



**SAY
“YES”
TO STUDENTS!**



Green River
COLLEGE FOUNDATION

2017 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

IT'S TIME

THANK YOU

All who served on the Green River College Foundation Board in 2017:

Adriana Barrera Pachuca, Enumclaw
Alumni/Green River College and MultiCare Health Systems
Shirley Bean, Tacoma
Green River College
Jim Berrios, Kent
Golden Steer Steak & Rib House
Dr. Deborah Casey, Issaquah
Green River College
Nancy Colson, Auburn
Windermere Real Estate
Bruce deJong, Lake Tapps
Mutual of Enumclaw
Bob Filson, Auburn
Green River College/Retired
Chuck Folsom, Lake Tapps
Heritage Bank
*Denton Hanford, Tacoma
Boeing/Retired
John Hayes Holman, Auburn
Council Member, City of Auburn
Dr. Suzanne Johnson, Auburn
Green River College
Gordy McLaren, Auburn
Prospect Construction
*Scott Morgan, University Place
Green River College
*Marv Nelson, Enumclaw
Green River College/Retired
Lynn Norman, Auburn
Lynn Norman Associates
Frank Rasmussen, Maple Valley
Boeing/Retired
Jim Rottle, Auburn
Retired/Community Volunteer
J.B. Rupert, Auburn
Rupert Engineering, Inc.
John Schneider, Lake Tapps
Edward Jones
Mary Beth Sheehan, Auburn
Hanis Irvine Prothero, PLLC
*Linda Sprenger, Auburn
Community Volunteer
Gail Spurrell, Kent
Community Volunteer
Jim Tanasse, Kent
Community Volunteer
Dr. Rebecca Williamson, Covington
Green River College

*Completed service in 2017

TIME...

It's that time of year to reminisce about the past and look forward to the future. Over the last year, we have been making progress on leveling the playing field, removing barriers, and building pathways to strong, living wage careers. The Gator Pledge has made a tremendous impact and it is the result of faculty and staff wanting to 'Say Yes' to students; to help them stay at Green River and complete their education.

Their success is our success.

On behalf of the Foundation, we welcome Dr. Suzanne Johnson as President of Green River College. Dr. Johnson serves on the Foundation Board of Directors and gave a motivating presentation at our biannual planning retreat this summer. Both the College and Foundation are fortunate to have Dr. Johnson as we continue to work together to serve our students.

The Foundation continues to help students through our Scholarship Program. More than \$480,000 was awarded in 2016-17 to 325 students. Additionally, 160 students received \$17,000 in assistance from the Gator Pledge. Its just another way we help to level the playing field and give access to students to go to school.

I hope that you will take the time to read our report and learn about all the initiatives the Foundation is working on. It's an exciting time to be at Green River and we look forward to sharing our successes with you.

On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support and commitment to the Foundation and the College.

Sincerely,



Chuck Folsom
Foundation President



GRC FOUNDATION FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The June 30, 2017 fund balance is represented by:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$1,529,078 |
| Investments | \$17,963,320 |
| Accounts Receivable | \$257,499 |
| Other Receivables | \$48,713 |
| Annuity Contracts | \$470,544 |
| Other Assets | \$42,628 |
| Land | \$367,808 |
| Buildings & Equipment | \$7,976,924 |

Total Assets as of June 30, 2017 **\$28,656,514**

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Accounts Payable and Other | \$430,216 |
| LLC Unearned Revenue and Deposits | \$364,221 |
| Interest Note and Bond Payable | \$13,619,900 |

Total Liabilities as of June 30, 2017 **\$14,414,337**

Net Assets as of June 30, 2017 **\$14,242,177**

TO IMAGINE A SOLID FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION:

Green River College Foundation provides resources to assist Green River College in achieving educational excellence.

OUR VISION:

Our vision is to have resources in place to accomplish Green River College's excellence in education.

CURRENT INITIATIVES:

Leveling the Playing Field
Removing Barriers
Building Pathways to Living Wage Careers



THE GATOR PLEDGE

HELPS REMOVE FINANCIAL BARRIERS FOR STUDENTS

After digging into their pockets to help with bus fare or sharing food from their brown bags with students who hadn't eaten all day, faculty and staff asked, "isn't there something more we can do to help students in need?" The answer came in the form of the Gator Pledge, an effort to use privately donated funds to remove financial barriers faced by students as they climb higher toward completing their degrees and programs.

