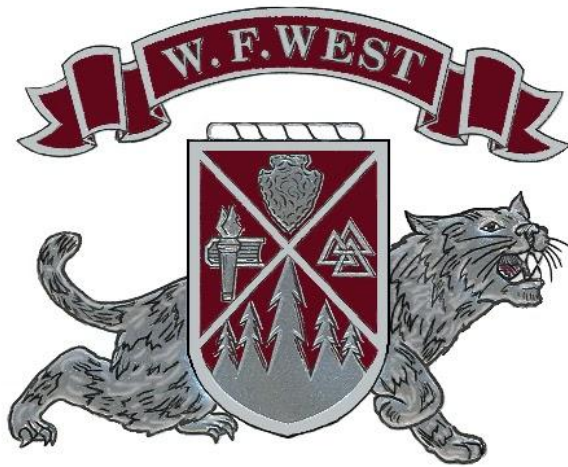


W.F. WEST SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY

Honoring Graduates of 2023


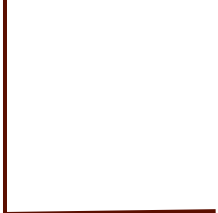


*W.F. West High School
Chehalis, WA
June 8, 2023*



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W. F. West High School Scholarship Program

- Scholarships will be presented in the order of this program.
- Students who are awarded scholarships tonight will be contacted by the Counseling Center on the process of accepting their scholarships.

Celebrating the Graduates of the Class of 2023 and the Tradition of Giving in Our Community

W. F. West High School is incredibly appreciative of all our community donors. The list of scholarships available to our students evolves from year to year, and though it has grown over time, that growth is not in a steady line. Some scholarships are only available for a limited time, while others have developed a long history of generous support. Each year, some scholarship funds may reach the end of their funding, while new scholarships may be created. A consistent effort is required to nurture the existing relationships we have with donors and to work to create new partnerships each year.

We would like to express our gratitude to the following scholarship funds: *McDonalds Scholarship*, *Chehalis School District Scholarship*, *Bekah Angus Memorial Scholarship* and *Visiting Nurses Foundation Scholarship*. While these scholarships reached the end of their funding in 2022, we are immensely thankful for the generous financial assistance they have provided our graduates, helping them to pursue their post-high school endeavors.

This year, we are pleased to announce three new scholarships:

Dick Sieler Scholarship

Iron King Scholarship

Greg Close Entrepreneur's Scholarship

Want to become a scholarship donor?

Interested in donating funds for scholarships or creating a named scholarship? These are two great ways to give back to your school and community or honor one or more individuals.

Making a Contribution

Funds can be contributed to a scholarship program in a wide variety of ways. Funding options include, but are not limited to:

- a lump-sum (i.e. cash, check, contribution of stocks, etc.)
- any incremental amount may be donated (\$1.00 - \$100,000)
- may elect to pay a scholarship amount, or pledge, over multiple years (i.e. a \$5,000 donation pays \$1000 annually for 5 years.)
- dedicated insurance annuities, wills, etc.

Naming a Scholarship

- Individuals, or organizations, have the opportunity of “naming” a scholarship. “Named” scholarships can immortalize a loved family member, company, company founder, friend, or even the donor. An advantage of a “named” scholarship is that requirements can be in place for conditions (i.e. GPA, a specific major [medical, music, etc.], community involvement, etc.). Preference can be given to students attending specific institutions as designated by the donor.
- Funding for a named scholarship can come from more than one donor. Donations can be made in any amount. Donors can combine funds to name their scholarship as well.

A gift to either the Chehalis School District, or The Chehalis Foundation, can help change the course of a student's life through education.

If you would like more information on becoming a scholarship donor, please contact either:

Chehalis School District

Teresa Madrid
Chehalis School District
360-807-7235 ext: 8212
tmadrid@chehalisschools.org

To give to an already established scholarship, contact Teresa Madrid

Chehalis Foundation

Jenny Collins
Chehalis Foundation
(360) 508-6572
jennylyncollins@gmail.com

To give to an already established scholarship, go to bit.ly/cfscholarship

Thank you for your donation to make a lasting impression on a student's future success.

W. F. West Athletic Scholarships (Previously Awarded)

W. F. West Track and Field Boosters

The W.F. West Track and Field Boosters are proud to be able to support student-athletes from our program as they pursue postsecondary education. Student-athletes must be a four year participant or a two-year varsity letter winner with a minimum 2.5 GPA. Scholarships are awarded by considering

student-athletes' written statements about the impact that being a part of the Track and Field program has had personally as well as their level of participation in Bearcat athletics, athletic honors and awards, community service and extracurricular activities, and work experience.



Doug Blaser Scholarship



Doug Lynn Blaser was confined to a wheelchair during his school years, due to cerebral palsy. He channeled his energy and passion for athletics into providing support for all sports teams. He enjoyed going to both home and away games. Doug was an avid sports fan of the Chehalis Bearcats, and had equal passion for the Mariners, Huskies and Sonics. Doug Blaser graduated from W. F. West High School in 1975 and received the first Spirit Award. This award has been given in his name ever since, and is awarded to an athlete or fan with great enthusiasm for Bearcat sports. After Doug's passing in 2004, the Doug Blaser Scholarship was established to be given in conjunction with the Doug Blaser Spirit Award. The scholarship is offered through donations from family members, friends, and fellow athletic enthusiasts.

Jr. Cats Scholarship

The Jr. Cats Scholarship was created in 2015 for a high school senior in good academic standing, who participated in at least 2 sports or other high school sponsored programs each year of high school, and at least 2 years of Jr. Cats football or cheer.



W. F. West Athletic Scholarships (Previously Awarded)

Chehalis Activators' Scholarship



Activators is a fundraising organization for Chehalis Middle School Athletics. The club is made up of 30 members that examine the needs of the middle school, plan fundraising activities, and socialize. Activators play a large part in purchasing equipment and uniforms for middle school athletic programs. They have also provided major improvements to the middle school's athletic facilities. But most importantly, they ensure that every student can participate in middle school athletics, regardless of a financial hardship. The largest undertakings for the club are the Activators' Track Classic, which provides a thousand athletes an opportunity to participate in one of the largest track meets in the state and the Activators' Golf Tournament, which is considered the best tournaments in SW Washington. The Activators award a \$500 non-renewable scholarship to a deserving senior boy and girl each spring. Recipients are determined from participation in middle school and high school athletics, GPA, and citizenship.

Brian Cox Athletic Scholarship



The Brian Cox Athletic Scholarship was established when Brian was tragically killed in a car accident in July 2008 when home for the summer after his first year of college. Brian was an organ donor; his liver was given to an eight year old girl, a lifesaving gift. Many others benefitted from the organs Brian donated. Brian's family and friends organized The Brian Cox Golf Tournament to raise money for a scholarship in his honor. They have continued this tradition annually at Riverside Golf Course the last Saturday of July in remembrance of Brian. The scholarship account has continued to grow.

Brian was a W. F. West graduate from the Class of 2007. He excelled in three sports: golf, basketball and baseball. He played each of those sports throughout his four years of high school. The scholarship is given to an athlete(s) in Brian's name each year to help with the cost of college, and to recognize the recipient(s) for his/her passion and dedication to athletics.

W. F. West Athletic Scholarships (Previously Awarded)

Shelley Fuller Memorial Scholarship



Shelley Fuller was a student and athlete at W.F. West High School where she graduated in the spring of 1982. After her death in the summer of 1986, donations in her memory were delivered to the Chehalis School District for the purpose of establishing a scholarship fund in her name. This award is given to one student who, in the judgment of

the selection committee, best fulfills the Selection Criteria, including earning a letter in a varsity sport.

Major Gray Scholarship

Major was born in Belah, LA in 1930. He came to Washington courtesy of the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. Major met and married a Chehalis girl, Marion Lowry, who graduated in 1952 from W. F. West. They raised their family outside of town where the children grew up playing baseball in the cow pastures. When one of his grand-daughters started playing fastpitch, he

became a fixture at W. F. West games. Always seen at Bearcats fastpitch home games. A highlight for him was to attend the state tournament one year. Upon his return he was quoted as saying “he was treated like a rock star”. Daily he would open the pitching barn that his son built and visit with the girls and their families. This scholarship is given in his name to a senior who is planning on attending college.



