

LEGACIES

Central Oregon Community College Foundation Magazine

FALL 2021



Futures Opened Wide

Dental Assisting Students
Find Their Calling

A Decade of Dedication
The Path of New Potential
Impact of Giving Report



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By Mark Russell Johnson

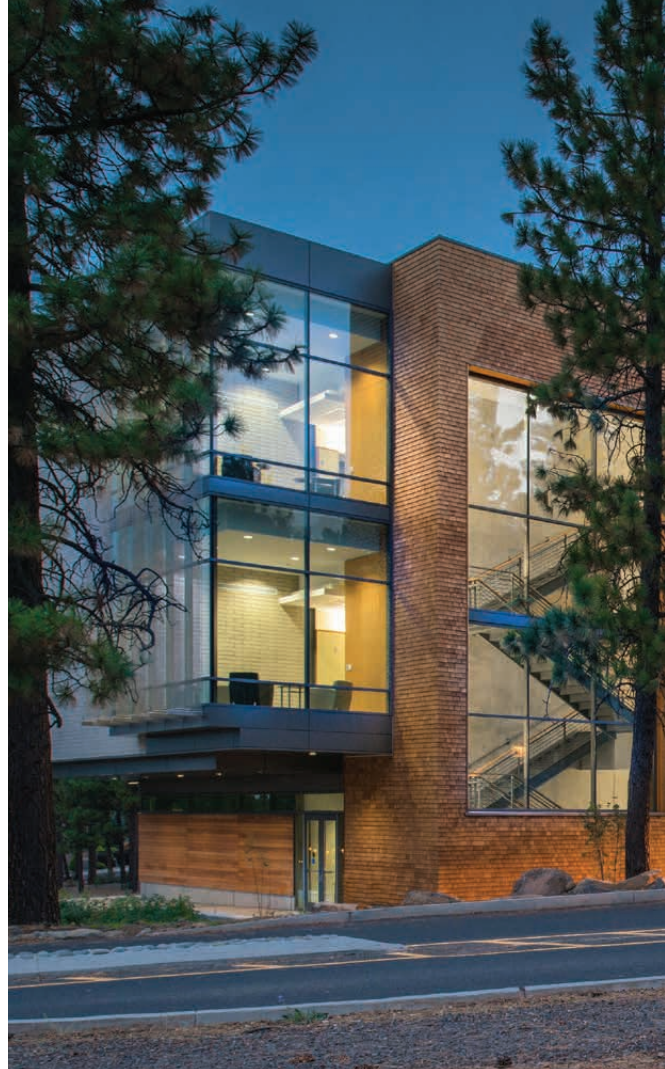
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By Mark Russell Johnson

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CENTRAL OREGON
community college
FOUNDATION

Madras and Prineville campuses
celebrate 10 years of service.



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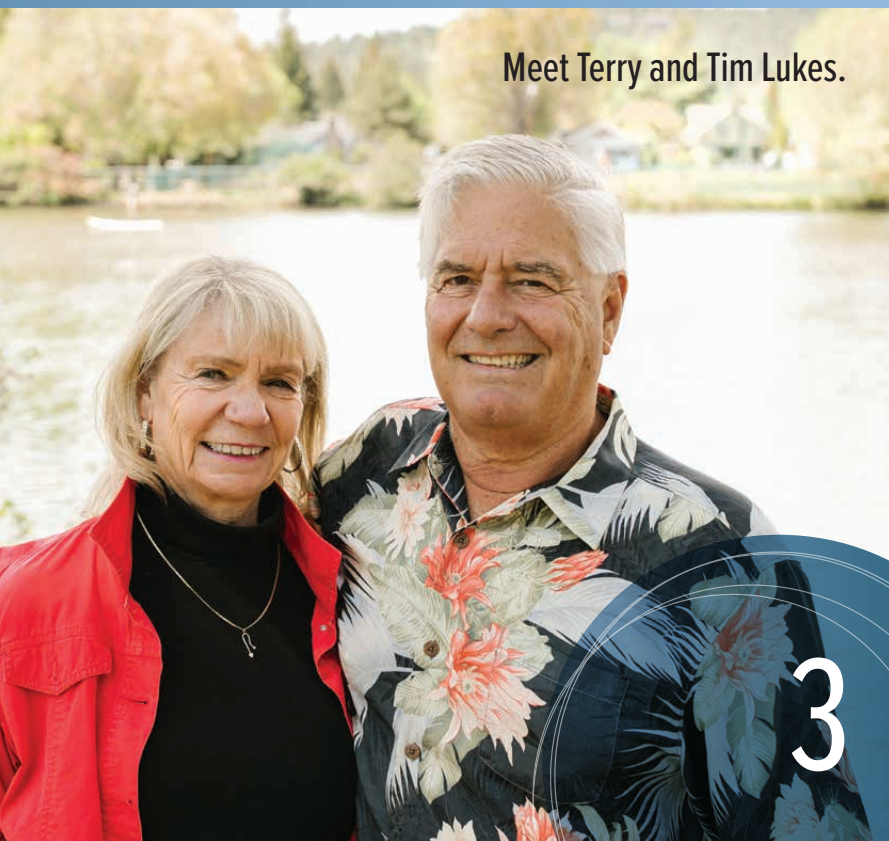
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above: YGH Architecture
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Dental Assisting students find their calling. **6**



The Foundation awarded 364 full scholarships to hard-working students in 2020-21.



