

# LEGACIES

Central Oregon Community College Foundation Magazine

FALL 2022



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International Insights

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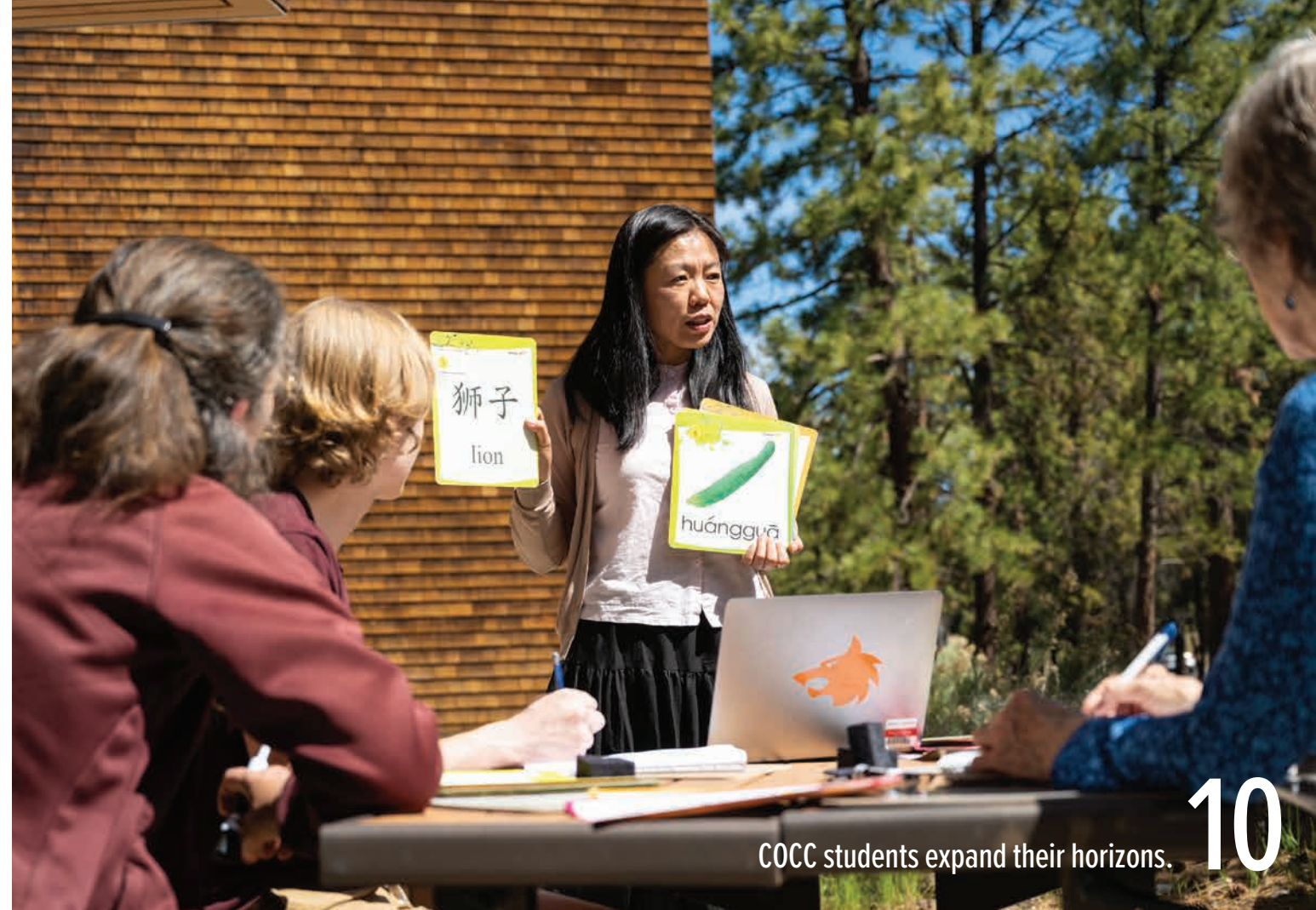
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# LEGACIES

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## Letter From the President

Welcome to the 2022 edition of *Legacies*. We have much to share with you about the students, programs and greater educational mission that you so generously support and sustain.

This year scholarship funds reached an all-time high: The COCC Foundation, with your backing, offered \$1.8 million to deserving students. That's an amazing figure. To broaden the reach of the program, the Foundation updated the scholarship process to offer applicants two application cycles annually. This change gives students more options and more opportunity to apply for assistance.

Another exciting development this year is the addition of a wonderful new ambassador program, initiated by Brittany Nichols, director of Foundation programs, that connects current scholarship recipients with would-be applicants. These impressive ambassadors—a small group selected through an interview process, and who earn additional aid for their work—share information and their own personal COCC experiences through events, presentations and other outreach activities. It's a great way for scholarships to have a peer-to-peer ripple effect across the College.

Although we canceled this year's Meal of the Year fundraiser in April due to ongoing COVID-19 precautions, we were able to return in-person for the President's Scholarship Celebration in June. I had the privilege of introducing event honorees Jeff and Margie Robberson (pictured above), who have provided unwavering support to the Foundation for 30 years. Their dedication to opening educational doors has funded 36 full scholarships, and they maintain a commitment to the College that is simply inspiring.

In this issue, we catch up with two past scholarship recipients who passed through COCC's doors—and many other doors beyond. You'll also learn about new endowments in the fields of Forestry and Public Health that are shaping futures in important workforce areas. We share some unique grant announcements and ready you for the fall programming of the ever-fascinating Chandler Lecture Series.

I thought I'd leave you with the words of a recent graduate and scholarship recipient, Sofia Stranieri, who spoke at the summer scholarship event and now works in our Admissions office: "Receiving this scholarship provided me the opportunity of so much more than just a college degree. It provided me with a community, growth, life skills and an amazing career that I love and am so passionate about. I have the privilege and opportunity to hear students' stories and provide resources and support so they can further their education. The Foundation did exactly that for me."

On behalf of COCC, the Foundation and our appreciative students, thank you for being an active, essential part of so many life journeys.



