I continue to be reminded, as I meet with our students and members of the community, how important this college is to so many. One of the things I’m most proud of is the connection our faculty and staff have with our students, our community, and industry.

Each year, over 6,500 students attend Lake Washington Institute of Technology (LWTech), with dreams of changing their career or starting a new one. The connection our students feel to their program, faculty, and the college, is what makes their experience so meaningful.

When students feel a connection to each other and their college there is a higher success rate. Students start their college journey expecting to succeed, but sometimes life can interrupt their plan. That’s where the connectivity with faculty and staff, and the support services offered at the college, become an essential part of their success.

Support services ensure that our students will be successful while they’re at the college, and for years after they graduate. Services like Advising, the Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success, Disability Support Services, the Resources for Inclusion, Support, and Empowerment (RISE) Center, the Employment Resource Center, the Learning Lab, Supplemental Instruction, TRiO, and Workforce Development are designed to help remove barriers to education, while also creating a strong connection and path to success for students with our staff across the college.

Small class sizes and hands-on learning ensure students build strong relationships with their faculty, and each other. I see this firsthand when I go into the classrooms and labs, and when I meet with students throughout the year. Our programs are designed to provide students with an opportunity to engage with their faculty, each other, and industry leaders.

We could not fulfill our mission of preparing students for today’s careers and tomorrow’s opportunities without our strong connection to our community and business. Hundreds of community members volunteer on LWTech advisory committees. Committee members provide input on curriculum and program development. They play an integral part in making sure programs are aligned with current industry standards.

Through their guidance, and that of other community and industry leaders, our students learn the latest technologies, and are provided with opportunities to apply that knowledge directly in the marketplace through internships and job placement.

There are many great things happening at the college. I invite you to come to campus and meet our faculty, staff, and students. I guarantee that you’ll be inspired just like I am each day.

With Appreciation,
It’s a great honor for the Board of Trustees (Trustees) to serve the LWTech community through leadership and policy governance of the college. It is a privilege to see the significant and impactful work the faculty and staff engage in every day to better serve our students.

We are pleased to share that the Trustees have once again unanimously agreed to extend Dr. Amy Morrison Goings’ contract until 2023. Five years ago, we hired Dr. Morrison Goings, knowing that she would be able to lead the college in a fair, inclusive, thoughtful, and productive way. The college will continue to have her steady and forward-thinking leadership for years to come.

In addition to working closely with Dr. Morrison Goings, the Trustees collaborate with the LWTech Foundation Board of Directors on several initiatives, including the LWTech Foundation Scholarship Reception, the Bright Futures Benefit Breakfast, and the Spring Plant Sale. This close working relationship allows us to share news from the college with community members and legislators, like the fact that the LWTech Foundation was awarded over $274,000 in student scholarships during the 2017-2018 academic year.

The Trustees are incredibly proud to work alongside the dedicated and caring faculty and staff of LWTech. It is truly a source of great pride for us to see first-hand the important work going on at the college, and to be able share those stories throughout the region.

We hope you will feel inspired to get to know the work of the college better as you read through the following pages of the the Annual Report. We encourage you to come to campus to see how the LWTech faculty and staff are positively impacting the lives of students each day.

Bruce J. Reid, 2017-2018 LWTech Board of Trustees Chair

“...a source of great pride for us to see first-hand the important work going on at the college, and to be able share those stories throughout the region.”

–Bruce J. Reid
Dear Friends,

Thank you for a wonderful year of exceptional support! Together, we are creating bright futures for business and industry, and making a tangible difference in our greater community.

As a result of your generous giving, the LWTech Foundation supported hundreds of hardworking, highly motivated students with scholarships, invested in our innovative, hands-on workforce education programs of study, and provided support to students facing unanticipated emergency situations.