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perennial source of diverse
and timely conversations.

LEGACIES

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WRITERS

Zak Boone, Misty Bouse,
Mark Russell Johnson, Jenn Kovitz

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Karen Cammack, Drew Cecchini,
Eugen Helmbrecht, Timothy Park,
YGH Architecture

ADVISORS

Zak Boone, Misty Bouse,
Mark Russell Johnson, Jenn Kovitz,
Aimee Metcalf, Brittany Nichols

DESIGN

Lora Szaraniec

COCC FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Rodney Cook
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COCC FOUNDATION

2600 NW College Way, Bend, OR 97703
541.383.7225 | foundation@cocc.edu
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Letter From the President

Greetings, friends of the COCC Foundation.

We are underway with our academic year, and there's an energy and sense of community across our campuses that we had missed since closing our doors to the public back in March of last year.

Many in-person classes are in session. Staff and faculty are again at all four campuses, with most services taking place face-to-face. Wickiup Residence Hall is fully open, with move-in day being as memorable as ever. Buildings, paths and parking lots are lively again, and our bright blue athletic track is seeing a steady flow of runners and walkers tracing its oval — a heartening scene.

As I reflect back on COCC's COVID-19 response, there's only one way to summarize the focus that brought us through these many, many months: It's simply perseverance.

In our personal lives and families, in our community, and in our wider world, we've all found new levels of perseverance. I've seen it everywhere at COCC: with our students, who have found the ability to engage with their studies in a new way; with our faculty, who wholly transformed the way in which they connect and inspire; with our staff, who made every adjustment necessary, from learning new technology to applying new practices. Collectively, our determination saw us through the challenges.

I wanted to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation for your part in COCC's collective perseverance. While your involvement and support are continuous, they have been particularly apparent and impactful during the pandemic.

In March, you set an event fundraising record — a record! — committing \$385,000 to scholarship support, elevating our web-based "Menu of the Year" event far beyond expectations. There was robust participation during last year's Zoom-based Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program events, and your engagement in these learning seminars took our attendance numbers to record heights.

In June, it pleased me to see the Shirley Ray food truck — a Culinary program teaching tool made possible by its donor namesake — serve as part of our Bend campus pop-up COVID-19 vaccination clinic, doling out tasty baked goods for newly vaccinated community members. In ways both seen and unseen, again and again, we are constantly aware of you, our COCC Foundation friends, and the ongoing impact you have on COCC's mission.

With deep gratitude — and in anticipation of thanking you in person soon,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie Chesley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laurie Chesley
COCC President

A DEEP CONNECTION WITH COCC

Meet Terry and Tim Lukes, Heritage Society Members*

— by Misty Bouse —

Fifty years ago, Terry and Tim Lukes met on the COCC Bend campus, graduated and eventually married. Terry, a Bend native, retired as a deputy environmental officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Tim, a military veteran from California, wore many hats during his career, working in aviation for a time before joining the Greyhound Bus Company, retiring as the director of field operations at their Dallas corporate office.

HOW DID YOUR COCC EDUCATION IMPACT YOU?

Terry: I got my COCC associate degree in 1972. Then, when I went back to school 20 years later, Texas Woman's University transferred every single COCC credit and I earned my master's in government. **Tim:** COCC spurred me to further my education beyond general studies. I did a stint at the height of the Vietnam War where I trained as a helicopter crew chief but was injured. Afterward, Arizona State University had a great aviation program where I earned an aeronautical engineering degree.

CAN YOU SHARE WHAT CENTRAL OREGON MEANS TO YOU?

Terry: Bend is where I grew up — at a much kinder and gentler time. It was a fabulous place to be a kid. **Tim:** I'm from Los Angeles and Redding but Central Oregon is where I met my wife...so many fond memories changed my life.

WHERE'S HOME BASE?

We have a beautiful home on Lake Lewisville near Dallas, but have spent the last seven years in our travel trailer exploring the U.S. and Canada and summers in Bend.

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Terry: Tim's the big reader! **Tim:** I just finished the National Geographic publication *Pirates* and am currently reading a journal written by an 1834-1843 trapper on the ways of mountain men.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST CURIOUS ABOUT?

Terry: Space travel...my great grandmother came across the plains in a wagon and also got to see the first man on the moon. Now that space travel has been privatized, the possibilities are endless. **Tim:** I just want to know how to keep my wife happy!

WHY ARE YOU PHILANTHROPIC?