In its first year, the Gator Pledge has helped more than 160 students with a variety of expenses, including text books, tools, materials and bus fare. It has flexibility to fund necessary items such as vaccinations and background checks for health occupation students who are beginning field work or provide a welding helmet so a student can be outfitted properly. A key to the program is a faculty or staff member advocating for the student, completing an intake form on their behalf, and is the one who gets to 'Say Yes' to the student that assistance is available. The review process asks if students are doing everything they can. Are they attending class? Completing assignments? Do they have a long term plan so the expense isn't an ongoing concern? Learn more about the Gator Pledge and other short term funds on the Foundation Website: greenrivercollegefoundation.org.



THAT LEVELS THE PLAYING FIELD

Robert Clark is a former active duty Air Force service member who received numerous awards during his time in the Air Force. Now a student at Green River College, Robert is pursuing a degree in business with the goal to one day, own his own real estate business. Robert is currently making the transition from active duty to the reserves while he continues to pursue his education. In addition to his current studies, Robert also plans to study abroad in Japan to expand his knowledge in the business world. As a first time scholarship recipient, receiving the DiPietro Family Scholarship will make a huge difference to Robert, lifting weight off of his shoulders and allowing him to get the most out of his educational journey.



ROBERT CLARK
Air Force Veteran - Scholarship Recipient - Future Business Owner

BE ARTFUL

WITH THE INTERURBAN CENTER THE ARTS

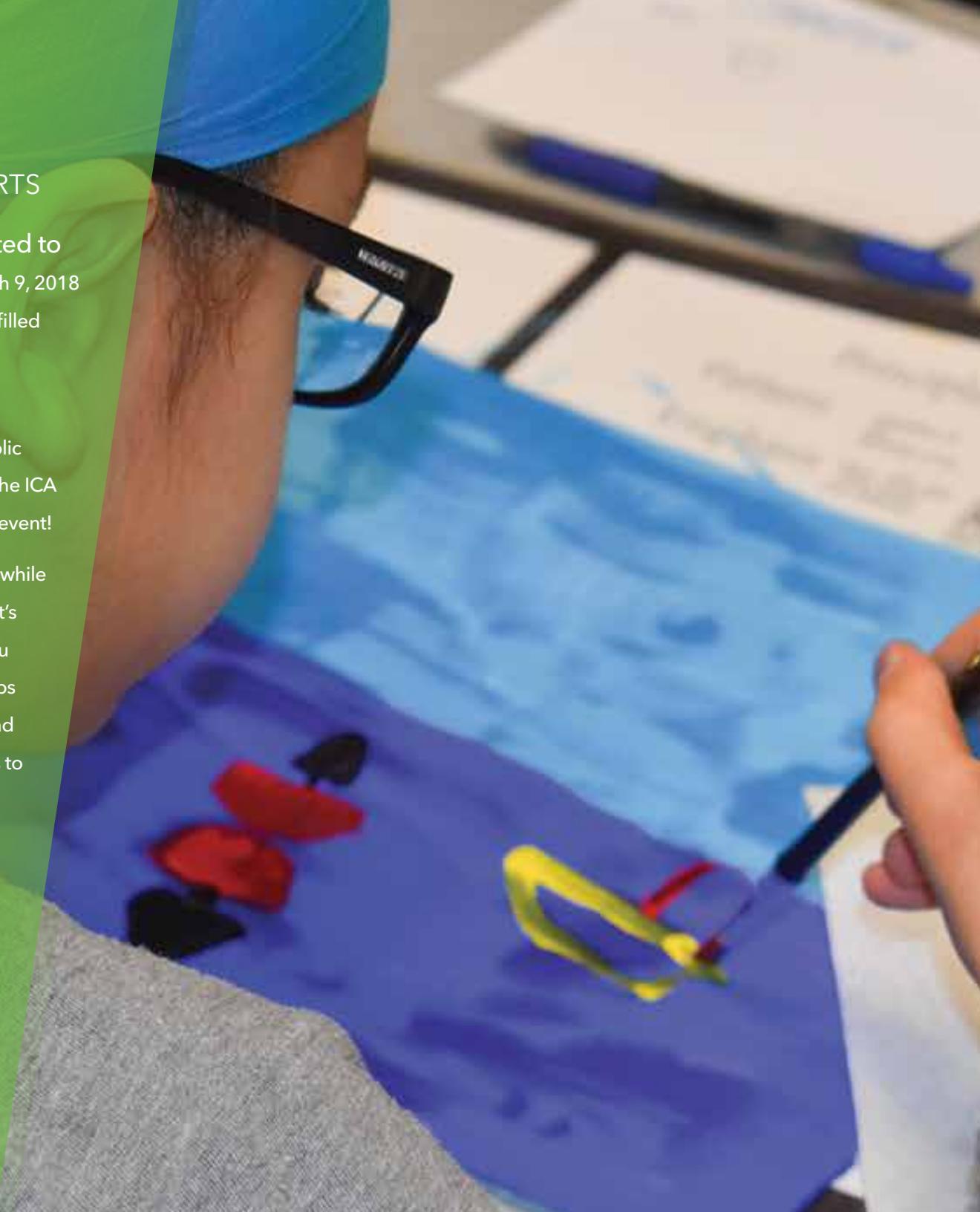
The Interurban Center for the Arts (ICA) is excited to host its fifth annual fundraiser, Be Artful, on March 9, 2018 at Green River College's Lindblom Student Union. This fun-filled event will raise money to elevate art education in local elementary schools.