Chehalis Bearcat Athletic Boosters

The W.F. West Bearcat Athletic Booster Club promotes enthusiasm and good sportsmanship in an environment that inspires student athletes, coaches, parents and community. Annual membership and fundraising efforts enable the club to fund scholarships to graduating seniors and purchase items to enhance and support ALL W.F. West athletic teams.

**Chehalis Bearcat
Athletic
Booster Club**





Career Ready College Bound



Chehalis Foundation Scholarships

The Chehalis Foundation Scholarship program began in 2001 as the Chehalis Dollars for Scholars. Four W. F. West High School graduates from the Class of 1965: Rene Remund, Bob Spahr, Diane Rasmusson, and Linda Smith, suggested to their classmates that instead of charging for their reunions they could donate to scholarships for deserving W. F. West graduates. The class held their reunions every five years, but since 2010 they have been meeting every year. The first year, the Class of '65 raised \$4000 and presented four scholarships to students in the Class of 2001. The next year it was five scholarships. Since 2001, the Class of '65 has been able to help five to eight students each year.

Other alumni have stepped up to help our students further their education after high school. The Class of '63, the Class of '55, which is now the Classes of the '50s, and numerous community members have endowed scholarships in memory of family and to honor community leaders.

In 2014, we were offered the opportunity to join the Chehalis Foundation and are now an integral part of their mission. With their help, we are able to offer more scholarship opportunities for W. F. West High School graduates.

Over 20 years ago, a dedicated and forward thinking group of Chehalis community members and alumni established the Chehalis Foundation. The mission of the Chehalis Foundation is to support projects that benefit the city, the community and academic excellence in Chehalis schools. The Chehalis Foundation's purpose is to better the quality of life within our community.

In 2016, the Chehalis Foundation assumed the stewardship of the W. F. West and Coffman Scholarships. Since 1968, for the West Scholarships, and 1972 for the Coffman Scholarships, over 2500 students have benefited from these two families' belief in the importance of helping young adults succeed in career and college endeavors after high school. Today the Chehalis Foundation is committed to extending that legacy. Part of the work of the Chehalis Foundation is to raise funds for scholarships, and to increase the number of scholarships presented annually.

These scholarships are given in recognition of the benefits many have experienced growing up in Chehalis, including the connections of family, friends, teachers and community members who have helped us along the way. Each year, the Chehalis Foundation is pleased to award scholarships on behalf of individuals and groups in our community.

Chehalis Community Scholarships

The Chehalis community has had a strong tradition of supporting students in their postsecondary education and training. Many individuals, local businesses and community organizations have dedicated time and money to promote the future endeavors of W. F. West graduates. The following Chehalis Community Scholarships are made in remembrance of loved ones or awarded by individuals and community groups in relation to a mission or cause of importance. All are given to help students pay for college and career education so that each graduate can fulfill his or her dreams. These scholarships are managed by the W. F. West High School counseling center and scholarship committee.

Chehalis Foundation and Chehalis Community Scholarships

In this program, the symbol  signifies a Chehalis Foundation Scholarship. All others are Chehalis Community Scholarships.

TwinStar Community Foundation Scholarship

From the beginning, credit unions have been about members helping members, encouraging thrift and good spending habits. In 1937, a math teacher started talking to some other teachers. In those days, it was hard to get a small loan, especially on a teacher's salary. This teacher brought together 15 teachers in November 1937. Together, they started Thurston County Teacher Credit Union. The young credit union became a legal business entity on



January 3, 1938. By the '80s, credit unions could expand who was eligible to join. In 2009, TwinStar expanded its field of membership to include all residents in the state of Washington. In 2014, we adopted our brand promise: *Realizing Financial Dreams Together*. The short, simple phrase captures all of our strategic intent in just a few words. We have the people, tools and value systems in place to help our members not only have a great place to bank, but also have a prosperous future. TwinStar started as a teachers' credit union, so education is pretty special for us.

Ellen Anderson deMoise Scholarship



Ellen Anderson grew up in the Centralia area and attended Central Washington University for a teaching degree. She taught school in Aberdeen and Centralia before she married Louis deMoise. They founded and ran the L & E Bottling Co Inc. Ellen was great supporter of youth and their education. This Scholarship was established in 1995 in her name to help young students in Lewis County with their goal of a college education.

Walter E. Nelson Co. / Leco Supply Scholarship

Leco Supply believes strongly in the importance of quality educational opportunities in our area. We hope this scholarship advances the mission of our local schools and provides opportunity for a local student to continue to prosper. With several employees who are graduates of the Chehalis school system, we happily contribute to this scholarship fund as we know the value it creates in our students and our communities.



Boistfort Lions' Scholarship Program

The Lions' motto is "we serve" and service is the reason we exist. It is why we become Lions and why we remain, year after year, donating our time and effort in order to positively impact the community through our service works. Although we do many yearly and special projects, we wanted to create a scholarship program to benefit students attending Boistfort Elementary School that would last throughout the years. By helping others to reach their goals, we are helping them change their lives. By paying it forward, we are giving them the opportunity to go out and help others through service. We think this is a very worthwhile investment for the future.



Thus, the Boistfort Lions' Scholarship Program was started forty-seven years ago as a way to achieve our goal and support those students who plan to go on to postsecondary education after graduating from high school. To be eligible to apply for a scholarship from the Boistfort Lions' Scholarship Program, you must have graduated from the eighth grade at Boistfort Elementary in the past, or live at the present time within the Boistfort School District, or have previously qualified for and received a scholarship from this organization. All of our scholarships are for academic scholarship.

Sharon Care Scholarship



Sharon Care was established in 1958, and originally was a twenty-seven bed skilled nursing home. The Center has changed throughout the years. Bill Hammond purchased Sharon Care in 1993, and he made several changes in 1998 by adding a twenty bed memory care center and forty-two assisted living apartments. Today, Sharon Care Center is a Continuum of Care facility, providing a comprehensive array of services for healthcare. Sharon Care is proud to provide excellent care to residents by treating them with dignity and respect. Tonight,

Sharon Care is providing a scholarship to a W. F. West graduate pursuing a career in nursing.

Lewis County Farm Bureau Scholarship

Lewis County Farm Bureau is a voluntary, grassroots advocacy organization representing the social and economic interests of farm and ranch families at local,



LEWIS COUNTY
FARM BUREAU

Servicing Farmers and Ranchers of Lewis County, WA



state and national levels. We provide leadership and organization to our members and seek to educate our members and neighbors and gain public support on the issues affecting farm and ranch families and their ability to feed us all. As stewards of our lands, we provide food, fiber and fuel as economically as we can in support of our families, our communities, our nation and beyond.

Centralia-Chehalis Kiwanis Scholarship

Kiwanis is an international organization that was established in 1915 with a focus on enriching the lives of children. Our local club was formed in 1922, and has been supporting our community's youth ever since through projects, fundraisers and programs. The Chehalis and Centralia Kiwanis is ever growing in membership and service. Each year we award scholarships to students at W. F. West and Centralia High School who have been active members in the Kiwanis sponsored school Key Club program. Our local chapter of Kiwanis is proud to support Bearcat grads in their college and career endeavors.



We invite Bearcat grads and family members to consider membership in our local chapter of Kiwanis. Join us in working to help the kids in our own community be better and stronger individuals in everything they do.

Denny Daniels/Harry Gust Wrestling Scholarship



The Denny Daniels/Harry Gust wrestling award and scholarship was established after Coach Daniels retired in 2001. It was established by the wrestling coaching staff to honor Harry and Denny for their long, successful careers, and their leadership in the W. F. West wrestling program. Their careers spanned the years from 1960 to 2001. Coach Gust set the tone from the beginning with his knowledge of wrestling and his demands for values of work ethic, dedication, and sportsmanship. Harry personally displayed these values as a very successful wrestler, capped by a PAC 8 wrestling championship.