Terry: We want to give back where it does some good. Education has been very important to both of us and COCC's Aviation program and Foundation scholarships are in our estate plans and part of our annual giving. **Tim:** We love that our annual scholarship helped a student to stay at COCC throughout the pandemic and he's now closer to his dream of being a commercial pilot. ■

Misty Bouse is the charitable giving officer of the COCC Foundation.

**Heritage Society members are donors who have given or declared estate or planned gifts to the College.*



A Decade of Dedication

Celebrating 10 years of service, the Madras and Prineville campuses prioritize community involvement and expanding opportunities in higher education

— by Mark Russell Johnson —

There is an incredible view of the world from inside the Prineville campus. Actually, it's a view of two worlds. Suspended above the soaring atrium, the steel-and-copper sculpture by Greg Congleton features two massive offset globes — one somewhat muted, the other larger and gleaming with copper continents — that are connected with braids of steel and some twisted strands of fiber-optic lighting. For any campus visitor, it's a powerful visual: Follow this bright path to a whole new world, it seems to urge.

Many higher-learning journeys have done just that in Prineville. Many others have started at the campus's counterpart in Madras. Both opened their doors in the fall of 2011 with the backing of a landmark voter-supported bond aimed at a number of COCC projects. Generous land donations by the Bean Foundation — for the Madras campus — and from Crook

County — for the Prineville campus — established the sites and set aside acreage for potential expansions.

“Prineville cares about our citizens and COCC is a great resource and support for anyone looking to pursue additional education.”

With community investment and direction, from private funders such as the Ford Family Foundation to the leadership of individuals like Scott Cooper, a former Crook County judge, and Matt McCoy, former COCC vice president, the campuses took form. Even the aforementioned Congleton sculpture, “Chaos to Order,” was an act of support: commissioned and donated by philanthropists Penny and Phil Knight.

Now turning 10, the Madras and Prineville campuses are well-established centers

of learning. They bring opportunities and access — and expand local workforce training — to a developing region. This past academic year, 520 COCC students hailed from Crook County and 646 came from Jefferson County. For these students, hometown learning options are a huge asset.

Lydia Galan of Madras can speak to that. Galan, who graduated in 2018 with a transfer degree, took her first college class at her “home” campus — despite some slight trepidation. “I was scared because I didn’t do well in my science classes in high school,” she says. “But I heard from friends that COCC science teachers are helpful and have great tutoring services. That’s when I started my journey at COCC.” Galan would spend so much time at the Madras

above: *Chaos to Order* by Greg Congleton at the Prineville campus
right: Madras campus



a traditional language of the Warm Springs people. With both on-site classes and remote learning options — the latter assisted by laptop loans — the education meets the needs of rural students. And when classes pause for summer, COCC's Youth Camps kick into gear, opening the doors to younger learners.

Other campus users include area high schools, local nonprofits and city government. "COCC is a highly valued community partner with OSU Extension-Open Campus, and other partners, in providing educational opportunities for our community," says Becky Munn, coordinator of Oregon State University's Open Campus Education. "Prineville cares about our citizens and COCC is a great resource and support for anyone looking to pursue additional education."

Investment continues to impact the campuses and their communities. Last year, The Roundhouse Foundation of Sisters bestowed the Madras campus with a \$16,000 grant to help remove educational barriers in Jefferson County. The funds will augment existing video-conferencing hardware, laptops and other tech. "It's already enhanced our ability to bring more classes to the Madras campus," says Green. "We have more Zoom classes scheduled in the fall."

Last year, The Roundhouse Foundation of Sisters bestowed the Madras campus with a \$16,000 grant to help remove educational barriers in Jefferson County.

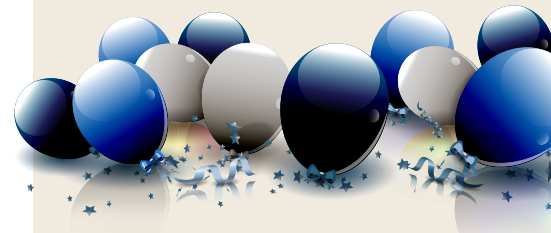
campus, in fact, that Jeremy Green, campus director, would offer her a part-time job as a computer lab tech. She's now completing her dental hygiene studies at the Oregon Institute of Technology, planning to return to Madras.

Academics are diverse at both campuses, combining essentials like adult basic skills, algebra and academic composition with specialized coursework in things like physiological psychology and Ichishkin,



Help us celebrate
10 years of service in
Prineville and Madras!

[cocc.edu/news/
10yr-anniversary.aspx](http://cocc.edu/news/10yr-anniversary.aspx)



Being able to connect with a gleaming new world is the power of education. It says a lot about a place, too. "People are proud of it," says Kelly Simmelink, Jefferson County commissioner, of his hometown campus. "For the community, it's been invaluable. We've grown and the College is part of that."

To learn how COCC is observing the tenth anniversary celebrations of our Madras and Prineville campuses, visit cocc.edu/news/10yr-anniversary.aspx. ■

Mark Russell Johnson is the staff writer in the Office of Marketing and Public Relations.





