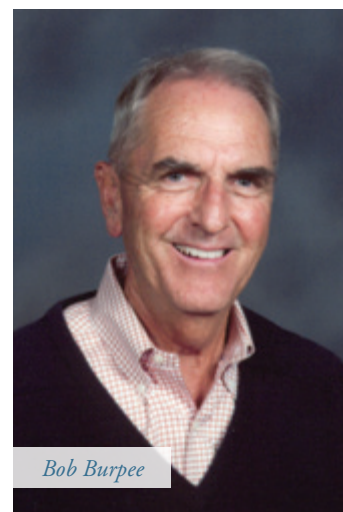
Central Oregon Symphony Association was formed in 1992 to work in partnership with COS to raise additional funds to support symphony activities, and this

alliance has been a great success story for more than two decades. COSA's mission, then and now, is to enrich lives through dynamic symphonic music. Funded almost exclusively by individual donations from local community members, COSA and the COS are committed to making symphony concerts available to all members of the community. The partnership allows the orchestra to continually expand its outreach into the community.

In addition to concerts, symphony musicians also perform in small groups in unique public venues as part of Music in Public Places. They also sponsor the Young Artists Competition, which provides young symphonic musicians the opportunity to compete for the chance to perform solo with the Central Oregon Symphony. In addition, the Virginia Riggs Children's Concert for kids of all ages inspires an interest in classical music and in learning to play a symphony instrument. Through the Symphony Stars! Program, musicians from the symphony visit seven local public elementary schools to introduce students to the instruments of the orchestra and give insight into the life of a musician.

Bob Burpee Generous Endowments Benefit Central Oregon Symphony and COCC Students

While Bob and McKenzie Burpee were living in Santa Rosa, California, they enjoyed spending time at their vacation home in Sunriver. After Bob retired from his insurance and financial services firm in 2004, the couple decided to move permanently to Central Oregon to enjoy the changing seasons full time and to access better care for McKenzie's kidney disease.



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"I'm grateful to be here," says Bob. "I love the people in Central Oregon; this community is just amazing—a very special place."

Feeling a responsibility to give back to their new community, the Burpees generously chose to set up two COCC Foundation endowments in their Living Trust: one will fund a scholarship and the other will benefit the Central Oregon Symphony. "We felt fortunate to be able to do this," he says. "Education is very important to both of us. I am grateful for my education and the doors it has opened for me. I believe in the community college concept, and we have a wonderful community college."

They also wanted to support the all-volunteer Central Oregon Symphony, which presents free concerts for the community. (See page 6) "It sounds like a professional orchestra, and we wanted it to continue to be successful," he notes.

Bob's love of music and the arts led him to sing with the Cascade Chorale, of which he has been a member for

nine years. "This community is truly blessed to have such talented people as Jim Knox, Michael Gesme and Clyde Thompson, among others," he observes.

Since moving to Central Oregon, Bob is a volunteer certified interpretative ranger with the U.S. Forest Service, which sponsors interpretive programs at the Newberry National Volcanic Monument and Mt. Bachelor, and snowshoe tours at Mt. Bachelor. He enjoys the out of doors and the ongoing training and education he receives.

He also finds time to serve on the board of directors of the St. Charles Foundation. These activities allowed him to remain physically and mentally healthy so that he could be the caretaker McKenzie needed during her long illness.

McKenzie passed away this year after more than 15 years of treatment for total renal failure. "It was a difficult road, but she dealt with her illness with grace," he says. In her honor, the Burpees partnered with the St. Charles Health System and the St. Charles Foundation to create a new dialysis center at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend.

Dennis Smith

Inspiring his Daughters and Pursuing his Goal of Helping Others

After his wife died of leukemia, Dennis Smith raised his three daughters. He was working as an auto parts deliveryman, which, he says, was a "going nowhere job," and decided to enroll at COCC, with the help of a Foundation scholarship.

"The scholarship has allowed me to go to school full time, and greatly assisted me with my living expenses, making it possible to devote more time to my studies," says Dennis. "The scholarship is a wonderful acknowledgment of my efforts to both improve myself and to add to my community."

For the last three years, Dennis has been devoting several hours per week to community outreach through his church as part of the Mobile Medical Team that serves the homeless population in Bend.



Dennis Smith

"We often look to Africa, Haiti and Asia as areas of poverty and yet all we really have to do is look down the street," he says. "My life has always incorporated the value of 'pay it forward,' and I love to pass my blessings on to others."

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Sarah Baugher Scholarship Selection One of Her Proudest Moments

For three years, Sarah Baugher was taking classes while working full time at Greg's Grill restaurant. Her supervisor had received a COCC Foundation scholarship and urged her to apply.

"I did, and can honestly say that receiving the letter notifying me that I had been selected to receive one of these generous scholarships was one of the proudest moments of my life," says Sarah. "That pride has motivated me to believe in myself, and realize that other people believe in me too. I have found that this motivates me to try harder and go above and beyond.

