

# W.F. WEST SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY

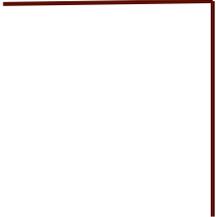
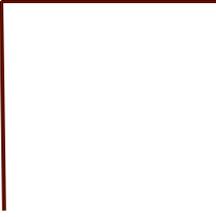
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*Honoring Graduates of 2022*



*W.F. West High School  
Chehalis, WA  
June 9, 2022*

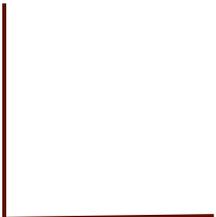




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# W. F. West High School Scholarship Program

- 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 2022 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.

A special thank you to Dr. Linda Smith for all her years of support with the *Smitty and Bobbie Smith Memorial Scholarship*, which reached the end of its funding in the 2020-2021 school year. We appreciate all the years of financial support this scholarship has given our graduates in their post-high school endeavors.

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

*T. Marion Barr Career and Technical Education Scholarship*

*Wichert Electric Scholarship*

*Dr. Greg Kirsch Memorial Scholarship*

*Drew North Scholarship*

*Bekah Angus Memorial Scholarship*



20

Class of

22



## **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.

### **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 female student who, in the judgment of the selection committee, best fulfills the Selection Criteria.

### **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.



## **Chehalis Activators' Scholarship**

Activators is a long-standing, non-profit, fundraising organization for Chehalis Middle School Athletics. The club is made up of 30 members that meet twice a month to examine the needs of the middle school, plan fundraising activities, and socialize. Activators play a large part in purchasing equipment and uniforms for the middle school athletic programs. They have installed new lighting in the middle school gym, provided new bleachers on the football field, and outfitted the wrestling room with new mats, just to name a few of the larger expenditures. 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 tournament 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, citizenship, and timely completion of the application.

## **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.

## **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**



## **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 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. The scholarships in this section are managed by the W. F. West High School counseling center and scholarship committee.

### **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 and he was already in the 2nd grade. 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. I volunteered but I was told I was not what they had in mind.

However, after a couple of months, I was told that a fourth grade teacher wanted help so bad she would give me a try. She found me acceptable and I enjoyed the work. Once a week soon became two full days a week, and then an invitation to come back the following year.

Fourth grade moved to Olympic Elementary School that year with a new, more progressive principal, Mr. Rash. A new method of teaching math was being tried at fourth grade that year and it wasn't working. The idea was good, but the school didn't have the right people to make it work. Many parents complained to Mr. Rash that their children were bored. Two weeks after I too had complained to Mr. Rash, he called me in and asked me 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.

Then 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 died after Mr. Rash retired, 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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Palmer Lumber Scholarship**

The Palmer Lumber Trust Fund was established in the mid-twentieth century. Palmer Lumber was established in 1906 and represents an important connection between our local business economy and its heritage in natural resources. The trust was established with the purpose of providing a scholarship to a W. F. West graduate pursuing a career in vocational-technical education. Students receiving the Palmer Lumber Scholarship may pursue their career and technical education at a vocational institute or college of their choice.



## 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.

## 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](mailto:scholarships@centralia.edu).

## 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.

## **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.

## **McDonald's Scholarship**

Your local McDonald's has been happily providing a scholarship every year to a hard working, dedicated student for over twenty years. This scholarship is renewable for up to 4 years. Community is very important to us and helping our local youth in such a way strengthens the future for everyone. The Chehalis McDonald's is locally owned and operated by Shari Nixon.



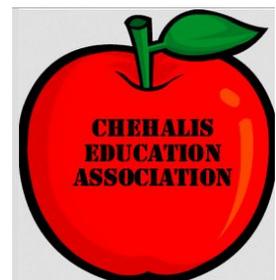
## **Ellen Anderson deMoise Scholarship**



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.