McKenzie
Dental Assisting Intern



FUTURES OPENED WIDE

With a simulated dental office, hands-on community clinic
and learning opportunities at local practices,
Dental Assisting students find their calling

— by Mark Russell Johnson —

Cradling a tiny, hollowed-out acrylic dental crown in her palm, McKenzie Scott proudly holds up her handiwork. “It’s number 19, a first molar,” the student says as if making an introduction. In dental care, every tooth (and corresponding crown) has an assigned number — much like a street address. This one lives on the lower left, two-thirds back, in a wider neighborhood of 32 teeth.

It’s a morning lab in early June, and seven students of the COCC Dental

Assisting program, in gray scrubs, face masks and blue medical gloves, are gathered around a workstation in the Health Careers Center’s dental lab. All are focused on shaping temporary caps. With graduation looming, it’s a clinical finals day: the culmination of three busy terms for these students and the rest of their cohort, who will test later.

The counter is crowded with instruments and mouth models — hinged sets of simulated teeth called “typodonts” — as the students move through the design

sequence. They squeeze goeey purple composite from dispenser guns into small trays, then use the typodonts to simulate patients biting down, which scores an impression. Then they backfill the one “address” in the impression with fast-hardening acrylic resin, before removing the new temporary crown and refining its fit and feel with Dremel-type tools. Start to finish, it’s all meant to be accomplished in about 10 minutes.

“There’s a lot of technique to it,” says Scott, demonstrating the method of bracing one hand over the other to best grip and apply the micro-grinding hand tool. She works the foot pedal of the powered unit, carefully taking off the excess material. The device’s high-pitched whine claims the room.

“I am very excited to see where my education will take me.”

In a white lab coat, Lynn Murray, M.Ed., the program’s lead instructor (and co-creator, director and a former dental assistant herself) comes over for an assessment. “It looks great, go ahead and polish it,” she says, smiling broadly. Scott heads to the buffing machine, ready for the final step.

For Scott, a COCC Foundation scholarship recipient and first-generation college student, the buffing phase is a symbolic finale to a year of gritty perseverance. “I have learned a lot about myself,” says Scott. “I learned that I enjoy helping others, talking with people and

teaching. Going through this program is very difficult, and it was even harder doing so through a pandemic.” Among its many life-altering impacts, COVID-19 meant that the program needed to suspend its campus-based community dental clinic (see: “Oral Support,” page 10), a potent learning tool for students. While the accrediting agency modified the curriculum requirements accordingly — more videos, for instance — students still needed to perform practicums at area dental offices. The reality of it all took a toll and dissuaded some, shrinking the normal cohort of 24 students down to 14.

Those who endured pandemic-era learning, however, will find an industry eager for dental assistants — whose role involves everything from making retainers and crowns, to presenting treatment plans, to handling X-rays and the sterilization of instruments, to overseeing front offices. With communities opening up again, so too are many mouths for deferred dental care.

After three terms of training and two combined practicums, Scott’s future brims with promise: “I am very excited to see where my education will take me.”



TRAINING PARTNERS

A silent ambassador to the program looks out over the first-floor corridor of the modern Health Careers Center, its presence inducing passersby to pause for a moment. Set within a glass hallway cabinet, and enshrined by a glass dome, the human skull is believed to be more than a century old and came to the College earlier this year from friends of the COCC Foundation. The donors wanted the inherited item — passed down from a relative with a dental practice — to play a part in health education at COCC.

With a cutaway view on the right side to reveal oral detail, along with some applied coloring, the skull is more than an ambassador — it's a teaching tool utilized for first-term anatomy lectures. "It's great for being able to see where the nerves run and where the blood vessels are and where the nerves innervate the bones," explains Murray.

Students learn about radiographic procedures, dental science and specialties, composites and computer systems. In all, they cover 60 competencies.

Across the hall, the tools and resources come from a more contemporary time. A state-of-the-art, clinic-like space contains eight individual operatories — each with its own dental chair, dedicated instruments and agreeable manikin — and its connected laboratory houses a range of dental materials and technology. The modern facility opened in 2012 (enabled by funding from a voter-endorsed bond), taking a program that originated in 1997 as an after-hours operation based at Mirror Pond Dental and shifting it into a whole new era.

LOCAL DENTAL ASSISTING CAREER STATISTICS Bend-Redmond, Oregon 2021¹



293

people currently employed



\$49,743

average salary



23

current job openings



11%

projected employment growth 2021-28

¹ Data powered by EMSI, August 2021. For details, visit: cocc.edu/programs/dental-assisting/careers.aspx.

Students learn about radiographic procedures, dental science and specialties, composites and computer systems. In all, they cover 60 competencies, combining technical skills with soft skills, such as communication with patients. Even phrasing is figured in: "pain," for instance, is quickly traded for "discomfort." (Since 2003, COCC has also offered a transfer degree with a pre-dental hygiene focus for students planning to become hygienists.)