"It means more to me than words can describe to be able to show that my hard work is paying off," she says. "This is the kind of example I want to set for my 12-year-old daughter."

The funds have also eased Sarah's stressful schedule: "It has made a huge difference. I am so thankful to be able to work part time instead of full time. I now have more time to be with my daughter and do school work."

Sarah decided to attend COCC when she realized that the job she had was not what she wanted to be doing until retirement: "It was up to me to start focusing on career goals and paths."

She has been taking classes for several years due to circumstances that necessitated taking a few terms off. She is now back on track to graduate in June with her transfer degree.



Sarah Baugher

Sarah's career goal is to be an English as-a-second-language teacher. She plans to continue with Spanish and childhood education courses at OSU-Cascades next year.

"I have a passion for language. I took all the Spanish classes offered at COCC and never received less than an A," she says. "I have recently also started learning American Sign Language and would love to become fluent in both Spanish and ASL.

"My daughter has learned through my example that any goal is obtainable no matter how hard it may seem and that hard work pays off," says Sarah. "She is proud of me, and my experience has also made her excited to go to college one day."

Would you like to receive Legacies electronically?

The Legacies newsletter is now available for distribution via email. To sign up for this option, please contact the COCC Foundation office at 541-383-7225 or foundation@cocc.edu.

Gift Specification

If you decide to benefit Central Oregon Community College through your estate plans, please be certain the gift is specified to come to the Central Oregon Community College Foundation (or COCC Foundation). To discuss this or any other aspect of the Foundation, please contact Brittany Nichols at 541-383-7582 or bnichols@cocc.edu.

Paul Lopez

Will Be the First in His Family to Earn a Degree

Paul Lopez was living in San Francisco, working 60-hour weeks bartending trying to make a living and save enough money to attend college. He delayed furthering his education so he could help his family during the economic downturn.

Paul had a game plan: work two to three years and then attend one year of college, work another two to three years to attend for another year, until he was able to finish his education. His sister encouraged him to move to Bend where he would have family support while attending COCC. He has been working on his associate's degree in business since last September and heard about Foundation scholarships in one of his classes.

"I am very thankful for receiving the COCC scholarship since I was unable to afford both schooling and housing expenses," says Paul. "The scholarship has encouraged me to pursue my education with less stress financially and allows me to fully commit to my studies. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and has helped tremendously."

Paul is interested in Internet security to protect personal and business information. "I would like to be a part of a new process for solid and secure protection of private information," says Paul. "With so much identity theft affecting today's society, the future is so vulnerable and uncertain."

Paul will be the first in his family to earn a degree. "It is exciting not only for me but for my family as well. I am so grateful for the support of my family and the COCC Foundation scholarship making this possible for me.

Dennis Smith

(continued from page 7)

His educational goals are on track to complete his studies by June of 2015. He says he is determined to obtain a four-year degree in grief management, and to work with people at the end of life.

Dennis says his education has been a very positive experience: "The staff ensures a positive and productive atmo-



"Our parents did not encourage higher education; therefore, it was not something I considered early on in my adulthood. However knowing what I know now and have learned over the course of my life, I am a strong proponent of all education."

Paul is also interested in donating time to special needs programs as time allows. In 2008 he volunteered with the Red Cross for a month in Beaumont, Texas, after Hurricane Ike. He has also donated time to a foundation for abused women and the Special Olympics.

"The more I giveback, the more thankful I am for what I have," says Paul. "I want to feel that my degree will not just benefit me, but everyone who I am involved with."

sphere of learning and success, the instructors also work to ensure that students do not just repeat the information but truly have a full understanding and are really able to use the information provided."

As a bonus, Dennis says that his attending school has inspired his daughters to seek a higher education as well.

Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program Events

The Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program is honored to co-sponsor COCC's annual Season of Nonviolence. The Season of Nonviolence honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, Cesar Chavez and Wilma Mankiller and their work to advocate for nonviolent change.

The Visiting Scholar Program is sponsoring the following events for the 2015 Season of Nonviolence. To view the full Season of Nonviolence schedule of events, visit www.cocc.edu/mcc-events/. For information, contact Charlotte Gilbride at 541-383-7257.

Richard Blanco

Acclaimed Cuban-American Poet,
President Obama's Inaugural Poet 2013



Richard Blanco

Until We Could: Marriage Equality & Cultural Sexuality

Richard Blanco
January 27, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.
Wille Hall, Campus Center Building,
COCC Bend Campus
FREE and open to the public

Richard Blanco will screen and discuss "Until We Could," a poem and short film written and produced in collaboration with Freedom to Marry, in support and celebration of marriage equality. Blanco will share his personal experiences of attempting to understand his place in America while grappling with his burgeoning sexual identity as a gay Latino.

Finding My Place at the American Table: An Immigrant's Journey

Richard Blanco
January 27, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Wille Hall, Campus Center Building,
COCC Bend Campus
FREE and open to the public

This evening event will be a conversation and reading with Richard Blanco about his search for a home in America as a child of immigrants/exiles. Blanco will discuss how his experience as inaugural poet transformed his understanding about what it means to be American, especially in the light of his immigrant family's struggles and sacrifices.

