

All-Oregon Academic Team

Recognition Program



2022



April 15, 2022



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,

Morgan Cowling, Executive Director

Oregon Community College Association

Student Speakers



Sara Birman

Oregon Coast Community College



Sonya Dzierewienko

Mt. Hood Community College



Timothy Kazzee

Umpqua 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.

These selected student speakers share their stories at the awards luncheon, where all members of the All-Oregon Academic Team are acknowledged and celebrated. These stories are powerful and inspiring, and OCCA would like to thank these students for having the courage to share them with all of us today.

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 16 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	\$2,500	Pacific University
\$2,500-\$14,000	Corban University	\$1,000	Portland State University
\$1,000	Eastern Oregon University	\$1,000	University of Oregon
\$7,000-\$14,000	George Fox University	\$1,000	University of Portland
\$2,000	Lewis & Clark College	\$5,000-\$10,000	Walla Walla University
\$1,500	Linfield University	\$1,000	Warner Pacific University
\$1,000	Oregon Institute of Technology	\$2,000	Western Oregon University
\$1,500	Oregon State University	\$1,000	Willamette University

Special Recognition

Coca-Cola 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.



Coca-Cola New Century Transfer Scholar Oregon

Heifara Wheeler
Portland Community College



Coca-Cola New Century Workforce Scholar Oregon

Megan Capp
Rogue Community College



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.



Bronze Scholar
Devin Ireland
Rogue Community College

Congratulations!

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Community College & Workforce Development

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

Nelson Mandela

Blue Mountain Community College

Mark Browning, President



Hunter Weaver

I am currently working towards a Bachelor's degree in English and Literature, with plans to earn a Master of Arts in Teaching. As a child I excelled in the elementary levels of school. However, my academic performance began to falter when I reached the secondary levels of education and I struggled to pass my classes. By the time I graduated high school in 2013, I had no interest in continuing my education. After many years in the workforce, I was diagnosed with a learning disorder. My academic struggles finally made sense. With a better understanding of myself, I decided to pursue higher education and quickly realized how much I truly missed academia. Now my goal is to become an educator to transmute my love of learning and help shape the malleable minds of future generations.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- President's List

Volunteerism

- Rural LGBTQ+ Community Organizer
- Safe Space Queer Youth Program Facilitator

Age	Hometown	GPA
27	Wallowa, OR	4.0

Degree/Major: Associate of Arts Oregon
Transfer degree

Transferring to: Eastern Oregon University



Olivia West

I want to be a productive member of my community. I strive to be the superhero mom my kids see me as! Starting at BMCC I was very introverted and didn't know who I was. The past two years haven't been easy, but I refused to give up. I have grown into an intelligent, strong woman who has a plan. My past is my passion. I want to help kids that are in the same place I once was. I want to express to anyone that will listen, that anything is possible if you work hard and never give up. Without my education and experiences at BMCC, I wouldn't know who I am today. I have support that I never had before. I can't wait to expand my possibilities.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- PTK Chapter President
- Honor's List
- Gladys & Harry Masenhimer Memorial Scholarship
- Federal Support Education Grant
- Oregon Opportunity Grant
- PEO Chapter BJ

Volunteerism

- Pendleton Chamber Intern
- Drug/Criminal Awareness for Kids Advocate

Activities

- Business tutor
- TRIO Student Success Program

Age	Hometown	GPA
36	Pendleton, OR	3.69

Degree/Major: Associate's Degree

Central Oregon Community College

Laurie Chesley, President



Quinlan Crowe

I grew up on the Oregon Coast near Tillamook in a tiny town called Beaver. I love helping people and genuine human connection, so the idea of possibly being able to help connect with people and help them feel both physically and emotionally better and on such a personally meaningful level really inspired me to study massage therapy. I also love learning about the body and all its crazy cool interconnected parts. Once I get licensed I want to ease into consistent massage work; eventually, I want to work on my own as an independent practitioner with other natural practitioners. COCC has helped expand my view and perspective of the world and helped me truly grow as a person.

Honors

- Dean's List
- COCC Merit Scholarship

Activities

- Paddleboarding
- Hiking
- Crocheting
- Sewing
- Cooking/Baking
- Gardening

Volunteerism

- Church Youth Programs
- Church Food Banks

Age	Hometown	GPA
19	Sisters, OR	3.89

Degree/Major: Associate of Applied Science, Massage Therapy

Transferring to: Undecided



Chyna Kennedy

For years I thought I would become a pastry chef, but when I moved to Bend I changed paths and decided I wanted to be a journalist – I wanted to write and give a voice to those who didn't have one. As time has passed, I've come to realize that I also need a more creative outlet, and coming up with designs for social media posts for a previous job turned me on to the marketing aspect of communications. I'm fortunate enough to have landed a position within a company that has placed me at a good starting point for my end goal. Once I've completed my program, I want to start freelance writing as well, focusing on issues involving human rights and the justice system.

