

LEGACIES

Central Oregon Community College Foundation Magazine

FALL 2020



Building Bridges

Emergency Funding Helps
Keep the Focus on Learning

Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program

Following Your Compass

Impact of Giving Report

contents

features

4 A 35-Year-Long Conversation

Celebrating the perennial timeliness of the Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program.
By Jenn Kovitz

6 Building Bridges

When students find themselves in a time of critical financial need, emergency funding can help keep the focus on learning.
By Mark Russell Johnson

15 Impact of Giving Report

Your gifts to COCC students in 2019-20 have greatly improved students' access to education.



The Foundation awarded 375 full scholarships to hard-working students in 2019-20.

15



Scholarship recipients dream big.



In-person learning centers on safety.

14

ABOVE

📷 Drew Cecchini

LEFT

📷 Karen Cammack

RIGHT

📷 Karen Cammack



Daisy Layman
Chair, COCC Foundation
Board of Trustees.

2

departments

2 Letter From the President

3 Charitable Giving Incentives

Maximize your donations during these challenging times.

12 Following Your Compass

Foundation scholarship recipients share their stories.

14 Masked-Up and Ready for Class

With smaller class sizes and plentiful precautions, in-person learning centers on safety.

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Letter From the President

Welcome, friends, to our 2020 edition of *Legacies*. As I write this, we're busy putting our reopening plans into action. Many COCC teams and departments are working in concert, all focused on a slow and diligent rollout to carefully phase our students back into classrooms and labs. More than ever, it's a moment of collaboration and teamwork.

I hope by the time you read this in October that our reopening path is holding steady. Even if we're forced to adjust again, I know we can. I've seen how the faculty and staff at COCC have risen to the challenge, finding ways to quickly integrate new technology or evolve teaching techniques to meet the need.

Of the countless life events that we've been forced to miss out on during these COVID times, the cancellation of the President's Scholarship Luncheon in June — later held virtually and still viewable on the Foundation's webpage at cocc.edu/departments/foundation/psc — was particularly hard. It was to be my first one. Great moments happen at this luncheon: the celebration of scholarship students and their diverse paths; the honoring of generosity and commitment from our community; the sharing of inspirational stories.

In 2016, Daisy Layman was at this uplifting luncheon. Between the inspiring stories and the overall spirit of the day, she was touched deeply, spurred to further her Foundation involvement. She soon volunteered for a committee, then later joined the board of trustees and, this past year, was appointed its chair.

Daisy and I have worked closely to best align the College and the Foundation. I've seen how she puts an emphasis on progress and participation. With every goal or endeavor, she brings true energy to this crucial leadership role.

Her focus on the advancement model — a fusion of the College's messaging and mission across all platforms and efforts — is unwavering. It's incredibly important work, too. She encourages community involvement whenever possible, and has formed a student support subcommittee on the board to tighten connections with the College.

Since I've been at COCC, I've noticed Daisy's warmth and welcoming nature. In fact, that could be said of the entire board and many in this giving community. I so appreciate the openhearted connections and ongoing interactions that bring us together for the betterment of Central Oregon.

Looking ahead has never felt so necessary. I know there is much work to be done as we navigate this chapter, backed with patience, optimism and heart. I'm glad and thankful we're in this together.

With much appreciation,



Laurie Chesley

Laurie Chesley
COCC President

CHARITABLE GIVING INCENTIVES

MAXIMIZE YOUR DONATIONS DURING THESE CHALLENGING TIMES

— by Misty Bouse —

As part of the vibrant Central Oregon nonprofit community, the COCC Foundation celebrates CARES Act enhanced charitable giving incentives, further enabling Americans to help others in need following the March 13 national emergency declaration. We thank lawmakers for their support of the above-the-line deduction. To clarify the benefits, we invited COCC Foundation trustee and CPA Steve Callan of Callan Accounting to share insights into the new tax relief.

TEMPORARY UNIVERSAL CHARITABLE DEDUCTION

Starting with 2020 returns, taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions can take a one-time deduction up to \$300 for gifts made to charitable organizations. As we go to press, legislators are also considering the Universal Giving Pandemic Response Act (S. 4032/H.R. 7324), that would make available — for tax years 2019 and 2020 — an above-the-line deduction for charitable giving on federal income taxes valued at up to one-third of the standard deduction (around \$4,000 for an individual filer and \$8,000 for married joint filers).

Callan: The current bill states taxable years "beginning in 2020..." but does not include a sunset date. So, it could extend beyond 2020. The deduction is only for cash gifts (not stock) given in calendar year 2020. It does not cover other types of gifts or contributions made to donor-advised funds or private foundations.

HALTING OF THE 60% ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME LIMITATION FOR INDIVIDUALS' CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2020

Callan: In most years, individuals can only take a charitable deduction of up to 60% of their adjusted gross income, regardless of how generously they give. For 2020, there is no limit, making cash donations (other than from donor-advised funds) fully deductible.

