

All-Oregon Academic Team

Recognition Program



2021



May 1, 2021



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 because of academic preparation, ethnicity, skin color, religion, other-ability, pandemic-related challenges, economic status, 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.

Sincerely,

Cam Preus Executive Director,
Oregon Community College Association

Special Recognition



Casey Dudek
Portland Community College



Nora Jackson
Lane Community College



Dava Nimmo
Rogue Community College



Natasha Robinson
Rogue 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 COVID-19 and social distancing, we have regrettably had to cancel the event again 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 Casey, Dava, Natasha and Nora sharing their inspiring educational journeys. You can watch their videos on the OCCA website, www.occa17.com.

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.

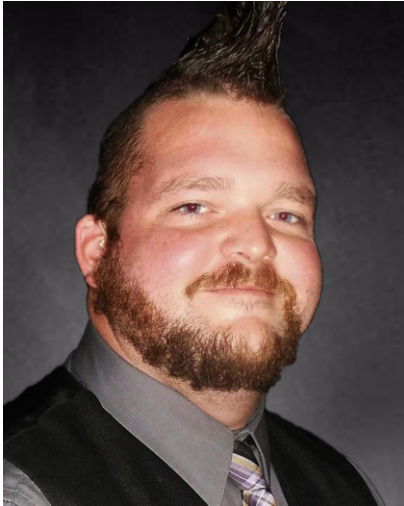
College & University Partners

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:			
\$5,000-\$13,000	Bushnell University	\$1,500	Oregon State University
\$1,000	Corban University	\$2,500	Pacific University
\$1,000	Eastern Oregon University	\$1,000	Portland State University
\$5,000-\$14,000	George Fox University	\$1,000	Oregon State University
\$2,000	Lewis & Clark College	\$1,000	University of Portland
\$1,500	Linfield University	\$1,000	Walla Walla University
\$1,000	Oregon Institute of Technology	\$1,000	Warner Pacific University
\$2,000	Western Oregon University	\$1,000	Willamette University

Special Recognition

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



**New Century Transfer Scholar
Oregon**

Tom Farrenkopf

Portland Community College



**New Century Workforce Scholar
Oregon**

Hannah Bergen

Treasure Valley Community College



Congratulations!

Special Recognition

Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Scholar Recipients

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 community college students are selected as Silver Scholars and receive \$1,250 scholarships, while an additional 50 community college students nationally are selected as Bronze Scholars and receive \$1,000 scholarships.



Silver Scholar

Faith Byars

Umpqua Community College



Bronze Scholar

Jordyn Tippett

Southwestern Oregon Community College



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Tony Turner, Board Member

Central Oregon Community College

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Jane Reid, Member-At-Large

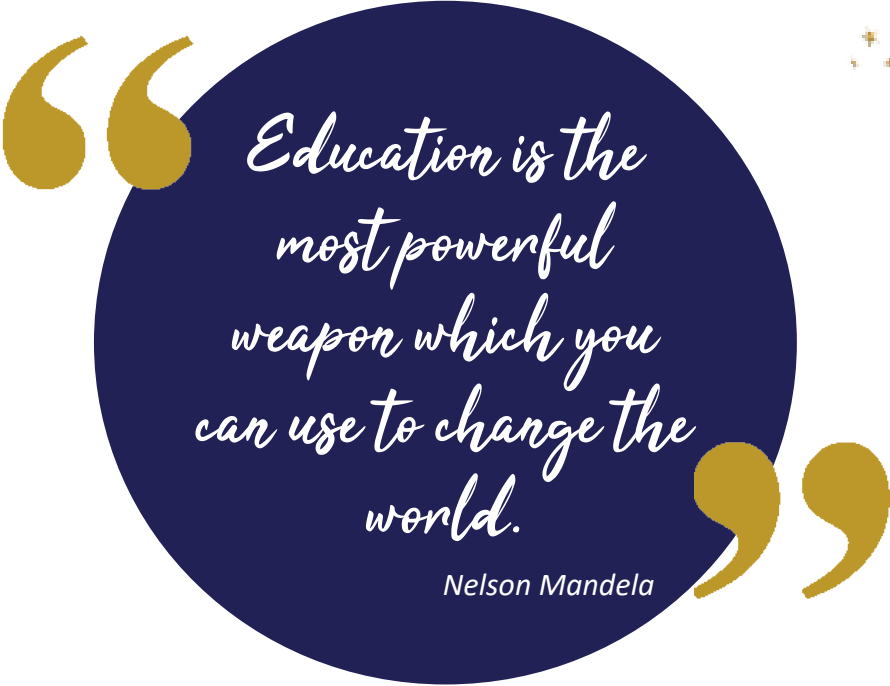
Clackamas Community College

Annette Mattson, Past President

Mt. Hood Community College

Cathy Kemper-Pelle, OPC Chair

Rogue Community College



*Education is the
most powerful
weapon which you
can use to change the
world.*

Nelson Mandela

Blue Mountain Community College

Connie Green, Interim President



Andrew Wolotina

I have lived in Pendleton, Oregon, my whole life. I decided to stay in Pendleton and attend Blue Mountain Community College so that I could save money and continue playing soccer, while also completing my associate degree. Now I am planning on transferring to University of Providence to continue playing soccer, while double majoring in computer science and business with a minor in marketing. Eventually, I would like to open up a combined coffee/music shop where I can sell music gear and clothing, while also making and roasting coffee.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Student Ambassador
- Men's Soccer Team
- Dutch Brothers Employee
- Worship Team Member

Age	Hometown	GPA
19	Pendleton, OR	4.0

Major: Business & Computer Science

Transferring to: University of Providence



Tonya Evans

I am a wife, mother and grandmother who enjoys life in rural America. I graduated from Wallowa High School in 1980, the La Grande College of Beauty and Barbering in 1982, and from BMCC in December of 2020.