Activities

- Writing
- Cooking/Baking
- Road Trips

Age	Hometown	GPA
30	Eagle Point, OR	3.87

Degree/Major: Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degree

Transferring to: Oregon State University

Central Oregon Community College

Laurie Chesley, President



Jasmine Yegge

I've always had an interest in working with children, even when I was very young, from always choosing to be a teacher's assistant in any free time I had to babysitting. My interests only grew stronger when I became a big sister. I enjoy being in classrooms and daycares as well as nannying. I hope to be able to explore several areas that work with children before deciding where I plan to stay. COCC helped me get an education without being in debt and led me to many amazing instructors who have been nothing but helpful, caring and inspiring on my journey forward.

Activities

- Photography
- Working with Children
- Tutoring

Age	Hometown	GPA
22	Bend, OR	3.96

Degree/Major: Associate of Applied Science,
Early Childhood Education

“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

Chemeketa Community College

Jessica Howard, President



Ellen Grey

As an ambitious full-time student who identifies as a single mother, I do not believe I would be continuing my education if it weren't for the assistance I have received from my institution. I am in my second year at Chemeketa in the Wine Studies Certification Program, attending for degrees in both Winemaking as well as Vineyard Management. While completing my education is vital to continuing with my career as a winemaker, it has not come without hardships. The support I have received has been demonstrated to me in the forms of financial assistance, course support from the Wine Studies Program Coordinator, emotional/educational support from both the Vineyard Management Program Chair as well as the Winemaking Instructor, and my personal educational advisor. I have unparalleled gratitude for all support provided.

Age	Hometown	GPA
30	Portland, OR	3.68

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Honor's List
- Dean's List

Volunteerism

- Clothes Closet Volunteer
- Food Pantry Volunteer
- Eastside Theater Co. Volunteer

Degree/Major: Winemaking/Viticulture



Maricruz Pena

I moved to Oregon with my daughter and then-husband. Being alone in an unknown state with my daughter and husband was incredibly challenging for me, especially since my ex-husband physically, mentally, and emotionally abused me. Finding my way out of an abusive marriage was an obstacle I had to overcome for my daughter. As I look toward the future, I would love to open my own CPA office, which would provide the flexibility needed to watch my daughter grow and offer her a better future. My daughter is my inspiration. Chemeketa's award recognition and PTK have all provided me with a sense of pride and have definitely motivated me to be the best I can be. I'm looking forward to achieving all my goals.

Age	Hometown	GPA
31	McMinnville, OR	3.69

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Honor Roll
- President's List
- Clyde Latinx Scholarship
- Mell & Eva Schwartz Scholarship
- ROSA Foundation Scholarship
- Vasquez Cooper Scholarship
- Oregon Seal of Biliteracy

Degree/Major: Associate of Science Oregon Transfer - Business degree

Transferring to: Oregon State University

Chemeketa Community College

Jessica Howard, President



Lindsay Wright (Price)

I was born in Auburn, California, but moved to Oregon when I was four years old and so I consider Oregon to be my home. I have always loved to learn and I always have a book on me. I have been fascinated by the medical field for as long as I can remember and my dream is to work in Doctors Without Borders. College was not something that I thought would be possible for me for quite a while but eventually I took the leap and started at Chemeketa Community College and it has been such an amazing experience for me. I plan on transferring to a four-year college and maybe eventually medical school.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Honor's List
- Dean's List

Volunteerism

- Osan AFB Animal Shelter
- Oklahoma Blood Drive
- Volunteer EMT

Age	Hometown	GPA
27	Auburn, CA	4.0

Degree/Major: Associate of Science - Nursing

Transferring to: Undecided

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

Ron Lewis

Clackamas Community College

Tim Cook, President



Meri Jo Bauder

I graduated high school in 1992, now I will graduate college in 2022. Thirty years later I am finishing what I started back in the early 90's. It's never too late. I was inspired by my eldest daughter who is going to Oregon State University's Honors College; I wanted to complete my own degree to show support and lead by example. Honestly, COVID making the classes be online helped me make the decision. I was nervous about being the 'old lady' in class. I was scared to take the math courses, but I had incredible teachers support – Dr. San-Claire. A few tears and some hard work got me an A, and Professor Moiso inspired me to pursue the Human Resources Certification. I am amazed at the quality of teachers, and so very thankful I chose CCC.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- President's List

Volunteerism

- Food Pantry

Age	Hometown	GPA
47	Oregon City, OR	4.0

Degree/Major: Associate of General Studies,
Human Resources Certificate



Katelynn Hobbs

I was raised by a single mom; from a young age I didn't think college was for me, and all my peers always said the same. While growing up with "you'll never excel in life" hanging over your head was difficult, it was something I became immune to. It wasn't until a year after graduating high school I knew I had the potential to succeed. I enrolled at CCC and found a reinvented love for knowledge, school, and who I will become. I plan to get my Master's degree in Journalism or Psychology. I believe a higher education will allow me to expand my knowledge, and continue to help those around me. Using your voice and standing up for what you believe in is critical, and that's what I plan to do.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Honor Roll
- President's List

