

All-Oregon Academic Team

Recognition Program



2020

May 28, 2020

Dear Members of the All-Oregon Academic Team:

I am delighted to write to you today to acknowledge your nomination and selection from your community college as a member of the Phi Theta Kappa All-Oregon Academic Team. It is my privilege to celebrate your accomplishments as detailed in the enclosed All-Oregon Academic Team Recognition Program.



I would like to share some thoughts on the community college journey you have completed and why I believe each of you is ready to face the future. For me, community colleges are the happening place in higher education. We get to provide education to students, many of whom have been marginalized either because of academic preparation, ethnicity, skin color, religion, other-abledness, and so on. Community colleges were created to assure that you, our students, whatever your background or wherever you come from, have access to higher education – that we let you know that access to higher education is a right for everyone, not just the privileged few.

I hope you feel proud that you have attended a community college. Sometimes I hear students say they are going to *just* a community college – no, it is college, it is higher education. Be proud. In your time with us you have attained a quality education that will set you up for the rest of your life, whether you are going to work or transferring to a university.

Remember to think big – do not let anyone put limits on what you think you can achieve. Have the confidence to know that with a little help, perhaps a little more education or training, you can do whatever you set your mind to. As Henry David Thoreau said, “We must walk consciously only part way toward our goal and then leap in the dark to our success.”

Congratulations on your achievements and the completion of your community college degree. As our very best and brightest, you represent hope for a strong future. Stay involved and engaged in your community, by doing so, you will lead and teach by example, encouraging future generations as well.

Enjoy this day! I look forward to your future accomplishments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cam Preus".

Cam Preus
Executive Director
Oregon Community College Association

Special Recognition

Congratulations



Esgar Garcia Avila
Blue Mountain Community College



Maya Treder
Lane Community College



Lucas McMellon
Chemeketa Community College



Luisa Anderson
Linn-Benton Community College

Every year, the Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) Member Services Committee selects three to four students to share stories about their educational journeys at the annual All-Oregon Academic Team awards luncheon. The Committee is made up of local college board members, staff, and presidents. The criteria used for selecting the student speakers is based on academic excellence, leadership, and community service while pursuing an associate's degree.

Traditionally, the selected student speakers share their stories at the awards luncheon in April, where all members of the All-Oregon Academic Team are acknowledged and celebrated. Given we are all living in a different time with the COVID-19 and social distancing, we have regrettably had to cancel the event this year; however, we still wanted to acknowledge and congratulate the four students selected to share their stories. Even though we could not gather in person, OCCA thought it was still important to capture these students' stories as they provide a prime example of the barriers community college students overcome to find success. As such, OCCA has recorded videos of Esgar, Maya, and Luisa sharing their inspiring educational journeys. [You can watch their videos on the OCCA website!](#)

Again, my heartfelt congratulations on your outstanding achievements and I wish you every success in the future.

Stay safe and be well –
Cam Preus
Executive Director
Oregon Community College Association

About Phi Theta Kappa

Honor Society

The purpose of Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students. To achieve this purpose, Phi Theta Kappa provides opportunity for the development of leadership and service, for an intellectual climate for exchange of ideas and ideals, for lively fellowship for scholars, and for stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence.

All-State Community College Academic Team

Phi Theta Kappa, community college presidents, and community college state associations sponsor All-State Community College Academic Team ceremonies in 37 participating states. Students nominated to the national All-USA Community College Academic Team / Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team are automatically named to the All-State Community College Academic Teams. Ranking on the All-State Community College Academic Teams is generally determined by the student's score in the national competition.

All-State Community College Academic Team recognition ceremonies vary by state but are most often held in the state capitol with legislators, education leaders, and corporate leaders attending. All-State Community College Academic Team members receive special recognition at these ceremonies, including medallions and certificates and may include scholarships. If applicable, Coca-Cola Gold, Silver, and Bronze Scholars are also recognized.

College and University Partners

Phi Theta Kappa has partnered with over 750 four-year colleges and universities in the United States, the District of Columbia, Canada, and England, offering more than \$37 million in transfer scholarships to Phi Theta Kappa members each year.

We are pleased to highlight 17 four-year colleges and universities that have designated scholarships exclusively to All-Oregon Academic Team members.

The Oregon Community College Association wishes to thank the following four-year institutions for offering transfer scholarships to this year's All-Oregon Academic Team:

\$1,000	Concordia University	\$1,500	Oregon State University
\$1,000	Corban University	\$2,500	Pacific University
\$1,000	Eastern Oregon University	\$1,000	Portland State University
\$9,000 - \$11,000	George Fox University	\$1,000	University of Oregon
\$2,000	Lewis & Clark College	\$1,000	University of Portland
\$1,500	Linfield College	\$1,000	Walla Walla University
\$4,000 - \$11,000	Northwest Christian College	\$1,000	Warner Pacific College
\$1,000	Oregon Institute of Technology		

Outstanding Achievement

Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Oregon Bronze Scholar Recipients



Maya Treder
Lane Community College

Kendall Cottrell
Portland Community College



Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team. The Coca-Cola Academic Team recognizes high achieving college students who demonstrate academic excellence and intellectual rigor combined with leadership and service that extends their education beyond the classroom to benefit society. Nationally, 50 students are named Bronze Scholars, each receiving a \$1,000 scholarship.

New Century Scholar Transfer

Erik Kersenbrock
Central Oregon Community College



New Century Scholar Workforce



Janae Radke
Central Oregon Community College

New Century Scholar is a designation bestowed on students, in each state, with the highest All-USA Academic Team application score. The program recognizes 100 scholars annually.

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Oregon Coast Community College



Congratulations *All-Oregon Academic Team*

*We applaud your scholastic triumph and wish
you much success as you travel through the next
phase of higher learning and life enrichment.*



Blue Mountain Community College

Dennis Bailey-Fougner, President



Esgar Garcia Avila

I come from a migrant family who migrated from Mexico and settled in Hermiston, Oregon. My parents have worked hard for their children through field work and plantation work; me and my siblings have responded by getting the best out of it and going to college to get our degrees. My future plans are to get my master's from University of Oregon in business administration, and then live in either Eugene, Salem, or Portland. I want to get a job in either a marketing agency or as a counselor for a college. I would love to give back to the Hispanic community in any way possible. College fits my plans because it would allow me to do what I want and also give back to the community.

