leads and inspires lifelong learning

SOUTHWESTERN
Oregon Community College

ANNUAL REPORT - 1
ANNUAL REPORT 2014
To our colleagues and members of our communities

What can we do at a community college, at this college, to inspire people in learning? What can we do to help our students improve their lives?

All of us at Southwestern Oregon Community College put a lot of energy and thought into answering these questions. We adapt curriculum and classes to train and improve the region’s manufacturing and health care workforces. We help our students prepare to pursue university degrees. We sit down with students and imagine with them the careers they can pursue or help them re-train in new career directions. We connect students from all of the rural towns on the south Oregon coast, and students of all ages, to lifelong learning.

Statistically, community college graduates earn nearly 10 percent more than high school graduates as they pursue careers. Add a four-year college degree and that graduate’s annual income can be nearly 40 percent greater than that of someone with a high school education. Our graduates make positive economic impacts in their communities and in the state of Oregon. This past year, more than 8,500 people took classes offered through the College and 3,100 students studied here full-time.

In this annual report, we will introduce you to some of the people who study and work at SWOCC’s Coos and Curry campuses. We also want you to join us in looking back not just at the events and accomplishments of the past year, but at the journeys some of our alumni have travelled, journeys that started with SWOCC.

Why do students enroll at SWOCC?

“SWOCC provided me two years of free tuition through a program provided to high-scoring GED candidates. This was an opportunity that changed my life.”

Why do people want to work here?

“This is my dream job. Not only do I get to teach forestry and natural resources, I get to teach at a community college.”

Who do our students become?

“Now, I am a former professional baseball player, author of four books, and entrepreneur ready to take on the world. I wouldn’t be where I am now without SWOCC.”

I invite you in the coming year, if you haven’t been to SWOCC’s Coos or Curry campuses, to visit us. Attend a geology lecture at the Hales Center for the Performing Arts. Enroll in a community education art or history class. Connect with the University Center to pursue a bachelor’s or master’s degree program. Meet a friend for lunch or dinner on a Friday at the Oregon Coast Culinary Institute’s Chef’s Table. Come to a basketball, baseball or soccer game.

Our campuses are thriving with learning and social interaction, and we want you to be a member of our community.

Patty Scott, Ed.D.
President
Southwestern Oregon Community College
New Programs & Faculty

Nikki Armstrong – Math Instructor
Nikki Armstrong was born in Orange County, CA, and grew up in upstate New York. She has a bachelor's degree in math from California State University at Bakersfield, a master's degree in math from University of California at Berkeley, and a Master's of Education from the University of Oregon.

Nikki has three children and loves to cook, bake and travel. She also speaks some French.

Amber Ashpole – Writing/Humanities Instructor
It has been a 17-year journey for Amber Ashpole to study her way through college, and this year to join the SWOCC faculty as a full-time writing and humanities instructor.

Ashpole started at Oregon Coast Community College in Newport. As a single mother, she balanced her time raising a son, working full-time, and attending college part-time. She completed her Associate in Arts degree, then graduated with a bachelor’s degree at Oregon State University, and went to California State University to earn a master’s degree in humanities.

She commuted for the past five years from Waldport to teach writing part-time at Southwestern and at Lane Community College in Eugene. SWOCC is pleased this year to have Ashpole teaching full-time.

“I was attracted to SWOCC because of the combination of traditional values and innovative progress regarding academics,” she said.

Maidie Rosengarden – Childhood Education & Family Studies Lead Faculty
Maidie Rosengarden received her bachelor’s degree from Ohio’s Kent State University, where she studied art history and theater design/production. She worked in New York, Los Angeles and Nashville in the arts field.

Rosengarden earned a master’s degree in elementary education from Belmont University and a doctorate in education from Trevecca Nazarene University, both in Nashville. She taught in public and private schools. She also taught in higher education and served as director of arts education programs in Tennessee, Ohio and Washington.

“Students are the ever-inspiring element in my work. The privilege of participating in their curiosity, willingness to engage when they feel safe, and the personal intentionality they discover as they move into becoming the shapers of our future is an honor.”

Attracting Maidie to the Coos Campus was the fact that the College’s Childhood Education and Family Studies program and Educare Facility are both accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the Gold Standard of the profession.

Gail Simonds – Forestry/Natural Resources Instructor
If you see a crowd of people on campus scrutinizing trees, likely it’s SWOCC’s new forestry/natural resources professor Gail Simonds and her students.

Born and raised in Michigan, Simonds traveled to six states before settling in Oregon and Coos Bay. She was a self-employed dairy farmer in South Dakota for seven years and a research scientist in Kentucky for five. SWOCC presented her with her dream job.

Simonds holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in forest ecology from Michigan Technological University, a Master of Divinity from Methodist Theological School in Ohio, and a doctoral degree in soil science from South Dakota State University.

