LEGACIES Central Oregon Community College Foundation Magazine Fall 2017

Pilots in Command COCC's Aviation Program

Major Grant Funding Wickiup Hall Move-In Day Dr. Betsy Julian

contents

- features –

4 Pilots in Command

Aviation program on a mission to change the industry. **By Angela Reid**

8 COCC to Stir Up Success with Major Grant Funding

STIR – Strengthening Transitions, Increasing Retention – will help students get started. **By Cathy Carroll**

14 Smooth Move

lt's move-in day at Wickiup Hall. **By Mark R. Johnson** COCC receives a \$2.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education



ON THE COVER Levi Rogers COCC Aviation Student

> ABOVE, LEFT & RIGHT Timothy Park







Our new Vice President for Instruction ROCKS



departments _____

2	Letter from the President
3	New Vice President for Instruction Rocks Getting to know Dr. Betsy Julian.
12	Calendar of Events
16	Rising to the Challenge Foundation scholarship recipients share their stories.
18	Student Success
19	Donors Investing in Community



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Letter From the President

I am looking forward to the upcoming year here at Central Oregon Community College as we build on past successes and fully implement programs that will help us better meet the needs of our students and our community. I continue to be extremely proud of this College and our work.



I am particularly excited about us receiving and beginning to implement the federal Title III grant (see pages 8-11). This \$2.25 million grant will help us with new programs and strategies in areas of critical importance for student success. As you read the article, by local writer Cathy Carroll, you will learn more about our work with entry-level courses in writing and math and about our fully implementing the First-Year Experience (FYE) program for new students.

This past year, we were able to test the FYE program, primarily with students who received the Oregon Promise grant. The Oregon Legislature funded Oregon Promise to provide financial assistance to recent Oregon high school graduates who attended community college beginning last fall. We had nearly 600 Oregon Promise students that year. As the Title III article points out, students who fully participated in FYE had considerably higher success rates than others.

This fall, we welcomed our second set of Oregon Promise students, most of them recent graduates of high schools here in Central Oregon, but also many from elsewhere in the state. Wickiup Hall, our new residence hall, opened at full capacity for the second straight year.

In the upcoming months, we will host three outstanding Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholars — New York Times best-selling author Beth Macy, documentary filmmaker and social activist Sophia Cruz and marine ecologist and environmental scientist Dr. Jane Lubchenco, a professor of marine science at Oregon State University. This program, through the COCC Foundation, continues to provide stimulating events for our community.

I am pleased to report that many of our instructional programs are continuing to do an outstanding job serving students. On pages 4-7, you'll read about our aviation program, training future pilots of fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters and unmanned aerial vehicles.

I have enjoyed meeting so many of you, at events such as The Feast at The Old Mill, President's Scholarship Luncheon, Taste of the Town and Meal of the Year. I look forward to our continued conversations in the months and years to come!

Dr. Shirley I. Metcalf COCC President

NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTRUCTION

Dr. Betsy Julian was named the new Vice President for Instruction just over a year ago and, as might be expected, jumped right into the thick of strategic planning, student success initiatives and curriculum development. She's also been supporting the COCC Foundation from day one. With roughly one year in Bend and COCC behind her, I thought it would be a great time to speak with her about her orientation to Central Oregon, including her first impressions of the community and COCC.

—— by Zak Boone ——

Zak: What has been your favorite thing about moving to Central Oregon?

Betsy: What's not to love? I'm attracted to desert and mountains, and this region combines the best of both. As a geologist I specialized in the study of mountain formation, so it makes sense that I want to live near mountains at all times. Lots of good rock hunting in the region. The city also appeals to me; small and large at the same time. There is plenty to do, lots of good restaurants and breweries, but there is also a slow, relaxed pace.

Zak: Have you had any surprises (good ones!) since you started working at COCC? (Something that made you say, "WOW! How cool is this?")

Betsy: So many cool things: • The Teaching and Learning Center that was created and is run by faculty to provide a forum for them to share ideas and support each other. • People talk to each other and seem to like each other. Faculty and staff seem willing to discuss what is best for students and the College as a whole rather than just focusing on personal enrichment. This may not seem special, but it really is. • Our campuses in Redmond, Madras and

Prineville are growing and each has a unique personality.

- The Library and Art departments collaborate on exhibits. Always something new going on.
- The campus is beautifully maintained. The stairs were generally free of snow even during the peak of the winter season. What a herculean task!
- The symphony lives on our campus? So cool!
- Outreach programs for our potential Latino and Native American students.