Age	Home Town	GPA
20	Hermiston, OR	3.75

Major
Business Administration

Transferring To
University of Oregon

Honors

- ◆ Honor roll
- ◆ President's award
- ◆ NWAC All-Academic
- ◆ Red & Gena Scholarship recipient
- ◆ HHS most inspirational
- ◆ Fred Fields Scholarship Award

Activities

- ◆ Student Ambassador
- ◆ Soccer
- ◆ Hiking
- ◆ BMCC Social Media
- ◆ Business idea: Athletik
- ◆ Hanging out with friends



Allan Holden

I was born in Pendleton, Oregon, but my hometown is Helix where I have lived for most of my life. I tend to mostly play games outside of schoolwork and normal work, which tends to take up most of my time. I am currently working for the Distance Education Department at Blue Mountain Community College. For my future plans, I am hoping to become a history teacher. It is by far my favorite subject, and I would love to teach others because I believe it is extremely important to understand our past. To become a history teacher, college is an extremely important part to becoming one, as a degree in the field is necessary to be one.

Age	Home Town	GPA
21	Helix, OR	3.55

Major
Undetermined (planning History)

Transferring To
Eastern Oregon University

Honors

- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ President's list

Activities

- ◆ Works for Distance Education Department at BMCC
- ◆ Member of the Video Game/ Esports Club at BMCC



Charles Ranger Williams

My name is Charles Ranger Williams. I am 46-year-old non-traditional college student and am married to my wife Jennifer Lynn; we have five beautiful children between the two of us. I am a disabled US ARMY War Veteran. I fought in the Bosnian War in 1994, and with that experience, I help facilitate returning soldiers and help them to acclimate back to civilian life as I am a mentor in the Veterans Resource Center at BMCC. I am the ASG Treasurer. I returned to college after an injury, which led to my early retirement from truck driving after 22 years. My new goal was to obtain a business administration degree, and I hope to own my own business one day. I received the Philip Hoon Scholarship in 2019 for which I was incredibly grateful.

Age	Home Town	GPA
46	Pendleton, OR	3.5

Major
Business Administration

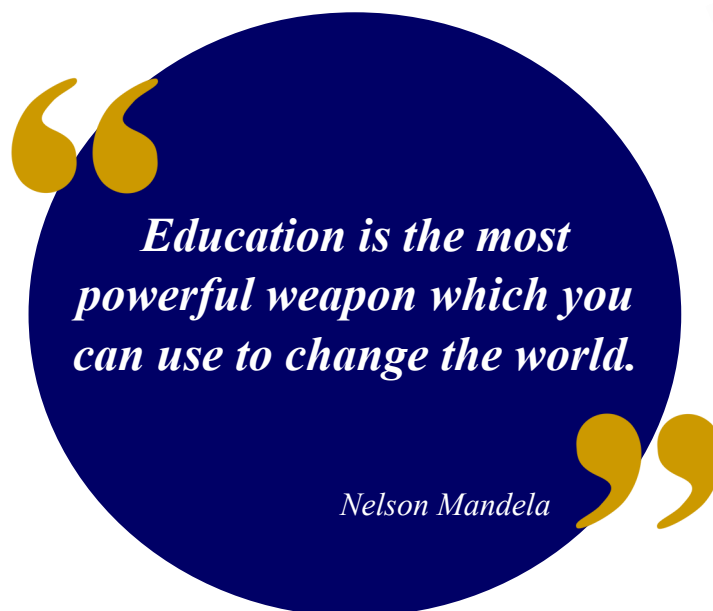
Transferring To
Undecided

Honors

- ◆ President's list
- ◆ Honor roll
- ◆ Dean's list

Activities

- ◆ ASG Treasurer
- ◆ Veteran's Resource Center mentor
- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ Phi Beta Lambda



Central Oregon Community College

Laurie Chelsey, President



Age 45 **Home Town** Millican, OR **GPA** 3.95

Major
Automotive Technology

Amy Bachman

I am not certain quite yet where my future career will take me. I know that I am very interested in pursuing automotive technology advancement and I am interested in electric vehicle repair and programming. I was drawn into the automotive field because I wanted to be able to teach my three sons how to work on their own vehicles. After a short period of being in the program, I realized how much I enjoyed this work and how much I had learned. I decided that this was what I wanted to do for a career. It is very satisfying to feel confident in myself when working on my own vehicle.

Honors

- ◆ College Automotive Repair Scholarship
- ◆ Robert Maxwell Scholarship Award—selected by faculty members
- ◆ Dean's list

Activities

- ◆ Tool room assistant for the Automotive Technology program
- ◆ Outreach liaison for the Automotive Technology program



Age 21 **Home Town** La Pine, OR **GPA** 3.04

Major
Energy Systems Engineering

Transferring To
Oregon State University –
Cascades

Markie Egger

I was drawn to this area of study because I knew that I would be learning something new every day. I also greatly enjoyed how this area of study uses math to analyze everyday experiences. I have always been interested in the sciences and I feel like engineering is a good combination of science and math. My career plan at the moment is to graduate from Oregon State University-Cascades with a bachelor's degree in Energy Systems Engineering. I plan on taking on a couple of different internships over the next several years. From there, hopefully I will be working as an energy systems engineer for a good company.

Honors

- ◆ High school valedictorian
- ◆ Dean's list every term
- ◆ National Honor Society

Activities

- ◆ Volunteer—designed and built four kiosks for local news and events
- ◆ Working on uncle's farm the past three summers and greatly enjoying driving the tractor



Erik Kersenbrock

I grew up in central Kansas and I have always had a bit of an adventurous side. I spent my early- to mid-twenties traveling the United States. In 2014, I successfully hiked the Appalachian trail from Georgia to Maine. I also hitchhiked around the country. I cannot say that I “chose” the field of engineering. I have always been curious about how things worked. I will likely be transferring to OSU -Corvallis to earn a bachelor’s degree in either electrical and computer engineering or mechanical engineering. I hope to continue my education and earn a master’s degree, but my primary goal is to help solve some of the bigger problems that our society faces in the way of resource management, power and energy, or waste.