Bringing attention to the ethnic diversity within our local public schools and the ICA's newest culturally inspired curriculum, the ICA has decided to make "culture" front and center at this year's event!

Guests will create their own culturally inspired masterpieces while enjoying signature bites, a drawing, and live music from Kent's own Root5. The event will feature two ICA Art Docents. Charu Sonthalia will lead a Diya painting project; painting clay lamps which are used in India's Diwali Festival. Lynar Deluca will lead the second project with a South American flair that promises to be very exciting.

The Green River College Foundation is proud to make a difference in a child's education by putting dedicated and caring adults into the lives of young children. The ICA feels that all children should have the opportunity to perceive and imagine art. In our efforts as an organization and college, our mission is to level the playing field by providing excellence in education.

For more information about the Interurban Center of the Arts please visit greenrivercollegefoundation.org/ica



REMOTES BARRIERS

Inspired by students, alumni, and employers and after extensive research in 2016, Green River College launched a new four-year degree in Forest Resource Management.

Green River faculty worried that lack of money or support might discourage academically promising, low-income students. Green River College and Grays Harbor College collaborated on and received a four-year, \$1 million "Scholarships in STEM (S-STEM)" grant from the National Science Foundation to provide scholarships to eligible students, as well as mentorships, hands-on learning, and other services.

GREEN RIVER COLLEGE
NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS



Last year, the grant awarded \$72,197 to 14 students. 50% were severely low-income, 43% were female, and 29% self-declared minority or disability status. These students have earned an average 3.24 GPA and 100% have continued their studies into the current academic year.

"The impact on students is huge, as we can tailor our services to students' needs," says Monica Paulson Priebe, the Green River instructor who secured the S-STEM grant. "For example, I have a strong student receiving an S-STEM scholarship. To earn the scholarship, he had to improve his computer skills. He took this very seriously and obtained tutoring for several months. Now, he is getting much higher grades because of his computer skills, and will be more employable after he graduates. Without this scholarship, he could have easily fallen through the cracks!"

The program continues to seek private funding to build an endowment which will provide scholarships beyond the life of the federal grant.

AND BUILDS PATHWAYS

Private First Class, Joshua Ramthun

service to the country has roots that stretch back to World War II and a Battleship deployed in the South Pacific. When Mel Lindbloom served on that US Navy destroyer, he may not have imagined that one day a young man would enter the service 70 years later inspired by the selfless acts of the "Greatest Generation." A few months prior to completing basic training, PFC Ramthun was completing his studies at Green River College where he was president of Phi Theta Kappa and honored as an All Washington Academic Team member. Outside of the classroom, Joshua was involved in getting PTK started in monthly graffiti clean ups around Auburn and served as a tutor in the TRiO program. Mel Lindbloom can take note that the ideal of selfless acts of service continue in today's generation of Green River students.



JOSHUA RAMTHUN

Lindbloom Scholarship Recipient

PAST - PRESENT - FUTURE

MEL LINDBLOOM TIES IT ALL TOGETHER

When Dr. Mel Lindblom was hired by Hayes Holman to be the first president of Green River College, he set forth to build a college that would be steeped in the ideal that all people deserve the opportunity for higher education. Mel's roots in Western Washington run deep and as part of the "Greatest Generation" he believes that hard work and determination can take you far. In his experiences at Green River, he often saw that extra support and removing financial barriers were also important factors for students to succeed.