**Highlights of the 2017-2018 academic year include:**

- A Halloween-themed Bright Futures Benefit Breakfast raising a record-breaking $185,000 for student scholarships, instructional program support, and the student emergency fund.
- Raised $50,000 for the Student Emergency Fund, as a result of the Bridge the Gap Student Emergency Fund Matching Challenge, spearheaded by generous donors James Kinsella and Robert McNeal, and matched by altruistic 2017 Bright Futures Benefit Breakfast guests.
- Honored philanthropists Elling and Barbara Halvorson, at the 5th Annual Scholarship Reception, for the creation of the Elling and Barbara Halvorson Endowed Scholarship for Outstanding Nursing Students, and their lead gift to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Private Startup Campaign.
- Welcomed six new leaders to the LW Tech Foundation Board of Directors, representing the industries of manufacturing, law, software development, and photonics.
- Established three new endowment funds, which will provide student scholarships in perpetuity.
- Continued to support on-campus programs, including the Associated Student Government (ASG) Daily Eating Necessities (D.E.N.) Food Pantry, the Annual Environmental Horticulture Program Plant Sale, and Lake Washington Institute of Technology’s Annual Open House.
- Funded graduation caps and gowns for all faculty participating in 2018 Commencement Activities.

We are deeply grateful for your generosity to Lake Washington Institute of Technology. With your support, we look forward to continuing to enhance our community by creating bright futures for students and industry.

In partnership,

Elisabeth Sorensen, LW Tech Foundation Executive Director

Diane Haelsig, LW Tech Foundation President

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**2018-19 Dates to Remember**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 30, 2018</td>
<td>2018 Bright Futures Benefit Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 7, 2018</td>
<td>Spring 2019 Scholarship Application Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 8, 2019</td>
<td>Spring 2019 Scholarship Application Ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 28, 2019</td>
<td>LW Tech Open House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 12, 2019</td>
<td>Fall 2019 Scholarship Application Begins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2017-18 Executive Committee
Diane Haelsig  President, Retired Software Company Founder
Teddy Overleese  Vice President, Community Leader/Artist
Dr. Dan Frost  Secretary, Dentist, Frost Family Dentistry
Solomon Karmel  Co-Treasurer, Branch Manager, First Allied Securities, Inc.
John Feistner  Co-Treasurer, Vice President, North Sky Capital

2017-18 Board Members
David Alskog
Emily Bolen
Kate Butcher
Shelli Dean
Clara Hollin
Walt Krueger
Richard Lerz
Angela Martin-Davis
Brenda Nunes
Michael Royston
Bill Shelby
Diane Toomey
Charlie Webster

Ex-Officio Directors
Nolan Koreski  Professor Emeritus, LWTech
Ellen Miller-Wolfe  City of Kirkland
Dr. Amy Morrison Goings  President, LWTech
Elisabeth Sorensen, MPA  Executive Director, LWTech Foundation
Bill Thomas  VP Administrative Services, LWTech
Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe  Washington State Senator (retired)
Laura Wildfong  LWTech Board of Trustee Liaison
Dr. Lynnette Jones  LWTech Board of Trustee Liaison

2017-2018 LWTech Foundation Officers
“Together, we are creating bright futures for business and industry, and making a tangible difference in our greater community.”
– Diane Haelsig and Elisabeth Sorensen

Financial info
Revenue 2017-2018
- Endowments $192,272.17
- Events $168,671.72
- Gifts $498,821.81
- Other $17,709.00
- Grand Total $877,474.70

Expenses 2017-2018
- Administration $29,891.15
- Insurance $14,052.50
- Programs $137,657.90
- Scholarships $278,819.28
- Grand Total $460,420.83

April 26-27, 2019
May 3-4, 2019
Spring Plant Sale

June 7, 2019
Fall 2019 Scholarship Application Ends

October 29, 2019
2019 Bright Futures Benefit Breakfast
Motivation: LWTech and LWTech Foundation Missions & Vision

LWTech Mission:
To prepare students for today’s careers and tomorrow’s opportunities

LWTech Vision:
To be the college of choice for workforce education

Foundation Mission:
To actively engage business and the community in supporting LWTech, its students, and its role in building a strong economy

Vision Narrative
LWTech is recognized by students, business, community, and peer organizations as the choice for innovative workforce education because we:

• Value diversity and welcome students from all backgrounds and levels of educational attainment.
• Create educational opportunities and support for students to achieve success and prepare for lifelong learning.
• Distinguish ourselves by offering creative, cutting-edge, hands-on education.
• Offer students choices to achieve their educational goals through applied, pathway-based education from basic education and certificate programs to baccalaureate degrees.
• Teach using the latest industry standards and cross-discipline approaches to prepare students for immediate and future employment.
• Empower employees to reach their potential in a supportive environment that values collaboration, transparency, respect, and integrity.
• Work in partnership with business and industry as well as local and global organizations to foster economic vitality and create prosperous communities.
• Thrive in state-of-the-art facilities that use the latest learning and business technologies to enhance the delivery of education and our internal operations.
• Implement innovations that result in a financially-sustainable organization.

Core Themes
Pathways
LWTech is accessible to the community by providing multiple entrance points and educational pathways. The college is a conduit for students to upgrade their skills, transition into new careers, or further their education and training.

Student Achievement
At LWTech, students gain the skills and knowledge needed to achieve their educational goals and to participate in the workforce.

External Engagement
LWTech forms partnerships with governmental and community organizations, educational institutions, business, and labor in order to effectively support the Institution’s mission.

College Community
LWTech provides a safe, supported and engaging learning environment for students and work environment for faculty and staff.
Each year, the LWTech Foundation awards thousands of dollars in scholarship funds to students. While each of these scholarships are unique, one, in particular, truly stands out from the rest – Blair’s Promise: A Second Chance Scholarship in Memory of Blair Bonine.

Founded in 2015 by Gina Haggerty and Bruce Bonine, the Blair’s Promise scholarship was created in memory of their son, Blair, who died in 2014. While at LWTech, Blair was a student in LWTech’s Motorcycle, Marine, and Power Equipment Service Technology program. He had struggled with addiction since his early teens, but was in recovery. “LWTech was a good fit for him,” said Bonine. “Just before he died, he seemed to have turned a corner, and was having more success. It was sad that he didn’t get to complete [his education], but hopefully someone can use this scholarship to better their lives,” he added.

The scholarship, which awards $1,500 a year, is intended to help students with more than just a financial need. “There are several scholarships out there for those with high GPAs or other academic merit. We wanted to support those that haven’t had a chance to demonstrate that merit,” said Haggerty.

This year’s recipient of the scholarship was Zach Ashment. Like Blair, Ashment too had struggled with addiction. After living in Boise, Idaho for several years, he sought a lifestyle change and moved to Washington state. “I started seeing patterns that I just didn’t want to deal with anymore, so I decided to cut it all off and move here,” said Ashment.

The Blair’s Promise scholarship, I was able to get a new laptop, which I’ll be taking with me to use in WSU’s lab space,” he added.

Ashment is the first in his family to attend a four-year institution, and he will come out of it with both a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in only three years at WSU.

“Zach’s story struck close to home for us,” said Haggerty. “This whole idea of a second chance is what we want to recognize. We want to acknowledge the extra effort needed to overcome those challenges and take a little bit of that stress away from these students by helping them financially. I hope this scholarship both inspires people to donate and encourages students to keep going to school.”
Scholarships

Keep Goals Within Reach and Inspire Greater Potential

“...the sky is the limit for me, and that with a little hard work, I can truly do anything I want.”

—Diana DiBiase

Scholarships are not just about awarding financial assistance. They help students reach their goals and pursue their dreams. Here, three LWTech scholars share their stories and inspiration for continuing their education. These students are proof that no matter what your interest or background may be, you not only have a program waiting for you at LWTech, but there are also scholarship opportunities available to help you succeed, and a promising future when you graduate.
Deshawn Saunders

Deshawn Saunders first came to Washington state after graduating from high school in Tianjin, China. While considering his options for college, he had one particular goal—“I wanted to pursue something where I’m not sitting static at a desk all day,” he said. He began a program in Urban and Regional Planning at another college, but soon decided that it wasn’t a good fit. “I changed my mind and went for something more hands-on, which led me to LWTech.”