Through my life experiences, I have learned that nothing is impossible when determination and a positive attitude are applied. I hope to find a career in planning and development where I can challenge the knowledge I have gained from the past two years at BMCC.

Words I live by: Life is Good, Live it Well!

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Crafts
- Writing Song Lyrics
- Outdoor Activities
- Activity & Event Planning
- Travel

Age	Hometown	GPA
59	Elgin, OR	3.91

Major: Hospitality & Tourism

Central Oregon Community College

Laurie Chesley, President



Tatum Nielsen

I'm currently pursuing a dual major in biochemistry and molecular biology with the intention of applying to medical school in the spring of 2022. I was born and raised in sunny Phoenix, Arizona, and am the second oldest of nine children, and married to the love of my life, Rosie. I love to travel extensively and usually find myself (prior to the pandemic) visiting several new places each year. I have wanted to be a doctor longer than I can remember. I have always wanted a career where I could serve others and make a difference in my community. I am extremely excited to continue to learn each day and to further the field of medicine through my research and clinical practice. I plan to pursue a career in surgery.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Dean's List
- COCC Foundation Scholarship

Activities

- Surgical Intern, Trauma/Acute Care, St. Charles Health System
- Author, travelogue/memoir
- Co-Founder: Mochagoat Industries startup
- Avid International Traveler, Surfer, Mountain Biker, Skier, Skydiver
- Fluent in Tagalog & Bicolano, learning Spanish

Age	Hometown	GPA
26	Phoenix, AZ	4.0

Major: Biochemistry/Molecular Biology
Transferring to: Oregon State University - Cascades



Melida Ruiz-Vargas

I have always enjoyed being in a classroom environment. My teachers throughout the years have done an amazing job of making school fun and exciting every day. I have always looked forward to going to school and find joy when I get to learn something new. In high school, I had the opportunity to tutor for both elementary and middle school students. I am determined to finish my Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degree at COCC and hopefully transfer to a four-year university. Once I transfer, my goal is to achieve a bachelor's degree in education with an endorsement in mathematics. I enjoy being close to my hometown and family, so my plan is to hopefully get a teaching position somewhere in Central Oregon.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Dean's List
- Central Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, 2019 Integrity Recognition
- High School Honor Society & Student of the Month

Activities

- Tutored elementary/middle school students
- Spending time with family
- Hiking, Fishing, Bike Riding
- Baking, Watching Movies

Age	Hometown	GPA
19	Prineville, OR	3.5

Major: Secondary Education

Chemeketa Community College

Jessica Howard, President



Ivan Dixon

I went to prison at a young age where I stayed for over 25 years. While inside I obtained my Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degree through the college Inside Out Program. I also worked in the CADD department with a year of training. However, this is a certificate or a degree I plan to get at Chemeketa, moving to a four-year university to get a degree in engineering and find work in the Sustainable Engineering field.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Hiking
- Environmental Clean-Up
- Working with inner-city youth, getting them outdoors
- Supporting others from Restorative Justice class via social media

Age	Hometown	GPA
46	Portland, OR	3.72

Major: CADD Technology
Transferring to: Undecided



Alberto Sandoval

I arrived in the United States from Michoacan, Mexico, at the age of 16. As a non-native language speaker, my educational journey hasn't been easy, but I have strived to do my best. In 2001 I became the first in my family to graduate high school. In 2021 I will be the first in my family to graduate from a community college, with a seal of biliteracy showing proficiency in English and Spanish.

I have always found the medical field fascinating and have dreamt of becoming a doctor. This coming year I will transfer to Willamette University and major in pre-health, and then move on to medical school. I see myself in the future working at a non-profit agency offering quality medical services to families from lower income households.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Soccer
- ESOL Assistant
- Tutor
- Running
- Reading

Age	Hometown	GPA
39	Keizer, OR	3.5

Major: AAOT/Transfer Pre-Health
Transferring to: Willamette University

Chemeketa Community College

Jessica Howard, President



Josiah Wallace

I grew up helping my dad with car projects in the garage, learning to work with my hands. Out of high school I got a job at a tire shop for a year, and found a love for working on cars. This love brought me to Chemeketa's Automotive Program, where I am now, trying to learn as much as possible while here. I hope to get a job at an automotive dealership, eventually working my way up to be a specialized technician in one area or another.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Snowboarding
- Volunteer at local church
- Working on cars

Age	Hometown	GPA
24	Salem, OR	3.95

Major: Automotive Technology



Joleen Brickley

I have lived in McMinnville, Oregon, my whole life. Due to life timing and circumstances I am finally finishing my schooling to become a Registered Nurse. Attending a community college has helped me earn my prerequisite classes to transfer into a university. This will equip me to go on to my career as a nurse.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Full-time Mom
- Full-time Student
- Outdoor activities with my kids