Left to right: Laurie Chesley with Margie and Jeff Robberson

*Laurie Chesley*

Laurie Chesley  
COCC President

# PAYING IT FORWARD

## Meet Carrie Sammons, Heritage Society Member\*

— by Misty Bouse —

In the 1970s, Carrie Sammons was one of the few women in the forestry industry. Thirty-three years ago, her career brought her and her then-husband and daughter to Bend. Now retired from the U.S. Forest Service, Carrie often volunteers in the community. In fact, she recently served as an evaluator for COCC Foundation scholarship narrative essays. Her involvement with the COCC Foundation is important to Carrie as she recently founded her own endowed Natural Resources\*\* scholarship.

### WHERE'S HOME BASE?

I am fortunate to see the Deschutes River from my window and can walk downtown to coffee in Bend.

### WHAT I LOVE:

I like to be outside because trees don't talk back.

### WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Recently, I read Michelle Obama's memoir *Becoming*. Next is Ruth Bader Ginsburg's. I like variety! I'm finishing *You're It. Crisis, Change, and How to Lead When it Matters Most*. It seems a good tool for my Red Cross leadership track. I have been a volunteer disaster responder since 9/11.

### HOW DID YOUR EDUCATION IMPACT YOU?

My upbringing enabled me to go to college. My parents financially planned for and encouraged our education. However, I witnessed other college students struggling to make ends meet while I attempted business studies at the University of Iowa and later at Utah State where I studied natural resources. My grandfather was a forester and the field interested me.

*\*\*Natural Resources at COCC encompasses studies ranging from Forest Resources Technology to transfer degree prep for sustainability and fish and wildlife conservation.*

**CAN YOU SHARE WHAT CENTRAL OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEANS TO YOU?**  
COCC makes opportunities for others. College enabled my career. Education opens the door, then students do the hard work.

### WHY THE COCC FOUNDATION?

I feel very strongly about supporting organizations in my own community. I started the endowed scholarship to give those without the resources or encouragement some of what I had.

### HOBBIES:

In general, just give me some water! Any water and I'll stand-up paddle. I'll kayak. Or freeze it and I will cross-country ski it.

### WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND LATELY?

We have seen houselessness surge from the pandemic. Economic circumstances are profoundly impacting a broad range of people—children and families and those addicted and on the streets. So, I'm asking, "What can I do to help houseless people in my community?" I know time will heal much, but let's look at affordable housing now. We need more low-barrier solutions to get people off the streets...especially children. This is what I think about. (Editor's note: Carrie walks her talk. A decade ago, she bought a Bend rental home to support those in recovery with affordable, well-below-market rental rates.)

### WHY ARE YOU PHILANTHROPIC?

When I was young, my grandfather and father worked hard and gave back to the community. They led with philanthropy. When my daughter Jessie was five, she also started service. At the

holidays, she learned perspective by filling Salvation Army holiday boxes with goodies and necessities for less advantaged people. Now she works in international service in Africa. My family tries to use our privilege to help others.

### WHAT DOES GIVING BACK MEAN TO YOU?

Choose to pay it forward! Give your energy and time where it matters.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

I'm just trying to go with the flow and be spontaneous with the river of life. ■

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

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



📷 Eugen Helmbrecht

# Artful Contributions

Donated art brings inspiration, connection and wonder to COCC's campuses

by Mark Russell Johnson



*Daryavesh* by Boaz Vaadia at the COCC Redmond Campus

Sitting cross-legged and calmly, and bringing an aura of contemplation to a small patch of natural landscape at COCC's Redmond campus, the large stone figure rests against an upright boulder. The sculpture, *Daryavesh*, seems to gaze with purpose, quietly greeting all arrivals to Building 3.

Donated and installed at the campus late last year, the work was created in 1993 by artist Boaz Vaadia (whose work is included in the Metropolitan Museum of Art's permanent collection, among other notable places). Vaadia hammered and chiseled bluestone slabs to shape and then stack them into a figure-like composition. It's a fitting sculpture for the spot: Many manufacturing and welding students who pass by each day

are studying hands-on, tool-centered trades that involve design, precision and abounding creativity.

"*Daryavesh* is a beautiful addition to the Redmond campus," says Amy Ward, campus director, whose background includes a degree in art history and development work for the Los Angeles Philharmonic. "It amazes me that a sculpture created from stone can appear both weightless and resolute."

Generously given by a Redmond family who prefer to remain anonymous (and who considered the piece a member of their family for nearly 30 years), the work was relocated to its new home this past November. It was no easy passage: The combined weight of the figure and its accompanying five-foot-high boulder

totals 5,300 pounds, taking Kirby Nagelhout Construction Company — with a donated truck, trailer, telescoping forklift and four-person crew — nearly half a day to transport and install. Instantly, it brought a new energy to the campus.

At COCC, sculptures, canvases, prints, photographs, bronzes and other donated art pieces have long contributed to the learning atmosphere and overall college experience. The artwork invites reflection, stirs inspiration. It creates welcoming spaces.

Just inside the entrance to the Prineville campus, students, staff and visitors can't help but contemplate *Chaos to Order*, a substantial ceiling-suspended sculpture of two globes welded with copper and steel and joined by a helix-like metal

“The collection makes a difference for our students and our community. It's a beautiful way to bring them together.”

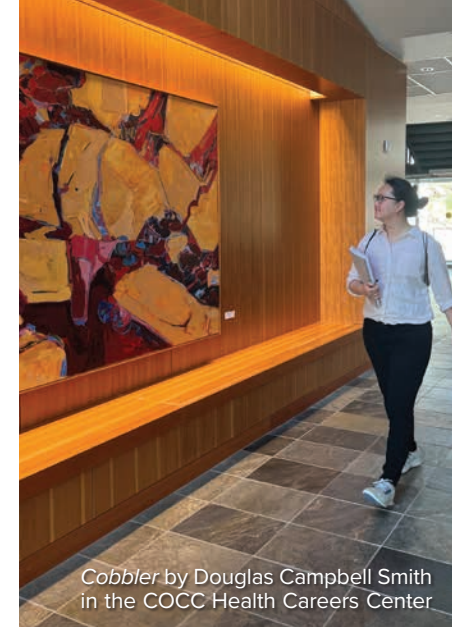
bridge. The piece, which represents the transformative process of education, was created by Greg Congleton through a commissioned donation by philanthropists Penny and Phil Knight.