“Most of my local students want to live and work here. The support and involvement of local forestry professionals, companies and agencies for this program is amazing. Students see the connection between ‘school’ and a ‘future job.’ That makes teaching much easier!”

Forestry/Natural Resources
Regional timber industry employers find it challenging to hire sufficient numbers of trained forestry professionals to replace large numbers of retiring employees and support the growing complexities and demands of the industry. SWOCC heard that call for new talent and worked in coordination with the industry and Oregon State University (OSU) to create a transferable Associate in Science degree program. It is the first agreement between the OSU Pro Forestry School and a community college.

Our grads will have industry-specific skills to help them move into summer, seasonal and/or permanent jobs – or on to OSU for a professional forestry degree. Ultimately, SWOCC will expand the program to offer an associate of science degree in natural resources.
Melissa Sperry, RN, BSN, CNOR – Nursing Instructor

“I began teaching the clinical aspect of nursing about seven years ago for SWOCC on a part-time basis. I have always enjoyed mentoring and educating new staff and students, even when I was a contract nurse.”

A graduate of the National Institute of Whole Health Educator/Coach classes for nursing professionals and our newest full-time nursing program faculty member, Melissa Sperry holds specialty certificates in whole health education and nurse coaching. She will complete her Master of Science degree in nursing this year.

Sperry has been a registered nurse for more than 16 years, spending six of those years traveling the country working as an RN. During that time, she enjoyed learning about many cultures and how cultural beliefs can affect health choices. This fall, she was delighted when chosen to be a part of the team at SWOCC.

“I appreciated the nursing department’s innovative and progressive ideas and teaching methods, as well as the student-centered approach to learning.”

Joseph Tremonti – Associate Professor, Digital Design

SWOCC is pleased to have introduced a new Digital Design program this year and hired Joseph Tremonti on the Curry Campus to launch and oversee the new degree program.

“I’m inspired by the ongoing evolution of online teaching and learning. E-learning enables SWOCC to reach a wide spectrum of students that might otherwise struggle to pursue post-secondary education.”

Tremonti is a new media artist and digital designer with a background in 3D computer graphics. Passionate about both art and technology, he completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and pursued graduate studies at University of Illinois. Throughout his studies, he conducted research in the field of immersive computer graphics. His work was exhibited at several prestigious venues nationally and internationally. But most of all, he’s pleased to be on the south Oregon coast.

“I grew up in a rural community and have always felt that education should be accessible no matter where you live,” he said.

Digital Design
Integrate the artistic creativity of graphic design with high-performance graphic software skills and you have Digital Design. Our contemporary world is infused with digital graphics and multimedia. Many industries are evolving to meet this new focus in development of graphic arts and technology products. SWOCC also has evolved to provide a new Associate of Applied Science degree to prepare students for jobs in this emerging profession.

This degree offers hands-on classes for students to explore art, digital graphics, programming, video, animation, 3D modeling and other digital media specialties. Graduates will know industry standard software products and be prepared for entry-level jobs and industry certification.

Accounting
No matter whether it’s private business, government agencies or public accounting firms, accountants are in demand. SWOCC’s new Associate of Applied Science Accounting degree is designed to send our graduates in jobs with practical experience and supervisory skills. Grads will be ready to tackle jobs as full-charge bookkeepers; first-level, financial staff and cost accountants; data-entry clerks; and general office clerks. The new program also includes two certificate options for entry-level positions as accounting clerks. Ultimately, grads also have the option to pursue bachelor’s degrees in related fields through Southwestern’s University Center.

Software Development
SWOCC created a new Associate of Applied Science Software Development degree to help our students plug into the software-jobs pipeline. Software development is one of the most in-demand careers, not just on the West Coast, but across the globe. Technology consumes not only business operations, but people’s personal time and pursuits. As a result, the world needs more great minds to design automation and software systems.

The program includes coursework in a variety of contemporary programming platforms and students explore computing systems from small micro-systems to enterprise solutions, as well as corporate and entrepreneurial applications.
Curry Campus

Curry Campus celebrates biggest graduating class

The Curry Campus had 32-plus reasons to celebrate last year. Thirty-two graduates earned 46 degrees and certificates.

“That’s a huge accomplishment and it makes me extremely happy. We’re growing slowly and surely,” Curry Campus Executive Dean Janet Pretti said.

The Curry Campus engaged students of all ages, hosting visits to campus for seventh-graders through the grant-funded Gear Up program. This year, the campus added an event for freshmen. Sure, these events encourage students to think about college early, but they’re also fun. In Curry, we’ll be looking for ongoing support to keep these successful campus visit programs going.

One of the biggest success stories is the nursing program at Curry. All but one of last year’s nursing program grads are working – and they love their jobs. Three grads are working at Coastal Home Health Hospice, one is at Bay Area Hospital in Coos Bay and two have settled in at Rogue Valley Medical Center in Medford. Oh, and about that one student, he’s focusing on completing his Bachelor of Science degree in nursing before joining the workforce. He’s also volunteering like crazy for the Brookings Fire Department and to help our campus establish a SeaTrain emergency medical/shelter supply unit.