Age	Hometown	GPA
35	McMinnville, OR	3.62

Major: Nursing

Transferring to: George Fox University

Clackamas Community College

Tim Cook, President



Katie Hodgkin

As a non-traditional student, returning to school seemed out of reach, so when I was impacted by a sudden and unexpected death in my family, I knew it was time to follow my college dreams. I started attending Clackamas Community College and found support and opportunities that opened doors for me to find my passion in social work. As I finish my time at Clackamas, I'm proud that I will now have the opportunity to continue my education at PSU to obtain my bachelors and start my career in social work.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Associated Student Government
- COVID-19 Peer Support Group Liaison
- Senior Citizens Council of Clackamas Co. Intern
- Volunteer Youth Volleyball Coach
- Camping/Offroad Enthusiast
- PTO Volunteer
- Mom to 5 awesome kids

Age	Hometown	GPA
35	Milwaukie, OR	3.98

Major: Social Work/Human Services

Transferring to: Portland State University



Keeley Reid

My name is Keeley Reid, and my education means the world to me. I grew up being told I wasn't going to make it due to my ADHD and poor upbringing, so I proved everyone wrong! Learning is and has always been my strong suit. Right now, I'm finishing up my last few months in the dental assisting program at Clackamas Community College. After completion, I plan on finishing up my last couple of prerequisites before transferring to Portland Community College to apply for their Dental Hygiene program. The opportunities handed to me through my education have been nothing short of amazing, and I'm more than grateful to be able to make a career out of something I've become so passionate about.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Sandy Youth Cheerleading Coach
- Caregiver for elderly woman
- Dental Office Extern
- Kayaking
- Swimming
- Adventure Seeker
- Music Lover

Age	Hometown	GPA
19	Gresham, OR	3.74

Major: Dental Assisting

Transferring to: Portland Community College (for Dental Assisting Program)

Clackamas Community College

Tim Cook, President



Emily Fuentes

I grew up in Canby and graduated from Canby High School. I was able to graduate with a 3.6 GPA in high school as well as with Oregon's Seal of Biliteracy. After much consideration on what path to take to pursue my education. I knew I could not afford to be in student debt, therefore, I decided to enroll at Clackamas Community College. As a Latina woman, I have always been insecure about my bilingualism. I have pushed myself to work hard and maintain good grades. This spring term I will be graduating with my Associates degree in Criminal Justice. I am excited to look into future internships as well as volunteer opportunities after graduation. My dream career is to become a Criminal Investigator.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Part-Time Nanny
- Hiking
- Family

Age	Hometown	GPA
20	Canby, OR	3.87

Major: Criminal Justice

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

Clatsop Community College

Chris Breitmeyer, President

Valerie Mannix



I am currently enrolled in my local community college and working full-time. I work as an Administrative Assistant in a Police Department. I am seeking a degree in Sociology with a possible minor in Psychology. I would love to earn my degree and bring my knowledge and skills to work with law enforcement in mental health and community policing programs and/or training. It would be ideal to assist in bringing good stress management programs to local policing and training programs in how to connect with the communities they protect for better relations and service.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Associated Student Government Treasurer

Activities

- Lunch Buddy Volunteer
- Photography
- Irish Dance

Age	Hometown	GPA
52	Seaside, OR	4.0

Major: Sociology

Transferring to: American Public University or Portland State University

“Ensuring quality higher education is one of the most important things we can do for future generations.”

Ron Lewis

Columbia Gorge Community College

Marta Yera-Cronin, President



Kylie Moltzen

I am originally from the Bay Area in California. I moved up to Ashland, Oregon, to attend and play soccer for Southern Oregon University. After graduating with a Bachelors of Science focused on Environmental Science and Policy, I spent some time volunteering at Asante Ashland Community Hospital. I quickly fell in love with nursing and the atmosphere of the medical field. After graduating from CGCC, I hope to find a job locally in a hospital while also continuing my education towards a Bachelors Degree in Nursing. My goal is to be a Labor and Delivery nurse and potentially strive for a Midwifery degree sometime in the future.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Working in local coffee shop
- Exploring & Hiking throughout the Columbia River Gorge
- Spending time with family & friends
- Volunteer in Costa Rica with GoEco and Beyond Sports

Age	Hometown	GPA
26	Fremont, CA	3.71

Major: Nursing

Transferring to: Linfield University



Theresa Schugt

When I graduated high school in 2006, going to college was a dream that was unreachable. I felt as if I was not smart enough to go to college, and I certainly did not have the financial means to attend college. After working in retail for 15 years, I knew I needed more in my life. I have always enjoyed working with kids. Every summer I volunteered for the Vacation Bible School program at my church and my heart was full. Becoming a teacher has felt right as I can help children. Though I have never been dealt the easiest hand, I strive to make every situation the best. When I graduate from OSU, I plan on continuing my education and getting a degree in Special Education.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Associated Student Government Vice President

Activities

- Distinguished Young Women's Program Volunteer
- Columbia Gorge Safe Kids Coalition
- Campus Food Pantry volunteer
- PTO Organizer
- Softball/Baseball coach
- Small Business Owner
- Busy Mom of two kids