For 2020, there is no limit to charitable deductions from adjusted gross income, making cash donations fully deductible, assuming itemized deductions exceed your standard deduction.

INCREASING THE CAP ON HOW MUCH CORPORATIONS CAN DEDUCT FOR CHARITABLE GIFTS FROM 10% OF TAXABLE INCOME TO 25%

Callan: Also, the limitation on deductions for food donations by corporations increases from 15% of

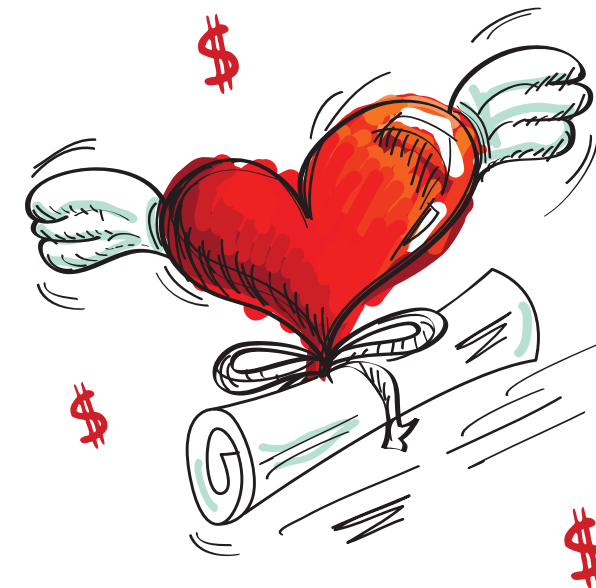
taxable income, without regard to the deduction, to 25% in 2020.

WAIVES THE REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS (RMD) FROM RETIREMENT PLANS AND PENSIONS PLANS FOR 2020

Callan: Any required minimum distributions from retirement plans that would have been required in 2020 have been waived for 2020. For individuals who use their RMDs to fund qualified charitable donations directly, you will need to find another way to satisfy your charitable intent. You may end up making donations from your non-retirement funds and deducting directly on Schedule A as the charities you care for still need your funding. ■

Note: Please consult with your financial and/or tax advisor regarding these evolving changes.

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



Steve Callan, CPA

A 35-Year-Long Conversation

Celebrating the Perennial Timeliness of the Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program

— by Jenn Kovitz —



The Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program has been a perennial source of diverse, compelling and timely conversations since its founding in 1985.

Jenn Kovitz is the director of Marketing and Public Relations.

If you take a quick glance at the list of past speakers for the Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program, you might assume the series is relatively new, given the speakers' resonance with our current national moment. Previous visiting scholars include Robin DiAngelo, author of the *New York Times* bestseller, *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* (2018); Carol Ruth Silver and Claude Albert Liggins, both 1961 Freedom Riders (2012); Kathleen Dean Moore, acclaimed environmental writer (2010); Luis J. Rodriguez, poet and urban peace activist (2006); and Maya Angelou, Pulitzer

Prize-winning writer and activist (2004). Yet the COCC Foundation's esteemed Visiting Scholar Program (VSP) is in fact a longstanding institution at the College, and has been a perennial source of diverse, compelling and timely conversations since its founding in 1985. Robert W. Chandler Sr. created the program to honor his wife, Nancy, who was known for hosting salon-style gatherings. The Chandlers owned Western Communications, and Nancy would invite their frequent visitors to share their perspectives with the local community. As an essential component of the COCC Foundation, the VSP continues Nancy's tradition, welcoming renowned thinkers,

above: Nancy R. Chandler

lecturers and experts to Central Oregon to provide broad-based educational and relevant programming on a wide range of subjects.

Community feedback affirms that Nancy's legacy thrives well into the 21st century. After artist-activist Chisao Hata facilitated an evening on COCC's Redmond campus entitled "Can We Get Along? Examining our Personal Experiences of Connection and Community," one attendee remarked, "I enjoyed talking with new people because I don't get the opportunity often." Following Robin DiAngelo's lecture, an audience member shared, "This was an eye-opening, life-changing event." And former Bend Mayor Jim Clinton asserts that VSP is "the most valuable cultural and educational program in this community."

VSP speakers consistently address several recurring themes, including climate and landscape, food and culture, medicine, civility and reconciliation and social justice. One important intersection of these themes is the annual Season of Nonviolence, which the Foundation co-presents with COCC's Office of Diversity and Inclusion. COCC's Season

of Nonviolence honors the legacies of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, Cesar Chavez and Chief Wilma Mankiller. Spanning the anniversaries of the assassination dates of Gandhi (January 30) and Dr. King (April 4), the Season is part of an international campaign that honors the work of these leaders and their vision for an

the end of 2020. In October, bioethicist Jacob M. Appel shares his presciently timed presentation, "Vaccines: History, Science, Ethics." In November, journalist Amanda Little will give a talk based on her award-winning book, *The Fate of Food: What We'll Eat in a Bigger, Hotter, Smarter World*. Thanks to ongoing community support, annual sponsorships

...nonviolence is a powerful way to heal, transform and empower lives and communities.