## **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.



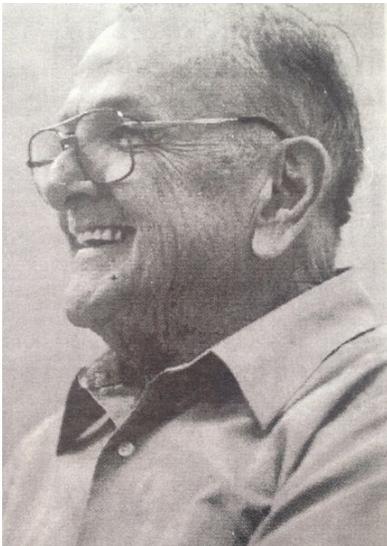
## **ABATE of Washington, Lewis County Chapter Scholarship**

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.



## **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.

## **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 local 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**

## 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 providing “Healthcare that offers hope and recovery through counseling, guidance and education” It is with pleasure that Cascade donates these funds to encourage a future social services employee.

## 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.



## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.



Building Trust. Delivering Results.

## Charles Wayne and Emma M. Hensel Memorial Scholarship



Charles Wayne Hensel was born January 1, 1896 in Cherokee County, Kansas and was a former partner of the old Willrich Lumber Co. in Chehalis. He was a member of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union No. 2519, Seattle. He married Emma

on June 28, 1916 when he was 20 and she was 24. Emma was born in Nebraska and was a homemaker. Charles passed away at the age of 75 in 1971. Emma passed away in October 11, 1992 at the age of 100. When Emma passed away, her will stipulated that 50% of her estate was to go into a scholarship fund for W. F. West High School students.

## 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.



## 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.



## 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.



## Chehalis School District Scholarship

When a friend or relative passes, the Chehalis School District may receive donations in memory of the loved one for our scholarship program. These funds are used to provide a W. F. West graduate or graduates a scholarship to support postsecondary educational pursuits.





 *The Bearcat Way...*



# **W. F. West and Coffman Trust Scholarships**

## **Establishing a Tradition of Community Giving**

The W. F. West and Coffman Scholarships were established as family trusts to support graduates from this community in college and career endeavors. Both the Wests and Coffmans believed strongly in the benefit of education and a college degree. They believed that students from Chehalis who worked hard could succeed in college. They chose to use their estates to give a helping hand to these students. Their legacy has benefitted generations of families and students in this community.

Since the 1970s, thousands of graduates of W. F. West High School have received West or Coffman Scholarships, the majority of those for multiple years. The West and Coffman Scholarships have been an incredible blessing to our students, our school and our community. The contributions made by West and Coffman scholars after gaining a higher education can't be fully calculated. West and Coffman Scholarship recipients have gone on to be leaders in business, government, education, healthcare and the sciences.

The West and Coffman Scholarships laid the foundation for giving that is exceptional in a small community. Tonight's scholarship award night is a tribute to the legacy and tradition these families started, and to the generous gifts of individuals, families, friends, businesses, organizations and foundations in Chehalis to support all students in career and college pursuits. Tonight, this community tradition of giving will provide financial support to W. F. West graduates to support them in their college and career pursuits.

These permanent trusts, which are worth more than \$2 million have provided scholarships to W. F. West graduates of "superior ability" and in need of financial assistance to attend college. We are grateful to the West and Coffman families for establishing a community tradition of giving.

## 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](http://bit.ly/cfscholarship)*

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

*Congratulations*



*Class of 2022*

## **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 15 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.

## **Classes of the '50s**

The Classes of the Fifties is pleased to give \$2,000 scholarship awards to each of 5 graduates, 5 vocational students, and 6 alumni students, for a total of \$32,000.

Since 2010, when the class of 1955 initiated it's scholarship program, a total of \$193,000.00 has been awarded to 140 W.F. West students.

In 2015, the Chet Rhodes Family Chehalis Area Fund, established at the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound in Olympia, offered to match scholarship funds raised by the Classes of the Fifties, which was led by the Class of '55. This enabled the group to average over \$22,563.00 a year in scholarship awards since 2015. We think Mr. Rhodes, who served as Chehalis School Superintendent from 1949 to 1971, would be very honored and pleased.

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**

See "Chehalis Foundation Scholarships" on previous page.