Age 29 **Home Town** Redmond, OR **GPA** 4.0

Major
Engineering

Transferring To
Oregon State University

Honors

- ◆ Dean’s list every term
- ◆ Ray Haertel Memorial Scholarship, two years in a row

Activities

- ◆ Rock climbing
- ◆ Backpacking
- ◆ Yoga
- ◆ Wilderness living, primitive skills



Janae Radke

Nurses are in a unique position to support and care for people on some of their worst days, and I think it is an honor to do that work. It is also an incredibly varied field with constant opportunities to continue learning and challenging yourself. I plan to become an Emergency Department Nurse and eventually a Nurse Practitioner.

Age 34 **Home Town** Albany, OR **GPA** 4.0

Major
Nursing

Transferring To
Undecided

Honors

- ◆ Dean’s list
- ◆ Received a Bachelor of Arts in Internal and Intercultural Studies; graduated cum laude and won an award for best senior thesis in gender studies

Activities

- ◆ Traveling
- ◆ Spending time outside with my husband and dog
- ◆ Work

Chemeketa Community College

Jessica Howard, President



Tricia Narvaez

I am a mother to six children, and I worked part-time up until eight months ago. I started almost two years ago as a first-generation and full-time college student. I was inspired to go to college for the first time while I was helping our oldest child look at college options. I have loved learning so much since becoming a student that I desire to be a lifetime learner. My current goal is to get a degree in medical imaging and ultimately major in sonography. My dream is to work in Maternal Fetal Medicine helping expecting mothers while continuing related education.

Age	Home Town	GPA
37	Salem/Keizer, OR	3.71

Major
AAOT—Medical Imaging

Transferring To
Undecided

Honors

- ◆ Dean's list 2x
- ◆ President's list 3x
- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ Jill LeBlanc Memorial Scholarship
- ◆ Chemeketa Child Care Scholarship
- ◆ PTK Scholarship

Activities

- ◆ Volunteer at my children's school, WVCS
- ◆ Volunteer at my church, Salem Alliance
- ◆ Member, STEPS program at Chemeketa
- ◆ Mother to six children
- ◆ Full-time college student
- ◆ I enjoy dancing and outdoor activities



Dulce B. Perales

I want to attend Concordia University and get my bachelor's degree in nursing through their accelerated nursing program. My goal in becoming a nurse is due to my love for patient care. I am currently a Medical Assistant and have been working in the medical field for eight years now and I have learned that patient care is the right career for me. Through my compassion, empathy and professionalism, I strive to succeed. Due to the amazing care I once received from a nurse through my most traumatic time in my life when I was a teen, has been what inspires me to become a registered nurse. I want to return the favor to my community in hopes to be that inspiration to anyone that this nurse left on me when I was 16 years old. I plan to achieve this goal by attending school every day and being the top of my class.

Age	Home Town	GPA
32	Woodburn, OR	3.57

Major
Nursing

Transferring To
Concordia University, Saint Paul

Honors

- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa International
- ◆ Honor roll 2017, 2018, 2019
- ◆ Dean's list 2012

Activities

- ◆ Full-time employee at Providence Medical Group Canby, patient care
- ◆ Head of Sunshine Committee for place of employment
- ◆ Clinic Safety Coordinator
- ◆ Zumba
- ◆ Outdoor outings with family

Chemeketa Community College, Yamhill Campus

Jim Eustrom, Campus President



Lucas McMellon

I grew up on the Oregon coast and after leaving home, I found myself without a house for a few years. During this time, I worked in construction and became certified to support my peers in a clinical sense. After working for non-profits and volunteering around McMinnville for a few years, I was able to get myself an apartment and vehicle. Once I found some stability, I started college at Chemeketa to educate myself closer towards my potential. Currently, I plan to finish an AAS in Building Inspection Technology and eventually transfer to obtain a Bachelor's in Architecture Engineering at OSU. Once I have my degrees, I plan on working my way up in a county building department and see where my career takes me.

Age	Home Town	GPA
28	Pacific City, OR	4.0

Major

Building Inspection
Technology

Transferring To

Oregon State University

Honors

- ◆ President's list
- ◆ Certificate of Recognition from Chemeketa Community College
- ◆ Jonni Whitney Scholarship
- ◆ Coca-Cola Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship
- ◆ Yamhill Valley-Larry Nesland Memorial Scholarship
- ◆ Jerome B. Steinbach Scholarship

Activities

- ◆ PTK Chapter President
- ◆ Chemeketa P.E. Assistant
- ◆ Project Able and Champion Team Peer Support Specialist
- ◆ St. Barbara's Soup Kitchen volunteer
- ◆ Speaker for Helping Hands via The McMellon Nutrition Center



Misty Whiteley

I am considered a non-traditional student at 42 years old. I was a teenage single parent to two daughters that I had in high school. I graduated but never had the opportunity to attend college. Now I am married, the children are grown and I can focus on pursuing a career I have dreamed about. I enjoy learning about the earth and how things are created, so now I get to combine the two. I am currently attending Chemeketa Community College to complete my Associates of Art Transfer degree. I am in my second year of school and once my AAOT is complete, I will go to Oregon State University to get a Bachelors of Science in Geology. My goal is to some day work for the USGS.

Age	Home Town	GPA
42	Ballston, OR	4.0

Major

Geology

Transferring To

Oregon State University

Honors

- ◆ President's list 2 terms
- ◆ Honor roll
- ◆ Chemeketa Foundation Scholarship recipient
- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ Rocky Mountain-Cascade Chapter Officer Superhero, December 2019

Activities

- ◆ Beta Upsilon Omega Chapter Secretary
- ◆ Chemeketa Yamhill Campus Student Leader
- ◆ Co-starter of South Trask Volunteer

Clackamas Community College

Tim Cook, President



Christy Juenemann

I am a returning student after an 18-year hiatus and am going to be studying Music Therapy at Pacific University. I am originally from Kelso, Washington and have always been involved in activities that revolve around music. I am currently the co-lead singer in a top 40 pop band that plays at local festivals, casinos, and clubs. I enjoy more than anything making people happy, and plan to use this love in my future career. I will be working with children to get the suicide and school shooting rates down through music. I am very eager to start my journey, and receiving my Bachelor's will help me get the skills I need to open my own practice and start working as soon as I graduate.