Zak: What is the biggest challenge to curriculum development in this day and age?

Betsy: With our transfer classes, the challenge is in balancing innovation with the ability to have classes articulate with other colleges and universities. Our faculty have some great ideas and intriguing offerings, but we owe it to our students to ensure that the credits will count at other institutions. Students can afford to take a few classes that only transfer as electives, but not too many. In our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, the challenge is to stay up-to-date with what the local businesses need. Demand for workers is constantly changing, so programs that were filled beyond capacity a few years ago may be struggling to fill classes today. Other areas have to adapt to changing technology, regulations and processes, as well as adjusting to variations in student demand.



Zak: What is your favorite geology field trip location? Why?

Betsy: Can I choose two? Slickrock country of southeast Utah (Arches, Canyonlands, Zion, Bryce...)- the rocks are all exposed (none of those nasty trees and plants hiding them), have a fascinating history (ancient inland sea) and are uplifted and eroded into spectacular scenery. I've taken many groups to this area and never get tired of it. Big Island of Hawaii – the combination of mature volcanoes in Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea, combined with the active vent at Kilauea, make this an exceptional place to study geology. Throw in the beaches, and you have a natural lab that can't be beat.

Zak Boone is the executive director of the COCC Foundation.



Aviation Program on a Mission to Change the Industry

– by Angela Reid ––––

are turbulent times for the airline industry— "a perfect storm," in fact, according to Dave Campbell, chief executive for Seattlebased Horizon Air. This summer, Horizon cancelled hundreds of flights, not because of inclement weather or mechanical issues, but because of empty cockpits. And according to many analysts, this is just the start of a looming worldwide pilot shortage.

Karl Baldessari, COCC Aviation Program director, points to several possible factors. The military, formerly a pipeline for commercial pilots, is turning out fewer pilots for a few reasons, including some pretty attractive government benefits and pensions. Coincidentally, an earlier wave of military-turnedcommercial pilots will soon turn 65, the FAA's mandatory retirement age, which spells a mass exodus of experienced pilots. At the same time, aspiring transport pilots climbing the ladder have been presented with a lot more rungs to climbwhile a pilot in command, or captain, previously needed 250 flight hours, now they need 1,500 flight hours, thanks to legislation that was intended to make flying safer. Those hours take time, obviously, but they also take money, which is hard to justify if starting salaries

for pilots are low. Factor in the sacrifices of long days away from home, and it's not a huge surprise that more pilots have been leaving the profession than entering it.

But all that could be about to change. Horizon is exploring longer-term solutions to the shortage, including signing bonuses, training stipends and starting salaries a pilot couldn't have imagined five years ago.

handpicking talent for its new ab initio, or "from the beginning," program, which trains candidates with no previous experience to become competent airline pilots. SkyWest offers mentorship and a guaranteed job interview to the most promising students at several flight schools, including Leading Edge, COCC's flight training partner at Bend Municipal Airport; the airline's website pitch is heavy with hyperbole, promising excellent pay, benefits and "the best quality of life." It's looking like a good time to become a pilot.

IetBlue is

A BRIGHTER FORECAST

You may not see it promoted in the tourism brochures, but Central Oregon is a mecca for flying. Pilots love our mostly sunny weather and the long flying days that come with our northern latitude.

Aircraft manufacturers like Cessna, Epic and Lancair took notice long ago; those that survived or rose from the ashes of the Great Recession are building not just planes, but also a market (estimated between \$14-\$35 million) that includes suppliers of parts, paint and pilots.

The COCC Aviation Program produces a lot of those pilots. Both rotary (helicopter) and fixed-wing (airplane) pilots may earn a two-year Associate of Applied Science degree in Aviation Science and become credentialed by the Federal Aviation Administration. Credentials include: Private Pilot Certificate and Ratings for Instrument, Commercial Pilot, Instrument Pilot, Multi-Engine Pilot, Certified Flight Instructor and Certified Flight Instructor Instrument. For students wanting a four-year degree, COCC offers an articulation agreement with the Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT), as well as a relationship with Arizona's Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Because tuition, fees, room, board and flight training can make this an expensive major-about \$60,000 for fixed-wing and \$100,000 for rotary—COCC encourages interested students to talk to instructors before applying, to ensure they're prepared to be successful. "Karl (Baldessari) answered our questions for 45 minutes until we had no more," says COCC Aviation Program student Chris Powell, describing the phone call he and his wife had with the program director when Powell was considering the program. Powell, an Alabama native, relocated with his wife and young son for the opportunity-and left behind a job with benefits in the Coast Guard. In fact, roughly 70 percent of the COCC program's students are veterans.