Age	Hometown	GPA
33	The Dalles, OR	3.78

Major: Education

Transferring to: Oregon State University

Klamath Community College

Roberto Gutierrez, President



Rachel Ferguson

I drove a 20ft U-Haul truck from Newport News, Virginia, to Klamath Falls, Oregon, in August 2018 with my whole life stuffed in the back. I began working at iQor and realized that I wanted more out of my life and decided to enroll full-time at Klamath Community College. I've been a full-time student since I enrolled in September 2019 and I am currently pursuing an Associates in Accounting. After I achieve this goal, I plan on obtaining a Bachelor's in Accounting and becoming a CPA (Certified Public Accountant). I have been deliberating on pursuing a Master's degree in Economics and working for the Federal Reserve. So, college will be the most important factor in achieving these goals I've set for myself.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Volunteer chauffeur for disabled veterans
- Gardening/Landscaping
- Fabric art (embroidery, sewing, felt artwork)
- Participate in role-playing tabletop games

Age	Hometown	GPA
26	Newport News, VA	3.923

Major: Accounting

Transferring to: Undecided



Mark Larsen III

As a teenager I witnessed the importance of going to school and putting in the effort to push for success; my father was a member of PTK as well as a 4.0 student in his thirties. I found it important to understand the meaning of what labor and hard work were before pursuing a degree; I spent most of my adult life as a chef. I am planning on pursuing a degree in Nuclear medicine; the road to my goals depends on school and a bachelors in nuclear medicine. I am doing all of this while trying to teach my kids the same lessons that my father was able to teach me.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- PTK President

Activities

- Volunteer work on campus
- Organized Trail Pick-Up
- Organized scholarship application assistance event

Age	Hometown	GPA
29	Klamath Falls, OR	3.9

Major: Associate of Science

Transferring to: Oregon Institute of Technology

Klamath Community College

Roberto Gutierrez, President



Maria Isabel Ocampo Solano

I come from a low income family and I was born in Mexico. However, I spent most of my childhood in Washington, where I worked the fields and had plans of attending college. However, my economic status made it so that I had to postpone my goals. Now that I am in college, I plan to attend OIT and work on my Bachelor's in Applied Psychology and use it to work with children with autism.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- PTK Vice President

Activities

- Local Shelter Volunteer

Age	Hometown	GPA
29	Klamath Falls, OR	3.9

Major: Applied Psychology

Transferring to: Oregon Institute of Technology



Christina Patton

As a mother of four children, my dreams and future turned into motherhood. I have been out of school for 16 years. As I watched my eldest son graduate and head off to college, I knew it was my time to return and find my dream career. In the last year, I was able to gain a certified nursing assistant license. I assist nurses in the pediatric unit. I plan to receive my Associate Degree in Nursing and help the community I love. I have lived in Klamath Falls for the past 20 years and plan to stay actively involved in the community for many more years to come. My dream would be to become a Registered nurse in the pediatric department at Skylake's Medical Center.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Doris, CA, Youth Sports Program Volunteer
- YMCA Basketball Coach

Age	Hometown	GPA
35	Klamath Falls, OR	3.83

Major: Associate of Science

Lane Community College

Marge Hamilton, President



Deepti Gautam

Being born and raised in the small Himalayan country of Nepal, I came to the U.S. for my further studies. Lane Community College has provided me with massive opportunities and supported me immensely towards my future career. I want to study the Electrical Engineering, especially focusing on the energy systems along with a degree in Sustainability. With the integration of these two degrees, I would like to be a part in which I will be making revolutionary changes that benefits not only this but also the future generation as well. Most of all, I want to inspire people, so they do not just limit themselves to dreaming, but working towards turning their dreams into reality, which I hope to start soon by studying engineering in the university.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Honors Ambassador
- Lane Honors Program

Age	Hometown	GPA
19	Parbat, Nepal	4.065

Major: Engineering

Transferring to: Oregon State University



Nora Jackson

My name is Nora Jackson, and I've lived in Eugene my whole life. I come from a safe and loving home; however, I lost my dad to cancer at age 15 so I've lived with a single mother and four younger siblings the past few years. I am pursuing a career as a Dental Hygienist and as a personal trainer/CrossFit coach. My education is helping me get there because it has provided me the necessary knowledge and tools to provide the best care to my future patients/clients. I am passionate about helping people live healthier and longer lives, and am excited to keep on learning in order to get where I need to be.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Lane Honors Program

Activities

- Production Asst. at SC Process
- CrossFit
- CrossFit Kids Coach
- Middle School & High School Youth Ministries Leader
- Women's small group leader

Age	Hometown	GPA
19	Eugene, OR	3.9

Major: Dental Hygiene

Lane Community College

Marge Hamilton, President



Shawna Staff

I have been an in-home caregiver for 12 years, and as my children have grown I have found free time. I started spending that free time learning to code. I made a life-changing decision to earn a degree in Computer Programming at Lane Community College in pursuit of a new career. To make this career change from a low-wage-earning caregiver to a developer contributing to the community, I must learn a completely new skill set. Without the skills I am obtaining in the associate degree program my hopes of a career change would be nonexistent. I desire to become a full-stack developer. My current situation requires that I begin my new career before I can commit the time required and financially afford to attend a university to complete my Bachelor's Degree.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Phi Theta Kappa Honors Lounge Host

