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PERRY  
TECHNICAL  
INSTITUTE

# Perry News

Winter 2011

## Center Provides Career and Counseling Services

**A**my Oberrender knew how to make her resume look good, but she needed help making it sound as good as it looked.

As she wrapped up the final weeks of the Visual Communication & Graphic Technology Program, she sought help from Jennifer Arnett, Perry's Career Services Coordinator. Jennifer helped Amy pare her resume down from two pages to a single page. "She helped me condense it to one page, but still tell employers enough about myself."

Amy's efforts were worthwhile – she turned her position as an extern into a job.

Over the last year and a half, Perry has added a Student Services Center, offering both Career Services and Counseling Services. The addition of Student Services was a natural step in Perry's quest to better serve students, said PTI President Christine Coté. "We are a student-centered school. We work to offer the training as well as the support services that will insure their success."

Career Services Coordinator Jennifer Arnett visits classrooms to give career planning presentations. She is also available to work one-on-one with students to help them with job search planning, resume and cover

letter preparation, mock interviews, locating potential jobs and coordinating company interviews on campus.

"For many students, this is the first time they have put together a resume. They don't know where to start," Jennifer said.



Jennifer Arnett and Marty Walters

Perry also prepares students for successful entry in the world of work by providing free counseling services. Professional Counselor Marty Walters helps students identify the obstacles that are preventing them from being successful – both in school and out – and to

develop behaviors that will break down these barriers and improve their quality of life. "Our students are facing so many personal issues. I am amazed that some of our students can make it to school every day," said Marty.

Marty offers short-term, solution-based counseling for issues ranging from family, financial and marital concerns to depression, anxiety and grief. The services she provides include conflict resolution, goal setting, relaxation techniques and assistance in developing coping skills. She helps students find additional help by providing referrals to resources available in the community.

"My focus is empowering students with the knowledge that they can make different choices," Marty said. "It's rewarding to see them do the work. I am seeing a lot of success stories."

Marty works closely with instructors without breaching confidentiality. She meets with every student who is placed on probation. "This helps us to address why a student is having difficulties before it becomes a chronic problem," she said.

Jennifer and Marty are working together to make Students Services proactive rather than

*continued on page 7...*

### Grant Helps Establish Center

A \$10,000 grant from the Yakima Valley Community Foundation will help set up Perry's Student Services Center.

The center, located across the hall from the Information Technology & Communication Systems Program, houses Career Services, Counseling Services and the Perry Pantry. The grant funds will be used to purchase tables, chairs, a bookcase, desk, computers and office supplies.

To better serve the needs of students, Perry has added both Career Services and Counseling Services. Career Services Coordinator Jennifer Arnett gives classroom presentations and provides one-on-one assistance with job search activities, resume and cover letter preparation and mock interviews.

The Counseling Center is staffed by Professional Counselor Marty Walters. She provides free, short-term, solution-focused counseling to

help students with personal issues which are affecting their performance and well-being both in and out of school.

The Student Services Center also houses the Perry Pantry. The pantry is stocked with food donations from employees, students and the community. Students who are hungry and without the resources to purchase food can access shelf-stable food items which are selected based on their ease of preparation and nutritional value.

Established in 2004, the Yakima Valley Community Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the cultural, economic, social, health and educational quality of life for residents of Yakima County. In the 2010 competitive grant cycle, YVCF disbursed \$500,000 to 25 local non-profit organizations. ●

## Non-Profit Status Makes School Unique



Christine Coté

**T**he career college industry has recently come under fire. Critics allege that some institutions in the for-profit sector are more focused on turning a profit than meeting the needs of students.

A recent report from Education Trust, a non-partisan Washington, D.C. think tank, criticized a select number of for-profit schools for their low graduation and placement rates and the soaring default rates on subsidized student loans.

Many don't realize how Perry Technical Institute differs from these schools. Perry is one of a handful of private, non-profit technical schools in the nation. Our status as a non-profit 501c (3) organization guarantees that our focus is on meeting students' needs rather than making a profit.

The school's general operating expenses are covered by the tuition and fees collected from students. Larger expenditures, such as capital improvements and equipment upgrades, are funded by the Harriet I. Perry Trust Fund, established by Mrs. Perry when she founded the school.

We also differ from the schools under fire in our placement and

student retention rates. Even in the midst of a recession, Perry's two-year placement rate has remained consistently high. Placement currently averages 82% for our 10 training programs. Perry's retention rate is significantly higher than the state average and at 3.3% the default rates on our graduates' subsidized loans is significantly lower than the national average of 6.7%.