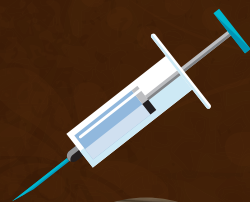
empowered, nonviolent world. Each year, the College curates speakers, films, book discussions, theater productions and workshops that demonstrate nonviolence is a powerful way to heal, transform and empower lives and communities. All Season of Nonviolence programming is free and open to the public.

Last year marked the Visiting Scholar Program's 35th anniversary, and the 2020-21 year is a testament to the series' ability to evolve and adapt. In response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, programming will be virtual through

and grants, VSP will continue to offer programming at low or no cost — and student tickets are always free.

Over the last 35 years, COCC, Central Oregon and the nation at large have transformed in profound ways. Throughout that time, the Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program has endured as an intersectional, topical and educational keystone in the community — and the COCC Foundation is committed to VSP's role in fostering inspiring conversations for decades to come. ■

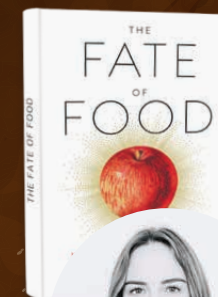
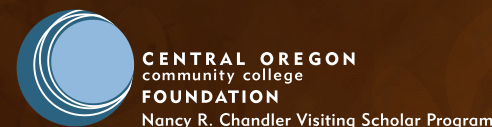
2020 FALL EVENTS



VACCINES:
History, Science & Ethics

Jacob M. Appel
M.D., J.D., M.P.H.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28
6:00 p.m. | Virtual Presentation



THE FATE OF FOOD:
What We'll Eat in a Bigger, Hotter, Smarter World

Amanda Little
Author, Journalist, Professor

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9
6:30 p.m. | Virtual Presentation



For more details and to register, visit: cocc.edu/foundation/vsp

BUILDING BRIDGES

WHEN STUDENTS FIND THEMSELVES IN A TIME OF CRITICAL FINANCIAL NEED, EMERGENCY FUNDING CAN HELP KEEP THE FOCUS ON LEARNING

— by Mark Russell Johnson —

It was a simple student survey. The results, though, were rather tough to take. This past fall, 602 students at Central Oregon Community College participated in a nationwide college study geared at identifying issues of housing and food insecurity. Among COCC's respondents, some 41% indicated that they had faced food uncertainty in the prior month. Which meant that they were worried about having enough food. Or that sometimes they had to go without it. For 22% of the respondents, homelessness or unreliable housing had been a factor in the past year. Some had even camped out.

While the outcomes were similar to other surveyed Oregon community colleges, and skewing only slightly higher than figures from other colleges and universities around the country, they exposed a hard truth: Many students are on shaky ground.

Community college students seem to be at a disadvantage. Findings cited in a 2015 report by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development revealed that 29% of the nation's community college students had household

incomes that fell below \$20,000. Thirty-five percent were parents. It's a tough recipe for academic perseverance.

Here in Central Oregon, housing is an added hurdle. Rent and home prices have spiked in recent years, which, paired with a scarcity in rental inventory, has turned a simple need into a vexing issue. And now, of course, the coronavirus has brought on extra hardships, with working

students facing layoffs and reduced hours. Finding support seems more essential to student success than ever. But there is help.



\$1,000
\$500



The COCC Student Emergency Fund is a source of support that awards up to \$500 per term to students in significant need of monetary assistance.

provided helped me with first month's rent and deposit."

For students in cohort programs, keeping to a dedicated timetable is essential — training can't veer when life's obstacles pop up. To complete COCC's one-year Medical Assisting program, for instance, students have a busy lineup of labs and then immerse in 160 hours' worth of practicums. One recent graduate of the program, who finished with honors, says that the money she received from the Student Emergency Fund helped her make a housing payment and stay the studious course.

"I was able to continue with my schooling without the added stresses of that," she says. "I'll now take the state exam and continue my passion for the

medical field. I hope to go on in the Nursing program."

With a history that traces back to 2005, the Student Emergency Fund was born from a sizeable bequest that established the Robert & Margaret Turner Endowment. Annual earnings from the generous endowment are set aside for this specific assistance. Its impact has been vast.

Additional gifts have since raised the ceiling of the total fund, and the Foundation has channeled dollars from more than 60 individual donations into the account. This year, for the first time, the program was able to keep operating throughout the summer term. But it's not the only place that students can turn.