Activities

- Community Building Coders volunteer
- Donated time/web development skills to Oakridgair.org
- Landscape/Nature Photography

Age	Hometown	GPA
38	Sacramento, CA	4.03

Major: Computer Programming

Transferring to: Undecided

The power 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

Mt. Hood Community College

Lisa Skari, President



Kim Vu

My name is Kim Vu and I am honored to be a part of the 2020-2021 All-Oregon Academic Team. My goal is to become a Physician's Assistant, and I plan on taking my education further after MHCC to Portland State University. I am very passionate in learning about medicine and the human body, so I'll be doing the Pre-PA track while majoring in Public Health Sciences. After getting my bachelor's, I will take my education further by getting into a PA school, where I will become a certified Physician's Assistant.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Adventist Hospital Volunteer
- Hiking/Outdoor Adventure

Age	Hometown	GPA
19	Portland, OR	4.0

Major: Public Health Sciences

Transferring to: Portland State University

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

B.B. King

Oregon Coast Community College

Birgitte Ryslinge, President



Melissa Hernandez-Pacheco

As the eldest in my family, I am a first-generation college student. My long-term goal is to pursue a career in Public Health. My first step towards achieving this goal was enrolling at Oregon Coast Community College. This Spring term, I will graduate with my Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degree. I plan to attend Oregon State University to earn my bachelor's degree in Public Health. Additionally, I hope to further my education while still helping those in my community. I began volunteering with many organizations and have been able to observe the impact I have made in my community. Overall, the memories I have made while volunteering have reinforced my desire to pursue a career in this field.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Volunteer, The Gabriel Project
- Lincoln Co. Health & Human Services Call Center
- Soccer
- Baking
- Writing

Age	Hometown	GPA
19	Newport, OR	4.0

Major: Public Health

Transferring to: Oregon State University



Cora Kehr

Growing up struggling with mental health issues that I didn't know how to successfully manage has caused me to be greatly passionate about helping others reach out for help with their mental well-being. I remember feeling hopeless and unmotivated towards school because of my mental health, despite a drive to learn and further my education. These feelings made school a miserable and stressful experience instead of exciting and enriching, and I want to help other students avoid this experience. I plan to study Psychology in order to acquire the skills needed for me to provide people struggling with mental health issues with healthy coping mechanisms and treatments.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Organized Beach Clean-ups
- Collect donations for families affected by fires in Lincoln Co.
- Gathered donations of bras for trans and homeless women in need

Age	Hometown	GPA
19	Lincoln City, OR	4.0

Major: Psychology

Transferring to: University of Oregon

Portland Community College

Mark Mitsui, President



Andrew Clark

I recently found my calling, and fell in love with electronics a few years ago. I got into building PCs and found a passion for it. Delving a little further I found a love for electrical engineering and the world beneath it. School really helps align my passions, and gives me the resources, discipline and tools I need to achieve my own dreams. The jargon, the tech, the news about tech advancements and what it means for me and others around me: these are all things I love about the field. Specifically, I am eager to discover new things that push the boundaries in terms of human advancement. I am specifically looking to create a virtual world not unlike Tron, and I also would love to create human augmented limbs and parts. I think the future is beautiful to some and scary to others, it just depends on how comfortable you are with pushing your own boundaries.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- National Society of Leadership & Success

Activities

- Electronics hobbyist
- Part-time job
- Avid Reader
- Hiking
- Music Enthusiast
- Video Game Afficionado
- Purveyor of Multicultural Foods

Age	Hometown	GPA
28	Redding, CA	4.0

Major: Electrical Engineering

Transferring to: Portland State University



Casey Dudek

From childhood, I have had a passion for justice. I grew up overwhelmed by the travails of an unjust world and wanted to do what I could to improve it. And that has not changed. I still have a burning desire to make things right. I am convinced that the situation we find ourselves in today – rife with injustice, deception and corrupt leadership – stems from wholesale ignorance of U.S. law. For these reasons, I entered Portland Community College's paralegal program with the intention of getting my certificate in just 18 months so I could apply my training, talents and passion in a law office to bring about the justice I've long sought. Armed with my education, I am determined to edify my college and community.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Lambda Epsilon Chi Honor Society
- Toastmasters - Advanced Communicator Gold, Advanced Leader Bronze, Area 53 Director, and Sergeant-at-Arms at Fortune 500 Club

Activities

- Internship, Small Business Legal Clinic
- Internship, Ferder, Casebeer, French Stern & Gipson LLP
- Freelance writer/editor
- Homeless/Senior Outreach
- Non-profit volunteer work
- Hiking/Traveling

Age	Hometown	GPA
26	Portland, OR	3.7

Major: Paralegal

Portland Community College

Mark Mitsui, President



Tom Farnenkopf

After devoting nearly 15 years as a project manager in retail construction, I am now pursuing a career within the television and film industries. As a student of Portland Community College, my personal focus has been primarily on graduating with a degree in video production. Upon my transfer to the University of Oregon, I will continue working toward my career path as I plan to earn a cinema studies degree. I equally hold aspirations of obtaining a master's degree within the same field. Currently, my ultimate career goal is to direct political documentary and horror genre films.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Phi Theta Kappa Chapter President
- Associated Students of PCC - Director of Legislative Affairs
- Eagle Scout