Age 39 **Home Town** Kelso, WA **GPA** 4.0

Major
Music Therapy

Transferring To
Pacific University

Honors

- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa and scholarship recipient
- ◆ Founders Award Scholarship recipient—Pacific University
- ◆ President's list

Activities

- ◆ Co-lead singer of Collective Nation
- ◆ Clackamas Community College Chamber Choir and Mainstream Choir member
- ◆ Cross stitching
- ◆ Reading



Amy Delia McCollum

Moving to Italy when I was 10 years old allowed me to experience elementary, middle, and high school in another country with different priorities than the United States and effectively prepared me for an academic career at college, that will be continued into university this fall. Once I graduate from college and university with a bachelor's in Business and Applied Linguistics, I will be applying to medical schools across the country, and plan on becoming a physician. College in the United States has been essential in allowing me to explore possible career paths and new subjects I had not previously had the chance to look into due to the rigorous academic curriculum of my prior education. I am excited to further my education and see my dreams come to fruition!

Age 26 **Home Town** Livorno, Italy **GPA** 4.0

Major
Business and Applied Linguistics

Transferring To
Portland State University

Honors

- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ President's list every term
- ◆ Paula Mae Cropsey Memorial Scholarship recipient, 2019-20

Activities

- ◆ VP of Scholarship for Alpha Xi Zeta chapter of PTK
- ◆ Peer assistant
- ◆ French tutor
- ◆ Reading
- ◆ Traveling

Clatsop Community College

Chris Breitmeyer, President



Stormy Johnson

Throughout my life, I have lived in four of the Northwestern States, with the Oregon coast being my favorite. I was homeschooled through my senior year of high school, graduating in 2018 with a GED. Community college was the first taste of school that I have ever had. Once I started attending, I learned that I loved chemistry and math and that I had a passion for learning and helping others learn. I plan to graduate from OSU with a double degree in general chemistry and education, so that I may be a math or science teacher for a coastal high school. I aspire to have a career that I am passionate about while still having time for the things that I love such as my church, family, reading, and painting.

Age **Home Town** **GPA**
20 Warrenton, OR 4.0

Major
Chemistry and Education

Transferring To
Oregon State University

Honors

- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ Dean's list
- ◆ Emmett D. Towler Scholarship recipient

Activities

- ◆ College math tutor
- ◆ Enjoy painting with acrylics and oils
- ◆ Avid reader and love collecting literature
- ◆ Volunteer for Vacation Bible School
- ◆ Enjoy being active outdoors



Connor Kealey

I am drawn towards developing an understanding of the inner workings of the technology we are surrounded by. To pursue these interests, my plan is to enroll in the computer and electrical engineering program at Oregon State University. The thought of developing technologies in fields such as robotics and remote operated vehicles excites me. Every day I see a new report about a discovery or invention that has the potential to push humanity to the next level. Whether I tackle innovation from an entrepreneurial angle or work on pre-existing projects, I am going to exist on the frontier of what fascinates me. I am inspired by the prospect of obtaining practical knowledge and understanding concepts that will enable me to coax even my wildest ideas into reality.

Age **Home Town** **GPA**
20 Cannon Beach, OR 3.95

Major
Computer and Electrical Engineering

Transferring To
Oregon State University

Honors

- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ Dean's list
- ◆ Emmett D. Towler Scholarship recipient
- ◆ TRIO Grant recipient

Activities

- ◆ TRIO member
- ◆ Artist
- ◆ Sea Turtle Forever member

Klamath Community College

Roberto Gutierrez, President



Hanna Aguirre-Burk

My name is Hanna Maricela Aguirre-Burk. I was born and raised in Klamath Falls. My ethnicity is Hispanic American. I grew up in a low in-come household with a mentally ill and absent mother. My life has consisted of mainly education because my education is the only thing I have going for me and my future. My educational plans are to pursue a degree in psychology to become a counselor for my local community. To become a counselor, I need to achieve a masters degree. Pursing a psychology degree and becoming a counselor is the first step to my long-term goals. I want to be able to bring my knowledge and experience back into my community to help adolescents, families, and parents.

Age	Home Town	GPA
20	Klamath Falls, OR	3.8

Major
Psychology

Transferring To
Oregon State University

Honors

- ◆ President's list
- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ Ousley Scholarship recipient
- ◆ Finley Academic Excellence Scholar

Activities

- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ Volunteer at Pelican Point Nursing Home
- ◆ Volunteer at local church
- ◆ Reading



Tandie Decker

I am from Klamath Falls, Oregon, and I have lived here my whole life. I graduated from Henley High School in 2018. My future plans are to obtain a bachelor's degree from Oregon Institute of Technology in medical imaging starting this fall. I will be applying for their Echocardiology and Vascular program this spring with the goal of graduating in 2023. Attending college fits into all my future plans. I feel it is important to start my career with a foundation of a bachelor's degree in the field that most interests me. I plan to work in a hospital and am excited to be able to help others. Having a college plan will not only open doors of opportunity for my career, but it will also set me up for continuing my education with a master's degree.

Age	Home Town	GPA
20	Klamath Falls, OR	3.63

Major
Associate of Science

Transferring To
Oregon Institute of Technology

Honors

- ◆ President's list
- ◆ Ousley Scholarship recipient
- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- ◆ Volunteer for Wing World 4H Club
- ◆ Interested in anything outdoors

Lane Community College

Margaret Hamilton, President



Ethan Smallwood

I grew up in South Africa and decided to attend university in the U.S. when massive civil unrest around universities within my own country broke out. I plan to complete my studies and then hopefully find work in the field of research, primarily in genetic diseases. It has always been a dream of mine to cure diseases that we have no control over, a genetic lotto that designates you an unlucky hand. When my best friend's father got diagnosed with Parkinson's, which he inherited from his father, it solidified my resolve to pursue this dream.

Honors

- ◆ President's list
- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- ◆ Hiking
- ◆ Tutor

Age **Home Town** **GPA**
21 Durban, South Africa 3.85

Major

Biological Engineering

Transferring To

Oregon State University



Maya Treder

College has been my goal since I was a child. It was understood that college was the path to success in life. When I dropped out of high school and subsequently began alternative education, I thought I would not achieve that goal. It turned out that the alternative school gave me more support than I had ever experienced, and as a result I was able to enroll in college. This experience solidified my aspiration to teach math and science and encourage students to forge their own path toward success, even if it is an unconventional one. Lane Community College has supported my ambitions and provided networking opportunities and contact with people in my field. Lane has endowed me with confidence that I can succeed in university and beyond, which is invaluable.