Students on their way to Nursing simulation exercises or Medical Assisting labs in the Health Careers Center on the Bend campus pass through the lobby where a sizable abstract painting casts color and vitality into the foyer. Painted with rich crimson strokes and seeming to evoke a zoomed-in, branching vascular system (in actuality, it's a peach-based dessert), *Cobbler* is striking and mesmerizing. It's the work of Douglas Campbell Smith, a former COCC art instructor who gifted a number of pieces to the College before his passing.

Jenny, his widow, wanted the work to become part of COCC's collection. "As a graduate of COCC and the wife of

Doug, who was professor of art at the College from 1973 to 1995, the College was always very important to me and I continue to be very thankful to have had it play such an important role in my life," she says of the 2017 gift.

Over in the Barber Library, an extensive permanent gallery makes for an inspiring backdrop during study hours. Paintings, prints and sculptural works are located throughout the building. In the basement-level tutoring center, for instance, an eight-foot-wide, oil-painted triptych, *Maroon Bells* by John Horejs, opens a view to a Colorado scene of rugged mountains and a sinewy river. Donated by Janine Robberson, the canvas offers a calming window for students.



*Cobbler* by Douglas Campbell Smith in the COCC Health Careers Center



*The Cutting Board* by Bruce West at COCC's Cascade Culinary Institute

## FULLY ILLUSTRATED

State grant provides a major tech update for new digital arts education

For students in digital arts, training with industry-standard technology is essential. Two brand-new digital arts career and technical education certificate programs at COCC are off to an incredible start thanks to a \$30,000 grant awarded this summer from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission's Career Pathways program.

With dollars provided through the state's Future Ready Oregon workforce investment package, and with COCC contributing \$10,000 in capital funds, the support will help graphic design and illustration students sketch their future. The grant purchased 20 touchscreen-enabled monitors to complement existing computers, 10 Mac Mini desktop computers, 10 laptops for online students to utilize, and a large-scale, fine art printer.



The technology will transform existing resources and even inform other art educators: In August, a group of Bend-La Pine art teachers involved in COCC's College Now program, based in regional high schools, was invited to train on the equipment over a four-day session.

**"This additional technology will bring us up to the level of any fine arts school teaching digital art."**

Venus Nguyen, the assistant professor of art who designed the two certificates, calls the aid instrumental. "It's huge," she says. "This additional technology will bring us up to the level of any fine arts school teaching digital art."

Tina Hovekamp, the library's director and gallery curator, knows firsthand of the art's impact — she hears it from students and visitors. "The collection makes a difference for our students and our community. It's a beautiful way to bring them together," she says. "The art can be the bond between us all."

The greater community, in fact, helped bring *The Cutting Board* to the Cascade Culinary Institute's plaza in 2011. The sculpture of colossal-sized pear halves, cheese wedge and paring knife — captured in more than a ton of glinting, burnished stainless steel by artist Bruce West — was selected and acquired by the community-supported nonprofits ArtMatch and Art in Public Places, the latter established through donations by the Bend Foundation. For students going to class or for diners on their way to an Elevation Restaurant seating, the sculpture is a shining tribute to culinary wonders. ■



# PILLARS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Strengthened by donor vision and grant aid, a new COCC training program centers health advocacy and community care

— by Mark Russell Johnson —

Previously out of the spotlight, the field of public health is visibly front and center in the U.S. these days. Across the nation, from small towns to sprawling cities, COVID-19 testing sites, vaccination clinics and a heightened awareness of health resources have amplified the front lines of community care over the past 18 months or so.

But prior to the pandemic, public health offices and systems around the country, within both local agencies and governments, had been experiencing shrinking budgets and reduced infrastructure for years. A 2019 report from the Association of State and Territorial Health



Alessandra Weiss, COCC Public Health Training Graduate

Officials found that state spending aimed at public health had dropped by 22% from 2010 to 2018. Coupled with that, the report noted, federal public health funding had not kept up with inflation. As resources were being squeezed, the needs of communities suddenly — and with great urgency — began to spike.

From federal stimulus assistance to city-level responses, the sector pivoted fast, with agencies working harder than ever. At COCC, a new workforce-tailored training program is part of this reprioritization, playing a key role in addressing community needs: Launched in October of 2021 under the direction of public health instructor Dr. Sarah Baron, the 10-week class, approved by the Oregon Health Authority, readies students to become state-certified community health workers.

This front-line role in the health care continuum provides education and advocacy, helping to connect those in need with social supports and services — especially crucial during a pandemic. With an emphasis on equitable and culturally responsive care, the core function of community health workers is to help advance health for all. Many community health workers have lived experience which helps them relate to patients through firsthand understanding. And the data is abundantly clear: Community health workers improve health outcomes while reducing care costs.

Early on, the program’s mission received some incredible investment. In February of this year, a major grant award of \$383,000, with dollars coming equally from the Central Oregon Health Council and Deschutes County, began growing the program’s framework and making scholarships available. The aid is helping to devise hands-on internships, providing stipends and expanding the role of COCC’s health careers recruiter.