Age	Hometown	GPA
19	Damascus, OR	3.704

Degree/Major: Associate of General Studies,
Health Professions EFA

Transferring to: Undecided

Columbia Gorge Community College

Marta Yera Cronin, President



Mollie Ritoch

I am an early college student and will graduate both high school and college at the same time. I chose to do this so that I could reach my long-term goal faster. My long-term goal is to become a doctor. So higher education is deeply rooted in my long-term goals. I chose to become a doctor after taking many different classes at CGCC and feeling out what my interests are. I'm excited for the road ahead of me and all the challenges.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- President's List
- Vice President's List
- Honor Roll

Age	Hometown	GPA
18	Underwood, WA	3.75

Degree/Major: Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer,
Associate of Science, Associate of General Studies

Transferring to: Oregon Institute of Technology

*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

Klamath Community College

Roberto Gutierrez, President



Jacob Baldwin

Being a first-time college student, I plan to go into the workforce after I get my associate's degree. I would like to attend a Porsche trade school to further my education. In the future I would like to go to school to become a mechanical engineer. In my pursuit of higher education, I have found paying for the classes has been my greatest struggle. My loans I receive have not been enough to cover the classes I take. The only support I have gotten from the school has been the friendly staff that can talk me through some of the problems I face.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Dean's List

Age	Hometown	GPA
20	Klamath Falls, OR	3.78

Degree/Major: Automotive Technology



Frank Bentalot

I plan to get my Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degree at Klamath Community College. I plan to get a degree in the Mechanical Engineering field. There are many obstacles, but I always put my academics first. I plan to quit my job and focus on my studies; I plan to transfer to Oregon State University which I believe is the perfect school for me. College has opened up my mind, I am more intellectual when it comes to arguing, I have learned a lot about a mind of a child from infant to 3 years to life, and so much more. I wish to learn more and more and understand the world better.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Honor Roll
- President's List

Activities

- TRiO Student Success Program

Age	Hometown	GPA
18	Klamath Falls, OR	3.78

Degree/Major: Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degree

Transferring to: Oregon State University

Klamath Community College

Roberto Gutierrez, President



Heather McCray

I am a mother of five, a wife, and I work full-time. I am currently pursuing my career in social work with the Department of Human Services in Lakeview, Oregon. I love helping children, and it is my passion to continue doing so. I plan to attend Arizona State University and continue my education to get my Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. I have had many obstacles the last couple of years; I have been raising three children who were not mine whom I have been awarded guardianship and adopted. With that comes many obstacles and challenging times for me as a mother and student. I have pushed through and done my absolute best. KCC has always backed me up and been supportive anytime I have needed it.

Age	Hometown	GPA
33	Lakeview, OR	3.877

Degree/Major: Associate of General Studies, Psychology

Transferring to: Arizona State University

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Honor Roll
- Dean's List
- Lakeview Soroptomist Scholarship
- PTK Honors

Volunteerism

- Lakeview High Volleyball & Basketball games scorebook
- Parades with Lakeview Fire Department
- Lakeview Mrs. Clause
- Delivers Christmas gifts to Lakeview long-term care facility



Charisse Wells

I've never had the opportunity to attend college before, and I am very grateful. My path to college was difficult. I worked 60 hours a week just to survive, so school wasn't an option. I moved in with my brother, and we came to Klamath to live in the family house, but it needed work. I was able to use the remainder of my father's GI Bill benefits to come to school. I've always been a builder, working with my hands, so the diesel program is a good fit. I like to make things, and my small size gives me an advantage when it comes to working on vehicles. I'm ready to graduate this spring, and use what I've learned to start a career and repair the family house.

Age	Hometown	GPA
37	Klamath Falls, OR	4.0

Degree/Major: Associate of Arts - Diesel Technology

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- President's List
- FSEOG
- Oregon Opportunity Grant

Volunteerism

- Volunteer Tutor for Auto/Diesel programs

Activities

- Badger Venture

Lane Community College

Margaret Hamilton, President



Melony Burnett

I am completing my AAOT at Lane Community College, to transfer to the University of Oregon. I will obtain my BS within two years of transferring, then finally work toward my Master's degree. I am majoring in Psychology for a career change from being a Realtor to being a counselor. The number of hours that I was working didn't allow me the time necessary for college. As much as I wanted to go back to school for over 20 years, I had many doubts. The Women in Transition classes at LCC helped me gain the confidence I needed to pursue my college goals and supported me in clarifying my chosen career path. The Rainy Day Food Pantry at LCC has also been helpful as I am on a limited budget.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Lane Honor's Program
- Dave D'Avanzo Memorial Community Member-at-Large Scholarship, Lane Electric

Volunteerism

- Eugene Kaiser Advisory Council
- Kaiser Patient Partner
- LCC Rainy Day Food Pantry
- Animal rescue program donations