Honors

- ◆ Lane CC Foundation Scholarship Ambassador
- ◆ Eugene Airport Rotary Foundation Scholarship recipient
- ◆ President's and Vice President's list
- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa Sigma Zeta Chapter

Activities

- ◆ Lane CC Green Science Club
- ◆ Student representative on Lane CC Honors Program Leadership Team
- ◆ Volunteer at annual Whiteaker Community Dinner
- ◆ Part-time waitress, The Sandwich League
- ◆ 4J District School Board Student Representative (2017-18)

Age **Home Town** **GPA**
19 Eugene, OR 3.86

Major

General Science

Transferring To

University of Oregon

Linn-Benton Community College

Greg Hamann, President



Luisa Anderson

The family was informed that my mother had stage-four ovarian cancer when I was 10 years old. I became hyper aware of my mother's needs and my role within the family moved from daughter to helper. She passed away my freshman year of high school, leaving me with an empty heart and an empty role to fill. After many years of trying to fill that void, I have discovered my career path as an occupational therapy assistant. With this degree, I will have the ability to teach others to overcome the obstacles that life throws at them, much like I had to do for myself and my mother. Without the experience of taking care of my ill mother, I would have not discovered the role that fills my heart.

Age 29 **Home Town** Sioux Falls, SD **GPA** 4.0

Major
Occupation Therapy Assistant

Transferring To
Undecided

Honors

- ◆ Honor roll
- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- ◆ SOTA Club treasurer
- ◆ Volunteer at community kitchen
- ◆ Entrepreneur of small pressure washing company
- ◆ Learning and growing as a student and individual
- ◆ Crafting, sewing, reading



Sarah Chao

My ultimate goal is to become a family nurse practitioner (FNP). My passion for nursing started at an early age. Being the first generation to speak English also meant translating for every doctor's appointment within the family. I have had to learn many disease processes and had to somehow translate it in a way that will make sense in the Lu-Mienh language. Being that both of my parents were immigrants and did not get the chance to further their education, it is necessary that I take all of my opportunities. I plan to finish my nursing degree in 2020 at Linn-Benton Community College and go straight into the RN-BSN program at Linfield College, finishing my BSN degree by 2022. By 2024, I should be in an MSN program.

Age 26 **Home Town** Lebanon, OR **GPA** 2.91

Major
Nursing

Transferring To
Linfield College

Honors

- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ Dean's honor roll, 2017
- ◆ President's honor roll, 2018 & 2019

Activities

- ◆ Worked at Live Longer Lebanon, preventing drug abuse
- ◆ Volunteered at East Linn Health Clinic

Catherine Stevens



Age 25 **Home Town** Corvallis, OR **GPA** 4.0

Major
Computer Science

Transferring To
Oregon State University or
Portland State University

Over the past few years, I have become increasingly interested in healthcare challenges and how health outcomes can be improved. I plan on earning a Computer Science degree as well as classes in economics, public health, and statistics, which will provide historical context and perspectives. A degree in Computer Science would give me the tools to achieve my career goals, which are to write software and analyze data in the fields of healthcare, social programs, and public policies. I have prior professional experience in web development and community management, as well as volunteer and personal project experience investigating and advocating for health equity. I have experienced many health problems, so know firsthand the importance of ensuring that everyone can afford and access healthcare.

Honors

- ◆ Full scholarship at Grace Hopper Tech Conference, 2019
- ◆ LBCC & Zonta Scholarships, 2019-20
- ◆ Selected to participate in Portland State University NEW Leadership Oregon, 2019
- ◆ Selected to participate and full scholarship to Strange Loop Tech Conference, 2019
- ◆ Researched and presented at Super Computing Conference, 2019
- ◆ Spoke at UWestFest, 2017

Activities

- ◆ Student leadership at Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Office at LBCC, 2018-present
- ◆ Software engineering intern, Mapbox, 2020
- ◆ Community Manager at Mozilla, 2019-20
- ◆ Student Systems Engineer at Oregon State University Open Source Lab, 2019
- ◆ Junior Web Developer at ProWorks, 2014-18

“
*Democracy cannot succeed
unless those who express
their choice are prepared to
choose wisely. The real
safeguard of democracy,
therefore, is education.*

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Mt. Hood Community College

Lisa Skari, President



Lakyn Jacoby

The beautiful Blue Mountains of Eastern Oregon are my original home, where fishing, gathering berries and mushroom hunting with my grandparents taught me vital respect for the land that nourishes our lives. I am inspired to help humanity live in healthy harmony with the rest of the natural world. Areas of special interest to me include: gardening, anthropology, hiking, camping, and identifying plants. I enjoy volunteering for local environmental stewardship events such as the 2019 Eco-Blitz at the Sandy River Delta, where I guided volunteer groups and documented 51 different species of plants. I will graduate from Mt. Hood Community College this Spring with an Associate's of Applied Science degree in Forest Resources. I will continue my education at OSU College of Forestry, earning a degree in Ecological Restoration.

Age	Home Town	GPA
27	LaGrande, OR	3.94

Major
Forestry

Transferring To
Oregon State University

Honors

- ◆ President's honor roll
- ◆ G. and A. Hertrich Scholarship
- ◆ Rho Theta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- ◆ Society of American Foresters MHCC Student Chapter Chair
- ◆ Volunteer work with the Sandy River Watershed Council
- ◆ Hiking wilderness areas
- ◆ Sustainable organic gardening
- ◆ Gathering wild edibles
- ◆ Identifying plants

“

The content of a book holds the power of education and it is with this power that we can shape our future and change lives.