Just as the early dental practice partnership was crucial to initiating Dental Assisting at COCC, other collaborations regularly contribute to its ongoing success. An advisory committee of five local dentists and five dental assistants provides periodic program input. Dentists volunteer in rotation to serve in the biweekly community clinic, helping community members with oral care while easing students into workplace realities. In conducting their practicums in local dental offices, students gain access to cutting-edge equipment, including cost-prohibitive tech that the program hasn't yet been able to integrate.

"We'll be working with a dentist who's going to coordinate some CAD/CAM

(computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing) experience with our students," says Murray of the new arrangement. The technology takes digital imaging from a wand device placed in a patient's mouth and uploads it to an on-site milling machine where a minuscule block of material awaits its outcome. The result: same-day dental crowns. "It's going to be the way of dentistry," Murray adds.



ORAL SUPPORT

COCC's community dental clinic has a long history of collaborative care and teachable moments

It was a tooth extraction that prompted the teary response, recalls Bend dentist Dr. Mehdi Salari, thinking back on a COCC-Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) Dental Clinic some eight years ago. But not for the patient, remembers the longtime clinic volunteer — for a Dental Assisting student.

“The student became somewhat uncomfortable during the procedure and excused herself,” Salari says. “I noticed she was being consoled and comforted, but in a firm and loving way by one of the Dental Assisting faculty members. She didn’t like seeing the blood, didn’t think she was ever going to be a good dental assistant.”

The instructor, he observed, listened as the student cried. Salari joined in and encouraged the student as well. She soon cleared her tears, composed herself and rejoined the procedure. Not much later, upon graduation, she applied for and received a job at Salari’s office. She’s been there ever since. “She has been one of our best assistants,” he enthuses. “The patients love her, her work is awesome and she’s a great mentor to our new staff members.”

In addition to being an invaluable, can-do learning tool, the twice-monthly community clinic is a chance to provide low-income, uninsured Central Oregonians with nominally priced dental care

(\$20 to cover basic materials), mostly in the form of fillings and extractions. The clinic’s history traces to 2005, when the VIM Clinic of the Cascades merged its existing program with the College to create the COCC-VIM Dental Clinic. A grant from the Oregon Community Foundation supplied startup funds.

Dental Assisting program director Lynn Murray coordinates the clinic, while the Deschutes County Health Department maintains the patient list. A typical clinic involves two volunteer dentists and sees 20 patients. “We have all our students and faculty there,” says Murray, adding that there is usually a Spanish-speaking staff member present.



Students find a new stride through the clinic; it helps them earn requisite clinical hours, too. “They’re used to the lab, they know where things are and they have their faculty member right behind them,” she adds.

The clinic, notes Salari, is one of several worthwhile dental causes in Central Oregon, which include the Kemple Children’s Clinic, the Medical Teams International mobile dental van and Healthy Beginnings.

SPARKING FUTURES

Dr. Amberena Fairlee of Bend begins each workday with a schedule review, sizing up the day’s treatments for up to 10 patients, from fillings to crowns to root canals, as well as noting the exams she’ll conduct during cleaning appointments. The days are full for this Awbrey Dental Group dentist — and dental assistants are a key part.

“We have several COCC Dental Assisting graduates working at our office,” says Fairlee. “I personally love working with them because they are very well prepared for the dynamic days we can have.” Fairlee knows much about that preparedness part: she’s a 2007 graduate of the program, who ultimately received her DMD a decade later.

“When I signed up for the Dental Assisting program, I had absolutely no intention of ever becoming a dentist,” she says. “The instructors were so lovely and encouraging, though, and they provided me and other students with the support to help us reach even higher. I never thought the program or COCC would be the spark to change the future of my life, but it totally was.”

The one-year training has set many meaningful careers in motion. Helping people, of course, is the common denominator. Over at Timm Family Dentistry, recent graduate Michelle Rooks, whose schooling received COCC Foundation scholarship backing, is finding a rewarding second career as a dental assistant. With her kids grown and gone, she decided to seek some growth of her own. "What's most gratifying about what I do is the connection that you get with your patients," she says. "The look on their face when they come in upset and you can help them...the comfort that you can give your patients explaining what's going to happen."

"I personally love working with [COCC Dental Assisting graduates] because they are very well prepared for the dynamic days we can have."

Her new career, though, coincided with an upended world. "To have a pandemic come in not long after I just got into the groove and finally have the career of my dreams...that was hard," she adds. "But it makes me appreciate everything I have every morning, and makes me glad that I get to do this and continue to help my patients every day."

The field of dentistry, with its highly aerosolized interactions, has necessitated many COVID-19 precautions, from face shields and respirators to air treatment. Despite the pandemic, the future looks bright for dental assistants, with both pay scale and demand growing. Murray's pleased with another outcome that has taken shape: "This coming year, we have 24 students planned to be in the program," she says, beaming. "A full cohort." ■

left: Leslie Houston

top: Timothy Park

right: YGH Architecture



THE PATH OF NEW POTENTIAL

Foundation scholarship recipients set out to begin again

— by Mark Russell Johnson —

THOM HUGHES MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY

“I’m looking forward to the day I can step out of a truck...and start making parts for trucks.”