The building of the Curry Campus was a huge endeavor and accomplishment, bringing a college education within reach of Curry residents. Pretti said the focus now has shifted to investing in students, by expanding offerings as more students enroll and by targeting fundraising efforts to build scholarship opportunities. Many Curry students are non-traditional students with jobs and family obligations.

The Curry Campus continues its efforts in supporting the love of learning by offering community education classes. Residents from Port Orford to Ophir, Gold Beach and Brookings are taking health and wellness classes. They’re learning about geology, tidepool ecology and local birds. Thanks to retired teachers who still want to share their knowledge, new people moving to the area can become oriented to their new home and other community members can continue to explore and learn.

What do our Gear Up partners say?

Thank you all so much for the fabulous morning at your campus! Please pass on my thanks to everyone who gave their time and energy for our kids. They had a blast.

One student, who is very bright but disengaged with school and struggling, saw me at Fred Meyer that evening. “Mrs. Cavaness!!” he shouted across the parking lot. “Thanks for taking us on that field trip. It made me determined to go to college.”

Who knows what a difference you’ve made in the other 130! Thanks so much again, from our teaching team and our kids.

~ Diane Cavaness
The SWOCC Foundation and its Board of Trustees believe College should not be an opportunity accessible only to financially fortunate people.

Every one of the 14 individuals who volunteered in our foundation this past year served because they want to see students succeed. Through philanthropy, they want to help people improve their lives – socially, culturally, economically and, of most of all, educationally. This coming year, the Foundation is focused on increasing scholarship assistance for students.

For many young and working people in the College district’s communities, higher education is not an option; a career change is out of reach because it’s too expensive.

During the 2013-14 school year, 84 percent of our students received financial aid. In all, 92 percent came to school with some form of financial aid or scholarship assistance. The balance to that story is that last year 496 students graduated with degrees and certificates. Many would not have graduated without support and encouragement from others.

While Foundation board members contribute personally to endowments and scholarship funds, members also work to educate people and businesses about our needs on campus. The Foundation supports the arts, College construction projects, and academic excellence and programs.

If you want to have a life-changing impact on people of all ages from Reedsport to Brookings and inland to Powers, please consider working with the Foundation to support SWOCC and help us help our students achieve a college education that might otherwise be inaccessible.

Elise Hamner
Executive Director of the Foundation

Kyle Trust Scholarship
Tom and I became aware of the needs of non-traditional students when my mother entered long-term care. Her caregivers were wonderful and they loved their work. They wanted to become registered nurses. But pursuing that career path was extra tough because of family situations and finances.

We realized from our own life experiences that sometimes it doesn’t take a lot to help a motivated person fulfill a dream. The thought that we could actually make a difference in the life of someone else led us to establish an endowment through the Southwestern Oregon Community College Foundation for non-traditional students, much like my mother’s caregivers.

For us, it has been extremely humbling and rewarding to know that students now and in the future will benefit from our decision to create an endowment.

Tom and Jean Kyle

Join the Laker Club

The Laker Club is Southwestern Oregon Community College’s alumni association. Membership in the club is free and there are no annual dues to all former students who have passed at least one class at SWOCC. Being a member of the Laker Club entitles you to free admission to all Laker Club events. The Club also strives to keep members informed of SWOCC news and events, and gives members an opportunity to connect with other alumni.

www.socc.edu/foundation

The Southwestern Oregon Community College Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) public foundation organized exclusively for the purpose of supporting higher education in connection with Southwestern Oregon Community College [http://www.socc.edu/]. The Foundation was incorporated in 1962 and has assets of approximately $3,039,554 (June 30, 2011), including endowments, temporarily restricted funds and unrestricted funds. It accepts gifts of cash, stocks, bonds, real estate, personal property, life insurance and equipment. It accepts and manages charitable remainder trusts and lead trusts and is licensed to issue gift annuities in the State of Oregon. The Foundation accepts lifetime gifts and gifts by bequest. The federal ID number is 93-6031563.

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Donor Spotlight

Donaldson family creates endowment to fund nursing scholarships
One nurse’s lifelong ‘stick-to-itiveness’ inspires husband’s gift to SWOCC

The Linda (Kallgren) Donaldson Scholarship Endowment is a fitting tribute in honor of a woman who persevered against financial challenges to graduate from college and dedicated her professional life to serving others. The College and SWOCC Foundation feel extremely fortunate and thank the Donaldson family for choosing to endow a scholarship to assist our nursing students in achieving their life goals.

For more than 37 years, Linda (Kallgren) Donaldson served in community hospitals as a registered nurse. She cared for her patients with compassion and skill, while raising a family with her husband of 47 years, Henry Donaldson.