Activities

- Gender Equity Ambassador
- Gender Equity Center

Age 41
Hometown Springfield, OR
GPA 4.039

Degree/Major: Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degree

Transferring to: University of Oregon



Jordan Coen

My name is Jordan Coen, and my pronouns are she/her/they/them. I'm a student at Lane Community College (LCC). This fall, I'm transferring to Southern Oregon University (SOU) where I'll major in Educational Studies and double-minoring in Creative Writing and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies. I want to be a teacher and author. By double-minoring in creative writing, I'll develop skills to help me become a better writer and I can incorporate my creative writing skills into my future classroom. My studies at SOU will help me become a better teacher. During my time at LCC, I've overcome many obstacles, including a mental health crisis where I wanted to jump out of a moving car, I had to drop my classes, watching my grandma pass, among other things.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Publication of short story in PTK's Anthology

- Kindergarten Class Internship

Activities

- Gender & Sexuality Alliance member, Social Media Coordinator
- Student Activity Fee Committee member

Age 21
Hometown Junction City, OR
GPA 3.56

Degree/Major: Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degree, Teacher's Aide Certificate

Transferring to: Southern Oregon University

Volunteerism

- PTK Ambassador
- Housesitting
- CERCO Volunteer

Lane Community College

Margaret Hamilton, President



Isaiah Contreras

My father worked manual labor jobs in order to provide for our family. My mom is a retired educator. She was able to maintain a teaching job, raised a family, all while completing her Master's Degree in Teaching. As far as the future is concerned, I hope to gain entrance into the dental hygiene program in fall of 2022. I've faced many obstacles while receiving an education at Lane Community College. Once COVID-19 began its spread, that meant I had to adapt to a remote learning environment. Ce Rosenow, who heads the Honor's Program, approached me in the spring of 2020 with an opportunity to achieve more. Being a member of the Honor's Program does mean working harder, but it has also allowed me to become a better student.

Age	Hometown	GPA
38	Philomath, OR	3.762

Degree/Major: Associate of Applied Science
- Dental Hygiene

Honors

- Lane Honor's Program
- Vice President's List

Volunteerism

- Holiday Farm Firefighters essential items donations



Autumn Traventini

My future plans include receiving a Bachelor's degree in Science and continuing to work at my current place of employment of six years. A major obstacle I have overcome while working towards my education has been the challenges that arise while raising two kids and working two jobs. Finding a healthy balance has been difficult. With that being said I want to teach my kids that anything is possible, at any age. I am thankful and beyond appreciative for the continued support and the resources offered at Lane Community College.

Age	Hometown	GPA
33	Springfield, OR	3.71

Degree/Major: Science

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Honor Roll
- Dean's List

Activities

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

Linn-Benton Community College

Lisa Avery, President



Hannah Barber

I plan to graduate with my Associate degree in nursing from LBCC in June of 2022. I also attend Arizona State University's concurrent nursing program and plan to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in December 2022. As a McKinney-Vento independent student I have faced several hardships in my college career, but am proud to have overcome these challenges. At the start of my college career I attended school full-time while also working full-time to support myself, which unfortunately led to temporary lapses in grade performance. I currently work in an intensive care unit at a local hospital, and hope to begin work in a critical care nurse residency program after my LBCC graduation.

Honors

- Eric Mann Scholarship
- WIOA Scholarship
- Honor Roll

Activities

- Nursing Class Student Representative
- OSU Trace Team Lead

Age	Hometown	GPA
22	Albany, OR	3.47

Degree/Major: Nursing

Transferring to: Arizona State University

Volunteerism

- COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic



Keri Grigas

I started dabbling in front end web development in my spare time and realized that computers were the path for me. I intend on working in the cybersecurity field after graduating. Higher education helps guide my learning for this particular field. With the help of the faculty at my college, I have already started my journey with a foot-in-the-door job through their ties with recruiters. My living situations are not the best and at one point there was uncertainty as to if I had to move or not, and where to. I was able to reach out to a faculty member and they extended the due dates of my assignments, allowing me ample time to figure out what was going and still complete my homework.

Honors

- Honor Roll
- TechTogether Seattle Capital One "Best Financial Hack" Winner

Activities

- American Association of Community Colleges Innovation Challenge

Age	Hometown	GPA
24	Corvallis, OR	4.0

Degree/Major: Network & Systems

Administration: Cybersecurity

Linn-Benton Community College

Lisa Avery, President



Vitoria Mingola da Silva

I'm an international student from Brazil who recently started studying at Linn-Benton Community College. I was always passionate about Biology and Chemistry, which led me to a STEM major. My goal is to transfer to Oregon State University to get a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. One of my biggest dreams after I graduate is to work in the genetics research field. One of the biggest obstacles I had to overcome was during 2021 in the COVID pandemic. I had to wait one year before coming to the U.S. for college because the Embassies were closed and I could not get a student visa. It was a whole year I could not study, and the uncertainty of when I would be able to start college was difficult to deal with. Another challenge I face while pursuing my degree is to find a way to afford my education. As an international student, tuition and fees are far more expensive for me, and not to mention having my family living near me makes things harder. It is my hope that I can overcome these challenges and graduate in the field I love the most, so I can keep studying to change people's lives.