Taking stock of his high-mileage trucking career and its constant physical demands, Thom Hughes of Madras was at a crossroads. His job behind the wheel had racked up more mileage than he cared to calculate (the average trucker covers some 2,000 miles each week), and he sought a change, something where he could avoid the endless haul.

An unexpected encounter at COCC’s annual Job Fair — where Hughes was actually in attendance to share his knowledge of the trucking industry — opened his eyes to another possibility. Striking up a conversation with two instructors from COCC’s Manufacturing Technology program, he learned about the many career options in the trades and quickly became

one of many job-seekers that day to feel the sway of new potential. He enrolled at COCC the following term.

“I love to make things with my hands, so I jumped at the chance,” he says. “I’m looking forward to the day I can step out of a truck...and start making parts for trucks.”

Along with that role reversal, and with all the training and newly acquired skills — from machining to lathe operations — Hughes found something else he wasn’t quite expecting: “My confidence has come back,” he shares. “I lost it somewhere along the way, and I can see the light at the end of the tunnel and it is bright. Now I want to learn more and do better for myself and my family.”

Wherever he ends up in the field of manufacturing, whether in 3-dimensional drawing or programming CNC machines, Hughes seems happy to be constantly learning, working on projects, connecting with fellow students and instructors, and hitting reset on the career “trip meter.” It’s a whole new day, with a better way forward.

From tuition payments to tool expenses, Hughes is grateful for the support his COCC Foundation scholarship has provided. He’s thankful, too, for another kind of impact his scholarship backing has brought on: “It’s helped me show my children that you can do anything if you set your mind to it.” ■

CRYSTAL ALANIZ

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

“...COCC...has allowed me to recognize there are no limitations to be successful in the world.”



At a young age, Crystal Alaniz saw the difference she could make in the lives of others. When she was 16, her foster family encouraged her to seek out a meaningful summer job, so she worked at a program that provided community outreach for at-risk children. It was an experience, she recalls, that brought joy “helping get kids off the streets.”

It also called up some of her own history. Raised in a low-income family that struggled, and faced with bilingual learning challenges at school, Alaniz saw her parents separate when she was young. Later, she was placed in a foster home.

And even as she saw the impact of helping others through positive influence, her own struggles would continue. She

would drop out of high school, later find herself in an unhealthy marriage that led to divorce. “I acknowledge it all...it has shaped who I am today, a person with insight who has fought and survived,” she shares. Being a mother to two beautiful children, she says, helped her stay the course, while a long-term job at Walmart in Redmond became a steadying force.

Still, she never forgot that profound work as a teen, and several years ago it brought her to COCC where she enrolled in the Early Childhood Education program. Her studies have been enjoyable and fascinating, and she is particularly interested in how children absorb and learn through the power of play. “I feel it’s important to present

children with the tools needed early in life to be successful adults for the future,” she shares.

With a goal of transferring to OSU-Cascades for a bachelor’s degree in human development and family sciences, Alaniz sees herself working for the Bend-La Pine School District. Her own drive and dedication are shaping this new career, but she knows support systems are vital.

“Thank you for choosing me as a scholarship recipient,” she says. “As a person, COCC has helped me understand that challenging myself is not a burden, but has allowed me to recognize there are no limitations to be successful in the world.” ■

UPCOMING EVENTS FALL 2021



Fresh vs. Frozen?

Ann Colonna

OSU Food Innovation Center,
Sensory Program Director

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11

5:30 p.m. | COCC Cascade Culinary
Institute Outdoor Patio



Climate Resilience in Central Oregon

Hal Wershow

COCC, Geology Faculty

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

6:30 p.m. | Wille Hall



A Firsthand Account: The Crisis at the Border

Julio Ricardo Varela

Futuro Media, Editorial Director

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15

6:00 p.m. | Virtual Presentation

COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place for all events. Due to the ongoing pandemic, all programs are subject to change in format, postponement or cancellation.

For more details and to register:
cocc.edu/foundation/cls



CENTRAL OREGON
community college
FOUNDATION
Nancy R. Chandler Lecture Series

THE NANCY R. CHANDLER LECTURE SERIES

The Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program debuts an updated name to better align with format and offerings

— by Jenn Kovitz —

Beginning this fall, the Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program is now the Nancy R. Chandler Lecture Series. This community programming has been a perennial source of diverse and timely conversations since its founding in 1985, and will continue to offer compelling events under its updated name.

Last year, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chandler Lecture Series went all-virtual. Thanks to the technology

of Zoom, we were able to welcome a record number of participants hailing from all over the world. The program covered topics ranging from sustainable food models to social justice to the science of happiness. Once again, the Chandler Lecture Series partnered with COCC's Office of Diversity and Inclusion to co-host the annual Season of Nonviolence, which for the first time included events specifically celebrating Black History Month. ■



3000+

The record number of participants in
Nancy R. Chandler Lecture Series events

630

average number of
attendees at each
of the three Season
of Nonviolence
keynote events



196

participants
in the College's
first-ever
**Black History
Month** events

BHM

44%

of those who
attended the
programming
stated it was
their **first time**
attending a
Season of
Nonviolence
event at COCC



10%

percentage of program attendees
who hailed from outside of Oregon

Jenn Kovitz is the director of Marketing and Public Relations.