Malala Yousafzai

Oregon Coast Community College

Bingitte Ryslinge, President



Kristin Meredith

My name is Kristin Meredith, and I reside in Yachats, Oregon. Although I was the first child in my family, I am the seventh oldest of nine children. Throughout my life, I have valued diverse avenues for education through open dialog, age integrated interactions, volunteer opportunities, travel, and business. Before attending Oregon Coast Community College in 2018, my education was self-directed. As an OCCC student, I have attempted to perform well in my academic studies and to create value in my college community. In June, I will be graduating with my Associate of General Studies degree at age 17. I plan to transfer to Mississippi College in Clinton, MS, to pursue a degree in interior design. I look forward to expanding my horizons and exploring new opportunities.

Age 17
Home Town Yachats, OR
GPA 3.79

Major
Associates of General Studies

Transferring To
Mississippi College

Honors

- ◆ Honor roll
- ◆ Dean's list
- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ Scholarship recipient

Activities

- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa Treasurer, 2019-present
- ◆ Editor and publisher for *Waves: A Literary Journal*
- ◆ Volunteer for annual book sale
- ◆ Volunteer for YYFAP
- ◆ Volunteer for Helping Hands
- ◆ Volunteer for Salvation Army
- ◆ Avid reader
- ◆ Enigmatologist



John Watson

I moved to Oregon from Utah in 2017 where I began my academic career at OCCC. I pursued the academic pathway imagining a nursing career, but instructors told me that, with my academic ability, I should aim higher. This gave me confidence to explore what I wanted: to become a doctor and then use that background in research. I have decided on a microbiology degree which will give me the knowledge in biological mechanisms and pathological pathways that I will need to study pathogens and cures diseases. My current goal is to finish my microbiology major at OSU and continue my schooling in OHSU's MD/PhD program where I will receive the necessary foundation in medicine and medical research to allow me to reach my dreams. Perhaps one day, a Nobel Prize.

Age 22
Home Town Newport, OR
GPA 3.58

Major
Microbiology

Transferring To
Oregon State University

Honors

- ◆ OCCC Foundation Scholarship recipient
- ◆ Oregon NASA Space Grant Scholarship recipient
- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa, Chapter Co-President, 2020
- ◆ Honor's list
- ◆ Dean's list
- ◆ President's list

Activities

- ◆ Associated Student Government member, 2018-20
- ◆ College Council Charter Revision Committee member, 2018-19
- ◆ Microbiology/Biology Lab Assistant, 2019-20
- ◆ Pearls of Wisdom Planning Committee, 2019-20
- ◆ Student Mental Health Workgroup member, 2018-19
- ◆ Stem Club President, 2018-19
- ◆ Student intermural sports club founder/president
- ◆ Jiu Jitsu competitor, 2019-20

Portland Community College, Cascade Campus

Mark Mitsui, District President | Karin Edwards, Campus President



Misty Dodd

I have lived in Portland for 11 years and love everything this city has to offer. Most of my time here has been spent immersed in the music community—performing in bands locally and internationally, curating shows, and volunteering for local music programs. I began school for the first time this year and was unprepared for how much I would love being a student! Through my studies, I hope to combine my lifelong passion for the arts and fascination with psychology into a career in the mental health field. I am specifically interested in creating therapeutic VR programs and studying the potential of new immersive technologies. As an incoming psychology student at PSU, I am thrilled to continue working toward this goal, and continue growing as a student and member of my community.

Age 31 **Home Town** Santa Clara, CA **GPA** 3.9

Major
Psychology

Transferring To
Portland State University

Honors

- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ President's list
- ◆ Dean's list

Activities

- ◆ Musician (sing, play bass and synthesizers)
- ◆ Rebuilding Together volunteer
- ◆ Election volunteer
- ◆ Portland School of Rock Camp for Teens collaborator
- ◆ Fundraiser and event booker for local music programs



Xiaoqiong (Olivia) Wu

I came from China. I am studying at Portland Community College. I would like to create a business to help students learn different languages and cultures between the United States and China. I think the more they learn, the better they understand each other and have more opportunities to enrich their lives. I am taking business classes, which will help me operate my business in the future. I believe higher education can better help students and my business as well.

Age 44 **Home Town** Deyang, China **GPA** 3.95

Major
Management and Leadership

Transferring To
Portland State University

Honors

- ◆ President's list
- ◆ Dean's list
- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ Scholarship winner

Activities

- ◆ President, Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ Secretary, JinRen, non-profit Chinese immersion parent group
- ◆ Volunteer, Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School

Portland Community College, Rock Creek Campus

Mark Mitsui, District President | Chris Villa, Campus President



Samuel Klement

Dealing with mild autism, and coming from a large homeschool hobby farming family, there were insufficient resources for my parents to provide everything I needed, especially academically and emotionally. Life was tough, but when I became an adult, God provided everything I needed through the church and very good friends. After getting over the brunt of my emotional difficulties, I realized that I wanted to live in a small town, as part of a well-connected community. I recognized that I needed a feasible occupational plan and realized that my mechanical aptitude could be a valuable asset in an agricultural community as a tractor mechanic. PCC's diesel program offered affordable, hands-on training that made sense. I am grateful for how far I have come, and I am giving it my best shot.

Age 21 **Home Town** Portland, OR **GPA** 3.88

Major
Diesel Service Tech

Honors

- ◆ President's list
- ◆ Fred DeWit Scholarship recipient
- ◆ Math and Science honors on GED certificate (2015)

Activities

- ◆ Vocational work
- ◆ Exploring the state (including hiking and driving)
- ◆ Helping maintain friends' vehicles



Mary Joy Wytsma

My father is an author and international speaker on the topic of social justice, so I have grown up immersed in academics and conversations around the importance of diversity, social justice, and compassion towards vulnerable persons. This has stirred in me a passion to become an immigration lawyer so I can actively participate in helping others and shaping the conversation around immigration policy in America. After earning a B.S. in Business, I plan to attend law school—specializing in immigration law. I am determined to pursue a career path where I can use my voice to enact change and do my part to create a more vibrant and just society.