Contributing to the vision for increased access to the training, Durlin Hickok, MD, and Carol Wallace, MD, both retired,

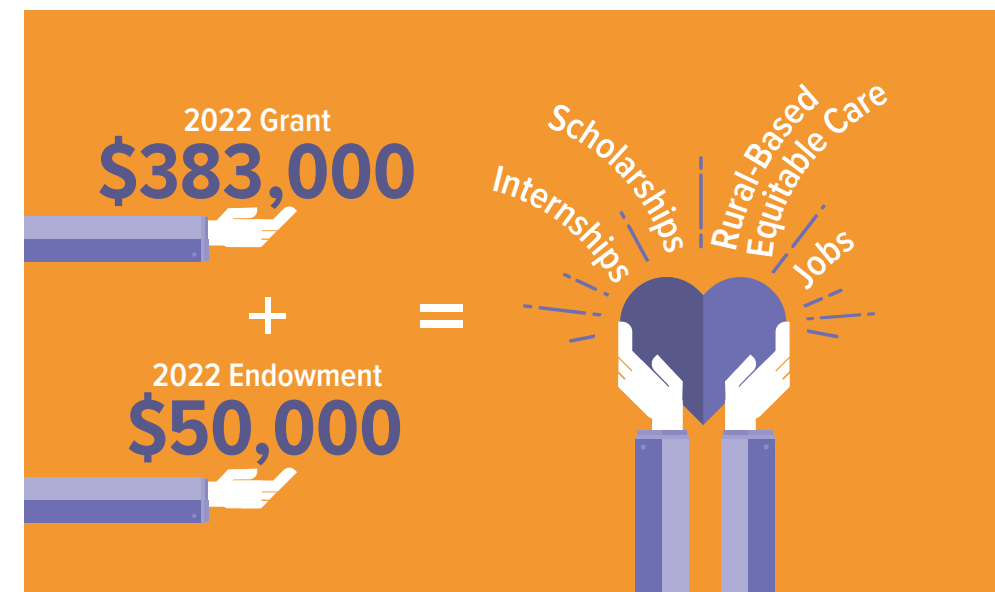
provided a generous \$50,000 scholarship endowment to augment the grant. Its aim is to emphasize rural-based, equitable care while opening doors to those who might not be able to afford the training. The scholarships even help students with things like paying for child care.

The 10-week class, approved by the Oregon Health Authority, readies students to become state-certified community health workers.

The standalone training at COCC — with no prerequisites needed — is packaged to offer a faster, entry-level path into the field. Two cohorts of students, 38 trainees in all, have already gone through the training, currently based at COCC’s Redmond campus; another cohort commenced this September. (The College also offers a transfer degree with a focus on public health.) Program completers are finding jobs with agencies and clinics throughout Central Oregon, helping fill new positions and restoring depleted ranks due to pandemic burnout.

At the Deschutes County Public Health Department, recent trainee Scott Jones works in a wraparound clinic that serves both medical and behavioral needs. “Many, if not all, of our clients are under-resourced, have housing issues or are homeless, struggle with transportation and face a host of other difficulties,” says Jones, who completed the community health worker training last year. As a peer support specialist, he connects community members with a gamut of county health resources, becoming an ally along the way. “I provide support to help individuals navigate the system.”

Baron explains that the needs of the system, county by county, help inform the training. Prior to the most recent cohort, she began meeting with agencies in early summer to solicit input and ensure the coursework connected with prevailing needs. “We have to be relevant with our training,” she says. “The past two years were very pandemic-focused, and now, for instance, we need to shift our focus to recovery and strengthening local community health efforts, such as resource mapping efforts, opiate reduction toolkits and increasing mental health support.”



Timothy Park

## INVESTMENT AT WORK

In downtown Prineville, at the Crook County Health Department, health strategist Alessandra Weiss spends most workdays focused on the future. “One of my main roles is the coordinator for the My Future, My Choice program, a sexual health program for middle schoolers that’s assisted by high schoolers,” she relays. “I also work on educating individuals in the community about the risks that gambling, tobacco, alcohol and drugs present, especially to youth.”

Weiss was already in the job when she took the COCC training — it served to specialize her skills, building upon a biology degree from Gonzaga. “A lot of the training was focused on listening to clients and allowing them to choose their own path to health, which is something that I do a lot as a health strategist,” she says.

For Weiss, serving a rural area is a rewarding part of the work. “I think for me what has always been important is working to improve our social, economic and political landscape for all individuals, especially those who are underserved,” says the Culver resident. “As someone

who is Mexican and Japanese, and who has an immigrant mother, my whole life I have had a passion to help people who don’t have access to things that I do. Working with the Crook County Health Department, and within public health, I am doing the work that I have always wanted to do.”

“Working with the Crook County Health Department, and within public health, I am doing the work that I have always wanted to do.”

Scholarship recipient Marianne Disney started a job in June as a pediatric community health worker with Central Oregon Pediatric Associates (COPA). “One of the most valuable things I have learned in the community health worker program is how health is not the sole responsibility of the individual,” she says. “The social-ecological model frames this by showing the different levels of factors that influence a person’s health.”

Disney is one of two community health workers who engage in “targeted outreach” for the busy pediatric practice, explains Sara Mosher, COPA’s manager of population health & clinical quality. The health workers connect with patients through provider recommendations, reaching out to those diagnosed with chronic conditions, among other priorities. “We can’t just address physical care,” says Mosher. “To treat the whole person, we need to look at the whole situation. There are so many barriers that impact health outcomes.”

Mosher cites healthy food, transportation and the cost of medications as prominent barriers. Even something basic, like refrigerating insulin, she says, isn’t something that every patient can easily do. “We’re doing whatever we can do to focus on preventative care, to focus on treating the whole system,” she says. COPA, with three clinics in Bend and one in Redmond, plans to add more community health workers. “It’s an escalating role,” she adds. “We’re going to see a lot of iterations and it’s going to be exciting to see it flourish.”



## CARING COLLABORATION

For Stacy Shaw, a former hairdresser who was initially studying to become an engineer at COCC, the passion for public health she experienced in an introductory class at the College caused her to reset her aspirations. “The training offers a unique opportunity to support people who are passionate about helping others in the community,” says Shaw, who received a scholarship to conduct her studies.



Dr. Sarah Baron,  
Public Health Instructor

“It will bolster our region’s public health workforce while helping many individuals connect with meaningful careers.”

“I believe wanting to be involved in our community and support growth is only one piece of the puzzle,” she adds. “Knowing how to properly go about it is a completely separate piece that the training helps to connect.” Shaw recently started a job with the Crook County Health Department and is also working toward a bachelor’s degree in public health through Oregon State University’s Ecampus (with plans to pursue a master’s degree in biostatistics, she shares).

Baron, who serves as a workforce committee member on the state’s Traditional Health Worker Commission, says the emerging program and its dedicated student base are making strides thanks to broad involvement and support. “This is truly a community-wide collaboration,” she says, pointing to the grants, endowment and continued guidance from numerous partners, such as the Deschutes County public health advisory board, East Cascades Works, PacificSource and others.