Activities

- Community College National Legislative Summit
- Photographer/Vidoeographer

Age	Hometown	GPA
36	Charlotte, NC	4.0

Major: AAOT/Video Production

Transferring to: University of Oregon



Audra Lein

I always had a big interest in the night sky growing up, as the universe around us is chaotic and unknown, yet systematic in its nature. Since then, I have turned that interest into a passion focused on physics, specifically the astrophysics department. I plan to discover all I can and learn all I can about the universe and share it with future students. Knowledge learned is only good if passed down, after all.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Beach Volunteer
- Food Bank Volunteer
- Swimming
- Hiking

Age	Hometown	GPA
20	St. Helens, OR	3.8

Major: Physics

Transferring to: Oregon State University

Portland Community College

Mark Mitsui, President



Lenaya Martin

I am from Tacoma, Washington, currently making the most out of being a full-time student as I go through a career change. I was laid off at the end of 2019 and have been working towards a dual degree and expect to graduate in August of 2021. After graduation, I hope to receive a full-time job offer working for Providence as I am currently contracted for 6 months working part-time as an IS Support Technician since November 2020. After graduation, I plan to study for two certificates and hope to have a full-time job working with servers or as a system administrator. As always, I plan to continue to add to my knowledge and am happy that I chose a field where there's always something new to learn.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Spending time with family/friends
- Cooking
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Camping
- Photography
- Road Trips/Traveling

Age	Hometown	GPA
30	Tacoma, WA	3.7

Major: Cybersecurity/Network Administration

Transferring to: Undecided



Jessica Betts

I have been driven my entire life towards making the world a more equal place to live. The world is changed by stories, humans find each other and themselves by connecting to stories, and the world can become a better and safer place for the future by the stories we tell ourselves. I plan to use my Business and Marketing focus to build a marketing consultancy that guides creators towards sharing their stories with the audiences that need them, promoting LGBTQ+ voices, and building communities that thrive in their equal accesses and rights. Nothing is perfect, not even the future, but if we tell ourselves a story where it can be we'll get a little bit closer to that future every day.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Published Author
- LGBTQ Advocacy
- Camping
- Travel

Age	Hometown	GPA
28	Beaverton, OR	4.0

Major: Business-Marketing

Transferring to: Portland State University or University of Oregon

Portland Community College

Mark Mitsui, President



Paul Salvattore Gonzalez Herrera

I am an international student from Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. I moved to Portland because I love the nature and huge trees. Graduating from PCC as a Construction Manager will allow me to save many accidents or even the lives of people working on construction sites. My inspiration is to decrease that alarming percentage of accidents in the Latino community, and if I can save at least one life then it will have been worth all my effort.

Age 29
Hometown Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico
GPA 4.0

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- International Orientation Mentor
- Meditation
- Discovering Oregon through hiking
- Drummer

Major: Construction Management
Transferring to: University of Oregon



Brea Nazareno

As a first generation immigrant, woman, student of color, I have always understood my privilege in gaining an education. My lived experiences visiting the nonindustrial country of the Philippines, throughout my youth catalyzed me to utilize a sociology degree to understand how to combat racial inequities and systems of oppression. I'm particularly passionate about studying environmental racism, access to education and human rights. After obtaining a Bachelor's in Sociology, I will work as a liaison between the local government, nonprofits and communities in need. To prepare me to transition into this role, I've stepped into leadership roles that allow me to develop the critical skills necessary for my future career. All in all, I'm capitalizing on my privileges to making lasting impacts for future generations.

Age 24
Hometown Hillsborough, CA
GPA 3.7

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Student Body President - PCC Cascade
- Beta Pi Rho Chapter PTK President

Activities

- Legislative Intern for Rep. Sanchez HD 43
- Disability Advocate, PCC Disability Services
- PCC Recovery Center Planning Committee Member
- PCC Cascade Greater Portland Education Network Representative

Major: Sociology
Transferring to: Undecided

Portland Community College

Mark Mitsui, President



Heidi Brown

I grew up loving sports, and being diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis at age 14 challenged me to explore health on a whole new level. My choice to pursue an Associate's Degree in Exercise Science at Portland Community College is a decision that I have never looked back on. I became even more fascinated with the human body while working my way through this program, and it has inspired me to continue my education in the field of health and wellness. I am planning to get my undergraduate degree in Exercise Science, and continue on for my Master's degree in Occupational Therapy. My goal is to give each client hope and inspire them to see that our lives are not determined by our circumstances, but by how we choose to respond.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Alpha Eta Iota PTK Chapter Officer

Activities

- PCC Sylvania Student Ambassador
- Camp Morrow Summer Camp Counselor
- Sports/Exercise
- Guitar
- Sign Language

Age	Hometown	GPA
21	Deer Island, OR	4.0

Major: Exercise Science

Transferring to: Grand Canyon University



Justin Cory

I am an avid student, community organizer and artist hoping to benefit our global society with the gifts I have been so fortunate to receive throughout my life in higher education, access, opportunity and health. I am studying graphic design and hope to aim my design skills towards building greater equity and justice in this world through clear and accessible design communication. My fortune in attending Portland State University affords me the ability to engage with the brilliant faculty there and the broader design community in Portland as well. The future is beautiful and bright if we build it that way.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Mutual Aid/Solidarity Volunteer & Community Work with:
 - Houseless Community
 - Warm Springs Reservation
 - COVID-impacted
 - 2020 Wildfire Survivors