Age 18 **Home Town** Bend, OR **GPA** 4.0

Major
Business Management and Leadership

Transferring To
Portland State University

Honors

- ◆ President's list
- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ Honor roll

Activities

- ◆ Cello
- ◆ Volunteer, Village Church
- ◆ Volunteer, middle school summer camp counselor
- ◆ Math tutor
- ◆ Figure skating

Portland Community College, Sylvania Campus

Mark Mitsui, District President | Lisa Avery, Campus President



Kendall Cottrell

My future plans are to have many careers in my life connected to art. In the long term, my goal is to expand my current business to support myself full time, and to eventually take on apprentices. Teaching others how to effectively organize and operate their own business would be personally satisfying. Right now, I am pursuing an education in arts administration from George Fox. This will solidify my business plan and art practice for the coming years. After I graduate, I intend to work in a community outreach or programming position at a community-centered nonprofit, like the Oregon Arts and Culture Council. At the core of everything I pursue is community because I believe connecting with and uplifting other people is what brings out the best in myself.

Age 21 **Home Town** Tigard, OR **GPA** 3.72

Major

Arts Administration

Transferring To

George Fox University

Honors

- ◆ Dean's list
- ◆ President of Phi Theta Kappa - Alpha Eta Iota Chapter
- ◆ Juror Award for Excellence at 2019 Student Art Exhibition
- ◆ Juror Recognition Award at 2018 Student Art Exhibition

Activities

- ◆ Director of Legislative Affairs, Associated Students of PCC
- ◆ CEO of Studio Kenda - selling handmade art and associated merchandise
- ◆ President of Lunch Club
- ◆ Participation in shows at North View Gallery and Gallery 101
- ◆ Member, PCC Strategic Planning Steering Committee, District Student Council, Education Advisory Committee, and Graphic Design Museum Steering Committee

“Public education is our greatest pathway to opportunity in America. So we need to invest in and strengthen our public universities today, and for generations to come.”

Michelle Obama

Rogue Community College

Cathy Kempen-Pelle, President



Stormi Backus

I moved to the Rogue Valley from Alaska in 2015 and am pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering at Oregon State University. I am dedicated to campus citizenship as well as academic excellence and spend my free time volunteering in the community. I love to travel and hop on a plane at every opportunity. Most recently, I flew to France for a week of cultural immersion with fellow student leaders. I am a lifelong civil servant and intend to apply my mechanical engineering knowledge to a career in research on sustainable engineering with the goal of reducing our carbon footprint on a global scale.

Age **Home Town** **GPA**
25 Kenai, AK 3.58

Major
Mechanical Engineering

Transferring To
Oregon State University

Honors

- ◆ Student Leader of the Year, 2019
- ◆ Mathematics Student of the Year, 2019
- ◆ Honor roll

Activities

- ◆ Student Government, Vice President
- ◆ Engineering Club, President
- ◆ American Association of University Women member
- ◆ Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, volunteer, 2013-19



Jaedon Jacobi

Ever since I can remember, I have enjoyed building things, and figuring out how they work. Through adolescence, I taught myself how to program, and used this knowledge to earn a software development internship at age 15. This internship led to a full-time job, including the development of new technologies to efficiently heat and cool houses. This experience energized me, and I became very passionate about the major issues our world faces today, such as climate change and inequity. Out of a passion for learning, I decided to enroll in college to understand how to solve interesting technical problems, and I hope to apply my future college education to make the world a better place.

Age **Home Town** **GPA**
21 Grants Pass, OR 4.0

Major
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Transferring To
Oregon State University

Honors

- ◆ Honor roll

Activities

- ◆ Hobbyist electronics
- ◆ Breadmaking
- ◆ Digital computer art
- ◆ Political activism
- ◆ Literature (sci-fi, philosophy, world history)
- ◆ Mechanical restoration and maintenance

Rogue Community College

Cathy Kempen-Pelle, President



Daniel West

With an associate's degree in electronics technology, I will be eligible to enter the workforce as a technician. I am ecstatic about having the opportunity to gain experience in a profession that I can be creative, grow, and learn while working side by side with experienced engineers. It is very important for me to continue working towards my bachelor's degree so I may eventually become an engineer. Currently, I am working as a part-time driving instructor through the Continuing Education department at RCC. I am determined to continue doing this job around my future work and school hours because I feel it is important to positively contribute to my community. I also enjoy the experience I gain as a teacher and am collaborating with the director of Continuing Education to create a lutherie course.

Age	Home Town	GPA
30	Chester, CA	4.0

Major
Electronics Technology

Transferring To
Oregon Institute of
Technology or Southern
Oregon University

Honors

- ♦ Alpha Zeta Pi
- ♦ President's list
- ♦ William B. & Patricia D. Smullin Scholarship recipient
- ♦ Carl E. Stein Memorial Scholarship recipient
- ♦ Trio SSS Scholarship recipient
- ♦ Almauor Scholarship recipient

Activities

- ♦ Trio SSS participant
- ♦ Extra curricular projects (musical instruments and electronics)
- ♦ Musician/open jams
- ♦ Drivers Education instructor
- ♦ Coordinate Electronics Technology study groups
- ♦ Student success participant

*The beautiful thing about
learning is that no one can
take it away from you.*

B. B. King

Southwestern Oregon Community College

Patty Scott, President



Age **Home Town** **GPA**
17 North Bend, OR 3.90

Major

Environmental Engineering &
Sustainability

Transferring To

Oregon State University

Geneva M. Varga

I want to find sustainable solutions to environmental problems; working internationally to put this unique information into place as we explore our home planet, improve lives, and safeguard the future for people all over the world. A degree in environmental engineering will provide me the knowledge base from which to launch my career. I strive for excellence in academics while also seeking out challenging extracurricular opportunities. I have immersed myself in science and mathematics courses. I am fluent in Mandarin and have explored many art mediums to better express myself and communicate with others. Like Darwin's finches, I am constantly evolving - bettering myself through education and life experiences. I look forward to collaborating with colleagues who share my vision and passion for a better life for all of Earth's inhabitants.

Honors

- ◆ Honor roll/Academic excellence
- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ Oregon NASA Space Grant Consortium Award, 2019-20

Activities

- ◆ Art Curator & Museum Docent at Coos Art Museum , 2015-present
- ◆ Boy Scouts of America Venturing Crew, 2016-present
- ◆ Debate Team, 2017-18
- ◆ Gardening Club, 2017-19
- ◆ SOCC Just US Club, 2018-present

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*Education is the passport
to the future, for
tomorrow belongs to those
who prepare for it today.*

Malcom X

Tillamook Bay Community College

Ross Tomlin, President



Zachary Anderson-VonHeeder

Most of my life I have been curious about nature. I developed a passion for plants and fungi and, in my late teens, I decided I wanted to make a career with it, which led me to study botany and mycology. Now, my future consists of me furthering my knowledge mostly with mycology. In the process, I am trying to create a mushroom cultivation business with close friends and will be attending Oregon State University Ecampus to further my education. Our interests so far at our lab is to grow medicinal mushrooms, Reishi, Lions Mane, Cordyceps, and do mycorestoration research to further clean up the environment using fungi. College would further educate me on these topics, allowing more ideas and success in my career as a mycologist.