Within its first two years, Baron notes, the program has a goal to place 140 individuals in the public health sector. “It will bolster our region’s public health workforce,” she says, “while helping many individuals connect with meaningful careers.” ■

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



COCC students in class



Scott Jones,  
COCC Public Health  
Training Graduate



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# INTERNATIONAL INSIGHTS

From learning abroad to local language immersion, COCC students expand their horizons, carving professional and personal paths

— by Katie Roberts —



When Kimberly Hollcroft spotted a flyer advertising an international exchange through the Cascade Culinary Institute (CCI), it grabbed her attention. She'd always been fascinated by European culture, especially when it came to cooking and cuisine — and here was an opportunity catering exactly to that.

Accepted into the program, Hollcroft first met up with a group of vocational college students from Denmark who'd traveled to Oregon, learning about the Pacific Northwest's food, beverage and hospitality industry. They spent time at CCI in Bend, then traveled to Denmark to experience the nation's cuisines and culture. Outside of class, Hollcroft toured Danish cities, tapping into the kitchen craft.

"I was taught by some of the industry's most talented chefs," says Hollcroft, a baking and pastry professional. "The

Right: Jessica Gray and Kimberly Hollcroft pose in their culinary uniforms at the culinary school in Denmark

high amount of trust they had in me was very humbling, giving me so much confidence with every day that passed."

Hollcroft joins a host of students who, for years, have come away from COCC transformed and inspired through a

**"I was taught by some of the industry's most talented chefs."**



robust menu of international study programs. While COCC has an expansive World Languages program, offering for-credit courses in French, Italian, Spanish and Chinese, it also offers a unique mix of international exchange and program experiences. Each one is diverse in its focus and studies, with all sharing the same goal: to expand students' cultural horizons and perspectives beyond Central Oregon.



Lin Hong teaching Chinese at COCC

## ¡HOLA! BARCELONA

COCC's study abroad in Barcelona exposes students to 10 weeks of life and language beyond U.S. borders. For each session, a different COCC professor takes the lead in Spain, teaching classes within their realm of expertise.

Just this past spring, students joined the program under the leadership of Bruce Emerson, a professor of physics. "For most students, this was their first time overseas," says Emerson. In addition to taking intensive Spanish classes and courses in Emerson's forté, the students stepped out of the classroom, touring Barcelona and other destinations in Spain.

Emerson noted that navigating travel and living in Europe's second-densest city was a big, empowering eye-opener for most. "We definitely found out we're like the country mice, not the city mice, but that didn't mean we weren't having a really great time while we were there."

Back at COCC, Emerson hopes to gather data and track the program's impact, building insight around lessons learned and following how students use their experiences to carve professional and personal paths.

## SPANISH IMMERSION IN THEIR OWN BACKYARD

Speaking of data, the sheer number of participants in COCC's Central Oregon Summer Spanish Immersion (COSSI), tells yet another story of success. Launched in 2017 with approximately 70 participants at the Bend campus, the program saw its enrollment double within two years.

This past June, after a two-year hiatus caused by

left & right: Timothy Park



Indonesia Field Study Program

the COVID-19 pandemic, COSSI shifted to COCC's Redmond campus, opening its doors with a scaled-back, socially distanced version in a new, blended learning environment. The move to Redmond, along with some content changes, will offer a more dedicated space for the program, according to Stephanie Goetsch, COSSI's program manager.

"They come, they love it, and at the end of this intense week, they're still smiling," Goetsch says. "Now in Redmond, we have the space to expand the program."

While infusing culture into COCC, the program has also generated an incredibly supportive community response. COSSI fills up quickly. Many students are people planning to travel to Spanish-speaking countries. Having a Spanish immersion bootcamp right in their backyard isn't just a quality opportunity, it's a convenient one. The students' engagement, camaraderie and connection add to COSSI's value and popularity.

"If you come to campus and watch COSSI workshops for just 10 minutes," Goetsch says, "you're going to get sucked in — there's just that much enthusiasm. And it's fantastic!"



**"In the evenings, around the bonfire, it's fascinating how the students find ways to connect."**

## FIELD NOTES FROM INDONESIA

Since 2012, Matthew Novak, Ph.D., an assistant professor of Psychology at COCC, has taken students to Indonesia for a travel experience in global health and conservation-related behavioral research. The Indonesia Field Study Program is well established with the Pusat Studi Satwa Primata (Primate Research Center), enabling COCC students to learn alongside their Indonesian counterparts. Working and living in the field, studying primates and their habitat, participants build both their research and scholastic skills and their relationships with fellow students.

"In the evenings, around the bonfire, it's fascinating how the students find ways to connect," Novak says. "Despite how big the world is and how far from home they feel, they are all very much the same, sharing similar desires, wants, fears and hopes. Finding that common ground helps prepare them for the bigger world beyond COCC."

*Katie Roberts is an award-winning editor, writer and communications specialist based in Sisters.*



# DREAMING BIGGER

Catching up with two extraordinary scholarship alumni

— by Mark Russell Johnson —

## JETTA RACKLEFF CLASS OF 2012

**THEN:** In 2010, student Jetta Rackleff was living out of her car to make ends meet. The first-generation college student, a graduate of Summit High School, soon received a Foundation scholarship to ease her financial burden and exhausting schedule, which included full-time studies, full-time restaurant work and frequent travels to compete in inline hockey games, a passion she'd developed from an early age (having learned to ice skate soon after learning to walk). Two years later, Rackleff earned her associate transfer degree with a focus on chemistry. "Without this generous support, going to college would not have been possible," she told *Legacies* at the time.

**NOW:** After receiving a bachelor's degree from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) — she'd been scouted during a pond hockey game in Sunriver

to play Division I hockey, ultimately transferring to RIT's chemical engineering program on a full ride — Rackleff earned a master's degree in material engineering from Boston University, where she graduated magna cum laude. In 2018, she was hired by the Air Force Civilian Service to serve as a weather systems engineer, running numerical models at Hanscom Air Force Base in eastern Massachusetts.