Having coached with Harry as an assistant for 14 years, Coach Daniels continued to lead the program with success. Denny continued the values instilled by Harry, and promoted the program, making W. F. Wrestling a premier sport in the community and in the state. Both coaches were known for their close relationship with young men through high school and beyond. Together, they had 15 league championships, 64 state placers, and coached 8 individuals to 10 state championships. Award winners are chosen by the current coaching staff and given to those who best represent the values promoted by Coach Gust and Coach Daniels.

RB Engineering Scholarship

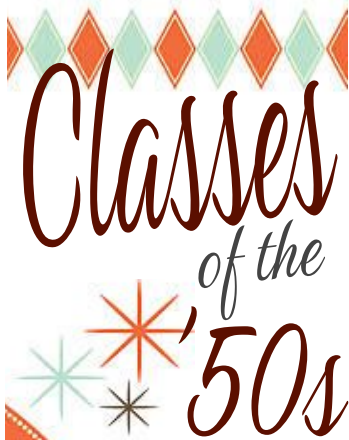
RB Engineering is a civil engineering firm in Chehalis since 1998. W. F. West alumni Robert Balmelli and his wife, Cherene, grew up in Lewis County. Their company and employees strongly believe in giving back to the community. Since 2001,

they have provided scholarships to future engineers from W. F. West to pursue their engineering degrees. They encourage all graduates to remember the great support they received from the local community and staff of W. F. West, and become future supporters of this amazing school!



DESIGN → PERMIT → MANAGE

Classes of the '50s



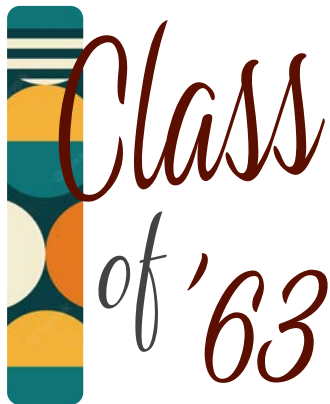
The Chet Rhodes family Chehalis Area Fund, established at the Community Foundation of South Puget Sounding Olympia, offered to match scholarship funds raised by the Classes of the Fifties, which was led by the Class of '55. Some of those classes have joined in the group.

This is our 13th year of awarding scholarships. This year we are giving 9 current graduates \$1500.00 each, and 14 previous graduates \$1500.00 each. A total of \$34,500.00. Since 2010, we have given \$229,500.00 to 163 students.

In addition to the awards given to these students, Barbara Sommer Feigin, class of '55, is donating her book, *My American Dream*, which

recounts the terrifying, death-defying escape her Jewish father, her mother, and she, at age two-and-a-half, made from Nazi Germany in July of 1940 at the onset of World War II. It also tells her story of climbing the corporate ladder, when women were not given the opportunities that men had. Barbara became a very successful executive blazing a trail for those who came behind her.

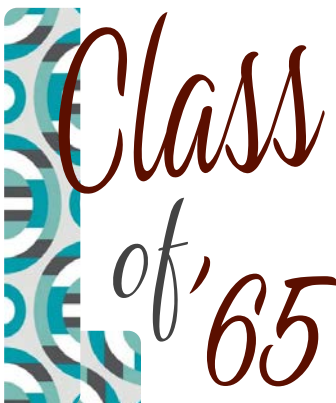
Class of '63



One year, Kathy Haunreiter Johnson, Class of '63 alumni, was presenting a scholarship in the name of her parents at the W. F. West Scholarship and Awards night. Kathy and the class of '63 members began talking about the individual classes awarding scholarships to Chehalis grads. It was a reunion year. Kathy invited Class of '65 alum, Bob Spahr, to join their reunion to share about how the scholarship fundraising and giving worked. The classmates were excited, and passed the hat to raise \$4,000.00 that first year.

The Class of '63 truly appreciates our hometown, and the education received in the Chehalis School District. They are proud to assist other W. F. West graduates as they get their start with the challenge of establishing a new career and a good life.

Class of '65



This scholarship fund began when four W. F. West graduates from the Class of '65 suggested that instead of charging for reunions, they could donate to scholarships for deserving W. F. West students. Since 2001, the Class of '65 has been able to help five to eight students each year. In 2014, they joined the Chehalis Foundation and are now an integral part of their mission. With their help, more scholarship opportunities can be offered each year.

Rodney Giske Memorial Scholarship



In 1952, Rod and Mary Beth Giske and their young family were proud to join the Bearcat community, where Rod became the head football coach and history teacher.. The couple raised four children in Chehalis, each a graduate of W. F. West. Many experienced the Giske hospitality and friendship, and many credit the couple with the guidance that made them who and what they are today. In 2014 at age 92, Rodney Giske, a man with a big and generous heart, passed peacefully, leaving a legacy of inspiration.

While at Washington State College, Giske was captain of his team his senior year, and was the JF Bohler Inspirational Player. In 1946, he played in the East-West Shrine game in San Francisco and was voted All-American by the Associated Press. While at Stadium High School in Tacoma, he made All-Cross State league guard in 1940, and was also team captain and inspirational award winner in his senior year.

Coach Giske was respected by his peers and his positive influence extended beyond football, as he inspired his colleagues to be better teachers. He was known for his coaching abilities and his ability to motivate. He believed that coaching was serious responsibility and cared deeply about each and every one of his players.

Fred and Virginia Haunreiter Nursing Scholarship



When our beloved Mother, Virginia Haunreiter passed away in December 1996, we all struggled to figure out how to live without someone we'd loved so much, and who loved us right back. She'd been a caregiver her entire life. She helped her siblings grow up and as a young wife and mother, she built a home that welcomed everyone. Virginia was unassuming, full of fun, and a lifelong learner. She cared not only for her children, but for everyone.

Mom was hospitalized many times in 1996 and every time we realized that as sick as she was, she wasn't going to give up caring for people. She gave back to the nursing staff at every turn, wherever she could.

Our father knew that she'd been saving to purchase a new truck for him, but he determined that something else needed to be done with the funds she'd been carefully socking away. He had the wonderful idea to use the funds Mom had saved to set up the Virginia Haunreiter Nursing Scholarship at W. F. West High School. They were both Chehalis High School graduates and their four children were graduates of W.F. West.

This scholarship is open to current graduates of W.F. West and alumni as well who are pursuing a nursing career. We awarded the first scholarship in 1997. Fred passed away in 2009 and in both their names now, the scholarship lives on. We always remind our recipients "Take good care of these funds. You're taking our Dad's truck to school!"

Chehalis Rotary Scholarships

Rotary is an international organization with a mission to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.



The Chehalis Rotary Club was founded in 1921 and has contributed to many local and international projects to support education, improve literacy, provide community enhancements fight disease, provide clean water, sanitation and hygiene, support humanitarian efforts, and much more. The club has proudly provided scholarships to W.F. West graduates since 1988. W.F. West graduates are encouraged to consider membership in the Chehalis Rotary Club. With your help, we can create lasting change across the globe and in our community.

Jeniffer Affeldt Memorial Scholarship



Jeniffer was an accomplished mental health professional in our local community. She was a loving wife and mother of two small children. She served as the President of the Jefferson-Lincoln Elementary Parent Teacher Organization. Jeniffer's life was dedicated to the health and well-being of family, our schools, individuals and community.

The Jeniffer Affeldt Memorial Scholarship is offered as a remembrance to her life and work through donations from her husband Dr. Chris Affeldt, family members, and friends. The funds have been placed in an endowment account administered by the Centralia-Chehalis Kiwanis Project Foundation.

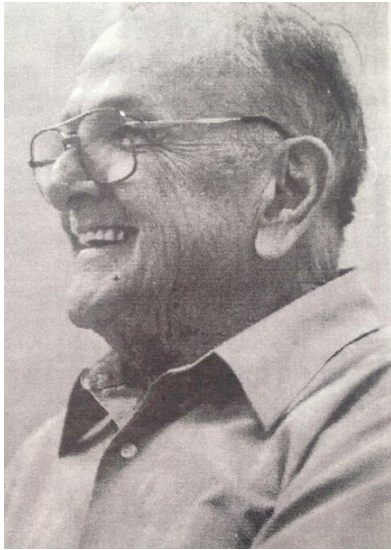
Chehalis Music Boosters

The Chehalis Music Booster Club was organized in October of 1982. Our purpose is to promote all aspects of the Chehalis School District Music Program. This will be accomplished through publicity, promotion and financial assistance. The goal is to involve parents and the community in the school music activities. This includes the need for planning and funding with

membership, which is open to all interested people. Each year we proudly provide scholarships to students who plan to pursue a career in music education or to participate in music during their college education.