The Donaldsons enjoyed a fulfilling and productive life together until Linda’s death in July 2013. In honor of his late wife, Henry Donaldson has created the Linda L. Kallgren Scholarship Endowment with the SWOCC Foundation. In future years, scholarships generated from the Donaldson fund will assist nursing students as they pursue their degrees.

“One of the reasons I wanted to set up a scholarship is because, as Linda experienced many years ago, finances can make pursuing a chosen career difficult,” Henry said.

Linda was born in Seattle, Washington, in 1943 and lived with her family on Whidbey Island until 1952, when they moved to the Coos Bay area. Linda graduated from Marshfield High School in 1961. During her senior year at Marshfield, she attended classes half days and worked at The Hub department store in downtown Coos Bay to earn money for college. She attended Oregon State University, but for only one year and for financial reasons had to return to Coos Bay. She went to work at Georgia-Pacific to earn enough to continue her education.

“Linda was very focused. She was very determined to complete her nursing education,” Henry recalled. “Not everyone has that stick-to-itiveness.”

In 1963, Linda was back in college. She entered the three-year nursing program at Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland and graduated as a registered nurse in spring 1966. Linda worked at Good Samaritan until that fall, when she married Henry whom she had known since high school.

Henry knows how much more expensive the cost of education is today, particularly pursuit of a nursing degree. It’s even harder to achieve while raising a family, he said.

When Henry served on a research assistantship while in graduate school, Linda’s work in the nursing field made it possible for him to complete his education. They raised two children. Even when Linda retired in 2003, she continued to care for patients on a call basis for several years. Linda was diagnosed with cancer in fall 2012 and passed away in July 2013 at the age of 69.

Henry said ever since she was in junior high, Linda wanted to be a nurse. Despite the challenges to gain an education, Linda never gave up. In fact, Henry said a quote under Linda’s graduation picture in the Good Samaritan yearbook summed up her determination to succeed and serve: “Well, if I don’t do it, who will?”
Kazzandra Solis
Received the Maybelle M. Olson Scholarship

“I am very honored and appreciative to have been chosen to receive the Maybelle M. Olson Scholarship. This opportunity is something I could have only dreamed about before attending Southwestern Oregon Community College.

While growing up, I discovered my passion for teaching when I was in the fifth grade. Throughout middle school and high school, I put myself in different class settings. To better experience some of what it takes to be a teacher, I helped out in every level from preschool to high school. By the end of my senior year in high school, I discovered that my passion for teaching was strongest in the elementary education level. Since then I have been pursuing a higher education in the study of elementary education.

After I graduate with an Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer (degree), I plan to continue my pursuit of an elementary education degree.”

Dariane Clements
Received the Hales Family Scholarship

“I would first like to start this letter off by saying how thankful I am for receiving this scholarship! Being the first generation of my family to ever go to college makes it a little more difficult on me and more pressure, so I can’t explain how much this money really does help me. … I grew up living in Fairview, about 15 minutes out of Coquille. I’ve always loved living out in the country on a farm. I had done 4-H for about seven years. … I cannot wait to start my dream as a medical assistant and see where it takes me. Thanks to receiving this scholarship, it will help me take that extra step in becoming closer to make this all happen!”

Ashley Rae Watson
Received the Floyd Ingram Scholarship

“I have recently been provisionally accepted into Southwestern Oregon Community College’s registered nurse program. I could not be happier. I feel that SWOCC will be a grand school to attend and have heard nothing but positive things about their nursing program. …

Thank you for your contribution to my education. I could not be more grateful, for not only have you helped me, but my family as well.”

Jordan Willis
Received the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship

“I am very appreciative and I want to say thank you!

After college, I plan on going to a physical therapy school to pursue my career. I enjoy the outdoors, 100-degree weather and amusement parks. Again, thank you for awarding me with this scholarship.”
Katie Guetterman
Received the Smullin Scholarship

“Words cannot express how thankful I am for your support towards my future. I grew up here in Coos Bay with my family. I have loved living here on the coast because of the beautiful beaches and scenery. During my time at Marshfield High School, I have been involved with National Honor Society, a senior representative for student council, the cheer team and dance team.

I plan to stay here in Coos Bay and go to Southwestern Oregon Community College for two years to get my transfer degree then go off to a university to get my business degree. … Receiving the Smullin Scholarship really made an impact on my life because I have worked so hard in high school and it feels good to know that someone noticed that about me. I appreciate the opportunity you have given me to have a post high school education.”

Taylor Archuleta
Received the First Presbyterian Church Scholarship

“Your generosity will allow me to pursue my dreams, and for that, I cannot thank you enough. With this scholarship and support, it will help me focus on my academics without having to worry about the tuition fees. … My future aspirations consist of finishing my AAOT degree at SWOCC then transferring to a university where I can continue my baseball career and obtain a degree in education. My future life goals are that I can get a good career coaching either high school or college baseball.”