**"COCC was a jumping-off point for me in figuring out my career."**

Rackleff progressed into several different engineering departments at Hanscom, including serving as a senior systems engineer, leading a nine-person team focused on aerial-to-ground-to-satellite secure communication systems. Now, she works in base security systems and focuses on sustainable energy sources for mobile systems.



Meanwhile, her love of the rink also took her far. A stellar goalie, Rackleff became a six-time world champion for USA Inline Hockey, earning four gold medals as a member of the U.S. senior women's inline hockey team. She was world-ranked as the #1 inline hockey goaltender — eight times. "I have been retired for the last two to three years," she shares, "but continue to mentor young athletes, those transitioning out of professional hockey to the working world, and play for fun in both ice and inline local leagues and tournaments here in the greater Boston area."

Rackleff holds gratitude for COCC and the Foundation and remembers the impact and "true blessing" of her professors, recalling one catalyst in particular: chemistry professor Zelda Ziegler. "Her guidance helped me think outside of my athletics, outside of being a waitress, to dream much larger. I'm grateful she was able to see my potential in this field long before I ever did. COCC was a jumping-off point for me in figuring out my career." ■



## ELIJAH HART CLASS OF 2018

**THEN:** Attendees of the 2019 President's Scholarship Luncheon will surely remember Elijah Hart, who'd graduated a year earlier with a degree focused on psychology and returned to share their inspiring life story. Hart spoke of a challenging upbringing as one of four children. They experienced poverty and homelessness, often going without basic necessities, and moved to Bend from Corvallis to try and make a better life by attending COCC. "Your compassion has changed my life," they told the audience with resolve in their voice.

**NOW:** Earning a full scholarship to Lewis & Clark College as a Ford Scholar, Hart majored in psychology and minored in neuroscience, was a Psi Chi Honor Society member, and was involved in many activities, from the neuroscience club to the health professions club.

After graduating from Lewis & Clark in 2020, Hart completed an intensive eight-week summer internship with Oregon Health & Science University's (OHSU) Center for Diversity & Inclusion and the Developmental Brain Imaging Lab. The internship culminated in Hart co-authoring a manuscript that examined the relationship between the resting-state functional connectivity of a reward pathway in the brain with impulsivity and patterns of alcohol use, later published in *Addiction Biology*.



They are currently a graduate student at the OHSU and Portland State University School of Public Health and work as a research assistant in a neuroimaging lab investigating the neurobiological underpinnings of addiction and patterns of substance use.

**"Your compassion has changed my life."**

A staunch advocate for whole-person health, Hart has given back to the community in a number of ways, including as a volunteer with Operation Nightwatch in Portland, where they provided care, medical assistance and hygiene supplies to houseless individuals. Hart expects to receive their master's degree next spring and is in the process of applying to medical schools. ■



**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
FALL 2022

» **FOREVER YOUNG:**  
*What Science is Discovering About Aging and Longevity*

**Dr. Jill Helms**  
Professor, Department of Surgery,  
Stanford University

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4**  
6 p.m. | Wille Hall & Livestream



There still may be time to register and attend.  
If not, contact [cgilbride@cocc.edu](mailto:cgilbride@cocc.edu) for a recorded link to this program.

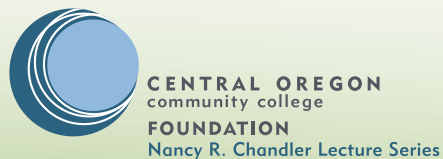
» **EVERY BRAIN NEEDS MUSIC:**  
*The Neuroscience of Music-Making and Listening*

**Dr. Larry Sherman**  
Professor, Division of Neuroscience, OHSU  
Joined by musicians and a vocalist from  
Central Oregon Symphony

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18**  
6:30 p.m. | Wille Hall & Livestream

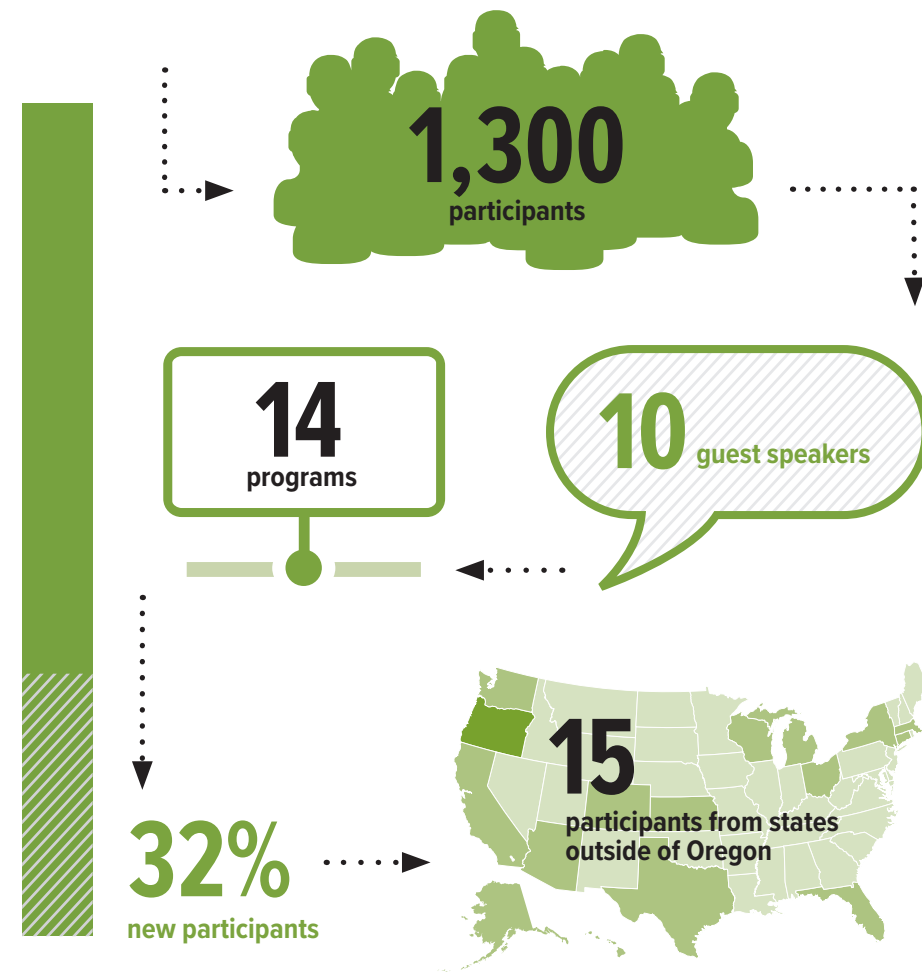


For more details and to register:  
[cocc.edu/foundation/cls](http://cocc.edu/foundation/cls)