ASB President Scholarship



This scholarship was originally created in 1997 to honor the life and legacy of William M. Ullom, known in the W. F. West community as “Uncle Bill”. Ullom taught in the public schools for nearly five decades. He was dedicated to civic education of youth, and encouraged all students to study our American system of government. Ullom’s mission was to develop future citizens, active participants, and leaders of our democratic system. He also believed that any service in any branch of government at the local, state or federal level was an “exalted calling”.

This scholarship was converted in name to the ASB President Scholarship in 2000. It is established to recognize a student for civic engagement and leadership.

Steve Rasmusson Memorial Scholarship



The Steve Rasmusson Memorial Scholarship was established after Steve’s death in 2008 by Diane Rasmusson and her friends and family. Steve and Diane both graduated from W. F. West (1962 and 1965) and Steve went on to Tacoma Vocational School (now Bates) and completed the Structural Detailing Program. Steve and Diane were married in 1966, and lived in Seattle, Enumclaw and Spokane before moving back to Chehalis in 1968. They both appreciated the benefits and support of living in this community and always felt a great need to pay it forward. Steve was an artist and enjoyed that gift all his life. He went from model building to pin striping to custom paint projects on motorcycles and helmets. He was a cartoonist, a sign maker, a woodworker, a duck carver, and he built fishing rods. Reading was enjoyment for him every day and all projects were researched thoroughly. Family and friends were the recipients of

many of his handmade treasures. In addition, he donated several of his realistic hand carved ducks as well as several fishing rods to auction events held locally.

Steve was all about people, and if you were his friend, it was forever. He had a wicked sense of humor and his storytelling is legendary. He embraced the concept of a hand up not a hand out and had no tolerance for dishonesty. He believed in circling the wagons for everyone who was willing to do the same when and if they got the chance.

Ingwersen STEM Scholarship



The Ingwersen's moved to Chehalis from California in the 1990s. The two actively supported the community by contributing to projects such as the Chehalis Kiddie Spray Park, the indoor baseball practice facility, the Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library, and by covering the early expenses for W.F. West High School's molecular genetics program. Ray Ingwersen died in 2008 and his wife, Mary, died in 2012.

Now, the couple joins other farsighted local benefactors like the high school's namesake, William F. West, and John Coffman, who left part of their estates for scholarship funding and furthering education. Chehalis is incredibly fortunate to have had people like the Ingwersen's who so loved this community and passionately believed in it that they wanted to leave a legacy such as their generous gift. Each year STEM teachers at the high school select the outstanding STEM student from among the graduating seniors.

L & E Bottling Scholarship

L & E Bottling Co. started in Chehalis in 1945. From the beginning it was important to the company to support the community that supported them. Some of the ways they give back are sponsoring local youth sports teams, supporting community programs and providing scholarships for graduating seniors throughout the High Schools of Lewis County. L & E Bottling Co. is proud to offer an annual scholarship to a deserving graduate of W. F. West High School.



Robert E. Lintott Math Scholarship



Robert Lintott loved teaching the children of Chehalis for twenty years. He was a fourth grade teacher who believed in the power of education, and believed every child could succeed if just given the right opportunity. He is often remembered for some of his class antics including cutting up his tie to teach fractions. He was also very involved in the Chehalis community as an adult leader in Boy Scouts and very involved in his church's youth programs. A wonderful husband, father, and supporter of our community, we are proud to have created the Robert E. Lintott Scholarship in his memory.

Cascade Community Healthcare Scholarship

This scholarship is funded by contributions from Cascade to assist a student interested in pursuing a career in behavioral health (mental health and substance use disorder) counseling. Cascade was founded in Lewis County in 1968 and has been providing services to the community for over 50 years. With over 200 staff and twenty different programs, Cascade is one of

the larger employers in Lewis County. The staff and board of Cascade are committed to improving the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens and are committed to the agency mission of serving our community with acceptance, compassion, and respect. It is with pleasure that Cascade donates these funds to encourage a future social services employee.



Maurice E. Riffe Memorial Scholarship



Maurice E. Riffe was employed during his lifetime as a mechanic at Darigold, Inc. in Chehalis. It was his desire that a scholarship fund be established to assist students entering the field of mechanics. In memory of Maurice, this scholarship was established in 1975 to be awarded to a W. F. West graduate interested in seeking advanced training in diesel mechanics.

ABATE of Washington, Lewis County Chapter Scholarship

ABATE is a national organization that advocates for motorcycle rider safety education and training, and greater public awareness of motorcyclist safety issues. The Lewis County Chapter of ABATE of Washington is passionate about serving our local community through food and toy drives, and a Christmas gift program for

the women's shelter. ABATE of Washington, Lewis County Chapter is proud to present scholarships to graduating seniors of several high schools in our community, with one going to a student from W. F. West High School. The scholarships are awarded to students who have demonstrated a strong work ethic in preparing for college eligibility, and with financial need. GPA is not a criteria for this award. The scholarship is for local college and career and technical education training. ABATE believes that all students deserve a bright future.



Laura Janelle Boomer Scholarship



Larry and Becky McGee and their children, Laura and Heather Boomer, moved to Chehalis from the east coast at the end of the summer in 1985. Laura and Heather thought it was a terrible idea because, of course, they did not want to leave their many Pennsylvania friends. However, they seemed to fit right in, and in the spring of 1986 Laura was elected W. F. West ASB President for the 1986 - 1987 school year. Laura used her leadership position to help the W. F. West student body provide generous donations to Mexico City in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake in 1985.

Laura was a very strong student, noted for her academics, scholarship and leadership. She would have graduated either first or second in her class. Her calculus instructor said she scored the highest grade he had ever seen. Laura enjoyed singing and was a

voracious reader. She was awarded several prestigious scholarships, including the Air Force ROTC scholarship to be used at the University of Puget Sound. Laura planned to go to medical school and become a surgeon.

When Laura died in April 1987, the family decided to use monies they had saved for college to start a fund to provide scholarships for others in her name. Helping others provides an ongoing positive impact and remembrance of someone who was an extraordinary young woman.

Edward D. Neumann/Shell Oil Company Scholarship



When I retired from Shell Oil, we moved to Chehalis. Neither my wife Evie, nor I had any previous association with Chehalis, but we wanted to watch our only grandson grow up.

A year after we settled here, our daughter told me that the Chehalis School District had run out of money for tutors and was looking for volunteers. She knows her father very well, and thought I would be interested. Tutoring once a week soon became two full days a week, and then an invitation to come back the following year. At one point, I was asked to set up a “math enhancement” program for the best math students in fourth grade. I did it and it was like a teacher’s dream come true working with the bright, inquisitive students. I enjoyed working with them and wished that there was some way I could thank them for enriching my life.

When Shell announced it was expanding their matching funds scholarship program to include high school seniors, it seemed to be a perfect way for me to say thank you. The “math enhancement”

program went away, but I continued to tutor until my hearing became so bad I had to give it up --- after a total of 21 years. The scholarship lives on as my thank you for the wonderful times I had with young Chehalis students.

Greg Close Entrepreneur's Scholarship



Greg Close, a W.F. West 1981 graduate, started Pacific Asset Advisors, Inc. in 1997. What started as a small Family Owned Business, Pacific Asset Advisors, Inc., has since blossomed into an industry-leading corporation rooted in honesty, integrity, and faith. As someone who never saw himself as an entrepreneur, Greg's success would not have been possible without trusted allies around him supporting him throughout his journey.