Combining his strong interest in cars with this desire for hands-on training, Saunders enrolled in LWTech’s Auto Repair Technician program. “I really wanted to know how a car, the thing that I rely on every day, works and how I can fix it myself,” he said.

So far, Saunders has enjoyed his program. “LWTech is inclusive and very supportive of their students. The instructors have lots of industry experience, which makes them great teachers, and also means they have industry connections,” said Saunders. “If it wasn’t for the small class sizes, I wouldn’t be doing as well as I am.”

In addition to his classroom success, Saunders received a $2,000 scholarship from the Porsche Club of America Pacific Northwest Region. “This was very helpful in getting the tools I needed so that I could be prepared to work in the industry,” he said. “Plus, the donor not only assists students financially, but also reaches out to auto companies for student employment after graduation.”

After graduation, Saunders plans to enter the workforce, hopefully working for Toyota or Audi. “Since I started at LWTech, I’ve received help with financial aid, picking my classes, scholarships, and more. My professors have helped answer my questions, whether it be a car in class or my own car, Whatever it is, LWTech is always able to help me out.”

Abra Zink

Early Childhood Education student and single mother, Abra Zink, has always loved working with children. She spent 10 years working as a nanny and volunteering in various classrooms, before giving birth to her son.

Zink then became a DSHS Certified Provider and took care of her sister’s five children, bringing her son with her to work. After five years in this position, she was laid off due to budget cuts. Knowing that she wanted to continue working with children, she enrolled in LWTech’s Early Childhood Education program.

Zink, who was diagnosed with dyslexia and dysgraphia in elementary school, says that school had been difficult for her in the past. “I really struggled in school. I worked extremely hard, refusing to give up. At LWTech, I received so much support and encouragement that I quickly came to believe that I could fulfill all my dreams of becoming a teacher,” she said. “I believe that my past struggles give me insight into what some of my students might be facing, and it gives me more empathy for their struggle.”

Zink was also the recipient of two LWTech Foundation Bright Futures Scholarships, sponsored by Walt and Kathy Krueger and Western Exterminators. These allowed her to stay home with her son, and focus on school.

As Zink progresses through her program, her goal is to continue earning stackable certifications and complete her associate degree. After graduation, she hopes to become a teacher or program director, and possibly continue her education, working towards a bachelor’s or master’s degree. “On any given day, a child may need me to be a teacher, mother, friend, nurse, advocate, observer, peer, writer of rules, their rock, or maybe just a playmate. I am all these things and more.”

Diana DiBiase

Certified Nursing Assistant Diana DiBiase was only one class away from completing her RN prerequisites when she decided to apply to the Behavioral Healthcare Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree program at LWTech. “For the past 14 years, I have taken care of some very special people who suffer from insufficient mental healthcare. From working with Alzheimer’s patients, to mentally and physically handicapped individuals, or those suffering from chemical dependency – I’ve witnessed the need for better behavioral healthcare and the benefit that it could have on our society,” said DiBiase.

DiBiase, a single mother, received a Bright Futures Scholarship sponsored by Teddy Overleese this past year. “The scholarship helped me pay for tuition and childcare. I thought I was going to have to take time off of school to work, but the scholarship allowed me to focus on my studies and my daughter,” she said. Her daughter attends LWTech’s Early Learning Center while DiBiase goes to school. “I feel I made the best decision for myself and my daughter by coming here.”

DiBiase started the Behavioral Healthcare program in Fall 2018 and plans to work with dual diagnosis patients after graduation. “I know I can’t change the world when it comes to behavioral health and chemical dependency, but if I can give just one person a better quality of life, then I’ve won,” she said.