There are two built-in means by which our institution remains accountable. Perry's training programs are approved by the Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board and accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC). The ACCSC's Standards of Accreditation are a comprehensive set of rules which dictate all aspects of an accredited school's operation, from recruitment and admissions to curriculum and graduation requirements.

There are many reputable for-profit career colleges. With strong leadership and fiscal responsibility, many for-profit colleges are balancing their need to be profitable with their desire to serve students. Through our membership in the Northwest Career Colleges Federation, we work hand-in-hand with career colleges throughout the region.

Career education is essential to the region's economy and career colleges play a vital role by equipping students of all ages with valuable skills which they can put to work in a variety of disciplines. ●

## Stay Connected Through Perry Website



Erin Fishburn

**A**fter you leave Perry Tech, we realize that the school is not always at the front of your mind. You no longer are concerned about clocking in, completing assignments or when your next break is. You may have moved on, but you will always be part of the Perry family. In order to help you stay connected through the years, we have added features to the Perry Tech website and have established a Perry Tech Facebook page.

If you have not yet visited perrytech.edu we hope you will take the time to do so. The redesigned website was launched late last year. It features a section specifically for alumni and has additional information to benefit you.

You can view past catalogs (2007-current) and request your transcript. You can post and view jobs, as well as seek assistance from our Career Services Center. You can view the latest Perry News and see the calendar of upcoming events.

The website also allows you to update your information and post messages for your classmates to view. You can make donations to support students and the program you graduated from. If you are on Facebook, we encourage you to take the time to become a fan of Perry Technical Institute. No longer will you need to wait for the next issue of the Perry News to hear about exciting things at Perry; by becoming our fan, you will have access to the news as it is happening.

No matter the method, we hope that you will take the time to stay in touch. The involvement of alumni and your knowledge of industry are essential pieces to Perry's future success! ●

### Perry News

A quarterly newsletter for alumni and friends of Perry Technical Institute  
Please send address changes to  
Perry Technical Institute  
2011 W. Washington Ave., Yakima, WA 98903  
or call (509) 453-0374

**President:** Christine Coté  
**Editor:** Leanne LaBissoniere  
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<http://www.perrytech.edu>

### In Brief...

#### Equipment Donations Aid Perry Programs

Perry Tech depends upon the generosity of industry and private donors to keep up-to-date equipment operating in each training program. The following companies and individuals have recently donated equipment:

- Ernest Earhart, a 1966 Instrumentation graduate, donated equipment to the Instrumentation & Industrial Automation Technology Program.
- Del Monte Foods donated Allen Bradley processors from the Yakima and Toppenish

plants to the Electrical Technology Program.

- Irwin Research & Development contributed machining materials to the Machine Technology Program.
- Mazda USA donated two cars to the Automotive Technology Program. The donation was facilitated by Bob Hall, owner of Bob Hall Auto.
- PEXCO donated a CNC lathe and vertical milling machine to the Machine Technology Program.
- MAF Industries donated gear boxes and

*continued on page 5...*

## New Path to Success

### Electrical Students Won't Let Stereotypes Stand in Their Way

**D**esiree Bowman has a dream. She wants to start an electrical contracting business, Angel Electric, and to employ as many female electricians as she can find.

If determination is any indication, there's no doubt that she will succeed. The determination fueling her quest to achieve her dream is the same determination that has carried her into the fourth trimester of Perry's Electrical Technology Program. Desiree is one of two female students enrolled in the two-year program. She and fellow student April McWain are pursuing careers in a field dominated by males. According to statistics from the Institute for Women in Trades, Technology and Science, only 1.1% of electricians are female.

Despite the statistics, the two don't see what they are doing as out-of-the-ordinary, but rather as a viable route to good-paying careers and an effective means to support their families.

Married at 19 and divorced 11 years later, April was a stay-at-home mom searching to make enough money to support her three children when she began exploring options for training. "I realized that I couldn't do it with the skills I had," she said.

April has several electricians in her family and she knew the electrical trade paid the kind of wages she would need to make it on her own. "I was a little afraid of the math and wondered if physically I could do the work, but I decided to give it a try," she said.

Now in the third trimester, she's determined that most of her fears were unfounded. "It's not bad at all. The teachers do so much to help

you understand and to make it easier," she said.