Age 20
Hometown Dom Pedrito, Brazil
GPA 3.5

Degree/Major: Biological Sciences
Transferring to: Oregon State University

Honors

- Honor Roll

Volunteerism

- SLC Thanksgiving Food Drive
- LBCC Red Cross Blood Drive
- Final Exam Study Jam Sessions

Activities

- LBCC Leadership Council
- International Programs Office Student Worker
- Roadrunner Explorers



Eduanda Trevisan Reolon

I am majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering and plan to earn a second degree in Mechanical Engineering, as well as complete a Master's program. I have chosen to pursue these degrees in the U.S. instead of my home country, Brazil. In the U.S. my work can have a bigger impact on society, since most of the new technologies are being developed here. Eventually, I hope to become a professor so I can mentor and motivate students who also want to make the world a better place through technological progress. My biggest obstacle in order to achieve my goals are the high tuition rates for international students. Juggling school, being a student-athlete, and working a part-time job allows me to be successful, but does not go without its challenges.

Honors

- Honor Roll

Volunteerism

- Happy Code School Digital Literacy Teacher for kids/elders
- OSU Athletics Fundraisers
- LBCC Women's Basketball Team Tutor
- LBCC Women's Basketball Team eTeamSponsor fundraiser

Activities

- LBCC Women's Basketball Team
- Student Help Desk Instructional Assistant
- International Student Ambassador, Social Media Manager
- Food Service Worker
- Roadrunner Connections

Age 18
Hometown Chapeco, SC, Brazil
GPA 4.0

Degree/Major: Electrical & Computer Engineering
Transferring to: Oregon State University

Mt. Hood Community College

Lisa Skari, President



Bakr Alkanawi

I'm from Iraq and my family came to the U.S. through our immigration system. I'm currently a student at Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) and planning on going into medicine through OHSU's MD program. Upon coming to the U.S. I dropped out of high school and started working to support my family and myself with rent. When I was 17, I moved to Portland and started working here. Later, I became homeless and slept in my car for five months. When I turned 18, I worked many jobs to support myself financially. At 19 I got my GED at MHCC. MHCC supported me with my bills and many resources, so I'm forever grateful for MHCC and ever since I've been helping to resolve the college student homelessness crisis in Portland.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- President's List
- Dean's List

Activities

- TRiO Student Ambassador
- Peer Mentor
- College Student Housing Security Advocacy
- College Student Homelessness speaker

Volunteerism

- First United Methodist Church Advisory Board
- Affordable Rents for College Students Political Advocacy Group member

Age	Hometown	GPA
21	Portland, OR	3.87

Degree/Major: Associate of Science - Biology

Transferring to: Portland State University



Sonya Dzierewienko

Growing up with a troubled family, I spent a lot of my childhood unenrolled in school and homeless. When I was 16, I ran away. Since then, I lost my younger sister and my mother to overdoses. Through hard times, and without family support, I learned to be hard working, self-sufficient and resourceful. After years of saving, I was finally able to earn my GED and enroll in college. I plan to complete a Bachelor's degree in business and marketing and find employment with a company that cares for the community. Helping impoverished children overcome obstacles is a cause that is very close to my heart, so I would love to be able to make an improvement in their lives, and show them that with determination, you can overcome anything.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- President's List
- Rotary Club Scholarship
- Joseph Weston Scholarship

Volunteerism

- Portland Audubon Society
- Multnomah County Health Department COVID Vaccine Distribution Center & Offsite Assisted Living Volunteer

Age	Hometown	GPA
31	Longmont, CO	4.0

Degree/Major: Business/Marketing

Transferring to: Portland State University

Activities

- TRiO Student Ambassador

Oregon Coast Community College

Birgitte Ryslinge, President



Sara Birman

For me, education is deep and a privilege. Through overcoming childhood poverty and navigating queerness with very little resources and tools, I developed a desire to give my community the tools and recourses I wished I had. My North Star is helping minimize the trauma of navigating these systems for others. I intend to center my educational career with community-based psychological interests to curate a diverse, and equitable perspective for future research and policy analysis. Since July 2020 I have been working as a Family Coach for Oregon Department of Human Services, and recently accepted a position in Oregon Child Welfare Central Office as a program analyst for independent living programs and educational grants for foster youth across Oregon. I am planning on transferring to Portland State University and complete a Bachelor's degree and eventually a Master's in Social Work (MSW) degree.

Age	Hometown	GPA
31	Newport, OR	3.87

Degree/Major: Associate of Arts Oregon
Transfer degree

Transferring to: Portland State University

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- President's List
- Dean's List
- OCCC Foundation Scholarship
-

Volunteerism

- Youth Basketball Coach
- Echo Mountain Fire Social Services Volunteer

Activities

- PTK virtual events
- PTK social activities
- Welcome Week
- Virtual activities with Office of Student Affairs

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

Malcom X

Portland Community College

Mark Mitsui, President



Tasneem Anjary

I was born and brought up in India and was fortunate to grow up in a family of entrepreneurs. Watching them struggle and gain success inspired me to pursue accounting as a career. I am passionate about accounting, and I want to help organizations become more efficient and effective. However, as a woman, I never experienced educational support. I was not allowed to oversee my own life. But life gave me a second chance, and I soon realized the power of education is the way to my redemption. With the help of education, I see myself growing strong as an individual and as a community member.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- President's List