Age	Hometown	GPA
37	Portland, OR	3.95

Major: Graphic Design

Transferring to: Portland State University

Rogue Community College

Cathy Kemper-Pelle, President



Dava Nimmo

Helping my community while changing my family's history of poverty is of utmost importance to me. Growing up, my mom was often at work trying to make ends meet, so college wasn't talked about. I also suffered from dyslexia, and we couldn't afford to see a doctor, so the idea of becoming one myself wasn't even a possibility. I have learned a lot since then - that I am not defined by the disadvantages I was born into, and that I'm far more capable of changing my life and helping others than I ever knew. This is why I'm passionate about earning my Bachelor's degree in Nursing, then moving on to medical school so I can give back to my community by offering affordable medical care to low-income families.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Local Food Bank Volunteer
- RCC Student-2-Student Campaign Volunteer
- RCC TRiO/SSS Member
- Medical Massage Volunteer
- Adventure Wedding Photographer
- Charcoal Artist

Age	Hometown	GPA
34	Medford, OR	3.96

Major: Associate of General Studies,
Pre-Professional Medicine

Transferring to: Oregon Health & Science University



Natasha Robinson

My name is Natasha Robinson and I work with many community organizations, volunteering my time in any way that I can. I am in recovery from substance-abuse and my goal is to be an inspiration to others who also struggle. I am working towards my bachelor's degree in psychology, so that I can eventually become a drug and alcohol counselor. I work very hard each day to show those around me that anyone can change their path in life to a positive one. Now that I am about to graduate with my Associates of Arts Oregon Transfer degree, I realize the sky is truly the limit. I want to lead by example and show the world that it is never too late to find a new way to live.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- RCC Honor Society
- Soroptomist "Live Your Dream" Scholarship Recipient
- RCC Presidents List

Activities

- RCC Recovery Club
- Peer Recovery Mentor
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace Volunteer
- Overdose Awareness Day Volunteer

Age	Hometown	GPA
41	Grants Pass, OR	4.0

Major: Psychology

Transferring to: Southern Oregon University

Southwestern Oregon Community College

Patty Scott, President



Jordyn Tippett

I aspire to become a counselor to provide comprehensive services to my rural community. My plan is to receive my degree in counseling so I can provide a new cohesive and alternative style to counseling. I remember in high school when I overheard a peer contemplating suicide. I reported the situation so the student could get the support needed. Reporting it was helpful, but actually being able to talk with the student about the issues would have given me an overwhelming sense of gratitude. Psychology fits seamlessly to understand mentally how to best guide patients. Also, creating a foundation in business will provide knowledge to properly bill and support patients that much more. I want to be a strong, professional and supportive matriarch to guide others to their best life.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- TRiO/SSS Club Vice President

Activities

- TRiO/SSS Member
- Trash Clean-Up Volunteer
- Peer Mentor/Tutor
- Traveling
- Hunting

Age	Hometown	GPA
19	Coos Bay, OR	3.93

Major: Psychology

Transferring to: Western Oregon University

“ 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



Dylan Bringuel

I grew up in the medical field, constantly going to work with my mom at the State Hospital in Las Vegas after we moved there from California. After moving to Tillamook, I worked in assisted living facilities and my love for the medical field grew more. I enrolled at Tillamook Bay Community College and started my path to my dream career. I plan to transfer to a university to continue my education and obtain my medical license and begin working as a Registered Nurse. The community college and soon a university has helped and will continue helping me gain the education that I need to reach my end goal. I could not be where I am without the help from the staff at TBCC and my family.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Beta Delta Epsilon PTK Chapter Vice President

Activities

- United Paws of Tillamook Volunteer
- Foster Kitten Volunteer
- Rock Hunting
- Hiking
- Walking on the Beacon

Age	Hometown	GPA
25	Las Vegas, NV	3.64

Major: Healthcare Administration

Transferring to: Undecided

“An investment
in knowledge
pays the best
interest.”

Benjamin Franklin

Treasure Valley Community College

Dana Young, President



Hannah Bergen

I grew up in Kuna, Idaho where I was always outside with animals, exploring, or adventuring in the mountains. Ever since I was little, I have always wanted a career in the agriculture and animal field. I was an active member in FFA all throughout high school, which fueled my passion for the Ag industry. After graduating from Kuna High School, I continued my education at Treasure Valley Community College. Since then, my visions have developed into a dream of working with ranchers to develop plans to enhance our environment and natural resources. I am planning to graduate from TVCC in June 2021 with an Associate of Applied Sciences degree. Starting summer term, I will then further my education at Oregon State University studying Rangeland Sciences, where my goal is to become a Rangeland Management Specialist.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Student Government President
- Dean's List
- Marquina/Bennett Memorial Scholarship
- National Honor Society