The Greg Close Entrepreneur's Scholarship was founded in 2023 with the desire to identify graduating W.F. West students who have shown an interest in entrepreneurship and encourage them to pursue their dream. The scholarship recipient is selected based on an essay required of each student.

Centralia College Scholarships

Centralia College awards scholarships to W. F. West graduates who will begin their postsecondary education at Centralia College. These scholarships have been established by the generosity of alumni, parents, and friends of the college. The Centralia College Foundation plays a major role in raising scholarship dollars.



Students may receive scholarship awards based on grade point average, community service, work experience, financial need, school activities, and leadership. Hundreds of Centralia College Scholarships are presented to students in the community annually. For information on how to donate to The Centralia College Foundation, please email scholarships@centralia.edu.

Richard "Dick" Sieler Scholarship



The Richard "Dick" Sieler Memorial Scholarship was created in loving memory of Dick Sieler. He began a long teaching career at W.F. West High School in 1962. He taught history, civics, economics, and current world problems, coached basketball and football, and retired in 1987. Dick was honored with the Teacher of the Year for the State of Washington in 1986. He had a tremendous love for education, sports, and students. W.F. West High School meant a great deal to him.

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must have been enrolled and graduated from the Chehalis School District, have a GPA of 3.2 or above and attend a public or private University in Washington. This scholarship is offered through donations from family members, friends, and co-workers.

Iron King Scholarship



Shawn King was involved in metal trades for 34 years. A 1983 W.F. West graduate, Shawn achieved an Associates in Technical Arts for welding in 1987 from Centralia College. He spent eight years as a foreman for Klein Bicycle Corporation. He later worked as a production manager for Kinesis USA Incorporated, shop manager for Richmond Systems Incorporated, and for 22 years, as a welder for Bonneville Power. Additionally, his local business, Iron King, has been highly regarded for its custom metal fabrication.

Shawn has been a mentor and an inspiration to others in the industry and community. His investment in people and commitment to quality work have made him respected and loved by many. The Iron King Scholarship recognizes students who are pursuing career pathways in

welding and metals technology. Students must receive a certificate of proficiency in the pathway they are pursuing in addition to maintaining good attendance, character, and active community service. This scholarship is awarded to students attending college training or trade programs, as well as apprenticeships.

Harry and Dorothy Gust Memorial Scholarship



Harry Gust is probably best remembered for his W. F. West wrestling programs that dominated high school wrestling for years, and his legacy of success continues today. His desire to improve the Chehalis wrestling program included starting the junior high school wrestling program. He mentored several coaches who followed in his winning tradition. He also read extensively about varying wrestling styles to give his wrestlers additional skills to succeed on the mat.

Despite receiving numerous awards for his program, his greatest reward was when his wrestlers succeeded as athletes, students and citizens. His tireless dedication to the Chehalis wrestling program was showcased by his teams' performances in league and district competitions.

As an educator, Harry always wanted the best for his students. Their success was a testament to his ability to inspire students so they could meet the requirements for high school graduation. He was able to reach students of all levels of ability.

While Harry was busy teaching and coaching, his wife, Dorothy, was always willing to help him prepare his lessons. She routinely typed tests and lesson handouts on mimeograph paper. Remember those days before electric typewriters and computers! She was able to accomplish all of this while maintaining a household for seven people. Their dedication to this high school continues through the success of their scholarship recipients.

Marjorie J. Scott Memorial Scholarship



Marjorie and Willard Scott moved to Chehalis in the summer of 1960 and started the Will Scott Insurance Agency representing Mutual of Enumclaw. They had recently married and combined their families for a total of 8 children. Four of those children were still at home and were enrolled in the Chehalis School District, and all graduated from W. F. West High School in the '60s. Will passed away in 2003. He and Marge were married for forty-two years.

Marge grew up during the Depression on the Keeley family farm in Enumclaw and was the second oldest of 8. Her family was like most others, no money and the kids either helped in the house or in the barn with the animals. Marge loved taking care of the animals. She learned how to make her own fun, which sometimes was running down the road with a stick and watching the dirt fly.

From an early age, Marge was all about family and hard work. She felt fortunate to have grown up as part of the “Greatest Generation”. The word “independent” described Marge all her life, whether it was her opinion or paying her own way. When she remarried to Will at the age of thirty-eight in 1960, she owned her own home, her car, and had money in the bank with no debt. Marjorie Scott passed away on February 4, 2018.

Connie Small Memorial Scholarship



Connie Jean Small was a woman well known for her various forays into volunteerism and helping the community. She was a woman of action. She sought improvement in her community through selfless hard work and persistence.

Connie was very active in the Chehalis community, helping with the fundraising and management of Penny Playground and the revival of Alexander-Lintott Park. Connie was president of the Adaline Coffman Guild and the NW Youth Orchestra. She served as a board member for the Chehalis Foundation and the Centralia College Fund. Connie also served as the Lewis County representative for Children's Hospital and the Lewis County Red Cross and participated in civic organizations. She was nominated for many

civic awards and received the Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship award and the Elks Volunteer of the Year. She was a giving, loving person who placed others' wants and needs above her own. Connie was an amazing wife, mother, grandmother and friend.

Giving back to W. F. West High School would make her smile, as she spent many hours watching her grandchildren and their friends at sporting and other events. The Connie Small Memorial Scholarship is given in memory of Connie's dedication to making a difference in her community, and her lasting legacy to inspire others to follow her footsteps.

T. Marion Barr Career and Technical Education Scholarship



For many years, Mr. Barr dreamed of giving to students at W.F. West who are committed to pursuing a career or technical certificate/degree in the trade and are involved in the Young Life Club.

Knowing a little encouragement could change the lives of those who would become welders, machinists, linemen, and more, by financially supporting their pursuit of these rewarding and challenging careers. As a result of his kind and giving nature, he set up the T. Marion Barr Scholarship Fund for Career and Technical Education. Mr. Barr gives back to our community with a loving servant's heart and countless hours dedicated to volunteering for the less fortunate. Mr. Barr strongly believes hearing someone being told, "You can do it! I believe in you," can make a big difference in someone's life.

The T. Marion Barr Scholarship Fund for Career and Technical Education Scholarships will be awarded to up to 8 students annually.. This scholarship can be used for education, tools, supplies, internships, and other expenses incurred during the student's pursuit of technical fields. To apply for this scholarship, a student must pursue a career in a technical field, have a 2.5 GPA or above, and be active in the Young Life Club or similar faith-based activity in Chehalis.

Dave Williams Memorial Scholarship



Dave Williams was a proud 1963 Everett Seagull graduate where he participated in drama, music, and Sea Scouts. He attended college and studied drafting, later working for Boeing designing tools until Boeing had a huge layoff in 1969. He then moved to Chehalis to be near his parents and worked as a cartographer for Lewis County for over forty years.

He became a proud Bearcat when he married W. F. West High School English teacher, Janelle Aust in 1970. From that point on, Dave could be found attending sporting, music, and drama events. He also helped with all the projects Janelle and the Forensics Team she coaches were involved in, including Youth Fair, graduation, concessions and the Winter Ball - for 25 years. For one theme of Paris in Winter, Dave

built a 35 foot tall Eiffel Tower for the corner of the Commons. The students' first impression of Dave was that he was very quiet, but they soon learned that, if they picked certain subjects (music, guitar, golf, Civil War) he was quite talkative.

He was known and appreciated by several generations of students. Having no children themselves, Dave and Janelle always planned to set up a scholarship fund, focusing on the hardworking students with little financial support. Education is important to Dave's family. His older sister taught kindergarten, a younger sister worked as an educational assistant, and three nieces are teachers. Both Dave and Janelle believe strongly in the Pay It Forward theory.

Drew North Scholarship



Drew "Boogie" Douglass was an amazing kid with a trademark smile. He was hard working, adventurous, kind-hearted, athletic and outgoing. He was caring to others and a friend to many. Despite always having a smile on his face, he, like many of his peers, silently struggled with anxiety and depression and ultimately took his own life. The Drew North Foundation was started in November of 2021 to raise awareness of suicide and depression. The goal is to give teens, staff, and volunteers resources and strategies to cope during adverse times.