Desiree agreed: "They set you up for success."

The six years she spent in the National Guard helped prepare Desiree for entering a typically male field. "I feel like I can handle anything that the guys can dish out. Guys are actually very harmless," she said, laughing.

April and Desiree describe their male classmates as very supportive. "We're like one big family," Desiree said.



April McWain and Desiree Bowman are pursuing careers as electricians, a field that is traditionally dominated by males.

The two students are balancing parenting with attending school. April has a 14-year-old son and 12- and 7-year-old daughters and Desiree has a 4-year-old son. Both have received a great deal of encouragement and support from their families. "No one has ever doubted that this is something I can do," April said.

The day-to-day routine of attending school while raising children is challenging. Transporting kids to school and day care and attending sporting events and activities while keeping up with your own homework makes for a hectic schedule. But it's a sacrifice that

both students know will pay off when they graduate and land jobs.

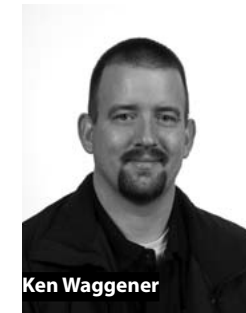
It's the perception – not the reality – that keeps many women from pursuing a career as an electrician. "There's a stigma attached. Too many women think of it as a man's job," said April.

By participating in this year's Women in Technology Day, Desiree hopes to encourage women who may be toying with the idea of pursuing a career in a traditionally male-dominated field. "I want to show women that this is something that they can do," she said. ●

### Women in Technology

**WHAT:** Women in Technology Day  
**WHEN:** Thursday, February 10, 1 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Perry Technical Institute  
**WHY:** To encourage women of all ages to explore careers in technical fields

## Perry Adds Automotive Night Class



Ken Waggener

**P**erry's first-ever night class welcomed its first class of students on January 3. The evening session of the Automotive Technology Program meets weeknights from 4:30-9:30 and two Saturdays a month from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The class uses the same curriculum as the existing day classes.

"Offering an evening course is the ideal way to accommodate students who are interested in the field who work days or, because of other commitments, are not able to attend weekday classes," said Jason Lamiquiz, head of the Automotive Technology Program.

Ken Waggener serves as the instructor for the Automotive night class. A Wapato native, Ken graduated from Perry's Automotive Program in 2003. He worked for Hahn Motor Company until July 2009 when he went to Valley Ford, where he worked until accepting the teaching position at Perry.

"I had the idea of teaching in mind ever since I came through the program," he said. "I am looking forward to the challenge of something new."

Ken enrolled at Perry as a dislocated worker after Jeld-Wen closed its lumber mill in 2002. "I grew up on a farm helping my Dad who was a farm mechanic," he said. "The Automotive Program was a natural fit."

The new instructor and his wife, Gina, and their 8-year-old daughter, Ma-Lana, live in Yakima. In his free time, he enjoys working on projects in the garage and outdoor activities like camping, fishing and hiking. ●

## Geoff Eades August 2010

Machine Technology



Moving from high school drafting classes into Perry's Machine Technology Program was a natural for Geoff Eades.

Geoff's skills, combined with his strong work ethic, earned him the honor of

being named Perry Technical Institute's August Student of the Month.

"Geoff is always looking for opportunities to learn something new," said Dan Steinmetz, head of the Machine Technology Program. "He's always the guy who jumps in and makes it happen."

A 2006 graduate of Eisenhower High School, Geoff enjoys the innovation and creativity involved in the machine trade. "I want to stay on the cutting edge. I don't want to sit back and make the same parts over and over," he said.

When he graduates next June, Geoff hopes to use his machinist skills in an energy-related field.

## Jake Williams September 2010

Electrical Technology



Jake Williams had been out of high school for five years when he decided that he wasn't going anywhere until he went back to school.

Jake enrolled in the Electrical Technology Program at Perry and he hasn't looked back. He

was honored as Perry's Student of the Month for September.

"Jake emulates the standards we set for our students here at Perry," said instructor Forrest Buchmann.

Jake attended the Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center's fire training program and volunteered for the West Valley Fire Department. After graduating from West Valley High School in 2004, he worked for a local hardware distribution company, a packaging company and fought wildland fires for a summer.

Although he loves fighting fires, he knew he had to find a career. The Electrical Program has proven to be a good match. "I love the program because it holds my interest and keeps me motivated."