Baldessari is also a Coast Guard veteran, and he has experience in the private sector; he understands the pros and cons of different educational pathways to

The COCC Aviation Program is attractive because of the opportunities for scholarships and financial aid (including Veterans education benefits), as well as the structure of the degree program and the camaraderie of the college experience.

flying. While the military is an attractive career for some, it's certainly not a shortcut to the cockpit; pilots must first have a four-year degree, then complete officer training, and then commit to the military for six years. Another option for aspiring pilots is a for-profit flight school, but that requires family money or a lucky lottery ticket, since banks consider it a high-risk loan, given those historically low starting salaries.

On the other hand, the COCC Aviation Program is attractive because of the opportunities for scholarships and financial aid (including Veterans education benefits), as well as the structure of the degree program and the camaraderie of the college experience. Most of the students are in their mid- to late-20s with some life experience and the maturity that comes with it, and many are from outside Oregon-they are here with a purpose. This mental readiness translates to a remarkable 70 percent completion rate for the program. And the other 30 percent? There's a military term describing someone with a personality not suited to flying: "Not aeronautically adaptable." Turns out, not everything can be taught.

FOCISED ON STUDENT SUCCESS

Coincidentally, the movie Top Gun came out in theaters while Baldessari was in Coast Guard flight training in Pensacola, and you can imagine the ego boosts (and beach volleyball games) it inspired in that year's cadets. Retired Navy pilot Jerry Bean, who helped found the COCC

Aviation Program in 2002 and now serves as Fixed-Wing Program Director, was in fact a Top Gun instructor.

But in a recent COCC Private Pilot class in the Health Careers Center, just past the giant sculpture of red and white blood cells, the mood was more math-nerd than Maverick. Observing in the back of the classroom, behind a dozen or so students, I was surprised to find myself riveted with instructor Tony Brown's lecture on charts, lines, altitude, latitude, angles, mileage, frequencies, abbreviations, acronyms, symbols, calculations, regulations-and my deep respect for pilots who have to grasp all of this and more.

The students seemed riveted, too, especially for a warm summer evening in Bend, where there is plenty of competition for their attention. I only saw one student look at his phone—to examine an online flight chart. For this particular class, focused on the complex rules and regulations around different classes of airspace, Brown encouraged erring on the side of caution. His mantra: "Legal? Yes. Smart? No." And at least once, he put things in even blunter terms: "If you do this, you'll probably die. So, don't." There is no room for gray area at 30,000 feet.

This binary point of view is shared across the COCC Aviation Program, according to Bean, whose vision is to employ instructors with more experience, credentials and wisdom than other programsand to produce pilots with more mental discipline and sharper decision-making skills. Bean and program co-founder John Miller, a retired Air Force pilot, saw a level of precision and standardization in their military careers they felt was missing from general aviation. That said, their goal is not for pilots to salute their superiors but

rather aviation itself.

Graduating with a degree and 300 flight hours, most new pilots start their careers as instructors, cementing their knowledge as they pass it down to others, and logging more hours. Eventually, helicopter pilots can move on to jobs in tourism, executive transport, fire fighting or medevac operations. For a fixed-wing pilot, eyes are on the prize of an airline job. Bean estimates about a dozen COCC graduates are now flying for Horizon Air and another dozen for SkyWest, thanks to the reputation of the program. "I can call Horizon Air and recommend a pilot," he says with confidence, "and they'll get an interview."

THE EVOLUTION OF A VIATION

For those of us fascinated with flight but more comfortable on terra firma, COCC is also building a popular program in Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), or drones. Baldessari sees the industry

growing beyond relatively simple flights for aerial photography to more complex uses, such as structural inspections, wildland fire mapping, map and model generation, search and rescue, and even delivery services. (Alexa, bring me my groceries.)

The UAS degree program includes spatial data collection, analysis and remote sensing, as well as the political, legal and ethical issues surrounding this evolving technology--- "way more than how to fly a quad copter," says Baldessari.