Brittany Williamson
Received the Bay Area Sportsman’s Association Scholarship

“Typically, four-year-old’s dream of being a super hero, fire fighter – someone in a heroic position. What I have always dreamed of becoming is a doctor and being in the medical field. Taking care of patients, evaluating them, and figuring out a treatment plan intrigues me. I’ve had my share of injuries through sports, and I wouldn’t have been able to push through all the medical obstacles without the help of doctors and physical therapists; this made me want to help others that are in similar situations. … Thank you so much for the scholarship, I know it’ll be a tremendous help to me with my finances for school.”

Donald Scott
Received the Sheryl Rosenbaum Memorial Scholarship

“I have just finished my first year and it has been a great experience. My daughter is excited to start her freshman year in high school. It is really cool to be attending college during this time and it is inspiring to her as well. … Thank you for noticing me and my family, and I thank you for the Sheryl Rosenbaum Memorial Scholarship. I plan on entering the nursing program at SWOCC and maybe joining the Peace Corps when my daughter goes into college.”
Alumni

Boyd Bjorkquist

2014 Distinguished Alumnus
Retired Educator, Coach and Athletic Director

Southwestern Oregon Community College is pleased to have honored Boyd Bjorkquist with the 2014 Distinguished Alumnus Award.

“The academic and athletic opportunities I enjoyed at Southwestern helped shape my future. Southwestern provided a great experience for me.”

A Marshfield High School graduate, Boyd started his career teaching at Neah-Kah-Nie High School at Rockaway Beach, Oregon, became North Bend High School’s athletic director for 15 years, and then co-athletic director at Marshfield during 2012-2013.

Having discovered his passion early on – athletics and teaching, Boyd became a member of Southwestern’s tennis team in the early 1970s before continuing his education at Southern Oregon University, Eastern Oregon University, and Lewis and Clark College where he completed a master’s in social studies and received his administrative license. As a teacher, coach, student activities director and athletic director for more than 35 years, Boyd helped shape the character of many young men and women and empowered those around him to advance their careers.

Diana Loudenbeck

Degree: AAOT focusing on medicine, 2006
Hometown: Coos Bay, OR
Occupation: Chiropractor, owner of Alternative Healing Chiropractic Center

“My parents and siblings all went to SWOCC, and I was able to get all of my undergraduate credits at SWOCC. It turned out to be the perfect vehicle for me to meet my goals of becoming a chiropractor. SWOCC even allowed me to take a class that wasn’t normally offered. This saved me a year that I would have had to attend another university to get all my undergraduate credits. They really worked with me to help me get everything I needed.

I continued on to the University of Western States chiropractic college, where I earned Bachelor of Science in human biology and Doctorate of Chiropractic degrees. This proved to be difficult, as I did this simultaneously.

Upon graduating, I purchased the Alternative Healing Center, owned by Dr. Partmann, who was able to retire from 35 years as a chiropractor. He graciously guided me as needed throughout the year. It was a fun year, getting to work with many wonderful patients and community members. The practice has grown by leaps and bounds.

We have expanded our office. Our massage department now has three trained licensed massage therapists. We also have an area for treatment rehabilitation where we can work on patient balance and strength. We bill insurance and work with Medicare. We are transitioning onto electronic health records so we can keep current. In short, we are moving forward creating a clinic that we are proud of.

I am totally involved in my practice and my patients. I love what I do and love the people that I work with. SWOCC was definitely a huge asset for me and I truly appreciate all that they did to help get me started in my hometown.”
**Joe Goette**

Degree: AAOT, 2001  
Hometown: Coos Bay, OR  
Occupation: Civil Engineer  
Awards/accomplishments: Honor Roll/Deans List

“I was born and raised in Coos Bay. I really enjoyed finding myself while attending SWOCC. I love participating in sports and was a student and athlete as I wrestled for two years at SWOCC.

SWOCC acted as a gateway and allowed me to explore various educational opportunities at an affordable cost prior to transferring to Oregon State University. The small class sizes were comfortable and allowed personalization between students and faculty. This exploration led me toward math and engineering, ultimately leading me to transfer as a junior, finishing my engineering degree and finding a career. I do not know where I would be or what I would be doing if I had not explored several areas of interest at a community college, rather than a crowded and intimidating university.

I was ecstatic to find a career in my hometown. I am currently married (2 years and 3 months) and attempting to start a family with an amazing woman named Danielle. We are both addicted to working out and partake in Crossfit.

In my free time I enjoy wakeboarding, kiteboarding, snowboarding, riding quads, and spending time with friends and family.”

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**Shirley MacAdam**

Degree: AAOT  
Town: Coos Bay, OR  
Occupation: Owner/Partner Hough, MacAdam, Wartnik, Fisher & Gorman  
Accomplishments: PEO, Soroptomists, Pacific State Bank, U of O Honors College acceptance

“SWOCC provided me two years of free tuition through a program provided to high-scoring GED candidates. This was an opportunity that changed my life. I had a six-year-old son and a husband who was in school as a dislocated worker. I had been working in restaurants for 15 years and the education path that SWOCC provided me took me from the minimum wage world to owning my own business.