While honored by the students' choice for the new student center to be named the Mel Lindblom Student Union, Mel recognizes that the college is more than bricks and mortar and his philanthropic support has helped fund humanities program, scholarships and student support.

The Mel and Roma Lindblom Scholarship fund was initially created by community contributions. During the 50th Anniversary, Mel made significant contributions and a commitment for his estate to endow the Mel and Roma Lindblom scholarship fund and expand its scope. He has directed the endowment to include support for veterans and the Gator Pledge. Mel's work is embedded in the roots of Green River College and through his wise and resourceful estate plans, his legacy will have a perpetual impact on students, removing financial barriers and enhancing their educational opportunities.



TO LIVING WAGE CAREERS

Foundation scholarships are making a difference in the lives of Green River students every day.

Marasia Calderon is a perfect example. From a very young age, Marasia remembers her father instilling in her the importance of going to college. She took his advice and enrolled at Green River College to pursue her

Associate of Science degree. Ultimately, Marasia would like to earn her Master of Science degree in Nursing.

Marasia says one of her biggest aspirations in life is to make a difference in the lives of others each day. A career as a nurse practitioner will allow her to do that.

Receiving the Ed Fohn scholarship has made a huge difference for Marasia. She is able to focus on her studies and not the anxiety over the cost of tuition. The best part is Marasia gets to share in the excitement of receiving a scholarship and pursuing her education goals with her father, her biggest cheerleader.



MARASIA CALDERON

Green River Student, Auburn Multicare NICU
Volunteer, Foundation Scholarship Recipient

INTRODUCING DR. SUZANNE JOHNSON

Dr. Suzanne Johnson arrived in Auburn in late spring 2017 and began work as President of Green River College on July 1st. When Dr. Johnson started, she shared, "I am looking forward to being in the Pacific Northwest, I hope, for a long, long time and make Green River a place I can dedicate my career." Suzanne has spent the first six months getting to know the students, faculty, staff and visiting with community organizations, city officials, business leader, and educational partners. She's been everywhere from speaking to a group of 4th graders at Illalko Elementary in Auburn, to working with the Governor on special initiatives.

Dr. Johnson has a doctorate in developmental psychology and a master's degree in psychology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York. She was born in the St. Louis, Mo., area, and moved with her family to New York while she was in middle school, said she was impressed by the community college systems in Washington and Oregon, which she saw while working in Portland and is thrilled to quickly becoming engrained in the community in Green River's service area. She has a deep commitment to the community college mission.



DR. SUZANNE JOHNSON
President,
Green River College

SUPPORTING FACULTY

THROUGH THE FACULTY EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

What do organic solar cells, photo biographies of immigrants and refugees, mushrooms and fungi, web applications, and best-selling books have in common? In 2016-2017, these were all topics of projects funded through the Foundation's Faculty Excellence Program.

Chitra Solomonson, Physics, and Kanchan Bodas, Biology identified that spinach could be used to make organic solar cells. These solar cells provided the basis for lessons in Biology (Photosynthesis), Chemistry, and Physics and the project produced a manual that instructors in all three areas can use.

A few classrooms down you can see Danny Najera completing his latest project on Mushrooms and Fungi as a follow up to a native plant and wildflower guide he co-authored with Monica Paulson Priebe, Natural Resources.

Another project features photo biographies of students detailing their stories of arriving in the United States and becoming contributing community members. The photo biographies are on display on main campus in the Rutkowski Learning Center and at the Kent Campus. Faculty Excellence often funds projects that help play a role in trying to combine diverse topics together to create a stronger learning environment for students and contribute to the student's retention and success.



THANK YOU

TO THE FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Green River College Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is governed by a board of directors comprised representatives from local community, businesses and the college leadership team.

The Foundation was formed in 1975 with leadership by individuals such as Helen Smith and Cy Van Selus. One of the strengths of the Foundation Board has been the temerity and passion for students exhibited by board members. We want to take a moment to thank the outstanding leadership of Linda Sprenger, Marv Nelson, and Denton Hanford who retired from the board this year after serving with distinction over time. We also want to thank Scott Morgan for serving on the board during his year of service to Green River College as Interim President.

As we say goodbye to one set of leaders, we are pleased to welcome new board members Bob Filson, retired Geology Faculty, John Schneider, with Edward Jones, and new Green River College President Dr. Suzanne Johnson.



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COLLEGE FOUNDATION

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