2020-21 Impact of Giving Report

CENTRAL OREGON
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FOUNDATION



TOGETHER, WE CHANGE LIVES

Our Mission

The COCC Foundation provides funds for scholarships and capital improvements, cultivates relationships with stakeholders to support COCC and its students, and develops programs that foster COCC student success.



HOLISTIC HELP A NOTE FROM ZAK BOONE

Greetings!

Most of us know the value of scholarships in financial terms: these funds save students' precious resources for other essential needs; these funds are the financial difference between an educational dream pursued and a dream deferred. But scholarships offer more than financial support; they also relieve stress and support students' mental health.

Since my first year on the job in 2015, I've had the privilege to read thousands of "thank you" letters from Foundation scholarship recipients. Throughout the years, a recurring theme has emerged: "I was so **relieved** that I only had to work one job during the past term..."

"You have **lightened my financial burden** which allows me to focus on the most important aspect of school — learning!"

"This scholarship has literally been the difference between success and failure for me, and what a **sigh of relief** that is!"

"This scholarship will allow me to have the time and freedom and **peace of mind** to take more classes, and have more time to study for them — thank you!"

This past year, against the backdrop of a global pandemic and so much uncertainty, COCC Foundation donors supported our students financially in record numbers, and in turn, reduced stress and anxiety across our district for hundreds of our neighbors. That is true, robust philanthropy in action — thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "ZAK".

Zak Boone
COCC Foundation Executive Director and
COCC's Chief Advancement Officer

Impact of Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIP Recipient Data

\$1.72M



offered in scholarship support



364

scholarships awarded to hard-working students



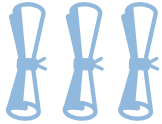
219

students offered a first-time full scholarship



145

students had their scholarships renewed



3.34

average GPA of scholarship students



1.71

more credits earned per term than average

Degrees Pursued

50%

Transfer degree

41%

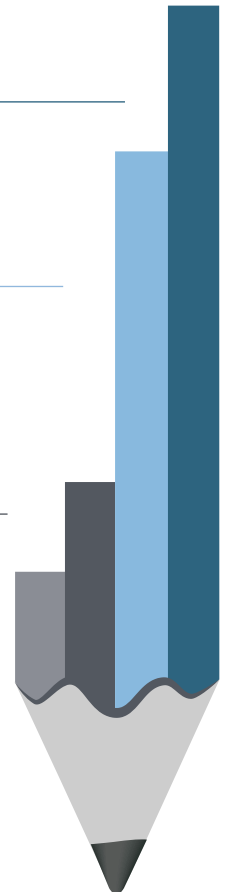
Career and Technical Education certificate or degree

6%

Exploratory degree

3%

Associate of General Studies degree



7%



of COCC credit students received a Foundation scholarship

Lasting Impact

STUDENT Impact ANTHONY

“I was originally drawn to Computer Science because it gave me a way to pursue all of my creative outlets. I really enjoy using my imagination to create and problem-solve, and I’m focused on a career dedicated to helping alleviate social and economic disparities, such as working for a nonprofit or a human services agency. Because of the COCC Foundation scholarship and some highly skilled teachers, I was able to improve my overall confidence and self-esteem. My career goal is to dedicate myself to helping others. As a personal goal, I want to use what I learn to lead a rich, fulfilling life dedicated to the simple things, like being a present, older brother or making my mom proud.”

“Because of the COCC Foundation scholarship and some highly skilled teachers, I was able to improve my overall confidence and self-esteem.”

The Computer and Information Systems program at COCC provides students with innovative resources, such as a networking lab, private cloud storage and a host of industry relationships. The COCC Foundation has provided close to 100 Computer and Information Systems scholarship awards during the last decade.



Anthony, COCC Foundation Scholarship Recipient



CHANGE A LIFE TODAY!

Donate to the COCC Foundation Scholarship Fund today and change a life forever. Learn more at cocc.edu/give.

DONOR Impact

ED & MARY JANE PHELPS

My Family's Connection to Central Oregon Community College

In 1950, I would never believe that over 70 years in the future we would be contributing to the scholarship program at "Central Oregon College" (now COCC).

Born and raised in Bend, I attended Bend Junior-Senior High School, graduating in 1952. Like my dad who was an accountant at the Brooks-Scanlon Mill, I guess I was also destined to become an accountant.