Volunteerism

- Portland Rescue Mission Food Server
- Asha Hope Amanaki Food Drives & Meal Distribution

Activities

- PCC Women's Resource Center
- PCC GED Tutoring

Age 38
Hometown Portland, OR
GPA 4.0

Degree/Major: Business - Accounting
Transferring to: Portland State University



Maddison Beckley

During the COVID-19 pandemic I was forced to shift forces from my restaurant management position to a new career path as the industry became ravished with shutdowns, restrictions, and uncertainty. As I reflected, I thought going back to school would be my best bet and began to pursue an AS in Paralegal Studies. While I plan to enter the Paralegal career field, I have drive to further my education even more so and potentially end up as a defense attorney or forensic psychologist. That is why I plan on transferring to a university and finishing my Bachelor's degree that I left behind in 2015. I have found during my trials of the pandemic that I enjoy learning and being challenged and want to strive for more for myself through education.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Delta Tau Delta
- Delta Alpha Phi Honor Society
- President's List
- Dean's List
- Honor Roll

Volunteerism

- YMCA Youth Sports Coach
- Mt. Spokane High School Summer Basketball Coach
- Mark Rypien Foundation fundraiser

Age 30
Hometown Spokane, WA
GPA 3.66

Degree/Major: Associate of Applied Science - Paralegal
Transferring to: Portland State University

Portland Community College

Mark Mitsui, President



Patrick Esposito

I currently reside in Baker City, Oregon. I am employed as a SUD counselor full-time and higher education has always been a goal to me. It is a joy to take part in it even at this stage in my life. I hope to gain more education and experience in order to better assist the community I reside in by more effectively caring for individuals struggling with addiction and mental health. I am pursuing this despite working and helping raise two wonderful children (one of which is developmentally disabled) with my spouse. PCC has been especially supportive in my efforts towards continuing my education with access to courses that meet my needs and having an advisor that is responsive and knowledgeable.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Honor's List
- Dean's List

Volunteerism

- Chopping Wood for Elderly During Winter
- Arranging Volunteer Lists/Transportation
- Canned Food Drive
- Addiction/Mental Health Awareness Event volunteer

Age	Hometown	GPA
37	Baltimore, MD	3.78

Degree/Major: Associate's Degree

Transferring to: Eastern Oregon University



Lynus Knight

I am a passionate student with a nontraditional background. Having not experienced high school in any capacity, I am excited to be pursuing a higher education to improve myself and help improve my community. With a passion for queer history and environmental conservation, I hope to bring awareness and education on these subjects through research and teaching. I believe everyone deserves to feel that they belong in the present, past, and future with positive, affirming examples that spotlight the way for future generations. I am grateful for the support I have received along my journey, both from my friends and my school, without which I wouldn't have come so far. My next steps are to earn a Bachelor's degree from Portland State University and continue on for a Master's and/or PhD in history.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- President's List
- History Focus Award

Volunteerism

- Social Justice Movement Fundraiser Organizer
- Tutoring for Students Impacted by Distance Learning

Age	Hometown	GPA
31	Arlington, VA	4.0

Degree/Major: Associate of Science degree

Transferring to: Portland State University

Portland Community College

Mark Mitsui, President



Age 21
Hometown Bangladesh
GPA 4.0

Degree/Major: Associate degree - Aviation Science

Transferring to: Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

Mohasin Biswas Manab

I was born and raised in the UAE, but my origins are from Bangladesh. Currently, I am doing all of my college studies virtually from UAE because of COVID-19 and how the world has changed. My future plan is to become a commercial pilot and getting a bachelor's degree combined with flight training is exactly the next step to help me achieve that! My biggest obstacle is finance, and the college has provided me with scholarships that have helped me get my college degree so far. Without those, I am not sure if I would have been able to reach where I am right now, so I truly appreciate the opportunity. I am also a first-generation college student in my family, so I am proud to have reached this platform.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- President's List
- PCC Foundation Dreamers Scholarship
- OISS Scholarship
- Student Board Trustee Service Scholarship

- International Orientation Mentor
- International Student Leader

Activities

- Student Trustee to PCC Board of Directors
- International Student Leader for Office of International Student Services
- Sustainability Club
- Bond Advisory Committee
- International Club

Volunteerism

- Animal Rescue
- Environmental Cleanups



Age 37
Hometown Pearl City, HI
GPA 3.74

Degree/Major: AA - EET Renewable

Energies/Wireless Data Communication

Transferring to: Portland State University

Heifara Wheeler

Originally from Hawaii, I (he/him) am a Ta'ata Maohi (Tahitian) food sovereignty advocate and Pacific Climate Warrior. I am enrolled in the EET Renewable Energies program and am also pursuing a Bachelor's in Environmental Engineering. A child of an immigrant and a first generation college student with learning disabilities, I was unsure if going to school would be the right fit. I attribute my success in school to all of the support I received from PCC's teachers, staff, tutors, and fellow students. By taking classes focused on sustainability, I acquired the necessary tools to develop deep connections with my global Pacific Islander community. I hope to establish an NGO to better support and serve Pacific Island communities through food sovereignty, self-determination, and green energy initiatives that center traditional Polynesian cultural systems.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Delta Alpha Phi
- Dean's List
- President's List
- National Science Foundation S-STEM
- Alfonso Memorial Scholarship