## Dustin Berg October 2010

Visual Communication & Graphic Technology



Don't be fooled by his quiet demeanor – Dustin Berg has all qualities it takes to be a leader in his class. A student in Perry's Visual Communication & Graphic Technology Program, Dustin was named Student of the Month for October.

"Dustin has really grown during his time at Perry," said Michael Malaska, head of the Graphics Program. "Dustin has made efforts to grow and expand, often without any influence from others."

The East Valley native said an interest in art brought him to Perry. "The program is good for me because it covers a variety of subjects – basic design, photography and web design."

Dustin had an externship with Ed Marquand, a Seattle book publisher who is developing the Mighty Tieton, a condominium complex, bookstore, printing press and art gallery in Tieton. The externship was valuable for Dustin because it exposed him to the world of publishing as well as given him experience in design and event planning.

## Shantrell Sams November 2010

Medical Office Administration & Coding



Combine full-time school with a work-study job as a tutor. Add volunteering as a cheerleading coach and working part time as a housekeeper. Then factor in maintaining a perfect grade point average while raising

five children and you have the life of Shantrell Sams.

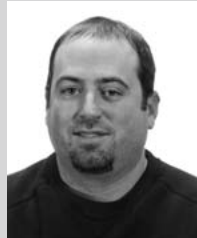
Shantrell was named November Student of the Month. She is a student in Perry's Medical Office Administration & Coding Program. When she graduates in March, she will distinguish herself as one of the few students to earn certificates in three Perry programs.

Shantrell came to Perry as a dislocated worker after making insulation and driving a forklift at Pactiv for nine years. When the Yakima plant closed in 2008, she decided to take advantage of the retraining dollars offered through the Trade Act and return to school.

Shantrell's children range in age from less than 2 to 12 years old. "My kids are my life," she said. "I'm doing it all for them."

## Devin Baum December 2010

I.T. & Communication Systems



Devin Baum was training for management when the plant where he worked was idled. After 20 years with the company, he suddenly found himself without a job.

He opted to use the retraining dollars

available to him through the Dislocated Worker Program to train for a new career. An interest in technology attracted him to Perry's Information Technology & Communication Systems Program. "There seems like there is a future in it," he said.

Devin, who lives in Zillah, has proven to be an excellent student and he earned the honor of being named Student of the Month for December.

Instructors praise Devin for his hard work in the classroom and for his willingness to help fellow students. "He's going to make a great employee for someone," said Mike Smith, ITCS department head.

Losing his job was an abrupt end to a lifestyle he had grown comfortable with, but Devin said it's proven to be a turning point in his life. "I had done the same work since high school. I didn't have skills I could put on a resume. Now I do."

## John Moore January 2011

Instrumentation & Industrial Automation



Ups and downs are commonplace in the construction industry, but when John Moore couldn't see an end to the slump, he decided it was time to take a new career path.

Now in the last section

of the Instrumentation & Industrial Automation Technology Program, John has been named Student of the Month for January. "Many students do well in one or two areas, but John has the whole package – he excels in every area," said Instrumentation instructor Gerry Ries.

An Oregon City native, John owned and operated a construction company for eight years. "I knew that I had to do more for my family," said the father of five.

John followed the lead of a friend who had a successful career after graduating from Perry's Instrumentation Program. He moved his family to Yakima and began his studies. "It's been challenging, but it really helps to study in the classroom and then go out into the lab and apply what you've learned," he said.

John is scheduled to graduate in February and he's keeping his job options open. "I go where I need to go to get the best stability for my family."

# Betty Peterson: An Integral Part of Perry Tech for 41 Years



She came to Perry as a temporary employee, hired to help the office staff catch up on their work. Now, 41-plus years later, Betty Peterson has earned the title of Perry's grand dame.

Betty is one part school historian, one part mentor and one part office fashionista. Her co-workers describe her as kind and considerate, happy and cheerful, calm and loyal. Students remember her long after they graduate. Co-workers admire her and look to her for advice.

"When I think of Betty one word comes to mind, exquisite," said Mayra Cuevas, financial aid loan coordinator, who has worked with Betty for seven years.

Betty's supervisor, Director of Finance Tracy Stoffer, agreed. "Betty is absolutely wonderful to work with," she said. "She is very kind and considerate, always willing to help anyone."

PTI President Christine Cotè sees Betty as a role model who carries herself with poise and class. "I've learned so much from her," she said.