Activities

- Horseback Riding
- Hunting
- College Newsletter
- Hiking

Age	Hometown	GPA
20	Kuna, ID	3.56

Major: Ranch Management

Transferring to: Oregon State University



Maria Montes

I am a full-time working wife and mother of four children. I currently work in forensics as an Assistant Criminalist. My current position does not provide any opportunity for advancement. After realizing I didn't want to spend the rest of my life in the same position, I decided to go back to college. Due to my busy work and family schedule, I am only able to attend college part-time. I am grateful Treasure Valley Community College offers year-round semesters, which has allowed me to get further in my associate degree than I would have at any other college. Once I complete my associate degree I plan to transfer to a four-year college to continue working towards a bachelor's degree in accounting.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Crochet
- Reading
- Spending Time with Family
- Attending Sporting Events

Age	Hometown	GPA
40	Marsing, ID	3.8

Major: Business Management - Accounting

Transferring to: George Fox University or Eastern Oregon University

Treasure Valley Community College

Dana Young, President



Chase Wilcox

I have been fortunate enough to live in beautiful small rural Oregon communities on both the west and east sides of the state. I graduated high school in Harney County and attended Treasure Valley Community College for two years. I will remain in Eastern Oregon to attend Eastern Oregon University in the Fall of 2021 and pursue my Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and quest for personal growth. This education and personal development will allow me to improve the lives of my family and local community by sharing and applying my knowledge where needed.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

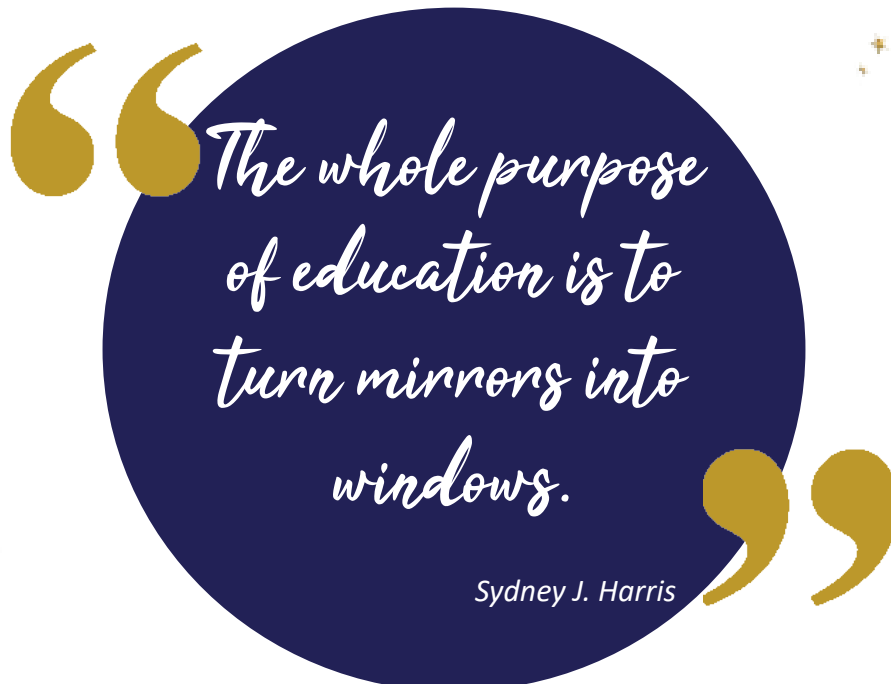
Activities

- Researching/Restoring Classic Cars
- Golfing
- Cooking/Baking
- Learning to Play Piano

Age	Hometown	GPA
19	Burns, OR	3.655

Major: Business Administration

Transferring to: Eastern Oregon University



Umpqua Community College

Debra Thatcher, President



Faith Byars

My education has been an exciting journey. I was homeschooled from kindergarten through high school graduation, and I earned my GED. I loved being homeschooled! It gave me so many opportunities to expand my learning and explore my passions, like dance which I studied for over 10 years. It was during this time that I discovered my love for writing and words. I brought that love to college and watched it grow as I explored different aspects of writing, including creative writing, argument, prose and news media. Moving forward, I am excited to further this passion by studying English and creative writing to prepare for my goal of becoming an author and book editor. I am so thankful for the opportunity to further develop my passion and skill for storytelling.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- PTK 5-Star Officer
- 2nd Place, UCC Flash Fiction Contest

Activities

- Managing Editor, UCC Student Newspaper
- Academic Coach/Peer Tutor, UCC Success Center
- Student Representative, UCC Early Momentum Metrics Committee
- Writer/Reader
- Dancer
- Operation Christmas Child Volunteer

Age	Hometown	GPA
21	Sutherlin, OR	4.0

Major: English

Transferring to: University of Oregon



Elizabeth Turner

I was born and raised in Oregon, which is great because I love having plenty of outdoor activities to do in my free time. I will graduate nursing school soon, and plan on continuing my education to get my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. Eventually, I would like to work on a critical care unit at a larger hospital and possibly even spend several years doing travel nursing. Having my BSN will give me more flexibility to do these things. I am excited about getting the opportunity to receive a higher level of education so that I can pursue these goals.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Activities

- Volunteer Foot Care for Diabetics
- Fundraising Runs
- Hiking
- Climbing

Age	Hometown	GPA
20	Portland, OR	4.0

Major: Nursing

Transferring to: Oregon Health & Sciences University/Eastern Oregon University