## 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.

## 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.



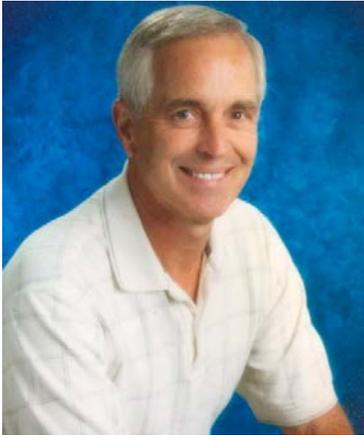
## Wichert Electric Scholarship



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.

## **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 for 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 while giving much credit to his coaching years with Coach Gust. In addition to continuing the values instilled by Harry, Denny was known for promoting the program and 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 as they progressed through high school and beyond. Together, Coach Gust and Coach Daniels 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.

## **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.

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, and sometimes it was running up and down the dirt road with a stick and watching the dirt fly.

Marge married right out of high school, graduating in 1940, later to divorce and become a single parent and sole support of her children. Marge remarried only to become a widow less than 3 years later. During the '50s, she worked for Mutual of Enumclaw supervising the printing department and then moved to Boeing to supervise the steno pool. Will passed away in 2003; he and Marge were married for forty-two years.

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 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.

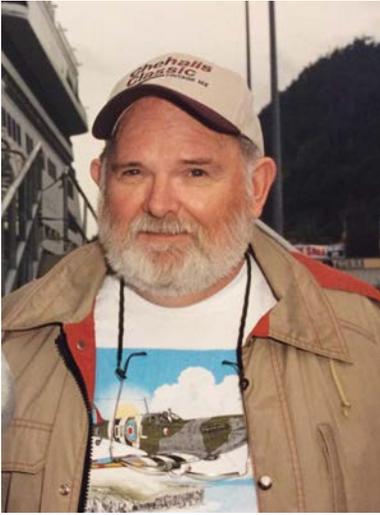
## **Dr. Greg Kirsch Memorial Scholarship**



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.

## Steve Rasmusson Memorial Scholarship



Diane Rasmusson and her friends and family started this scholarship fund immediately after Steve's death in May 2008. 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.

These varied interests led Steve to opening two businesses during his lifetime. In the early 1970's, he started riding motorcycles and soon he had a showroom full. That was the start of Steve's Suzuki (now Powersports Northwest). In 1989, Steve decided to learn to carve and that led him to a mail order business, Cascade Carvers Supply. He retired in 2002 and sold the business which is now located in the Tri Cities.

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.

## 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.

## **T. Marion Barr Career and Technical Education Scholarship**



For many years Mr. Barr had a dream of giving back to students at W.F. West that are committed to pursuing a career or technical certificate/degree in the trades and are involved in Young Life Club.

He knew that he could change the lives of those who would become welders, machinists, linemen and more, by financially supporting their pursuit of these rewarding 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 servant's heart and dedicates countless volunteer hours to the homeless and less fortunate.

The T. Marion Barr Scholarship Fund for Career and Technical Education Scholarships will be awarded every year to up to 5 students at \$2000 each. This scholarship can be used for education, tools, supplies, internships, and towards other expenses incurred during the student's pursuit of technical fields. To apply for this scholarship a student must be pursuing 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.

## **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 and is a good citizen both at school and in the community. This memorial scholarship is a way of honoring Rod's love for life, athletics and people.

## 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. Harv started in the logging road construction business, working for his father throughout high school. He then started to build his own business with his first dump truck in 1960. Harv served nine months active duty in Kentucky in the National Guard and then two years of inactive duty. Harv and Judy were married in September of 1962 upon his return from the service.

Harvey then increased his construction business by building logging roads, primarily for Weyerhaeuser. He continued to work for thirty-nine years. Harv built over ninety percent of the logging roads on the Cinebar Hills. He and Judy worked together in all their business endeavors. Harv ran the equipment and crews, and Judy kept track of the paperwork. The business then expanded to a rock crushing operation on Curtis Hill.