TEAMING UP FOR SUCCESS

Sitting in her Bend campus office, Layla Solar thumbs through a packet of paperwork. It's a July morning and the College's assistant director of Financial Aid, normally working from home during COVID-19 times, visits the Boyle Education Center once a week just to access these assembled materials. On the wall, a framed poster of Safeco Field looks on — the imagined roar of a Mariners crowd is a constant presence.

And Solar is stepping into the batter's box of an important task: processing the week's applications for the "COCC Student Emergency Fund," a source of support that awards up to \$500 per term to students in significant need of monetary assistance. That might mean help with living expenses, support for childcare or funds to fix a car.

Requests come in for essential things that keep a life on its path. It's a resource that serves as a backstop when other needs-based aid options have already been tapped out.

Solar will make sure that requisite documents are included, such as, say, a cost estimate for a hoped-for set of new tires. "Sometimes the students might think I'm being a little pesky asking for more information," she says. But it's all about boosting their odds for the funding. "We really want to do what we can for our students."

She'll create a file that incorporates things like the student's GPA and their degree track (they need to be enrolled at least half-time to qualify) — keeping an eye open to collateral avenues of assistance that might help, such as federal Pell grants — and then forward those files on to the three other members of the approval committee for an evaluation. The team has been busy.

"Deserving students are getting the assistance they need," says committee member Brittany Nichols, the Foundation's director of programs. In just this last academic year, 69 students were approved for assistance, which includes a large wave of requests that flooded

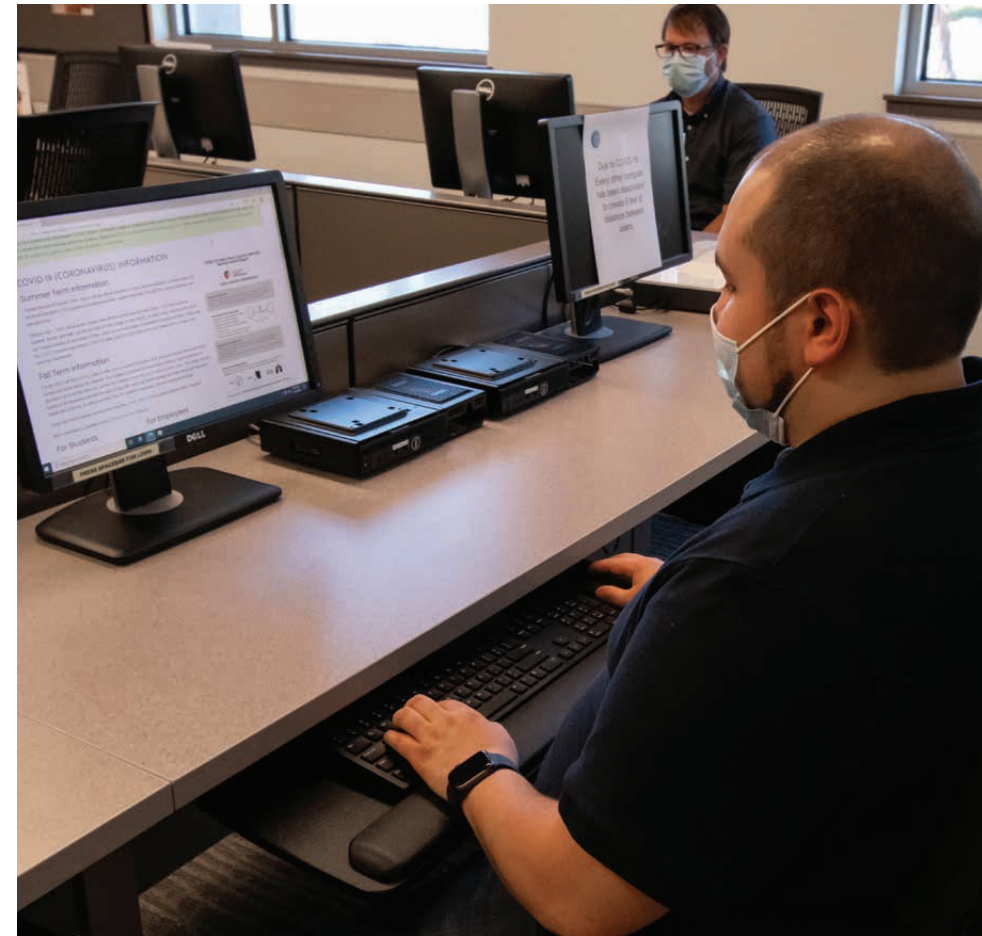
in during the pandemic's onset. In fact, the Student Emergency Fund's per-term cap was increased from \$500 to \$1,000 during the spring term to help students weather some uncertain times. Guidelines were flexed, too. "If they have children at home, we were giving them the full thousand," Nichols adds.