Over the years, Betty has filled many roles. She started as a typist and has performed duties ranging from taking roll and keeping attendance records to serving as the veteran's clerk and as administrative assistant to

former PTI President Dr. J. Tuman. In 2007, she moved into her current position as administrative assistant in Human Resources.

She's seen more than her share of changes at the school – new programs, increasing enrollment, various leadership styles and the advance of technology. The changes in technology and addition of female students represent the biggest changes. When Betty started at Perry, she typed forms and time cards on a manual typewriter. "I was the last person to get a computer," she said, adding that adapting to the computer age was challenging, yet rewarding.

Betty has seen leaders come and go – from the serious tone of Herbert Buckman to the playful banter of Fred Iraola. She seen programs come and go. In the 1970s when Perry offered the Culinary Program, she enjoyed a delicious perk – a gourmet lunch for \$2.50. "The girls in the office took orders and waited on tables," she said. "One time the students roasted a pig with an apple in its mouth."

Another time, she recalled, the culinary instructor dropped a huge ice sculpture on the sidewalk outside the main entrance. "It was disastrous...he about came apart."

When the Culinary Program was dropped, staff members bought the equipment and supplies from the kitchen. "I still have a commercial grater that I bought," she said. She also recalls the chef teaching her how to cut a cake with a string, a skill that came in handy when the women who worked in the office baked cakes for graduation.

With each administration came a new atmosphere on campus. Under Fred's leadership, atmosphere at the school was relaxed and friendly. "I remember students would throw their instructors in the creek at graduation," she said.

What didn't change over the years was the

school's ability to put people to work. "I've always been proud to work at Perry," she said, adding that it was especially rewarding when she saw young men she knew come through the school.

In 1992, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and didn't miss a day of work while she underwent six months of chemotherapy.

Betty has always worked part time which worked out well while she and her husband, Don, were raising their two boys, Mark and Gary. Don and Betty led an active lifestyle, enjoying skiing, snowmobiling, biking and summers at Lake Chelan waterskiing. "We had a wonderful life together," she said.

In 1997, Betty's Perry family came together to help support her when Don suffered a fatal heart attack, due to road rage, while they were biking. "I was very dependent on him – we did everything together," she said.

Betty said the family she has formed at Perry is one of the best parts of the job. "I get up in the morning and look forward to coming to work," she said.

Going to work means getting dressed for work and that's a part of working that Betty thoroughly enjoys. "I love clothes. Getting dressed up for work makes me feel good. I don't want to wear old lady clothes," she laughed.

This "temporary employee" isn't ready to retire quite yet. "Perry has been extremely good to me. I want to keep working as long as I can do my job."

Betty has plenty to keep her busy outside of work. Her hobbies are many and varied – from knitting and sewing to cooking and gardening, from walking and biking to following her grandsons' sporting events and attending musical productions. "I like to have fun and enjoy life." ●

### In Brief... *continued from page 2*

motors to the Electrical Technology Program.

- GE Aviation donated new and used tooling to the Machine Technology Program.

- Tri-State Sales donated a Navien tankless gas water heater to the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology Program.

"Perry is known for training students to meet the needs of industry," said Erin Fishburn, foundation director. "We can only do that when our labs are filled with the same equipment that students will see after graduation.

Equipment donations are a critical part of ensuring that training takes place."

### Students Benefit from Donor's Gift

The legacy of Mary "Mollie" Monroe Davis began taking shape in the lives of Perry Tech students in 2010. Perry Technical Foundation awarded more than \$222,000 in scholarships and certification reimbursements through the Mary Monroe Davis and Warren J. Davis Scholarship Funds.

Mrs. Davis died in November 2008 at the age

of 94, bequeathing more than \$20 million to be used for scholarships for area students. Perry Technical Foundation received \$3.85 million with the remainder of the funds going to the Yakima Valley Community Foundation to fund scholarships through the Yakima Rotary Trust.

In her bequest, Mrs. Davis stipulated that half of the funds be awarded to females and half to males. The awards to females are Mary Monroe Davis Scholarships and those to males are Warren J. Davis Scholarships.

## Class Notes...

**Brad Ackerman**, a 1980 Graphics graduate, serves as sales manager for ZipLocal Advertising in Tacoma.

**Javier Casas-Reyes** is sales channel manager for Alcatel-Lucent in Central and Southern Europe. Since graduating from Perry in 1989, Javier has worked in the oil exploration industry before moving into technical service management working with copiers, fax and dictation systems. He returned to the oil industry before moving into service operations, broadband services and DSL technologies. In addition to working for Alcatel-Lucent Austria, he works as a technical writer for the International Atomic Energy Agency twice a year.