In 1972, Harv and Judy bought extensive acreage on Kennicott Hill that was part of the Kennicott Homestead. Harv's great imagination came up with a beautiful plan, and he developed the gated neighborhood, Alderwood Heights. Judy and their daughter Nikki feel that this is Harv's legacy to the community, in honoring his great mind and vision. Nicola Court was named after his daughter, who he so loved and was so proud of.

From his childhood, Harv was a farmer as were his ancestors. He loved the farm where he and Judy lived for over fifty years, especially his Hereford cows. He was in FFA in high school, President of the chapter his senior year, and he was honored as "Farmer of the Year" at the State FFA Conference. Harvey was an amazing husband, father, grandfather, son, brother and friend. Family time was always special. Family came first, then hunting with his friends, working the land and seeing it come to life, his cows, and a love for making the community a better place.

Four generations have graduated from Chehalis and W. F. West High School. Beginning with Harv's mom, Virginia Bond Breen in 1935, Harv and Judy Breen in 1958, Nikki Breen Ely in 1990, and Alyssa Ely in 2018. Each year, Judy and family award the Harvey Breen Memorial Scholarship to W.F. West graduates who reflect Harv's life work in the areas of agriculture, working with animals, forestry or engineering.

## 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 choosing to study business and/or finance and related fields.



## **Bekah Angus Memorial Scholarship**



This scholarship is to honor the memory of Bekah who was a friend, mentor and teacher to so many. Bekah's motto was "I teach, therefore I am" She passionately taught 10th grade English, creative writing, theater, yearbook, drawing and painting, pottery and stagecraft. Candidate must be pursuing a degree in Education (teacher, counselor, and/or art teacher) and for whom this scholarship would truly make a difference in their ability to attend college.

## **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.

## Rodney Giske Memorial Scholarship



In 1952, Rod and Mary Beth Giske and their young family were proud to join the Bearcat community. Rod was hired as head football coach and teacher of world history. The couple met at WSU, married in Olympia, and raised four children in Chehalis, each a graduate of W. F. West. Many experienced the Giske hospitality and friendship, and many men and women 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 WSC (Washington State College), Rod Giske was captain of his team in 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. Giske was a three year letterman at guard and tackle. In high school, he made All-Cross State league guard in 1940 while attending Stadium High School in Tacoma, where he played three years of football and was also team captain and inspirational award winner in his senior year.

The following words from a coach, player and teacher describe the esteem and love many held for Rod.

*“Football is the last frontier of rugged, physical team competition for our high school youth. Men like Giske have kept it on a clean and ethical plane.”* Al Eklund, Coach, Weatherwax High School, Aberdeen, Washington.

*“The First thing he really cared about was what was happening on the field. He was a very smart coach. Not just good at devising plays, but he also knew a player’s ability and how to get the most out of him without asking more than he was capable of doing. It may not sound like a gift, but it is. He knew you as a player and helped you maximize your abilities. Then there was his ability to motivate. He was an inspiration to play for.”* Bud Wedin, W. F. West graduate.

*“What better inspiration for young teachers than to see a well-respected classroom veteran continuing to learn and grow---stretching himself so he could in turn stretch his students to be better-informed citizens. Rod Giske made us better teachers, his positive influence extending farther than he knew.”* Tim Gillespie, teacher, Portland, Oregon.

In closing, Coach Rod Giske’s own words to the parents of his football players say so much about his character: *“I fully realize that I am charged with the care of the most priceless possession you have for a portion of many days each fall and I do not accept this lightly. To deny the power of prayer would be contrary to my firm beliefs. I have never prayed for victory, but often for the well being of each boy.”* From a letter saved by W. F. West graduate and teacher, J. C. Hewett, dated August 18, 1964.

## 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.

## **Simpson, Larsen, Judd Band Scholarship**

The Simpson, Larsen, Judd Scholarship was created to recognize certain 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 which 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 untimely death in 1982. Dan Judd took over the reign for the next 24 years until 2006. Throughout a majority of this period, Tom Larsen taught the beginning students but also assisted at the high school level. The time and energy these three men gave outside of normal school hours is a tribute to the success of the music program in the Chehalis schools.