As dollars are awarded, the learning keeps turning. "It directly impacts their ability to be successful," says Solar, who often receives appreciative emails. "I hear that from the students."

"Deserving students are getting the assistance they need."

One of them, a student in the Early Childhood Education program, who's now on year three of her studies and nearing the completion of an associate degree while working for NeighborImpact, says the assistance helped her get settled in a new place. "With these funds, I have been able to move into affordable housing," she shares. "The money

For students in cohort programs, keeping to a dedicated timetable is essential — training can't veer when life's obstacles pop up.



EMPOWERING PROGRAMS

A host of services are helping students improve their lives

Tucked inside the student government office on the Bend campus, there's an upright cabinet that plays a central part in countless educations: the COCC food bank. On its shelves, dry goods, canned items and hygiene products are stocked for students coping with financial challenges. After making an appointment, they come by, sign in, peruse the options and take home a bagful. It's paid for and managed by the Associated Students of COCC.

"ASCOCC does the purchasing for each campus and distributes the food here on the Bend campus, while the branch campuses coordinate their distribution according to what works for them," explains Gordon Price, coordinator of Student Activities.

Another helpful program is brand-new this September. It's a partnership with Thrive Central Oregon, a local nonprofit, that will better assist students in sourcing community resources and opportunities. The one-year pilot project, made possible by funding from the Keyes Trust, a Foundation asset, allows for the hiring of a part-time Thrive resource specialist, supervised by COCC. The program brokers connections to existing

resources serving students on all four COCC campuses.

"Our region offers a breadth of assistance for those experiencing challenges such as financial insecurity and housing instability," says Sarah Kelley, founder and executive director of Thrive Central Oregon, "and we can help shore up lives by directing them to this dedicated help."

Mental health counseling, particularly in pandemic times, is an instrumental part of many lives, and the College offers free sessions. "I direct a lot of students there," says Andrew Davis, director of Student and Campus Life. Several mental health professionals, he explains, are contracted to work with COCC students, with appointments happening remotely for the time being.

For a student who might need an outfit for a job interview, or even just for daily use, they can visit the "Clothing Connection" at COCC, a free donated clothing program. For dental care, students in need can access the College's low-income community clinic, staged by the Dental Assisting program. These and other services at COCC offer access to a more empowered life.

HELP WHERE IT'S NEEDED

In the fall of last year, serendipity struck. Just after the 602 students had completed the national college survey — revealing real needs in both housing and food security — an anonymous gift came to the Foundation. Its announced purpose: to provide small cash awards to students struggling with expenses.

"Next thing you know, we were sitting down talking about how we could utilize these funds for students," says Marcus Legrand, COCC's Pathways career success coach. As one of the fund's administrators, Legrand says they decided to put a special focus on "gap" students, such as those who were earning their GED and prepping to enroll at COCC, but were not yet receiving financial aid. The money would also be offered without any barriers, open to undocumented students who might find other funding out of reach.

With a less formal application process than the Student Emergency Fund, the "Olive Bridge Fund" began disbursing checks — from \$50 to several hundred dollars — into the accounts of

approved students, to be used for things like textbooks and supplies. Then, just like that, the world shifted.

"All of a sudden, COVID hit, and we said, 'OK, we have those resources here, how can we make sure this gets out to students,'" says Legrand. Needs were beginning to amplify overnight. So they redrew the boundaries of the requests, and now, in addition to funding things like computer repairs or calculator purchases, true emergencies are considered. One student, a mother, Legrand recalls, had only enough in her account to cover groceries or a tuition payment. "So we paid her tuition payment for her," he says.

One student, a mother, only had enough in her account to cover groceries or a tuition payment. "So we paid her tuition payment for her."

More gifts have replenished the allocated dollars. The fund's anonymous donor, seeing the ramifications of

COVID-19, has twice added to the original donation. One was offered as a matched challenge of \$5,000 — it was quickly met by another donor, also anonymous. The Foundation opened up the fund even further by merging in two other small, but similarly designed, aid accounts.

Meanwhile, the College has put an added focus on increasing its array of student resources. The effort was underway in the wake of the food and housing survey; its pace quickened with the coronavirus.

"We call it 'Help for Students in Need,'" says Andrew Davis, director of Student and Campus Life, referring to a new catchall webpage that lists a raft of resources. "We put that together in the beginning of April." The page includes aid of an immediate nature, such as the Student Emergency Fund, as well as longer-term support, like the STEP program, which provides life-coaching and training services for SNAP-eligible students (SNAP is Oregon's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).

Other types of help, from food pantries to health care options, are helping build

bridges for students (see: "Empowering Programs"). Knowing that their college and community cares about their well-being — well beyond the classroom — is affirming for many.

"I am beyond grateful to have these resources and an amazing community to help me when I need it."