# THE NANCY R. CHANDLER LECTURE SERIES

Chandler Lecture Series 2021-22 Highlights



## 2023 SEASON OF NONVIOLENCE

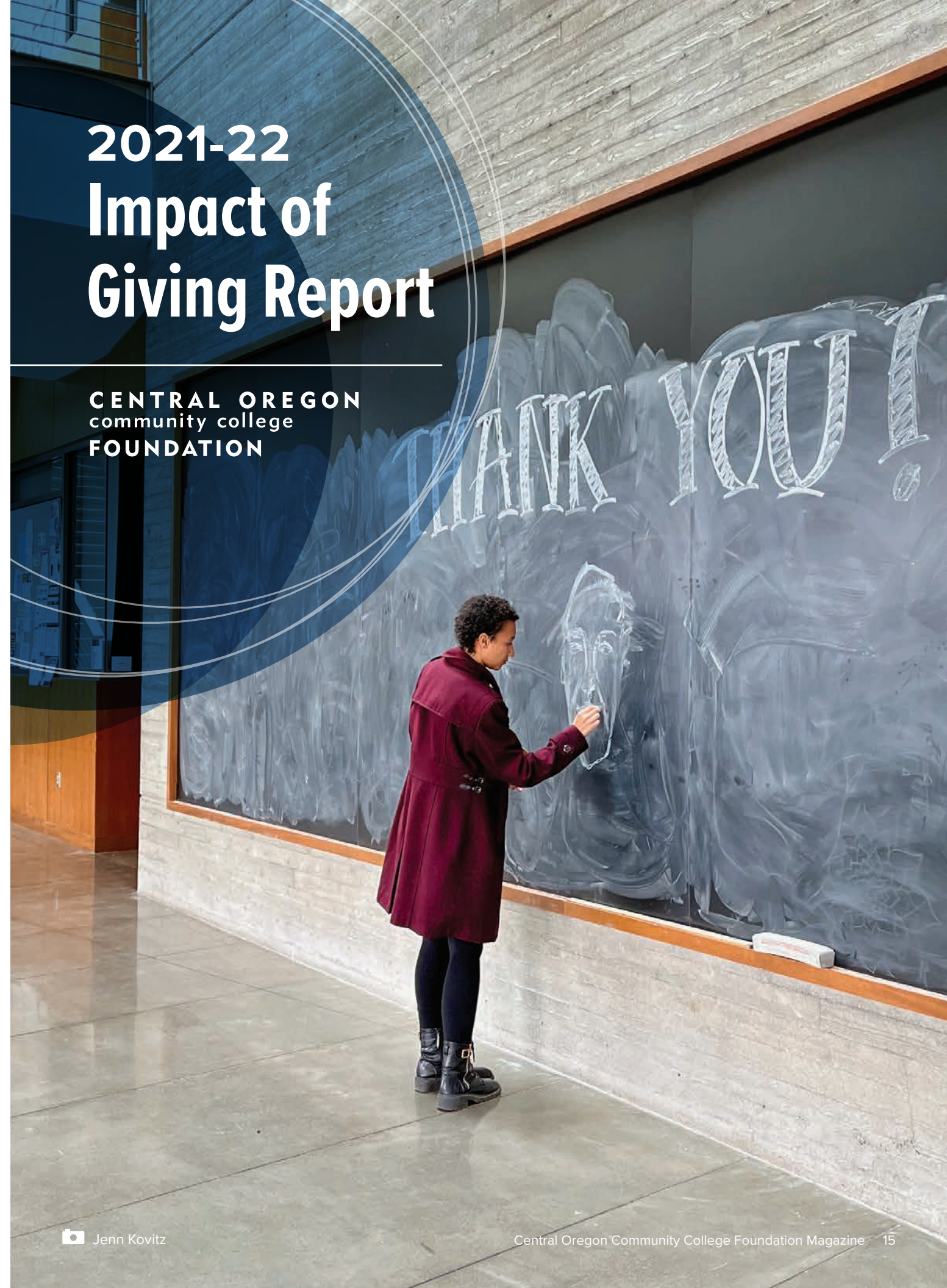


We look forward to our 15th season of programming honoring the international commemoration of the Season of Nonviolence.

We will be announcing our speakers and dates soon. Check [cocc.edu/seasonofnonviolence](http://cocc.edu/seasonofnonviolence) for updates.

# 2021-22 Impact of Giving Report

CENTRAL OREGON  
community college  
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.



## INCREASED SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS A NOTE FROM BRITTANY NICHOLS

Happy Fall! One of the most rewarding parts of my job is hearing firsthand the life-changing impact that scholarships have on our students' lives. COCC Foundation scholarship recipients are full of determination and gratitude. **I am constantly inspired by their work ethic, ambition and grit** — and as donors, you should be very proud of their continued resilience through another year of the pandemic.

The past few years have shed light on the need to help students beyond just tuition and fee scholarships, **and to assist students with other resources to ensure their success at COCC.** With your support, we have provided emergency funds, child care assistance, food pantry items, clothing, undocumented student aid, exam fee reimbursements, textbook support and more.

For 10 years, I have had the privilege to work at the Foundation and witness the incredible generosity from our community. **The support you have shown has lifted our students from uncertainty and transformed dreams into realities.** The ripple effect of your philanthropy will live on through families and communities renewed by the power of education.

Thank you for your investment in our students!