**Ron Simpson** attended Western Washington College of Education on the GI Bill. He 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 head of their Music Department. It was to be a temporary job, based on his performance. Ron and his family moved to Chehalis, he made the administration happy, and he 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 in New England 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.



## Simpson, Larsen, Judd Band Scholarship (continued)



**Tom Larsen** received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Central Washington University. Tom taught his whole 30-year career in the Chehalis School District, where his primary responsibility was middle school bands. He also did considerable work with high school and elementary bands and general music. Tom, also served as music coordinator for the district for 18 years. During his 30 years, Tom taught approximately 9,000 students. As a leader, Tom created a way to offer a performing musical group (band, strings or choir) to every fifth-grade student in the district, and made music mandatory for all fifth-grade students.

Tom was the band organizing chair for the 1986 All-State Band in Wenatchee. He was one of the first recipients of the *Christa McAuliffe Washington State "Teacher of the Year"* award. In 2008, Tom, along with his co-worker Dan Judd, were inducted into the Washington Music Education Association "Hall of Fame". Tom co-founded the Northwest Symphony, which he performed with for 20 years.

Following his retirement in 1997, Tom began a musical instrument repair business out of his home. It eventually evolved into "Larsen Music" which grew to a full-service music store, serving all of Lewis County. In February 2008, Tom closed the store to retire again and travel extensively. He has stayed involved in music in the community.



**Dan Judd** served as Director of Bands at W. F. West High School from 1982-2006. He received his professional training and certification from Whitman College (BA-Music Education) and Central Washington University (MM-Music Ed/Conducting). Under Mr. Judd's leadership, the W. F. West bands earned many honors and awards in Concert, Jazz and Marching performances. The W. F. West Wind Ensemble was selected as featured performance ensemble at the Washington All-State Music Education convention twice. The Bearcat Jazz Band earned 1st Place honors at the famous Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival in Moscow, Idaho.

Mr. Judd created and led six "Washington-To-Washington" music tours to the east coast, providing hundreds of W. F. West musicians the opportunity to tour and perform in some of the most exciting concert and parade venues possible. In 2008, the Washington Music Education Association inducted Mr. Judd into the WMEA "Hall of Fame".

Upon his retirement in Washington, Mr. Judd moved to Bend, Oregon. His Summit High School band earned the Oregon State 5A Band Championship seven times in his final eight years.

In retirement, Mr. Judd serves as band contest adjudicator and clinician throughout Washington and Oregon.

## Connie Small Memorial Scholarship



Connie Jean Small was a woman well known for her various forays into volunteerism and helping the community. Connie Small 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. She helped spearhead the fundraising for Penny Playground as the project manager, and remained as the President of the Penny Playground Board. Connie also assisted with 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. She participated in the civic organizations PEO and Beta Sigma Phi. Connie was nominated for many civic awards and received the Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship award and the Elks Volunteer of the Year. She was a very 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 extracurricular 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.

## Jim Vander Stoep Memorial Scholarship



Jim Vander Stoep practiced law in Chehalis for more than 50 years. He had passionate faith in the value of a good education. He believed that any child, from any family, could find success in America with hard work and a good education. He believed that there was no better investment in a person's future than a good quality education.

He and his wife, Suzi, raised three Bearcats, each of whom went on to earn college degrees. One graduated from Stanford, and two from Western Washington University. In the Vander Stoep home, it wasn't a question of whether they were going to support the school levy. They voted 'yes'. It wasn't a question of whether the children were going to college --the only question was 'where'. Jim died in 2014 and donations from friends and family were made in his name. The scholarship recipients are chosen by the Chehalis Foundation scholarship committee and endorsed by the Vander Stoep family. These student scholars have demonstrated hard work and attention to their studies.

Jim Vander Stoep believed in giving back, in repaying the generosity he received by being generous to others. His expectation is that these students will, one day, give back to the community that was generous to them.