"It has meant the world to me," says a current psychology student who received money from the Student Emergency Fund after Legrand helped facilitate it. "I am beyond grateful to have these resources and an amazing community to help me when I need it."

For this mother of two young children, just 20 credits away from graduating, her plans are coming together and include mentoring at an at-risk program. "From there," she says, with confidence, "I will attend Portland State University for a bachelor's in psychology." With fewer obstacles, the road ahead looks clearer and clearer. ■

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



FOLLOWING YOUR COMPASS

STANFORD-BOUND OR SKYWARD, SUCCESS FOR THESE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS IS ABOUT DREAMING BIG

— by Mark Russell Johnson —

ERIK KERSENBROCK

ENGINEERING

Determined to bring some new direction into his life, Erik Kersensbrock, at age 24, decided he'd head north. From Georgia to Maine on the Appalachian Trail, that is. Out along the epic 2,180-mile journey — which the

Kansas native completed mostly in a pair of sandals, a poncho

serving as a make-do tent — he mustered newfound confidence, even began to work through some past personal trauma. Mostly, though, he just persevered.

"I could go on and on about realizations I had on the trail," Kersensbrock tells *Legacies*. When he finished the five-and-a-half-month-long adventure, lean and seasoned, he simply stuck his thumb out and hitchhiked home to Kansas.

Now, at 30, the recent transfer student is on another journey. It might not feature the high-mileage, mosquito-bitten hardships of the trail, but it's got the same elements of self-challenge. And it's guided by the same trusty compass of perseverance.

At COCC, while living out of his tangerine-colored, 1990 Ford Collins school bus, Kersensbrock maintained a 4.0 GPA, notching a place on the dean's list every term. He went on to be named a member of the 2020 All-Oregon Academic Team, and this past spring, on the heels of earning an American Association of Community Colleges national scholar prize, he opened his email to find this incredible message: "You've been accepted into Stanford University."

"It's a total lifestyle change," says Kersensbrock, who's readying for the move while still living in his bus parked out on the Deschutes National Forest. Having received the Stanford Fund scholarship,

most of his costs will be covered during his time there, including housing, where he's been placed with older graduate students. "Thank God!" he laughs.

While the university is taking 90 credits of his COCC transfer degree, he knows that a place which last year posted an admittance rate of just four percent will be his biggest challenge yet. But he's put in the mileage. "I want to do engineering and computer science," he says of his chosen degree path, adding, "I'm going to try to do their accelerated master's program."

A Ray and Viki Haertel Memorial Scholarship* recipient two years in a row, Kersensbrock is thankful for more than just the monetary backing he received while at COCC. "The support is the biggest thing: 'We believe in you, focus on school,'" he says. "I'm used to an uphill battle," he adds, reflecting on the scholarship's impact. "It was huge." ■

**Both taught at COCC: Ray Haertel taught Mathematics; Viki taught Spanish.*



ELEXIS McALLISTER

AVIATION

Gravity seems to be losing its grip on Elexis McAllister. A former ranked snowboarder who competed at the state and national levels throughout high school — including taking home a gold medal in the soaring halfpipe contest at the Oregon Interscholastic Snowboard Association state competition — McAllister, also a kiteboarder, is now aiming even higher.

"I wasn't sure what I wanted to study," admits the former Hood River resident on life after high school. She had already trained to become a volunteer firefighter, but sought something that promised new experiences and distant sights. While considering a career as a flight attendant, she began to think bigger — and more toward the front of the plane.

"I found myself becoming more and more intrigued with piloting," she says. After an entry flight in Hood River, she got a taste of the open skies. "I still

wasn't 100% dedicated to the idea of being a pilot until I did my first solo. The feeling of being in the air felt so free and right. I knew from that day that this is the life I wanted."

Now on track to complete her Associate of Applied Science degree in Aviation by next winter, McAllister plans to transfer to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and earn a bachelor's degree in aeronautics. Beyond that, she intends to teach as a certified flight instructor or maybe fly corporate or private aircraft while accruing her 1,500 flight hours (required by the FAA) in preparation to becoming a commercial pilot.

"I'm super excited to see what life has in store for me," she says. "COCC has provided me with some of the best aviation instructors I could ever imagine." Now that her life is taking off in a significant way, she points to donor support as the essential lift. "My dreams are big — thank you for helping me reach for the stars." ■





MASKED-UP AND READY FOR CLASS

WITH SMALLER CLASS SIZES AND PLENTIFUL PRECAUTIONS, IN-PERSON LEARNING CENTERS ON SAFETY

— by Mark Russell Johnson —

Supporting a lively, rainbow-hued face covering, Vicki Thomas stands in front of her Nursing Assistant class and instructs them on the basics of breathing therapy. Behind her, the image of an oxygen mask fills the classroom's projector screen.