Age 21 **Home Town** Forest Grove, OR **GPA** 3.88

Major

Associate of Art Transfer

Transferring To

Oregon State University

Honors

- ◆ Kiwanas Club Memorial Scholarship recipient
- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa, Treasurer
- ◆ President's list

Activities

- ◆ Foraging
- ◆ Hiking
- ◆ Volunteer at native plant nursey
- ◆ Reading
- ◆ Mushroom cultivation



Misty Swanson

I was born and raised in the small town of Tillamook, Oregon. At age 23, after a few years of wandering aimlessly, I finally went back to college. As of now, I have chosen to get my Medical Assisting Certification so that I can find my place in the medical field. I know I want to be helping people, I just need to figure out where my place in that is. This journey through college has taught me a lot about who I am and a lot of what I want in life. I could not be more thankful for what TBCC has done for me. My daughter, my husband and I deserve the best version of me possible, and because of college, I am well on my way to finding that.

Age 26 **Home Town** Tillamook, OR **GPA** 3.94

Major

Associate's of Science

Honors

- ◆ Honor roll
- ◆ Two-time scholarship winner
- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- ◆ Hiking
- ◆ Hunting
- ◆ Running

Treasure Valley Community College

Dana Young, President



Lillian "Lilly" Kelley

Ever since I was 5 years old, I have wanted to become a teacher. I would play teacher in my room every night dreaming that someday I would have the opportunity to change children's lives. So, after I graduated high school, I decided to continue my athletic and academic career at Treasure Valley Community College. That was just the right step to getting closer to my dream. Now that my two years are almost over at TVCC, I am excited to further my athletic and academic career at a four-year university. My goal is to graduate in two years with a bachelor's in elementary education and begin my dream career.

Age **Home Town** **GPA**
20 Spirit Lake, ID 3.87

Major
Elementary Education

Transferring To
Willamette University

Honors

- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ TVCC Foundation Scholarship recipient
- ◆ President's list
- ◆ Dean's list

Activities

- ◆ Student Activities Coordinator
- ◆ Women's basketball team
- ◆ Ontario Parks and Recreation volunteer
- ◆ Public Information Officer



Tessa McFetridge

Education is a very important part of my life. I have many hopes and dreams that revolve around my education and must follow every path in order to achieve my goals. I plan to graduate TVCC in 2020 with an Associate of Arts Transfer degree. Then in the fall of 2020, I will further my education at Corban University, where I will also be playing beach volleyball. While at Corban, I plan to go towards a bachelor's in counseling psychology. Once I receive this degree, I plan to work with children, hopefully in a school district, and help better those lives that are struggling. After receiving my bachelor's, I plan to attend a master's program in occupational therapy. This will be the steppingstones in my future career of being an Occupational Therapist. I have always been a very passionate student and take my education very seriously. I enjoy pushing myself to become better and more educated every day.

Age **Home Town** **GPA**
19 Vale, OR 3.88

Major
Psychology

Transferring To
Corban University

Honors

- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ NWAC Academic Excellence, 2019
- ◆ President's list, 2019

Activities

- ◆ TVCC ASG Vice President, 2018-19
- ◆ TVCC ASG President, 2019-20
- ◆ Vale FFA Chapter Treasurer, 2015-16
- ◆ Vale FFA Chapter Secretary, 2016-17
- ◆ Vale FFA Chapter Historian, 2017-18
- ◆ National Honor Society, 2016-18

Umpqua Community College

Debra Thatchen, President



Age 32 **Home Town** Roseburg, OR **GPA** 3.74

Major
AAOT

Transferring To
Undecided

Jesika Barnes

Life has taken me in many directions, including working for a solar company in Nevada, in an emergency room in Alabama and as an Au Pair in France. Through all of my experiences, one thing has been certain: I like teaching. Training, passing on knowledge, leading workshops, all of it fuels me. Working in leadership within my college has taught me that higher education is where I thrive. I will continue working through a master's or a PhD so that I can return to higher education either as a teacher or to provide diversity and equity trainings to improve circumstances for marginalized groups.

Honors

- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ President's list
- ◆ Jim and Whipple Endowment recipient
- ◆ Del Blanchard Family Scholarship recipient
- ◆ Leonard and Mona Riley Endowment recipient
- ◆ John Seely Memorial Scholarship recipient
- ◆ Outstanding Student Award
- ◆ New Leadership Oregon Cohort 2019

Activities

- ◆ ASUCC President
- ◆ PTK Chapter College Project Officer
- ◆ PTK Regional Western District Executive
- ◆ Theater: production assistant and actor with UCC and UACT
- ◆ College Council Chair
- ◆ Board gaming



Age 23 **Home Town** Oakland, OR **GPA** 4.0

Major
Biology

Transferring To
Oregon State University

Owen Cherry

My vocational goal is to become an oral surgeon and practice in southern Oregon. To accomplish this goal, I plan to complete a bachelor's degree in biology at Oregon State University after transferring from Umpqua Community College. While studying at OSU, I plan to complete the prerequisite courses and apply to dental school. After completing my degree at OSU, I plan to complete dental school to become a licensed dentist and complete an oral and maxillofacial surgery residency. After residency, I hope to practice near my hometown of Roseburg. I plan to use my training to benefit the people in rural southern Oregon and participate in medical aid work around the world.

Honors

- ◆ Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship Semifinalist
- ◆ UCC Faculty Scholarship recipient
- ◆ Larry Levine Scholarship recipient
- ◆ Clifford H. and Gladys J. Pearson Scholarship recipient
- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa
- ◆ President's list

Activities

- ◆ Managing Editor of the Mainstream Student Newspaper
- ◆ Commercial fisherman
- ◆ Ranch operator