Volunteerism

- Oregon Food Bank Ambassador
- Pacific Islander Student Alliance
- Pacific Climate Warriors
- Portland Metro Master Gardeners
- Friends of Nob Hill Nature Park

Activities

- ASPCC Student Ambassador

Portland Community College

Mark Mitsui, President



Alesandria Wild

I grew up in a college town in Maine called Orono, with my adoptive grandparents (they adopted my biological mother). When my grandparents got older, I ended up in a more traditional foster setting and bounced all around Maine. I left Maine twice, but I've been gone for about five years now. Growing up in a college town in Maine taught me early on to think independently, do research, and always ask questions. I believe that is what makes me a great student. I plan to continue my education for a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Business, while looking to pursue a graduate program once I finish. I plan to open a game store with an e-sports bar attached to it, while working remotely within the computer science field.

Age	Hometown	GPA
29	Orono, ME	3.8

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- President's List
- PCC Foundation Scholarship

Activities

- Student Leadership Ambassador Team

Degree/Major: Computer Science/Business

Transferring to: Oregon State University or
Portland State University

*An investment
in knowledge
pays the best
interest.*

Benjamin Franklin

Rogue Community College

Cathy Kemper-Pelle, President



Megan Capp

My background is in small-scale agriculture, specifically vegetable, meat, and egg production. My plans for the future involve designing and manufacturing mobile units that will allow farmers to process their post-harvest products efficiently and safely on-farm to reach a broader market. This plan requires a multi-faceted skillset and knowledge base that I am pursuing at RCC. The three AAS degrees that I am working on continue to be a financial and time burden that I have only been able to overcome through the scholarships I have received through the RCC foundation as well as working full-time to help support my family.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Outstanding Student Employee - Industrial Welding Department
- Dean's List
- American Association of University Women Scholarships
- Elva Mae Inman Endowed Scholarship
- Christopher T. Bales Endowed Scholarship
- Wallace C. Cannon Memorial

Scholarship

Volunteerism

- Skills USA High School Competition Fabrication Contest

Activities

- Technology Tutor
- Earth Club
- Agriculture Research Analyst
- Industrial Welding Department Student Worker

Age	Hometown	GPA
38	Medford, OR	4.0

Degree/Major: Associate of Applied Science - Manufacturing/Engineering Tech; Associate of Applied Science - Electronics Tech



Devin Ireland

I am a first generation college student and I am very close to finishing my associate's degree. I am on the women's volleyball team at Rogue as well as the TRiO program. I plan to transfer to a 4-year to study business. My goal is to start my own business and be able to be my own boss so I can spend extra time with my family. I believe a business degree will get me to where I want to be and I am very excited to see how far I can go with it. I want to get into property management and eventually run my own property management company.

Honors

- Honor Roll
- NWAC Setter of the Week (7x)
- Volleyball Scholarship

Volunteerism

- Youth Volleyball Coach
- Special Needs Basketball Coach
- Youth Football Volunteer
- Neighborhood Grocery Getter
- Youth Softball Coach

Activities

- TRiO Student Success Program
- RCC Volleyball Team

Age	Hometown	GPA
20	Grants Pass, OR	4.0

Degree/Major: Associate of General Studies
Transferring to: West Texas A&M University

Rogue Community College

Cathy Kemper-Pelle, President



Bryce Schoppent

I began my college career as a computer science major but found myself yearning for something more stimulating and more in the vein of my passions. I decided to investigate the classes offered in Rogue Community College's High Technology Center and I was blown away. From the classes to the machinery to the excellent teaching staff I have been supported and pushed to excel each and every day. Post college, I aim to set out on my own producing waste reducing, carbon neutral renewable energy generation systems used to provide off-grid and emergency power. Higher education and its stewards have given me the knowledge and tools to succeed as well as the confidence to bet on myself and my future.

Honors

- Honor Roll

Volunteerism

- Teacher's Aid - Welding Department
- Trail Building in H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest

Activities

- Student Worker - Manufacturing/Welding/Mechatronics Departments

Age	Hometown	GPA
27	Brookings, OR	4.0

Degree/Major: Industrial Welding Tech/
Manufacturing Tech

*The cure for
boredom is
curiosity. There is
no cure for curiosity.*

Dorothy Parker

Southwestern Oregon Community College

Patty Scott, President



Rhylee Sinks

I was schooled at home for nearly my entire primary education, which sent me into the world of secondary education with a unique mix of advantages and disadvantages. Because of my background I initially found many aspects of college, such as collaborative learning, a challenge, but with the help of SWOCC faculty I have come to enjoy each of them as part of a well-rounded education. After graduation I would like to find a career that allows me to interact with others often, as well as make a positive impact in my community. However, in order to be an effective counselor, social worker, or nonprofit fundraiser I know that I need to continue my education to learn the necessary skills.