"You can't eat or drink with a mask on," she says, describing its limitations. Then, pausing for effect, she turns to her students, all spaced apart from one another in the Health Careers Center classroom. "Do we know that? Yes, we do," she adds amid a dash of laughter, all of them masked-up because of the coronavirus.

Like everything else these days, in-person learning is adapting to a new environment. For these students, on week two of their program — normally open to 18 students, but pared down to nine for distancing purposes — the measures have already become routine.

During summer term, specific Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses continued in-person learning with extra safety measures in place. For the fall

term, while most classes will remain remote or online, COCC cautiously expanded the number of CTE courses meeting in-person, and permitted science labs and forestry field trips to conduct in-person learning as well.

"The instructors have made it a safe learning environment. Everyone has been working as a team to keep the school a secure area."

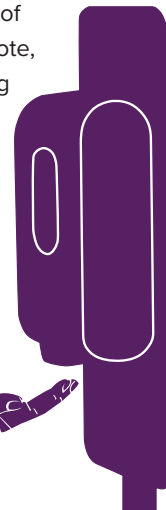
Masks are mandatory in all buildings. Each class begins with a dab of hand sanitizer, with dispensers located at both the building entrance and just inside the classroom door. At the start of the day, and after their lunch, students have their temperature taken with a non-contact digital thermometer. They're asked about their health status; they share any travel history. At the end of the session, they clean their desk with a disinfectant wipe.

The College's Automotive Technology program was back in operation this summer, returning to the Bend and Redmond campuses after going on hiatus to best implement COVID-19

precautions. "We went from 20 per class down to 15," says Paul Pelly, director of the program. Before students can go under the hood or step beneath a vehicle lift, he explains, there are safety steps, such as taking temperatures and wearing rubber gloves.

Paola Santacruz, who's completing her Master Automotive Technician Certification this year, was eager to return to campus. "There was no hesitation returning to school," she says. "The instructors have made it a safe learning environment. Everyone has been working as a team to keep the school a secure area."

COCC plans to conduct 25% of its academic programming in-person this fall, with the majority of classes remaining in remote, online and hybrid learning formats. However, the College continues to closely follow instructions from state leaders and health officials as it designs and monitors its reopening efforts. ■



2019-20 Impact of Giving Report

CENTRAL OREGON
community college
FOUNDATION



Impact of Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIP Recipient Data

\$1.7M

offered in scholarship support



375



scholarships awarded to hard-working students

175



students had their scholarship renewed for 2020-21

200



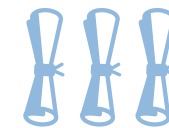
students offered a first-time full scholarship

6.73%



of COCC credit students received a Foundation scholarship

3.35



average GPA of scholarship students

2.15
more credits



earned per term than average

Degrees Pursued

57%

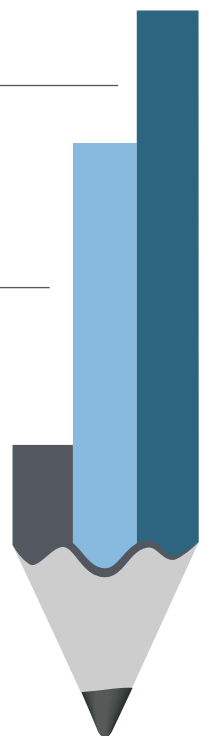
Transfer degree

40%

Career Technical Education certificate or degree

3%

Associate of General Studies degree



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.

STUDENT Impact JOSIAH

"I am very grateful to be a recipient of the COCC Foundation scholarship! I am currently studying in the Aviation program and learning to fly helicopters. My future dream is to work in search and rescue operations. This scholarship is certainly playing a vital role in my education and career goals, so thank you!"

The COCC Aviation – Professional Pilot program provides students with the knowledge and skills required to enter the exciting world of professional aviation. The COCC Foundation provided 89 aviation students with scholarship awards over the last 10 years.



Josiah, COCC Foundation Scholarship Recipient

COLLABORATIVE Impact FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT SUCCESS

Since 2017, Central Oregon Community College has helped hundreds of our underserved students with the support of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). "First-Generation Student Success" grants have contributed to countless hours of advising and programming for Latinx and Native American students. This year, the grant will expand to support our Afro-Centric community, and enable the College to pilot a new Afro-Centric program that will mirror the existing Latinx and Native American programs. These efforts include summer symposiums as well as culturally relevant college preparation courses for high school students. Participants receive college credit upon completion, as well as access to all of the support and facilities COCC has to offer. Students also connect with professors and staff, college student mentors, community members and more. The cultural component of these programs fosters relevance and inclusion.