Flying anything may be exciting enough for the students enrolled in COCC Aviation Youth Camps each summer. At the UAS camp, kids ages 10-14 can learn about safety, photography, communication, weather and more. At the Aviation Exploration Camp, they can learn basic aerodynamic, meteorology and safety principles, and even get their hands on helicopter and airplane simulators at local airports.

In the COCC Aviation Program, there is no shortage of potential.

If you have a child wondering when they'll ever need the math and science they're learning in school, here's your answer. And if you're planning to book an airline ticket in the future, but you're now wondering if your flight will be cancelled for lack of experienced pilotsor worse, if it won't-well, here's your hope. In the COCC Aviation Program, there is no shortage of potential.

Angela Reid is a freelance writer living in Bend.

COCC to Stir Up Success with Grant Funding

STIR – Strengthening Transitions, Increasing Retention will help students get started

by Cathy Carroll -

entral Oregon Community College's (COCC) first major federal grant, a \$2.25 million U.S. Department of Education Title III award, is funding new programs to powerfully affect student success rates. The victory in securing the competitive award — just two percent of America's higher education institutions are eligible - allows the College to make a widespread, fundamental shift in focus, from one of college access to college success. The five-year effort will tackle everything from course placement to orientation, with the goals of increasing student success and increasing retention by five percent by 2021.

A college team devoted to implementing the grant, secured last fall, has wrapped up intense planning efforts around the initiative. New strategies include overhauling the course placement process and curricula for developmental writing and math courses (for students who aren't ready for college-level courses), and offering extra academic support for first-year students.

The team is also examining potential changes to several areas of the First-Year Experience program for students: academic advising, orientation and a college success course — which teaches skills such as study and time-management. These would be implemented at all four campuses, with some designed for specific needs of Native American and Latino students.

"This is a game-changer."

COCC President Dr. Shirley Metcalf says that the grant will allow the College to turn up the focus on being effective. "I feel this is a game-changer," she says. "As a community college, we do very well with access — we have an open-door policy — but what we do not do well is measuring their outcomes. How many didn't do well in Math 010 (a low-level

remedial course) and what happened to them? This grant forces us to look at the data, change policies and practices to more strongly support this population, and continually monitor our progress. Such financial support is critical in helping us better serve our students."

The Magnitude of the Challenge

COCC's demographics made it a strong candidate for the Title III grant. A primary factor is the percentage of students who qualify for Federal Pell grants, which represents students with the greatest level of financial need. Most have a family income at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty line. At COCC, *"We get them in the door, but now that* 54 percent of

there is greater focus on success, the goal is to have students persist at greater rates.

students fall into this category. Among COCC's low-income, rural, first-generation students are Native American students from The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and a rapidly growing Latino population, particularly in the northern parts of the College's 10,000-square-mile district.

Few of COCC's first-time students arrive ready for college courses. Placement tests land about 68 percent of students in both developmental writing and math classes and 27 percent score into one or the other.

During the past five academic years, about one third of students in developmental math and writing classes do not complete the class or do not progress to college-level classes, or if they progress, they do not succeed. Only about half of

first-time students seeking a credential stay for a second year.

Dr. Alicia Moore, dean of Student and Enrollment Services, said that to address this, the College has begun to reexamine its view of its mission. "In the last few years, COCC, as well as community colleges across the country, has been more focused on student success as opposed to

solely access," she says. "We get them in the door, but now that there is greater focus on success, the goal is to have students persist at greater rates and that's a shift. It has always been a part of our thinking, but not always at the forefront, because we were formed and founded on an accessdriven mission."

Building on Oregon **Promise Results**

COCC applied for the Title III grant in 2015, but was denied. At the same time, the Oregon Legislature approved Oregon Promise, providing tuition support at Oregon community colleges for recent high school graduates or GED recipients. Oregon Promise also required colleges



to offer a type of support similar to what COCC envisioned for its Title III First-Year Experience program.

That prompted COCC to implement a pilot version of its First-Year Experience program for Oregon Promise students in the 2016-17 academic year. It required students to do three things to secure their tuition support for their second year: meet with an academic advisor, attend new student orientation and take a college success course.

"Those who did all three activities stayed in school longer, fewer were on academic probation and they withdrew at lower rates from their courses," says Dr. Betsy Julian, vice president for Instruction.

Oregon Promise students continued from the Fall term to Winter term at a rate of 94 percent, compared to 79 percent of comparable-age students. Oregon Promise students on academic warning was 11 percent versus 26 percent of the comparable students. The percentage of students with passing grades was 87 percent in the Oregon Promise group compared to 75 percent in the comparable group.