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Honor Roll
- SWOCC Foundation John W. Burles Memorial Scholarship
- NJCAA Swimming National Championships Medalist (4x)

- SWOCC Golden Z Club Canned Food Drive
- PTK Social Media Promotion
- SWOCC Swim Team Activity Organization

Activities

- SWOCC Swim Team
- Golden Z Club
- Math, Writing, Spanish, Humanities Tutor

Age
19

Hometown
Salem, OR

GPA
4.0

Degree/Major: Associate of Arts Oregon
Transfer degree

Transferring to: Undecided

Volunteerism

- Card Making Event for Healthcare Workers

“The whole purpose
of education is to
turn mirrors into
windows.”

Sydney J. Harris

Tillamook Bay Community College

Ross Tomlin, President



Andrew Thomas Clegg

It is safe to say that if you have talked to me before, you know my main goals for being in college. I am here to provide the emotional and financial stability that my family deserves. I will stop at nothing until I am able to properly provide for my family. I plan to create a life for my daughter that I could never have dreamed of having for myself all while giving my supporting partner the support she needs. I grew up dirt poor, without heat or electricity, and I refuse to let my family go through the same. TBCC specifically has taken care of my family all while providing me with the solid foundation needed to pursue my dreams without any boundaries or borders.

Age	Hometown	GPA
33	Philadelphia, PA	4.0

Degree/Major: Welding Technology
Transferring to: University of Pittsburgh

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Wayne Jensen Scholarship
- DeArmond Scholarship

Volunteerism

- Church Volunteer
- Pueblo Unido PDX Fundraisers
- BLM Solidarity
- Welding Tutoring

“When you educate
one person, you can
save a life, when you
educate many, you
change the world.”

Shai Reshef

Treasure Valley Community College

Dana Young, President



Mauna-Kea DeLong

From early life the need for success and my driven attitude was second nature. I grew up on a cattle ranch, so work ethic has always been a priority. I was raised playing basketball and think a lot of my success in life can be traced back to lessons I learned from sports. As I finish up my transfer degree, I am working to double major in Journalism and Business. I want to be a change for women and prove that we do have a place in professional sports industry. I am a single mother to a 5-year-old boy and went through a traumatic relationship. Everything I do, is to show him that pain does not define us. That if you set your mind to something, you can accomplish it.

Age	Hometown	GPA
24	Vale, OR	3.67

Degree/Major: Associate of Arts Oregon
Transfer degree

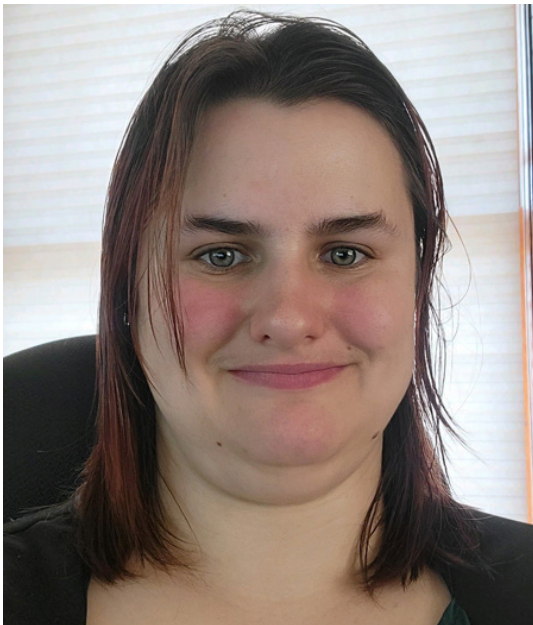
Transferring to: University of Florida

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Honor Roll
- Stay on Track Scholarship

Activities

- PTK Parking Spot Bidding
- Spring Advising & Registration Day
- Favorite Teacher Award



Cessilee Meyers

I am a first generation degree earner. I chose to go to college to pursue a career as a child therapist. It has been a challenge due to funds and schools with false promises. TVCC has helped me receive my degree and get me closer to the goal.

Age	Hometown	GPA
34	Castaic, CA	3.5

Degree/Major: Associate of Applied Science
- Psychology

Transferring to: Undecided

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa

Umpqua Community College

Rachel Pokrandt, President



Timothy Kazzee

I was abused as a child and used drugs to numb for decades. But today I am in recovery and have over two years of clean time. I want to help others who are ready to overcome their addictions. When I began classes COVID-19 had closed in-person learning so the classes were held over Zoom. I did not have a computer or the money to buy one. Thankfully, through the STEP program at the college, they bought a computer for me to use at home. I did struggle in my first semester due to a lack of self-esteem and confidence in my abilities. But thanks to a writing teacher who helped to foster a belief in myself and my abilities, I have managed to get straight A's since.

Age 49
Hometown Winston, OR
GPA 3.84
Degree/Major: Associate of Applied Science
- Human Services
Transferring to: Portland State University

Honors

- Phi Theta Kappa
- Dean's List

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

B.B. King