Blanco, a historic inaugural poet, public speaker, writer, engineer, teacher and memoirist, will invite the audience to reconnect to the heart of the human experience and all of its beautiful diversity. The questions he asks are universal: Where am I from? Where do I belong? Who am I in this world?

Richard Blanco was born in Madrid and immigrated to the United States as an infant with his Cuban-exile family. Raised in Miami, he earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's of fine arts degree in creative writing from Florida International University. In 2013, Blanco was chosen to serve as the fifth inaugural poet of the United States, becoming the youngest, first Latino, immigrant and openly gay writer to hold the honor.

Richard Blanco is the author of the memoirs, "The Prince of Los Cocuyos: A Miami Childhood" and "For All of Us, One Today: An Inaugural Poet's Journey" as well as the poetry chapbooks, "One Today" and "Boston Strong" and the poetry collections "Looking for the Gulf Motel," "Directions to the Beach of the Dead" and "City of a Hundred Fires." His poems have appeared in countless literary journals and anthologies, including Best American Prose Poems and Ploughshares. Blanco has received numerous honors for his writings and performances, including an honorary doctorate from Macalester College and was named a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow. He is currently collaborating with renowned illustrator Dav Pilkey on a children's book of his poem "One Today."

This event is being co-organized by the Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program along with COCC's Multicultural Activities with support from Deschutes Cultural Coalition, Oregon Community Foundation, COCC Humanities Department, Associated Students of COCC, OSU-Cascades Student Fee Committee and OSU-Cascades Diversity Committee.

Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program Events

Jade Aguilar

Assistant Professor of Sociology and Women's Gender Studies, Willamette University

Mind the Gaps – How Gender Shapes Our Lives

Jade Aguilar

Monday, March 2, 6:30 p.m.

Wille Hall, Campus Center Building, COCC Bend Campus

FREE and open to the public

Jade Aguilar, assistant professor of sociology and women's and gender studies at Willamette University, will lead participants in a conversation about how—from the moment we are born—gender shapes every aspect of our lives: our interests, opportunities, and how we move through the world. In the 21st century, disparities among the genders still prevail, especially at the intersections of race, class, immigration status and geography. What can these disparities tell us about society's values and priorities? How can we better understand the complex ways gender affects our daily lives and identities? Aguilar will guide the audience in a discussion about these questions and examine ways of finding meaning within gender gaps.

This program is made possible by the generous support of Oregon Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Oregon Cultural Trust. Co-sponsors of this event include COCC's Multicultural Activities and Central Oregon's Social Justice Center.



Jade Aguilar

In the 21st century, disparities among the genders still prevail, especially at the intersections of race, class, immigration status and geography.

O. Hm.
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GENERAL

I would like to contribute:

- tuition for one year (\$3,400)
- tuition for half the year (\$1,700)
- books for one term (\$500)
- other \$ _____

Please send me information about:

- Volunteer opportunities with the COCC Foundation
- Planned or estate giving through life insurance, life income plans, wills or bequests

PERSONAL INFORMATION

I am: COCC Alumni Past COCC Scholarship Recipient

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I would like my donation to remain anonymous

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Check enclosed payable to COCC Foundation or charge my Visa MasterCard

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Mail form to: COCC Foundation, 2600 NW College Way, Bend, Oregon 97701 Website: cocc.edu/foundation

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Save the Date Taste of the Town & Meal of the Year

The Taste of the Town and the Meal of the Year fundraising events are scheduled for Friday, Feb. 27 and Saturday, Feb. 28. Both evenings benefit the Foundation's scholarship program, which seeks to support the dreams and aspirations of COCC students by raising funds for scholarships that will change the students' lives forever. Last year more than 1,000 people attended both events, raising more than \$330,000 for student scholarships. This year Tim and Martha McGinnis will be honored for their commitment to making Central Oregon a better place for all.

Friday night's Taste of the Town will showcase some of the region's favorite local restaurants, which will be offering bite-size samples of food. Complementing the delicious food will be plenty of music by the High Street Band, dancing, a silent auction and the opportunity to change a life by giving to the scholarship fund. The event begins at 6 p.m. in the Mazama Gymnasium on the

COCC Bend Campus. Tickets are \$25 per person in advance or \$30 at the door.

At Saturday's gala Meal of the Year event, guests will be treated to a sumptuous four-course dinner, skillfully created and served by Cascade Culinary Institute students and chefs. There will also be live and silent auctions with very attractive and sought-after experiences and items.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at the Mazama Gymnasium. Tickets are \$125 per person or \$1,250 for a corporate table of 10. For reservations, contact the COCC Foundation at 541-318-3783. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Mint Event Coordination & Design at 541-318-7400 or kerry@eventsbymint.com.



Tim & Martha McGinnis