"A 94 percent retention rate is pretty huge," says Julian. (She acknowledges, though, that the results could be influenced by the tuition assistance that those students received.) The Title III grant allows the college to expand on the positive results.

Moore adds, "The exciting piece for me is that the grant allows us to revamp existing services and create greater alignment between activities, all with the goal of increasing student success even more than what we have achieved to date."

Shortening the Path to Success

Redesigning the placement process for students is another major component of the grant. For instance, some students may have to take five terms of remedial math before they can take a college credit class. "Some get tired and drop out — and it's not just our problem, it's a national problem," Dr. Metcalf says.

Research on this issue during the last decade prompted California state universities to end remedial education this year, following the lead of community colleges in New York and Tennessee, says Meet with an academic advisor

Attend new student orientation

Take a college success course

Students stayed in school longer, fewer were on academic probation and they withdrew at lower rates from their courses.

Timothy Park and Eugen Helmbrecht

Dr. Brian R. Gutiérrez, COCC's new project coordinator for the grant. "Often (a placement test score) is not an accurate representation of what a student can do," he adds. "If you're a first-time student, no one in your family has gone to college, you have no friends in college, you're in a developmental class, with three classes to go before you're in a college-level course, you're paying for those classes, it's easy to get disillusioned. That's why there's such an emphasis on placement exams and processes."

Instead of relying on the results of just one placement test, the College is piloting a much more detailed, analytical "multiple measures assessment," taking more factors into account to determine how students can progress faster with varying types of support.

"They will meet with faculty members to discuss their abilities," says Dr. Julian. "Maybe it has been a year since they took a math course and they need a refresher on the quadratic formula, but are capable for a higher-level class. If we start them at the highest possible class, they are reasonably more likely to be successful. We are putting a lot of energy into getting them started at the right place."

🗢 "We are putting a lot of energy into getting them started at the right place.'

One new solution is to offer a "corequisite" class for such students. "If you put students in a college-level class, along with a simultaneous mini-class, side-extra tutoring and instructional support, they get the necessary support needed to be successful," Dr. Julian says. Dr. Gutiérrez says the College has had great results with a corequisite pilot and that bears out higher education research studies in the last 10 years. The grant money helps train faculty to offer more corequisite classes.

The grant also helps increase student access to technology. This helps meet a state mandate for information literacy, and the grant allows the College to buy laptops for the corequisite courses.

The federal funding also covers the launch of DegreeWorks Planner, an online academic-planning tool for students



and advisors. "Right now, students and advisors write out a short- and long-term academic plan with paper and pencil," says Moore. The new online tool will allow this to happen electronically.

The benefit is that a student can work with multiple advisors who can access the same plan, interfaced with the COCC online degree audit system. This helps a student monitor their progress toward a certificate or degree, and can serve as a course-forecasting tool, allowing the College to better predict which courses are needed and when, track whether students are taking courses in alignment with their plan and monitor their progress to a certificate or degree.

"This is a critical component of a First-Year Experience program as it allows the student and advisor to have a more intentional and directed discussion about a student's career plan — and then build an academic plan to help reach those goals," says Moore.

Dr. Metcalf sums it up thusly: "We are a great community college that has served the area for 68 years. However, like any great institution, we are always looking for ways to serve our students better."

Cathy Carroll is a freelance writer

OCTOBER



October 1- December 1 **Douglas Campbell Smith**

Enjoy artwork from one of COCC's previous art professors at the Rotunda Gallery in the Barber Library and the Health Careers Center on the Bend Campus.

October 1- October 30 Helen Lessick

Enjoy Lessick's Canopy art show at the Pence Pinckney Gallery and The Arbor Ballet installation in the campus arboretum on the Bend Campus.





The film Not In Our Town: Class Actions profiles students and community members who are creating change in the wake of

racism, antisemitism and the traumatic consequences of bullying. Boyle Education Center 155 at 4 p.m. on the Bend Campus. Also shown at the Prineville Campus October 23 at noon and at the Redmond Campus October 25 at noon.

12 Central Oregon Community College Foundation Magazine

October 20 Traditional Music & Instruments of Latin America

PCOMING EVENTS

Chilean Professor and musician Dr. Freddy O. Vilches will present the rich musical traditions and instruments of Latin America. Boyle Education Center 155 at noon.