*Brittany Nichols*

Brittany Nichols  
Director of Foundation Programs

# Impact of Scholarships

## SCHOLARSHIPS By the Numbers

\$1.8M

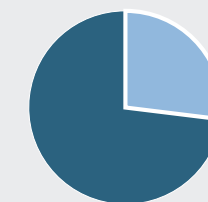


offered in scholarship support



352

scholarships awarded to hard-working students



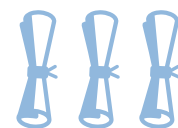
27%

of scholarship recipients identify as BILAPOC\*



\$107K

provided to students for emergency funds and child care assistance



3.34

average GPA of scholarship recipients



2

more credits earned per term than the average COCC student

## Degrees Pursued

46%

Transfer degree

44%

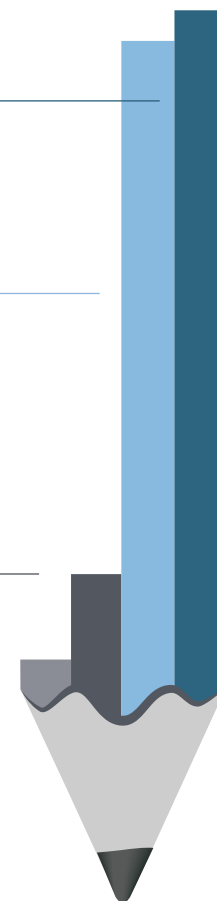
Career and Technical Education certificate or degree

8%

Exploratory degree

2%

Associate of General Studies degree



7.5 percent

of COCC credit students received a Foundation scholarship

\*Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian and people of color  
All data from 2021-22 academic year.

# Lasting Impact

## STUDENT Impact

### TARA

Associate of Applied Science Nursing (RN)  
2022 COCC Graduate  
COCC Foundation Scholarship Recipient

“Donors paved a way when there was no way for a lot of people like myself. I had a low-paying office job before starting the Nursing program and wasn’t able to save very much money to pursue my dream of becoming a nurse. The scholarship greatly helped me manage my expenses and kept my family going while I was working hard in school.

“Attending COCC changed my life for the better and was a truly amazing opportunity that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I know I will look back on this time and continue to be filled with gratitude and excitement for the future. You truly made a difference in my life and so many others. Thank you for your inspirational generosity.”



Tara, COCC Foundation Scholarship Recipient

“The COCC Foundation scholarship was such a blessing and helped me not only graduate with my Nursing degree, but also with honors. I’ll never forget this and promise to help others in the same way donors helped me!”

## COMMUNITY Impact

Just in time to serve the summertime needs of children and families in Madras, Prineville and Redmond, COCC received a \$247,819 grant in mid-June from the Oregon Association of Education Service Districts. The funds supported summer programs in these often-underserved communities. The grant was organized into four programs. Program one included weeklong college preparation symposiums for Latinx, Native American and Black high schoolers. Program two prepared underrepresented minority students for college science in a weeklong program that included research, hands-on activities, career talks, study skills and workshops. Funds supported transportation, food, pay for program co-leads and supplies. Program three provided

COCC received a \$247,819 grant in mid-June from the Oregon Association of Education Service Districts. The funds supported summer programs for often-underserved communities.

summer day camps for rural middle school students in Madras, Redmond and Prineville. Camps included drone technologies, a junior police academy, writing, culinary, gardening, visual art, photography and performing arts. Finally, program four included credit courses for rural Madras and Crook County high school students in key college and trade preparation areas, including college success, communication, CPR, art, sociology, writing, geography and early childhood education. Funds were used to hire professional instructors and classes were offered for free.



Latinx college prep symposium



College science course



Summer day camp

# The Cost of Education: Your Donated Dollars Go Further

**\$4,800**

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

**\$22,722**

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.

**\$8,000**

The increase in earnings each year the average associate degree graduate from COCC will receive compared to someone with a high school diploma working in Oregon.

## When You Invest in the COCC Foundation, You Create Lifelong Impact for Students and Our Communities

**525+**

Individual and business donors contributed to our scholarship program\*

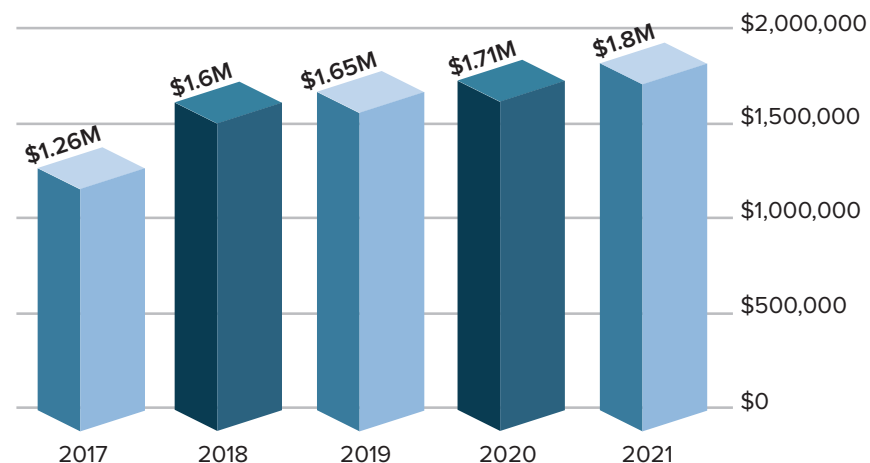
**157**

Students received donor-supported child care assistance and student emergency awards

**\$92,849**

Contributed directly to COCC programs

### TOTAL AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED Previous Five Years



Since 2017, the COCC Foundation has offered our students over \$8 million in direct scholarship support. This reflects strong endowment returns combined with annual fundraising. Historically, and again this year, the COCC Foundation's endowment ranks as one of the top endowment funds in the nation for community colleges of comparable size.

\*For a full listing of current donors, please visit: [cocc.edu/foundation](http://cocc.edu/foundation)

# Words of Gratitude



*Thank you*



**CENTRAL OREGON**  
community college  
**FOUNDATION**

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Bend, Oregon 97703

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# MEAL OF THE YEAR



SAVE THE DATE  
SATURDAY  
APRIL **8** 2023