**Steve Powers**, a 1987 Instrumentation graduate, was the subject of a feature story in the Bend Bulletin. The newspaper article focused on Powers' business, Powers of Automation, and the jobs the Bend, Oregon, company has done for firms ranging from pharmaceutical manufacturers to breweries. The company currently employs two Perry Instrumentation grads: Steve's brother, Lonnie, who graduated in 1990, and Nate Walker, who graduated in 2004.

**Thomas Griffith**, a 1973 HVAC/R graduate, is a HVAC/R technician for the Clover Park School District in Lakewood. He lives in Roy.

*Your Perry family wants to know what you have been up to. Please email any recent news about yourself which you would like to share with fellow alumni to [perrynews@perrytech.edu](mailto:perrynews@perrytech.edu).*

## Two Community Members Join Foundation



**P**erry Technical Foundation has added two new members to its board of directors.

Joining the board are Trent Marquis and Don Carrell. Trent is a managing partner with Wide Hollow Development and Creekside Business Park, which are owned under the family business of Marq Enterprises. Born and raised in the Yakima Valley, Trent graduated from Perry's Electrical Technology Program in 1992.

Trent serves as chairman of the Trans-Action Committee which focuses on improving transportation in the Yakima Valley. He is vice chairman of the board of directors of the Central Washington State Fair, immediate past chairman of the board of directors of the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce and represents the Fourth Congressional District on the board of directors of the Association of Washington Business.

For Trent, serving on the foundation

board is a way to give back to the school that launched his career. "Perry Tech allowed me to blossom into the next generation," Trent said. "Perry is something I value very much."

Don is vice president of manufacturing for Shields Bag & Printing Company. A Yakima native, Don earned a bachelor of science degree in agribusiness from Washington State University in 1989 and a master's degree in business administration from Gonzaga University in 1992. He worked for Kaiser Aluminum in Spokane before returning to his hometown to join Shields in 2002.

"There is a great need for skilled trades," said Don. "I have always admired Perry Tech's mission and purpose."

In 1992, a group of community volunteers pledged their commitment to Perry Technical Institute by forming Perry Technical Foundation. The foundation's mission is to raise funds for student scholarships, loans, instructional equipment and capital improvements which enrich learning on the Perry campus.

In addition to the two new members, the board includes: officers Christine Coté, president; Pat Sundquist, vice president; Erin Fishburn, secretary; Tracy Stoffer, treasurer; and members-at-large Nancy Buck, Robert DiPietro, Jr., Sally Douglas, Jon Durand, David Gonzales, Julie Valdez, Dorothy Picatti, Fred Plath, Lowell Sak, John Schieche, Gene Shields and Mel Tanasse. ●

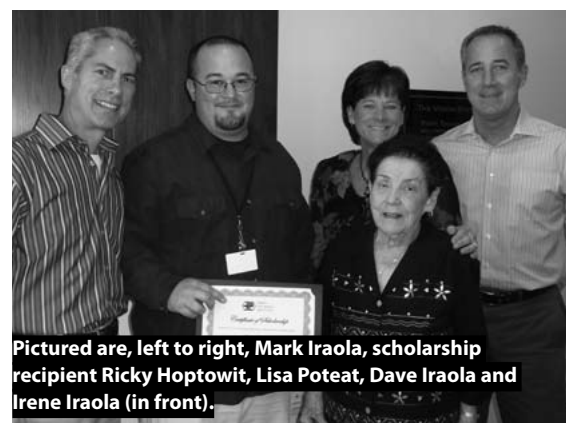
## Fred Iraola Scholarship Awarded

The first-ever Fred Iraola Memorial Scholarship, created as a tribute to the man who led Perry Tech as director for 17 years, was awarded to Instrumentation student Ricky Hoptowitz.

On hand for the October 29, 2010, presentation were Fred's widow, Irene Iraola, his two sons, Mark Iraola and Dave Iraola, and daughter Lisa Poteat. "This school was his life," said Mark Iraola, before the presentation. "It meant the world to him."

Fred was associated with Perry for a total of 46 years – first as a student, then as an instructor and staff member and finally as director. He taught in the Instrumentation Program for 27 years before becoming director of the school in 1975.

Under his leadership, Perry experienced phenomenal growth and furthered its reputation as one of the nation's top technical schools.