One of the most essential opportunities the HECC grants afford are the scholarships for eligible college freshman who have completed one or more of COCC's college preparation programs. To date, the College has been able to award over \$100,000 in scholarships. For many families, these awards are the deciding factor for students to attend college. Cost is often a major barrier to access, and with these funds, deserving students have a chance to continue their education with fewer socioeconomic pressures. This monetary relief, along with support from COCC's Latinx, Native American and now Afro-Centric program coordinators, provides students with the tools and guidance they need to succeed. "The success of our Latinx and Native American programs shows us that these types of targeted offerings are effective, and the access we provide makes great strides toward equity and inclusion," states Christy Walker, director of COCC's Office of Diversity and Inclusion. "We are committed to making our college a safe and welcoming place for all. As HECC continues to support our efforts, we are continuing to change students' lives."



Courtesy of Chris Barbalis

DONOR Impact JUDY AND BILL SMITH

With a life dedicated to teaching and service, from Guatemala to Central Oregon, Judy and Bill Smith are a strong voice for education and the places it can take you. Both are retired educators who see community and schooling as being intrinsically linked, where gaining an appreciation for others is as much of an outcome as the formal aspects of learning. The Smiths are dedicated supporters to a number of community causes, including Judy's current role as a trustee with the Foundation board.

"We were both helped along our educational paths, and we believe in paying that forward to create an understanding for all about the power of giving back. This shows how an investment in supporting others' needs — whether monetarily, physically or emotionally — can lead to happy, successful lives for our students, and, in turn, help our communities thrive."



Judy and Bill Smith with Thor Erickson, COCC Assistant Professor II, Culinary

The Cost of Education: Your Donated Dollars Go Further

\$4,500 

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

33% 

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

1/10 \$

According to the College Board, the average community college costs about one-tenth the price of out-of-state public universities and private colleges.
Source: collegeboard.org



Words of Thanks

"My education means everything to me and finding out I'd received this scholarship was the best day of my life!"
– Hannah, Paramedicine & Exercise Science

"It is my hope that when I have finished my education, I will be able to give back to my community and help other students achieve their goals in the same way that you have helped me."
– Griffin, Art

"This scholarship helps me further my belief in myself, but also helps me realize there are others in the community who believe in me too!"
– Sam, Criminal Justice

"Thank you so much for your investment and interest in my education. When I finish this academic trek I will surely look back and remember this as the catalyst of my success."
– Spencer, Engineering

"Thank you again for your contribution to my educational endeavors. I can now worry less, study more, and my gratitude is likely to spill into everything I do!"
– Alisha, Nursing

"By awarding me with this COCC Foundation scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus on the most important aspect of school, learning!"
– Tera, Dental Assisting

"This scholarship will help relieve some of the financial burden that comes with attending college while also being a parent."
– Myriam, Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer

When You Invest in the COCC Foundation, You Create Life-Long Impact

 **550+**

Individual and business donors contributed to the COCC Foundation*

 **\$95,500**

Donated in direct support of student emergency awards

 **80**

Recurring monthly scholarship donors

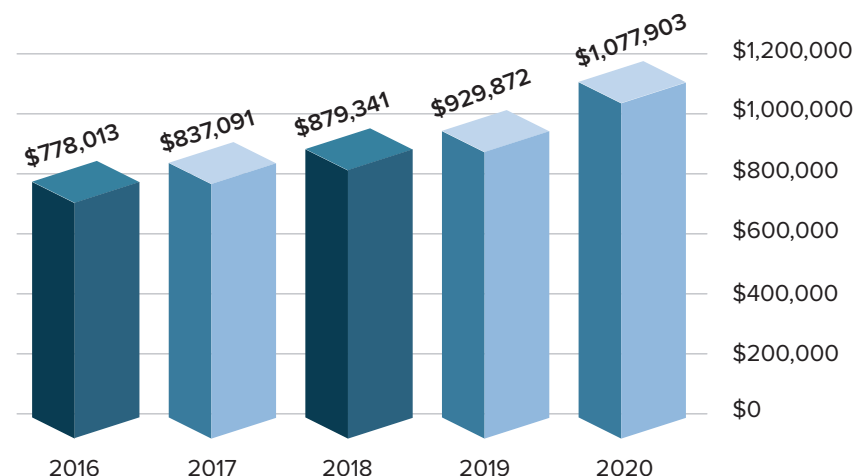
 **\$220,251**

Contributed directly to COCC programs

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

ENDOWMENT EARNINGS CONTRIBUTED TO SCHOLARSHIPS & PROGRAMS

Last 5 Years



During the past 5 years, the COCC Foundation endowment has yielded more than \$4.5 million to student scholarships and COCC programs. The market value ending June 30, 2020, was \$23,263,499. Historically, the COCC Foundation's endowment ranks as one of the highest in the nation among community colleges.



CENTRAL OREGON
community college
FOUNDATION

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Bend, Oregon 97703

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Even from
a distance...



Raul
COCC Automotive Student
COCC Foundation Scholarship Recipient

Kira and Rodney Cook
COCC Foundation Supporters

**We've Got
Your Back!**