The recipients were nominated by teachers & staff who knew Drew and these recipients share many of the same qualities: kind hearted, gentle nature, fun, and hard working.

Chehalis Education Association Scholarship

The goal of the Chehalis Education Association (CEA) Scholarship is to provide support to those students wanting to pursue a degree in the field of education. Family members of CEA members and/or W. F. West graduates are eligible for this scholarship. It is our hope that this small gift will help students fulfill their dream of becoming an education professional.



Harvey Breen Memorial Scholarship



Harvey was a lifelong resident of Chehalis. and both he and his wife, Judy, graduated from W. F. West High School in 1958. They were married in 1962 upon Harv's return from service in the Kentucky National Guard. Harv started in the logging road construction business, and in 1972, Harv and Judy bought extensive acreage on Kennicott Hill and developed the gated neighborhood, Alderwood Heights. His family feels that this is his legacy to the community, in honoring his great mind and vision. Nicola Court was named after Nikki, whom he loved and was so proud of.

Harv loved the farm where he and Judy lived for over fifty years.

He was in FFA in high school, President of the chapter his senior year, and was honored as "Farmer of the Year" at the State FFA Conference. He was an amazing husband, father, grandfather, son, brother and friend. Family always came first, then hunting with friends, working the land, his cows, and a love for making the community a better place. Four generations of his family have graduated from Chehalis and W. F. West High School. The Harvey Breen Memorial Scholarship is awarded to W.F. West graduates who reflect Harv's life work in the areas of agriculture, working with animals, forestry or engineering.

Ric Snelson Memorial Scholarship



This scholarship was founded by the family and friends of Richard D. Snelson, W. F. West Class of 1999, to honor his life and memory. After high school, Ric continued his studies at Centralia College and the University of Washington-Tacoma. Working part-time jobs to pay his way through college, he graduated in four years with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science. Ric immediately pursued a career in computer programming at Motorola, and later at Microsoft, developing multiple patented technologies. Ric was intelligent, humble, hard-working, and unbelievably hilarious. In remembrance and love, his family and friends wish to support the academic pursuits of one graduate each year who shares these traits and is pursuing a career in a STEM field. The scholarship is renewable over four years for students who continue to pursue an undergraduate STEM degree while maintaining a 3.0 or better GPA.

Jim and Suzi Vander Stoep Memorial Scholarship



Jim and Suzi Vander Stoep were raised in small towns in western Washington and attended Washington State University. Suzi studied history and education. Jim studied political science and law. After college graduation, Suzi taught middle school while Jim attended law school.

Suzi & Jim chose to settle and raise their family in Chehalis. They were drawn to western Washington and this small, friendly community with good schools. When it came time to vote for the school levy, they always voted "yes."

Jim and Suzi raised three Bearcats, each of whom went on to higher education, as did their six grandchildren. Jim and Suzi believed that children from any family or circumstance should be able to attain higher education. They believed that a good quality education could.

prepare a learner for making a solid contribution to her or his community

Jim died in 2014, and Suzi in 2022. Jim & Suzi requested memorial donations be made to the Chehalis Foundation. Each year since 2015, Jim and Suzi Vander Stoep Scholarships have been awarded to graduating seniors who are selected by the Chehalis Foundation scholarship committee. The chosen student scholars need financial support to pursue higher education and demonstrate hard work, attention to their studies, and potential for making a positive contribution to their communities.

Jim and Suzi Vander Stoep believed in giving back, in repaying the generosity they experienced while living in Chehalis. Their hope is that the students who are selected for the Jim and Suzi Vander Stoep Scholarship will, in time, give back to the communities that they will call home.

Herman and Virginia Adolphsen Memorial Scholarship



Herman and Virginia Adolphsen grew up in the area. They settled in Chehalis upon Herman's discharge from the Navy. Herman had many jobs in order to provide for his family, including a position with the Washington State Patrol as a driver's license examiner. In 1967, he started a career in real estate and continued this work until retirement in 1988.

Herman and Virginia both believed in community and were actively involved in Chehalis. Both were active with their church and its ministries. Herman spearheaded a fundraising campaign for the first K-9 unit for the Chehalis Police Department. They also became involved in support of Centralia College and its programs that serve many W. F. West graduates.

As parents, the Adolphsens wanted their daughters to have an education beyond high school. It was important to them that their girls could always be independent. The daughters grew up understanding that education was stressed, and valued for them, as well as for students in the community. With that legacy in mind, and in honor of their parents, the daughters of Herman and Virginia are awarding scholarships to W. F. West seniors planning to attend Centralia College. It is the hope of the family that these scholarships will be used as stepping stones for each recipient's further education.

Pauline Parkinson Memorial Scholarship



Pauline Parkinson was a very special wife, mother, and friend of this high school. Pauline worked here for three W. F. West principals -- George Murdock, Rainer Houser, and Dr. Linda Smith. However, she really worked for the students. She had her priorities right! She loved working with the staff and students of this high school.

Her special delight was taking care of a student who was in danger of not graduating. She was able to understand the problems, find help, and get them back on track. It was not unusual for her family to find they had a young lodger for a month or two if a student needed help through tough times. She made sure they had a bed, ate meals with the family, and most important, were at school every day. After all, she was the attendance secretary!

Without a doubt, Pauline's most loved extracurricular activity was working with Mr. Judd in the Band program. Was it because her son Darryl was an excellent trumpet player and was involved in music throughout high school? That was not the only reason. Pauline loved music and wanted to contribute to the program. Everyone noticed that Mr. Judd relied on Pauline to help keep him organized. She was who he turned to for help in making music programs, designing awards, helping organize band trips, and supporting him in crunch times. She loved it, and the staff and students loved her.

Pauline's family and friends began this scholarship in the spring of 2015 following her death. The scholarship is given to celebrate Pauline's life, and to honor her unwavering love for the students of W. F. West High School and her belief in the importance of a college education.

Gene Verley Scholarship



This scholarship was established to honor Gene for all the years he taught at W.F. West high school, but more importantly to show our sincere appreciation to my dad for the positive impact he had on my life personally, and now through his influence on our children's lives. This impact is priceless.

Gene and Shirlie Verley both started their teaching careers in the Bay Area of California. Gene worked to earn his Master's degree in Business Education in 1964. That spring, they applied for teaching jobs all over Washington, but Chehalis offered the best situation for their careers and family. Gene taught business courses at W. F. West from 1964 to 1988, and was the department chair for most of that time. He coached Bearcat baseball for 5 years and served as ASB Advisor, helping out at Bearcat sports events. Shirlie also spent most of her career at W.F. West (1967-1989) as head of the English department, and all three of their children are W.F. West graduates.

We want candidates to apply for this scholarship who aspire to obtain a college business degree, specifically those who may not qualify for other scholarships, but have a solid work ethic and a desire to make something of themselves. Gene says, "Thank you, Chehalis."

Pacific Mobile Scholarship

Pacific Mobile Structures is proud to support local students pursuing their academic and professional goals. The W. F. West Scholarship program was established in 2011 with the goal of recognizing students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, athletic excellence, and community support.



Academic scholarships are being offered to graduating high school seniors who attend W.F. West High School in Chehalis, WA.

Simpson, Larsen, Judd Band Scholarship

The Simpson, Larsen, Judd Band Scholarship was created to recognize individuals who demonstrate not only the utmost musical talent, but also attributes such as community service, dedicated work outside the classroom and career skills that will serve them in whatever profession they choose to pursue. The name of this scholarship was chosen to honor three educators who created a music environment at W.F. West that has influenced thousands of students, not only through music education, but more importantly, through life skills that aren't necessarily learned through other academic environments. Ron Simpson began his teaching at W.F. West in 1956 until his death in 1982. Dan Judd took over for the next 24 years until 2006. During most of this period, Tom Larsen taught beginning students and assisted at the high school level. The time and energy these three men gave outside normal school hours is a tribute to the success of the music program in Chehalis schools.