The block transfer degree allowed me to step into the Honors College at University of Oregon as a junior. After one year there, I was able to come back home and complete my bachelor’s degree from Linfield College through the adult degree program at SWOCC. The ability to be home with my family, work locally and complete my education was a life-changing opportunity that SWOCC provided. This was back in 1995 when long distance education was not as prevalent as it is today and SWOCC was at the forefront of providing this educational opportunity to our community.

After graduating from Linfield, I completed my CPA license in 2003 and began the firm known at that time as Hough & MacAdam. Today we are known in Coos Bay as Hough, MacAdam, Wartnik, Fisher & Gorman. We currently have five partners and 12 employees including nine CPAs. We are known as the largest accounting firm on the Oregon coast!

Education does not end with a degree and will be a part of my life forever. As I continue on my path, I am often reminded that some of the best instructors I have had were right here in Coos Bay at SWOCC. I am just one small bit of proof that the community college experience provides opportunity to a broad spectrum of people and is critical to the future of our community.”
Nik Edmondson

Degree: AA and AS, 2005
Hometown: Rocklin, CA
Occupation: Sport Psychology Consultant, Coach, Author and Entrepreneur

“SWOCC gave me a place to grow, a place to find who I am and what I am capable of. Being from Sacramento I wanted to leave home and be in a college atmosphere, but I wasn’t ready for the athletics or academics of a four-year institution. SWOCC was the perfect fit.

SWOCC was a place where I could discover, learn, improve, grow, and set myself up to achieve. It was accepting and nurturing, while challenging me to be better. I loved the tight-knit community, while being diverse for growth. With this atmosphere I was able to learn on the field, in the classroom, and socially.

From SWOCC I was able to land a Division 1 scholarship and set myself up academically for graduate school and beyond. It was here where I created the foundation for my future.

Now I am a former professional baseball player, author of four books, and entrepreneur ready to take on the world. I wouldn’t be where I am now without SWOCC.

The SWOCC community is a family that helps young men and women create the foundation for dreams.”

Larry Tietsort

Degree: AS Nursing, 2006
Hometown: North Bend, OR
Occupation: Nurse

Larry Tietsort used to install telephone cable and fiber optics in military bases. He traveled to other states until an industrial accident mangled his foot. During his recovery, he took a career test and it recommended he become a grade-school teacher or nurse. “My vocational teacher said ‘You can’t do nursing,’ so I said, ‘I’ll do that.’”

During physical therapy, he also became acquainted with an emergency room nurse. He asked Larry what he wanted to do, but Larry didn’t know.

“He said, ‘become a nurse.’ That’s how things are in life; I get lucky.”

He enrolled in the SWOCC nursing program, which he found a bit irritating at first.

“When you’re told off the bat that half of you aren’t going to be here next term, it drove me up the wall.”

True to his nature, Tietsort embraced the challenge. “From six in the morning to eight at night - I’m not a rocket scientist. I had to work at it.”

He worked as a CNA at Southern Coos Hospital while in the program. Come graduation, he had three job offers and settled into the day surgery department at North Bend Medical Center.

“I wish I would have done this 100 years ago. I’ve told all my bosses, … this isn’t a job. I’m having too much fun. Whenever I find someone in here, I tell them it doesn’t matter how old you are – go to school and become a nurse. It’s so much fun. Especially guys, you can write your own ticket and go anywhere you want.”
Branden Ledsome

Degree: AAS, 2013
Hometown: Stockton, CA
Occupation: Millwright

“SWOCC impacted my life in every way possible for the best. I had no education and always worked dead-end jobs prior to attending SWOCC. Now, I work the jobs I want and feel awesome about myself. I can pay my bills and still have money for gas and fun.”

Faculty Excellence Awards

We have a very dedicated and creative faculty at SWOCC. We are passionate about helping students to learn and succeed. There are not many opportunities for faculty to receive funds to do extra research or try new innovative teaching approaches in the classroom.

Thanks to the SWOCC Foundation, our faculty have the opportunity to apply for a Faculty Excellence Award. Each year that this has been offered, faculty have submitted creative projects that will enhance their classes and further engage students to want to learn and improve themselves. This past year the Faculty Development Committee recommended two awards. They are being implemented this year.

One of this year’s awards went to Professor of Psychology Ânny Mueller and Associate Professor of Psychology Cheryl Davies, who will purchase psychology laboratory equipment to incorporate more “hands-on” research in the classroom to augment the department’s model for active learning.

The other collaborative project involves instructors Linda Stagg-Brown, Ânny Mueller and Joy Parker in the accounting, psychology and English departments. They have formed a focused, interdisciplinary study group to create Khan-Academy style instructional videos.