## Gene Verley Scholarship



A message from Greg and Susie Close:

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

We want candidates to apply for this scholarship who aspire to obtain a college business degree. We are looking specifically for candidates who may not qualify for other scholarships but have a solid work ethic and a desire to make something of themselves.

Thank you, Gene. You mean so much to us.



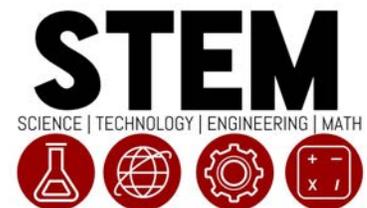
**Gene and Shirlie** both started their teaching careers in the Bay Area of California, while Gene attended San Jose State in the evenings and summers to earn his Master's degree in Business Education in 1964.

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 also coached Bearcat baseball for 5 years and served as ASB Advisor, overseeing ticket sales and crowd control for all Bearcat home 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. Gene says, "Thank you, Chehalis."

## 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.



## **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.

## Robert W. Close and Ruth M. Close Scholarships



Robert W. Close worked as an educator for 37 years. Six years teaching high school history; six years as middle school principal; and twenty-five years as assistant superintendent in Chehalis School District.

While working for Chehalis School District, Bob was twice honored by the Washington Association of School Administrators for outstanding service. He worked with a host of local citizens to establish student scholarships, many of which are still being awarded. Bob managed the bond sale and construction of Chehalis Middle School and the modernization of W. F. West High School. He was on the initial Penny Playground committee and worked with Chehalis Rotary to purchase equipment and assemble the playground. Besides all his duties as assistant superintendent, Bob took the time to mentor administrators and staff. Bob was a long time member of Chehalis Rotary, a Paul Harris Fellow and received many Rotary Benefactor awards.

Ruth M. Close volunteered as an elementary room parent, volunteer caller confirming student absences, volunteer pupil reading partner, PTA member, Band Booster member, Athletic Booster Club member, school activities and field trip chaperone and she worked on school levies. She was a Blue Bird and Campfire leader, a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow and received Rotary Benefactor awards. Ruth worked on the initial Penny Playground committee, she hosted vacation Bible studies and children's church programs and was a Young Life parent member.

Ruth was a leader in the banking community. She was head teller and teller trainer for Security State Bank and bookkeeper at Production Credit Association. Ruth modeled what great customer service was to the community and in her mentoring of new staff.

Bob and Ruthie Close were 37 year residents of Chehalis until moving to Wenatchee to be near family in the later years of their retirement.

Both grew to love and cherish learning early in their respective lives: Ruthie as the granddaughter of immigrant German grandparents, all who became naturalized citizens after WW1, and Bob as the son of a young mother of two, widowed by the death of her husband in WWII. Both realized early in life that learning was the key to breaking free of the chains that limit the human spirit. Bob is extremely grateful for the aid he received through the War Orphans Act that enabled his advanced learning opportunities.

Bob and Ruthie met in high school in 1955, started dating in 1956, and were married in 1958. They take great pride in knowing their children and their respective families have continued to practice their Christian faith and thirst for 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.

## **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.

## **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. 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.



For the community. For 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 in Peoria, Illinois until 1951, when she and John Leonard moved to Chehalis. John graduated from Coyne Electrical School in Illinois and developed his electrical, plumbing and refrigeration skills during his two-years in the US Navy. Although Lois did not teach school after moving to Chehalis, she and John demonstrated their interest in 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 with every opportunity that came along. 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.

## **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.

# Bearcat Scholarship Stats

**2021**

Number of Graduates

**192**

Total Number of Scholarships

**312**

Percentage of Graduates  
Receiving Scholarships

**50%**

One Year Total Awarded

**\$852,110**

Grand Total Awarded

**\$2,771,386**

\*\* Includes College Bound  
Scholarship Awards

**2022**

Number of Graduates

**192**

Total Number of Scholarships

**348**

Percentage of Graduates  
Receiving Scholarships

**60%**

One Year Total Awarded

**\$931,636**

Grand Total Awarded

**\$3,275,544**

\* Statistics are accurate as of May 25, 2022  
\*\* Does not include College Bound  
Scholarship Awards

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