Ron Simpson attended Western Washington College of Education on the GI Bill and graduated in 1956 with a degree in music education. In the spring of that year, Ron was hired by the Chehalis School District to finish out that year as temporary head of their Music Department. Ron and his family moved to Chehalis, he made the administration happy, and signed a contract. Ron never left Chehalis. He not only taught well but he had the ability to listen to and counsel his students when they brought him their problems. Ron was also an arranger and composer for Concert Band and Small Ensembles.

Ron Simpson died July 2, 1982, just after retiring, while traveling with his wife. His death stunned family, friends, and the community. Many colleagues and former students performed at his memorial service as a final tribute to this man who gave so much to his family, friends, students and community.



Tom Larsen taught his whole 30-year career in the Chehalis School District. He worked primarily with middle school bands, but also with high school and elementary bands and general music. He served as district music coordinator for 18 years. During this time, Tom taught close to 9,000 students and, as a leader, made a big impact music offerings for every fifth grade student in the district. Tom was the organizing chair for the 1986 All-State Band in Wenatchee, was one of the first recipients of the *Christa McAuliffe Washington State "Teacher of the Year"* award, and in 2008, was inducted into the Washington Music Education Association "Hall of Fame". He co-founded the Northwest Symphony, which he performed with for 20 years. Following his retirement in 1997, Tom began a musical instrument repair business, which became "Larsen Music", serving all Lewis County, and remains involved in music in the community.



Dan Judd served as Director of Bands at W.F. West High School from 1982-2006. Under his leadership, the W.F. West. bands earned many honors in Concert, Jazz and Marching performances. Twice, the W.F. West Wind Ensemble was selected as featured performance ensemble at the WA All-State Music Education convention. The Bearcat Jazz Band earned 1st place honors at the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival in Moscow, ID. Mr. Judd provided hundreds of W. F. West musicians the opportunity to tour and perform in some of the most exciting venues possible with six "Washington-To-Washington" music tours to the east coast. In 2008, he was inducted into Washington Music Education Association "Hall of Fame". Upon his retirement, Mr. Judd moved to Bend, OR. His Summit High School band earned the Oregon State 5A Band Championship seven times in his final eight years. Mr. Judd went on to serve as band contest adjudicator and clinician throughout Washington and Oregon..

Dr. Carl Birchard Memorial Scholarship



Dr. Carl Birchard, a surgeon from Chehalis, was born June 10, 1940 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Russell W. and Margaret A. Birchard. He received his early education in a one-room mission school, and the first two years of his high school by correspondence. At 15, he left Guatemala to complete high school, graduating from Columbus High School in Wisconsin in 1958. He graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in chemistry, and minors in theology and biology from Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois. Carl attended the University of Illinois College of Medicine on the Chicago campus, where he earned his medical degree.

Carl was active in the Centralia Nazarene Church as a leader, Sunday school teacher, and participant in work and witness missions to Africa, Papua New Guinea, India, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Mexico. For 7½ years, he served as scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 373 in Chehalis, growing it from three boys to more than fifty. During his tenure, many of the boys, including his two sons, achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Carl Birchard Memorial Scholarship is a one-year scholarship, given to a graduating senior. Preference is given to students with an interest in the medical profession and experience as a Boy or Girl Scout.

Debra Sprague Frazier Memorial Scholarship



The Debra Sprague Frazier Memorial Scholarship was created in loving memory of a 1990 Adna High School graduate, Centralia College graduate, caring paraprofessional at Chehalis School District, beloved daughter, sister, wife and community member. Debra passionately loved her career at Chehalis School District, and that was reflected by the countless stories she told her family about her students. She was also a devoted fastpitch fan, and her spirit and love for watching her daughter play was evident at every game.

Debra's personality and smile were infectious; but her largest impact was the number of students' lives she affected.

Debra captured countless local family's special moments throughout her years at Sears Photography and as owner of Picture This Photography. She and her family were long-time members of the Centralia Community Church of God. Debra passed in December of 2020, but her legacy lives on through blessing the lives of students through her scholarship fund.

Debra's scholarship will be awarded based on a student's written essay about their love of fastpitch as well as their level of participation in Bearcat athletics, community service, extracurricular activities and the intention of pursuing a career in education. A GPA of 3.0 or better is required to apply as well. The scholarship is offered through donations from family members, friends and co-workers.

Dr. Greg Kirsch Memorial Scholarship



The Dr. Greg Kirsch Memorial Scholarship was created in loving memory of the former Chehalis School District Superintendent, beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother. Dr. Kirsch was a lifelong advocate of education, serving as a teacher, director of special education, assistant superintendent and superintendent in a public education career that spanned nearly 40 years. From 1995 through 2010, Dr. Kirsch served the Chehalis community as Superintendent of the Chehalis School District. His 15 years of service are second-most of any Chehalis Schools superintendent. During his time as superintendent in Chehalis, Dr. Kirsch established the Chehalis Community Cares Program, a fund to assist students in need.

In order to qualify for the scholarship, applicants must have been enrolled in Chehalis School District for at least five (5) years, have a high school GPA of 3.8 or better and must be attending a public college or university in the state of Washington. The scholarship is offered through donations from family members, friends and co-workers.

Barb Grega Outstanding Citizen Scholarship

Barbara Grega is an outstanding member of the Chehalis community. She has given countless hours of her time to children and the organizations that support their education, growth and well being. Barbara worked for the Chehalis School District for 25 years. During this time she was an amazing advocate for children in her school and 4-H. Barbara worked for the best interests of children and community through engagement with Master Gardeners, many service clubs and associations, and local sports and music communities. Many generous people and the combined Chehalis PTA, are thrilled to honor Barb by awarding this scholarship in her name. The scholarship is given to a student who exemplifies the spirit of volunteer service, leadership and community involvement.



Wichert Electric Scholarship



Wichert Electric Inc is pleased to offer a scholarship to a graduate of W. F. West High School. The family of Scott, Kelly, Blake, and Lucas, all graduated from W.F. West and pursued higher level education. We believe it is important to give back to the community in which we came from. With the cost of education rising, we hope this scholarship will assist a student relieve some of the financial burden.

Congratulations to all the graduates. As you begin this new journey, may you pursue what you love and follow your dreams. The journey will be full of challenges, obstacles, and adversities. May you embrace the difficulties with persistence and learn from them without regret. Remember where you came from and the importance of giving back to the community that once gave to you.

Rod Rinta, Class of '85 Memorial Scholarship



Rod Rinta spent all of his school years in the Chehalis School District. Rod graduated from W. F. West High School in 1985. Rod competed in football, basketball and baseball. He was an accomplished drummer, and was a true Bearcat.

At the age of 43, Rod was killed in a plane crash along with two co-workers. Rod never met a stranger. He loved to tell a joke or play a practical joke on his friends and co-workers. Rod always strived to be a genuinely kind person.

The Rod Rinta, Class of '85 Memorial Scholarship is given to a student who is a hard worker at what he or she does, which is reflected by more than GPA. The scholarship recipient is involved in the Bearcat athletic program, W.F. West High School music, and is a good citizen both at school and in the community. This memorial scholarship honors Rod's love for life, athletics and people.

FFA Scholarship

The Chehalis Chapter of the National FFA Organization strives to assist students as they progress on the path towards accomplishing their goals. This includes providing opportunities for personal growth in the areas of leadership, knowledge and employment skills...all necessary for success in a career of their choice. To further assist students in this endeavor, the Chehalis FFA Chapter awards a scholarship to a dedicated member of the chapter each year. This scholarship began with the graduating class of 1987.



I-5 Toyota Scholarship



The I-5 Toyota Scholarship was started in 2008 by Heidi Pehl, owner of I-5 Toyota in Chehalis. The scholarship is tied to, and partially funded by the annual I-5 Toyota Back-to-School Dash, a 5K run/walk held annually the week before Labor Day at the dealership.

As a student who grew up in Chehalis and graduated from W. F. West High

School with a scholarship for college, Pehl always knew that creating a scholarship fund would be something she wanted to be able to do as a business owner. The I-5 Toyota Scholarship is awarded to a high school senior graduating from a Lewis County High School. The original focus was to create a scholarship available to "the average Joe", to support students with a desire to continue their education in a community college, vocational school, or a 4-year university. Recipients of the scholarship are selected on the basis of an essay required of each applicant.