October 24 **First Generation Film** and Discussion

Join us for a screening and discussion of the film First Generation about four students' journey to be the first in their families to attend college. Boyle Education Center 155 at 6 p.m.

NOVEMBER



November 2- December 1 Chris Cole

Enjoy Cole's When Things Work art show at the Pence Pinckney Gallery on the COCC Bend Campus. Opening reception and artist talk, Thursday, November 2 at 4:30 p.m.



November Changing **Culture with** Culture

Join Emmy

Award-winning filmmaker Sophia Kruz, as she discusses her film Little Stones and how to become an agent of social change. Liberty Theater at 4 p.m. *Little Stones* will screen at the Tower Theatre Thursday, November 2 at 7 p.m. Go to littlestoneproject.org for more information about the film and the weekend programs.

November 10 Veterans Day Observed

Thank you to all of those who have and are serving our country. COCC closed, no classes.

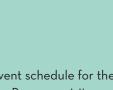
MORE

For more information and a full event schedule for the Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program, visit: cocc.edu/foundation/vsp

For more information on all campus-wide events, visit: cocc.edu/whats-new-calendar



Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program event



November 14 Hope for the Ocean

Join Dr. Jane Lubchenco, distinguished professor at OSU, former administrator of NOAA and First U.S. Science Envoy for the Ocean as she answers how we can use the ocean without using it up. Tower Theatre at 6:30 p.m. 😪

2017



November 23-24 Thanksgiving Break

Happy Thanksgiving! COCC closed, no classes.



COCC Preview Day

Join students as they tour campus and learn about COCC's programs. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please RSVP at 541.383.7500.



December 15 **COCC Foundation Scholarship Application Opens**



Accepting applications for 2018-2019 COCC Foundation Scholarships. See the Foundation's webpage for requirements: cocc.edu/foundation.

SMOOTH MOVE MOVERS, SHAKERS AND MAGIC MAKERS: IT'S MOVE-IN DAY AT WICKIUP HALL

alancing a mini-fridge on your shoulder is an art form. And Joshua Garrett, a squat-looking member of COCC's rugby team, has downright perfected it. "Twenty fridges so far," he says, almost disappointed in his tally, confiding that's it down from 29 last year. Then he brightens, spying another one, and strides off: "I'm going for 21."

Move-in day at Wickiup Hall is at first glance like the scene at a busy airport but with a lively vibe and a 20-person rugby team volunteering to help you haul your luggage. As cars unload and students and their parents try to make sense of the situation, they find a small army of friendly, green-shirted COCC staff fanned out — greeters, directors and movers — helping things flow, keeping the beat.

The song Walking on Sunshine booms from a speaker, offsetting the overcast September day. Balloon clusters bob. Students and parents and their newfound helpers pour in and out of the building with armloads of stuff: skateboards, chess— by Mark R. Johnson —

boards, keyboards. Director of Student Life Andrew Davis, a.k.a. "Daddy-O of the Patio," is stationed outside the entrance, dispensing Wickiup wisdom, keeping active on his walkie-talkie.

Inside, the halls, elevators and stairwells have become a parade of possessions. "Everything feels so real right now," one female student says to another in a busy stairwell, her excitement scored with a hint of uncertainty. That's a reality that Stephanie Bilbrey, housing marketing coordinator and the day's choreographerin-chief, is well aware of. "We're setting a tone that they're not alone," she says of the show of support on move-in day.

With room for 320 students, Wickiup, which opened in 2015, is for the second time filled to capacity for fall term. Students hail from near and...not so near. Dominic Barron, from Portland, is a first-year student and is interested in the art class offerings. Ryan Schwartz, whose family is in Morocco, is a returning resident of Wickiup (approximately 10 percent are returning residents) and is studying business. "Tons of new faces and newfound

relationships," he says of the move-in experience. "The rooms are perfect."

Studies that have looked at college retention rates draw this in their conclusions: Students who live on campus achieve higher GPAs and hold better retention and graduation rates than those who don't. It's like having firmer footing on a challenging trail.

Classes will start in another few days, life will accelerate, but in the meantime, parents are hugging their kids, vehicles are pulling away. The energy in the air is filled with newfound freedom, newly sparked friendships and, of course, plenty of questions. But these students are now fully aware — from day one — that their college has their back.

IF YOU'D LIKE A TOUR OF WICKIUP HALL, PLEASE **CONTACT HOUSING** AND RESIDENCE LIFE AT 541.383.7545.