It is important that our faculty continue to have the opportunity to try new ideas and push the envelope on innovative teaching techniques. We are encouraging all faculty to make their classes more learner-centered. This takes time and resources to fully integrate into existing curriculum. We hope opportunities like the Faculty Excellence Awards will continue to give faculty the chance to implement some of their creative and innovative ideas.
Athletics

Developing champions in the classroom, in the pool and in life

Southwestern’s intercollegiate sports teams made headlines in 2013-14, capping another positive year for 200 student-athletes. Many of our athletes are homegrown. Others come from 13 different states and two counties, including British Columbia, Canada and South Korea. Many of our student-athletes also received all-conference honors and all-academic honors.

Perhaps our biggest news is our newly organized men’s and women’s swimming teams competing at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) level. The team enrolled 19 student-athletes from seven states. All are excited to compete for the first time representing SWOCC against college and university teams around the Northwest. The team goal is to travel in March to the NJCAA Championship Swimming & Diving Meet in Buffalo, NY.

“The team has adopted the motto of striving for excellence in all that we do, because that is how we become champions,” said head coach Sandra Bullock.

The team began training in October, approximately 19½ hours per week. It’s an exciting opportunity for these student-athletes, as well as the primarily volunteer coaching staff who are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of these young adults.

Accomplishments and highlights:

Men’s basketball coach Trevor “Hop” Hoppe guided the Lakers to a 21-9 record and NWAACC (Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges) Southern Region Co-Championship. Hop also earned honors as NWAACC Southern Region Co-Coach of the Year.

Coach Megan Corriea recorded her 200th career win at SWOCC with the women’s softball team. The NWAACC coaches voted Megan and her staff as the National Fastpitch Association Coaching Staff of the Year. As she heads into her eighth season coaching, keep your fingers crossed that she’ll guide the team to its seventh straight year at the NWAACC tournament.

The men’s golf team finished second at the NWAACC championships.

The women’s wrestling team won its third straight Women’s College Wrestling Association national championship, under the guidance of Coach Josh White.

If you’re on campus or watching games and meets, perhaps you’ll meet our new head coach for the Men’s Soccer team, Dan Thibault. Dan coached previously at the collegiate level in California and Texas.

Volleyball coach Stephanie Willett won a grant to travel to Seattle to participate in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) convention – the go-to event for professional development and to see the latest equipment.

Laker Alumni, fans and our athletes’ families can watch live-streamed sporting events from around the Northwest, nation and world, thanks to SWOCC Media Productions.

https://new.livestream.com/swocc
Welcome Chef Torres

Randy Torres, CEC, AAC, Chef Instructor

Where do Oregon Coast Culinary Institute (OCCI) culinary arts graduates go with their degrees? Many go all over the country, even the world. And some come back here to share their skills and knowledge with new generations of aspiring chefs. Chef Randy Torres is one.

Chef Torres’ acquired formal culinary arts training at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, CA. His vast experience includes 18 years in the culinary industry around the country. Yes, he also studied and graduated from OCCI.

“Randy is a lifelong learner, something our profession of training culinarians MUST have. If we are not moving forward everyone else is passing us,” said Chef Shawn Hanlin, executive director of OCCI.

Torres has won numerous medals in competitions. He's competed nationally and internationally as a member of the California Culinary Team and as a member of Team USA. He also coached the Youth Team USA to three gold medals and a first-place finish at the Scot-Hot Culinary Grand Prix in Glasgow, Scotland.

Welcome back to OCCI Chef Torres.

Road Scholar Program Comes to OCCI

Imagine being a youngster and getting to spend part of your summer with your grandparents exploring dunes and beaches, and learning to cook. Or, in retirement have you always dreamed of learning about Oregon geology?

SWOCC welcomes families and individuals here to do just that every summer through our popular Road Scholar program associated with the College’s Residence Life department. Road Scholar is an American not-for-profit organization that offers 5,500 educational travel tours primarily geared toward older adults.

This past summer, visiting families participated in “Cooking Along the Oregon Coast with Your Grandchild.” They spent mornings gathering food from the area and afternoons at the Oregon Coast Culinary Institute working with our chefs to prepare their feasts. Others explored the region through “A Summer Adventure on the Oregon Coast with Your Grandchild!” and geology professor Dr. Ron Metzger led geology-related explorations and lectures of Oregon’s south coast.