Doris Hamilton White Memorial Scholarship



Doris Wiley Hamilton White, a longtime resident of Chehalis, passed away September 26, 2019. She was born November 24, 1920 in Seattle and moved as a child to Chehalis from Friday Harbor. Doris attended Chehalis schools, graduating from Chehalis High School in 1938. In 1941, she married Norman Hamilton and they had 45 years to enjoy their small farm and their second home on Mayfield Lake. Norman passed away in 1986.

In 1954, Doris began working at First Federal Savings and Loan of Chehalis (later known as Evergreen Savings) in the bookkeeping department then advanced to vice president and executive secretary, retiring in 1984. In 1988, she married Keith White. They enjoyed many years together traveling and spending time with their family and friends until Keith passed away in 2002.

Doris was very organized and independent, she even took care of her final arrangements including her picture and writing her own obituary. She also quietly supported her community in so many ways, including her church, nonprofit foundations and other organizations. Doris set the example in her banking career practicing confidentiality for the customer and the bank. She was a mentor to her fellow colleagues, her customers, and her family and friends. Doris always focused on what was right and just, and she led by example.

Doris wanted to support and help graduates of W. F. West High School to further their education after high school, so she directed that part of her estate go to the Chehalis Foundation Scholarships in her name.

Carmelita and Marion Barr Scholarship



The children of Carmelita and Marion Barr created this scholarship to honor the legacy of their parents who believed in the importance of an education and helping those who help themselves. Carmelita and Marion also believed in investing in the youth, as they are the fabric of the community's future growth and success. They grew up during the depression era and worked hard to achieve their goals. Marion put himself through college and graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering. The couple returned to the Pacific Northwest and settled in Chehalis after retirement. This scholarship is intended for students pursuing a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Math.

Chehalis Foundation West/Coffman Scholarship

The Chehalis Foundation is Trustee for the West and Coffman scholarship fund. In 2018, a loyal Bearcat from the Class of '67 wanted to give back to support and help grow the generosity begun by the West and Coffman families. The Foundation used this initial donation to start the Chehalis Foundation West/Coffman Scholarship Fund.



For the community. For the future.

Donations to this fund are used to grow the number of West/Coffman scholarship recipients. The earnings from this endowment are directed by the West/Coffman scholarship committee. The Chehalis Foundation West/Coffman Scholarship Fund is the vehicle for any Bearcat, former student, parent or grandparent whose family has benefitted from receiving a West or Coffman scholarship in the past to pay it forward to help more young Bearcats receive these scholarships in the future.

John and Lois Leonard Career & Technical Education Scholarship



In 2020, the Chehalis Foundation created the Leonard Trust after receiving just under one million dollars from the Estate of Lois (and John) Leonard. This gift is to be used to support vocational education, including scholarships to trade schools for vocational training. The Trustee is Duane Johnson (W. F. West Class of 1968). The Leonard trust aligns with the Chehalis School District's Student Achievement Initiative goals, especially those of career and college readiness. John Leonard died in 2003 and his wife, Lois, passed away in 2018.

Lois Leonard graduated from Illinois State College in 1937 and taught elementary school until 1951, when she and John Leonard moved to Chehalis. John graduated from Coyne Electrical School in Illinois and developed his skills during his two-years in the US Navy.

Although Lois did not teach after moving to Chehalis, she and John were involved with students by actively supporting their church's Sunday School program and the youth of their community. They encouraged students to move on to college or the trades. They quietly supported several lower income students, while in college or seminary with financial gifts and always with their encouragement. While the Leonard's did not have children of their own, they realized the importance of having outstanding vocational programs within the school district.

W. F. West Migrant Student Scholar Scholarship

The W. F. West Migrant Student Scholar Scholarship was started in 2016 by an anonymous W.F. West alumni who wanted to relieve some of the financial burden for students who, like him, elect to pursue their bachelor's degree outside of the Pacific Northwest region. This scholarship will be given to a student studying business and/or finance and related fields.



Robert W. Close and Ruth M. Close Scholarships



Bob worked as an educator for the Chehalis School District for 37 years, with six years as a high school history teacher, six years as a middle school principal, and 25 years as an assistant superintendent. During his time there, Bob was twice recognized for outstanding service by the Washington Association of School Administrators. He also collaborated with community members to establish student scholarships, managed the construction of two schools, and mentored staff and administrators. Additionally, Bob was a member of Chehalis Rotary and received multiple awards from the organization.

Ruthie was an active volunteer in her children's schools, participating in PTA member, Band Booster member, Athletic Booster Club member and working on school levies. She was also a Blue Bird and Campfire leader and participated in church activities. In her professional life, Ruthie was a leader in the banking community and mentored new staff.

Bob and Ruthie Close were residents of Chehalis for 37 years. They both valued education as a means of personal growth and breaking free from limitations. They met in high school and married in 1958. Their children and families continue to practice their Christian faith and pursue learning. We are humbled by the honor of having these scholarships funded by our family, and pray they will be one of the sparks that ignite the torch of learning in each of the recipients. Two scholarships are awarded each year in honor of Bob and Ruthie Close.

Laurie Merta Memorial Scholarship



Laurie Merta attended W. F. West High School from 1971 - 1974. She was Junior Class President and was involved in many other activities. She later attended the University of Puget Sound, majoring in Psychology, and graduating in 1978.

Following graduation from college, Laurie worked as a Probation and Parole Officer in Pierce County for several years, before becoming the Director of Field Services for the American Federation of State Employees, a post she held for over 20 years.

Laurie passed away far too soon in June, 2012. Her dynamic presence and determination were honored in 2013, when Washington State renamed the Shop Steward Award the 'Laurie Merta Shop Steward of the Year Award' in memory of Laurie's dedication and commitment to her many co-workers whom she so generously served over the years. The Merta family is much honored to have created 'The Laurie Merta Memorial Scholarship' to present to graduates of W. F. West High School in her memory.

W. F. West and Coffman Trust Scholarships

W. F. West Scholarships



William F. West was a longtime civic leader and business owner in Chehalis. In 1947 he and his wife Blanch E. West gave eighteen acres on 16th street for the location of what is now W. F. West High School. In 1956, the Wests revised their will so that their estate would be used to create a 2.2 million dollar trust to provide scholarships to Bearcats needing help in paying for postsecondary education.

The first W.F. West Scholarships were awarded in 1968 and have been given every year since. Thousands of graduates have benefitted from the West Scholarships. The Wests hoped that not a single Chehalis graduate who was capable of being successful in college would be denied the opportunity of higher education because of finances.

John Freeman Coffman Scholarships



John B. Coffman was a local business owner. In 1972 Coffman and his wife Zylpha Coffman had their wills rewritten to create the John Freeman Coffman scholarship trust named for their son John, who died in an auto accident shortly after graduating from W. F. West. The Coffman trust states, “often for lack of funds, boys and girls of superior ability upon graduation from high school are unable to proceed further with their education.”

The West and Coffman Trust was established to support students with financial need in their post-secondary endeavors.



2023 Bearcat Scholarship Stats

Number of Graduates

186

One Year Total Awarded

\$1,000,716

Total Number of Scholarships

380

Grand Total Awarded

\$3,230,424

Percentage of Graduates
Receiving Scholarships

52%



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Anderson DeMoise, Ellen - Scholarship	9
ASB President Scholarship	15
Barr, Carmelita and Marion Scholarship	31
Barr, T. Marion - Career and Technical Education Scholarship	22
Birchard, Carl - Memorial Scholarship	28
Blaser, Doug - Scholarship	3
Boistfort Lions Scholarship	10
Boomer, Laura Janelle - Scholarship	18
Breen, Harvey - Memorial Scholarship	23
Cascade Community Healthcare Scholarship	17
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FFA Scholarship	30
Fuller, Shelley - Memorial Scholarship	6
Giske, Rodney - Memorial Scholarship	13
Gray, Major - Scholarship	6
Grega, Barb - Outstanding Citizen Scholarship	29
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Scholarship Glossary

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Pacific Mobile Scholarship	26
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