**Pictured are, left to right, Mark Iraola, scholarship recipient Ricky Hoptowitz, Lisa Poteat, Dave Iraola and Irene Iraola (in front).**

"Perry would not be the school it is today without Fred's passion and leadership," said Christine Coté, PTI president.

After retiring in 1992, Fred continued to serve as an ambassador for the school and worked to create the Alumni Association. Many of his former students stayed in contact with him over the years.

Fred died on December 3, 2009, at the age of 88. Shortly after his death, the family created a scholarship fund through Perry Technical Foundation. "We felt this was the best thing we could do to remember Fred," said Irene.

The first recipient of the scholarship expressed gratitude for the award. "I appreciate this scholarship so much," said Ricky, who will graduate in February.

To honor Fred Iraola with a contribution to the Fred Iraola Memorial Scholarship Fund, contact Erin Fishburn, foundation director, at 509.453-0374.x206, or email her at [erin@perrytech.edu](mailto:erin@perrytech.edu). ●



**Michael Rainey, manager of the West Valley Walmart, left, and Joe Smith, manager of the Yakima Walmart, present an oversized check to Perry President Christine Coté and Jason Lamiquiz, head of the Automotive Technology Program.**

## Walmart Grant Supports Auto Program

Students in Perry Technical Institute's Automotive Technology Program will benefit from the addition of computer workstations in the shop, thanks to a grant from the Walmart Foundation.

Walmart awarded \$32,000 to the program through the Washington State Giving Program. The funds will be used to purchase computers, software and workstations. The computer workstations will be located in the auto shop, giving students convenient access to online service manuals and other resources.

"The grant enables us to equip the shop with computer workstations giving students the additional information and resources they need to diagnose and repair today's high-tech vehicles," said Jason Lamiquiz, head of Perry's Automotive Program.

The Walmart grant is the latest in a series of improvements that have helped to elevate Perry's Automotive Program's reputation and capacity to serve students from throughout the region who are interested in pursuing careers as automotive technicians. The program has adopted a new curriculum, renovated the shop and added new high-tech equipment.

## Center Provides Career and Counseling Services *continued from page 1...*

reactive. Rather than meeting with students in the final term, they are offering a six-part Professional Development Series starting in the first term. They are also doing a skills inventory and skills checklist to help students identify their strengths and weaknesses.

"We recognize that placement begins at admission," said Jennifer. "We're giving students a head start on success."

Employers are encouraged to visit the Perry campus, recruit employees from the student body, screen potential employees and conduct interviews on campus. Employers may contact Career Services to have current openings posted on the Perry website. The service is offered free of charge to all employers. Jennifer is reaching out to employers by inviting them to open house and by scheduling campus tours. Members of the recruitment team are meeting with employers while they are on recruiting trips.

In the past, every program has handled placement of its students, but the downturn in the economy has created a need for a department dedicated to helping students meet their career goals.

Offering support services to students contributes to their success. "I really appreciated the help I received," said Amy Oberrender. "It made a difference – it helped me land a job." ●

## In Memory...

Electrical graduate **G. Lance Braden** died on November 14, 2010, in Yakima. Lance, who was 40 years old, graduated from Perry in 1992.

**S. Gilbert Cook** died on November 8, 2010, in Casa de Modesto, California, at the age of 94. He taught Industrial Arts at Perry in the 1950s.

**Joseph L. Davis**, 56, died on August 14, 2010, in the Nile Valley. Joseph graduated from the Electrical Program in 1982.

**Eric Nolan Faith**, 50, died on March 12, 2010, in Yakima. He graduated from the Instrumentation Program in 1985 and the Electrical Program in 1992.

A 1982 HVAC/R graduate, **James Hubbard** died on November 12, 2010, at the age of 58. He lived in Kennewick.

**Michael Koreski**, 77, died August 18, 2010, in Richland. He attended Perry in the 1950s before entering the Army.

HVAC graduate **Raymond Leach** died on October 11, 2010, in Ellensburg. Raymond graduated from Perry in 2008.

**Donald McShurley**, a 1962 Instrumentation graduate, died August 3, 2010, in Modesto, California. He was 75.

**Leola Belle Ratliff**, 67, died October 12, 2010, in Wishram. She was a 1995 Graphics graduate.

Graphics graduate **Laura Smith** of Moxee died on October 14, 2010, at the age of 30. Laura graduated from Perry in 2003.



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