Mark R. Johnson is the staff writer in COCC's College Relations department.

Timothy Park



HALL

SHAKERS

MOVERS

Foundation Scholarships:

to the Challenge by Mark R. Johnson

hriving, not just surviving." That's the wonderful distinction Victoria Pearce makes when describing her COCC experience, thanks in part to the Foundation scholarship she has received.

Alickoria Dearc

Raised by her single father in Bend, Victoria knew college would one day be in her orbit. It was ingrained, something she was "supposed to do." But the reality of it played out differently — it was more of an abstract idea without a fully-fledged sense of purpose.

"I was never sure what I was supposed to do to gain a higher education, just that I was supposed to do it," she explains. "My dad didn't know either. After he died in

2008, I found out he obtained his GED the same year I graduated high school." She tried college — it didn't take. So she entered the workforce in Portland, holding a variety of jobs. These life experiences helped inform her decision, at age 30, to move back to Bend and give school a fresh start.

"I realized what I really wanted to do with my life," she says. "I started classes at COCC with the plan that I would finish my AAOT and then, ultimately, obtain my Masters in Library Science." She continued working in the meantime, and kept a busy schedule while earning good grades and closing in on her degree. Then, six months before she was to walk the stage at commencement, she learned she was pregnant.

"When the Foundation sent me that letter informing me that my scholarship had been extended, I realized that I had been granted the opportunity to complete my education and to show my daughter that success is possible even when life's obstacles make our daily activities complicated," she shares.

Lena Pearl is now a one-year-old. And Victoria has her degree, having completed her studies online. She has since been accepted into Eastern Oregon University, where her plan is to graduate in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in Integrative Studies before pursuing her master's. "I want to thank the Foundation for their time, support and the opportunity they've provided to countless college students."

acob Newton assumed he was following his destiny.

While in high school, the Redmond resident imagined his career path being similar to his father's, of making a life in the military. But *situs* inversus had other plans. Because he was born with his internal organs arranged in located on the opposite side, but otherwise functioning healthily — the military turned Jacob down. Faced with this upending news, he floundered. He dropped out of high school and dealt with life's challenges by simply ducking out when jobs got tough and relationships proved stressful. Then one day something shifted.

"I was tired of feeling sorry for myself and being unhappy all the time," he says. "I realized life is too short to walk around unhappy all the time." This turnaround triggered a new destiny. His attitude changed. He "let people in." Jacob fell in love, got married. He found a rewarding job as a caregiver for adults with developmental disabilities. That's when something clicked again, leading him to COCC.

"Helping to care for other people... has truly been one of the most amazing experiences of my life," he shares of his path to the nursing program. He enrolled at COCC and completed his prerequisites while carrying a solid 4.0 GPA. He then applied to the College's competitive nursing program and was floored when he was accepted.



Now in his second year in the program, Jacob is a determined student. While his weekly schedule has proved challenging — a full load of classes coupled with exams and a two-day period at his job in which he needs to log 36 hours of work his positivity has kept him focused.

A big share of that formula, he acknowledges, is the support from his Foundation scholarship and the relief it has provided him when it comes time to pay the bills. "I have gotten the opportunity to see, firsthand, how much this community cares about this institution and its students," he says. "I hope that one day I can help someone else in the way they have helped me."

Mark R. Johnson is the staff writer in COCC's College Relations department.

STUDE SUCCE

"I was able to go to a small animal practice and use skills that I had learned about in class."

EMILY WARCHOL

EMILY WARCHOL

Associate of Applied Science, **Veterinary Technician**

"Becoming a veterinary technician has always intrigued me as I have a love for both animals and science.

"The best part of the Vet Tech program at COCC was taking the knowledge I learned in the program and being able to apply it in practice at our externships. I was able to go to a small animal practice and use skills that I had learned about in class. I was fortunate to also be able to do a six-week externship at The Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, California. This center rescues, rehabilitates and releases injured seals and sea lions.

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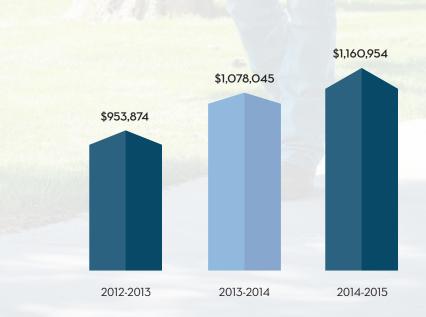
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