OCCI’s Star Performers

- Chef Woojay Poynter participated in the TEAM USA Tryouts and won a bronze medal.
- The OCCI Student Team placed 1st in the American Culinary Federation’s state competitions and 5th in the region with silver medals in both.
- OCCI students Megan Bamford and Trae Shriner competed at the ACF Western Regional Conference in Oakland, CA. Bamford, who specialized in baking and pastry at OCCI, scored a silver medal. Shriner earned a bronze medal.
- At the ACF national competition in Kansas City, Bamford scored a gold medal and Shriner a silver; the second and third highest scores in the country thereby placing them on the 2016 Culinary Youth Team USA.
- Chef Instructor Darrell Folck competed for Regional Pastry Chef of the Year and placed second with a bronze medal.
- Chef Woojay Poynter completed the training to become an ACF certified judge.
- Executive Director Chef Shawn Hanlin completed the training to become an international World Association of Cooks Society judge.
- Most recently an OCCI team of three chefs and two students won a silver medal and placed 3rd in the ACF Super Challenge in Orlando, FL – the largest hot food competition in the nation.
- Chef Chris Foltz took 1st and People’s choice in Lake Louise Ice Carving 2014 Masters Championship International Invitational in Banff Lake Louise, Canada.
- Chef Chris Foltz took 1st in Yellowknife Big Block International Invitational Competition in Northwest Territories, Canada.
- Chef Chris Foltz took 1st place and Carvers Choice in Chetwynd, British Columbia, Canada, World Championships Power Sculpting Competition.
- Chef Chris Foltz took 1st place, People’s Choice and Carvers Choice in Washington State Championships Power Sculpting.
Bay Area Hospital (BAH) and the College have partnered for more than a decade to ensure the Southwestern nursing program provides the finest educational services possible for our students.

The BAH Foundation provided a generous grant this year to help defray a portion of the expenses for the nursing program. With the hospital’s help, the College is able to hire a full-time faculty member to provide instruction in the classroom, in the campus learning lab and in a clinical setting at Bay Area Hospital.

Thanks to BAH Foundation’s support, our faculty has been able to research and implement electronic health records into our campus learning laboratory. Our students now have expanded opportunities to learn skills in wound and dialysis clinics, at Home Health, and with inpatient and outpatient surgery areas of study. They also have improved access to simulations, where they gain valuable exposure to practices related to emergency care.

These funds play an important role in training future nurses to become competent clinicians and to meet and/or improve the health care of communities within the College district and beyond.
Many thanks to the men and women who volunteer as board members of the Foundation. They not only make significant gifts each year, they give their time and energy to the College Foundation.
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Umpqua Bank
Southwestern and Oregon State University (OSU) have signed the first-ever agreement to link degree programs for students pursuing Bachelor of Science degrees in forestry.

The agreement aligns curriculum between the two schools, so students graduating from SWOCC with an Associate in Science degree with forestry emphasis can transfer directly as juniors into OSU’s Bachelor of Science forestry degree program.

“We’re hoping that other community colleges see this as a precedent – a model,” said Dr. Claire Montgomery, with OSU’s Department of Forest Engineering, Resources, and Management.

Dr. Ross Tomlin, SWOCC’s vice president of instruction and student services, said there’s been a lot of interest in the program, particularly because of its direct link to OSU’s forestry program, which is considered among the best in the nation. SWOCC enrolled 25 students fall term.

The College worked in partnership with the SWOCC Foundation, corporate and private donors to raise $160,000 to fund the first two years and is pursuing additional funds to purchase equipment.

“Having this kind of support from the community and industry is instrumental,” Tomlin said.

Thanks to grants from The Ford Family and Pacific Power foundations, eight local high school students explored the Coos Watershed and natural resources careers over the summer. The eight-week pilot Summer Bridge Natural Resources Program was designed to prep students for college.

It was a partnership between the College, SWOCC Foundation, Coos Watershed Association, Upward Bound and Talent Search. Students took courses in math, writing and introductory forestry. They interned with the Watershed Association and practiced timber cruising and tree identification. They also did fish surveys, learned about sustainable building practices and conducted a field experiment on mosquitoes.

“I’ve always been curious about science,” said a junior from North Bend. “This experience hasn’t directed me towards one particular (field of) science, but it’s upped my interest in science and life sciences.”

The program introduced students to possible natural resource careers and academic pathways and gave them a preview of the difference between college and high school-level coursework.

“My daughter naturally has difficulty with math and it was a struggle, but what was nice about the experience was to see her eyes light up when she got through her lessons,” one parent said.

The program was designed for students from Upward Bound and Talent Search – federal educational enrichment programs for students with disabilities, at risk of dropping out, in low-income families or in families in which neither parent attended college. Students earned 12 college credits, as well as a $500 stipend to apply toward future educational endeavors.

Thanks to your support!

Al Peirce Co.; Campbell Global; Douglas Timber Operators; Hough, MacAdam, Wartnik, Fisher & Gorman; Lone Rock Timber; Menasha Legacy Fund of the OCF, Moore Mill Company; OR Department of Forestry; OR Forest Resources Institute; Plum Creek Foundation; Roseburg, the forest products company; Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, Attorneys at Law; Seneca Jones Timber Co., South Coast Lumber; Southport Forest Products; Stoel Rives LLP; Swanson Group and Weyerhaeuser Foundation. Dr. Patty Scott, Marcia Jensen, David and Shirley Bridgham, Susan Anderson, Bill Lansing, Alan and Mary Ann Whitney.

Macroinvertebrate sampling at Matson Creek Wetland Preserve. [Photo by Alexa Carleton]