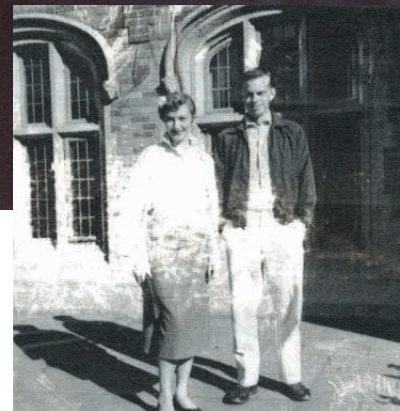
“ My parents and grandparents ... would be very pleased with our decision to endow scholarships helping students at Central Oregon Community College. ”

I took a bookkeeping class in high school from Mr. Harold Carlile. After that, he told me he was teaching an evening Central Oregon College accounting class co-located in the high school building. So, I took the classes and I'm glad I did! When I entered Oregon State College (now Oregon State University), I discovered I could apply the credit hours earned in the evening classes to my transcript. The result was that I was taking advanced accounting classes during my freshman and sophomore years. Then, I would have to transfer to the University of Oregon if I wanted to continue the accounting major. Bend was a very strong Beaver town, and my friends and family were not enthused about my becoming a Duck. So, my decision, instead, was to enter the University of Washington for my junior and senior years. It was a good choice, as I loved the school and Seattle. But best of all, I met my future wife, Mary Jane Clark, at the UW.

My parents and grandparents are buried in Bend, and I know they would be very pleased with our decision to endow scholarships helping students at Central Oregon Community College.

Ed Phelps

Ed Phelps
Salem, Oregon



The Cost of Education: Your Donated Dollars Go Further

\$4,500 

Annual tuition and fee cost for most in-district students attending COCC full-time.

\$20,871 

Estimated annual cost of attending COCC for a student living on their own. This includes tuition, fees, books, supplies, personal needs, transportation, food and housing costs.

33% 

Percent of COCC students unable to meet their educational expenses with expected resources, including family contributions, student earnings and grant aid.

When You Invest in the COCC Foundation, You Create Lifelong Impact

 **575**

Individual and business donors contributed to the COCC Foundation*

 **\$105,000**

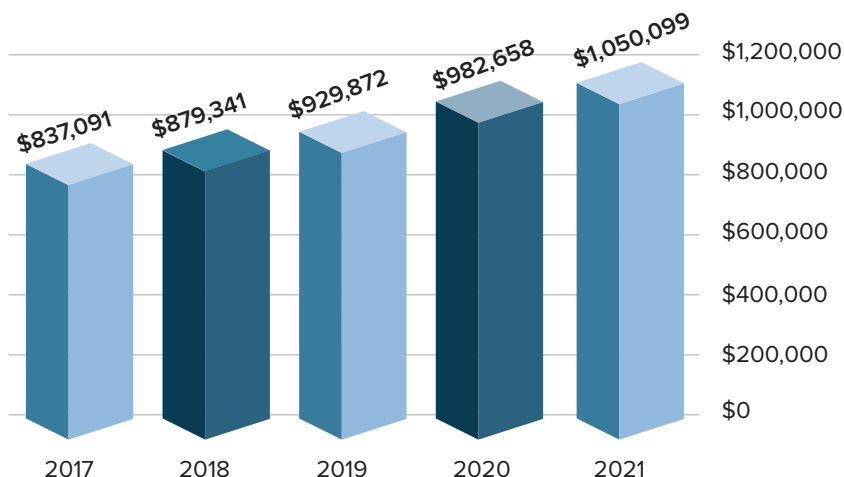
donated in direct support of childcare assistance and student emergency awards

 **\$61,471**

Contributed directly to COCC programs

ENDOWMENT EARNINGS CONTRIBUTED TO SCHOLARSHIPS & PROGRAMS

Previous Five Years



During the past five years, the COCC Foundation endowment has yielded more than \$4.6 million to student scholarships and COCC programs. The market value ending June 30, 2021, was \$28,328,088. Historically, the COCC Foundation's endowment ranks as one of the top endowment funds in the nation among community colleges.

*For a full listing of current donors, please visit: cocc.edu/foundation

Words of Thanks

"I can't imagine this dream being achievable without your generosity. Your donation literally changes lives and I hope that as a nurse I will be able to give back to the community in the same way you've given to my family. Thank you, thank you, thank you."
– Sedona, Nursing

"By awarding me with this Foundation Scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. **Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community.**"
– Tera, Dental Assisting

"I wish there were the right words to express the true gratitude I feel for being awarded this scholarship. **I will continue to show my appreciation through getting good grades and excelling in school.** Another thing that I am really loving is the strong sense of purpose and feeling that I am working for something very important."
– Branden, Natural Resources

"As a single father of two children, this scholarship is a significant part of my education. **With this scholarship, I can attend school with the focus of graduating on time with all the requirements and still meet the needs of my children.** Thank you again for your generous donation and helping my family achieve our dreams."
– Justin, Engineering

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue to grow and learn in my life. **I don't think I would have been able to continue my education without this scholarship.** This opportunity that you have given me will not be taken for granted and I am committed to working hard in class as another way of saying thank you."
– Leah, Psychology



CENTRAL OREGON
community college
FOUNDATION

2600 NW College Way
Bend, Oregon 97703

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MEAL OF THE YEAR
Save the Date
April 9, 2022