“I never thought college was an option, especially as a single mom. LWTech has helped me realize that the sky is the limit for me, and that with a little hard work, I can truly do anything I want.”
# LW Tech by the Numbers

## Demographics for 2017-2018

**LW Tech Enrollment Data: 2017-2018**

- **1,000 Students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment (full-time equivalent students)</th>
<th>3,418</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment (total headcount)</td>
<td>6,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Students</td>
<td>3,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students of Color</td>
<td>2,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Race Not Reported</td>
<td>1,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3,944</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Enrolled with a degree already earned (associate’s or higher) 1,634

- Workforce Training 3,665

- Transfer 945

- Other (enrichment, improve job skills, etc.) 762

- Basic Skills 1,153

## Median Student Age

- **30**

## Estimated Rate of Employment*

- **82%**

*2015-16 Graduates most recent data available

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* Source: Data Linking Outcomes Assessment Database
### Highest Enrolled Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer and Software Development</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welding Technology</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Gaming and Interactive Media</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Architecture, Design and Engineering</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Assisting</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Security and Network Technology</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Repair Technician</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LWTech Employee Information: 2017-2018

- Male: 168
- Female: 302
- White Employees: 367
- Employees of Color: 103
- Full-Time Teaching Faculty: 77
- Part-Time Teaching Faculty: 240
- Classified: 106
- Administrative: 44
- Median Employee Age: 48
- Student: Faculty Ratio: 15:1

### LWTech Financial Information: 2017-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Budget</td>
<td>$27,239,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Grants for Financial Aid</td>
<td>$3,036,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Non-Financial Aid Grants</td>
<td>$1,860,938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Grants</td>
<td>$2,039,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Loans</td>
<td>$3,304,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships Awarded</td>
<td>$672,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Study (dollar amount)</td>
<td>$174,746</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LWTech launched a new Strategic Plan in Fall of 2017. This short-term plan will build a foundation for student and employee success through engagement, technology, and new partnerships. The plan has four goals:

**Goal 1:** Increase access and completion rates for all students, and close opportunity gaps for underrepresented students.

**Goal 2:** Attract and retain diverse employees that view LWTech as an employer of choice.

**Goal 3:** Align our college culture and brand identity.

**Goal 4:** Create a sustainable fiscal structure to ensure the college fulfills its mission and vision.

Highlights from the launch of this plan include the new Tableau Community Dashboards that track student success, implementation of Hobsons software to support student advising, grant awards from the National Science Foundation that bring new fiscal resources, and engagement with the campus community on what it means to be the only public institute of technology in Washington, including questions around sense of belonging and shared purpose as college employees. The plan can be viewed at lwtech.edu/strategicplan.

**Guided Pathways**

At LWTech, all student success work is part of our implementation of Guided Pathways. Guided Pathways is a fundamental shift in advising, instructional programs, and student support services to create equal opportunities for students to earn a degree or certificate regardless of background or socioeconomic status. Highlights of Guided Pathways work in 2017-18 include:

- **Implementation of a new student advising tool:** The college implemented new advising software called Legend (our name for Starfish by Hobsons). This program features a formal early alert system that allows faculty and staff to identify struggling students, a common repository for academic plans, and a shared notes system across Instruction and Student Services.
• **Publication of program maps:** Program maps provide a student with a visual representation of their course of study, including recommended courses for each quarter. These maps are available in the online college catalog for all professional-technical and transfer degree programs.

• **Development of mandatory advising:** LWTech launched mandatory advising for new students in the School of Health Sciences. This requires students to meet with an advisor prior to registering for first quarter courses, and to meet with a faculty advisor at key academic check-points. Mandatory advising will scale to all new students over the next academic year.

These efforts have improved the rate at which students earn a degree or certificate and brought new recognition to the college. Last year, LWTech was one of the Top 150 Colleges for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence for 2019.

**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

The college’s commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion work is reflected in the elevation of a previous committee to council status, which has a greater role in the college’s shared governance. Highlights from the work led by the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Council (EDIC) from 2017-18 include:

• **Opening of the RISE Center:** The Resources for Inclusion, Support, and Empowerment (RISE) Center opened in October of 2017. This center aims to build an equitable and inclusive campus environment for all students, while also providing professional development and support to academic programs. The RISE Center emerged from the Strategic Plan, and the college’s original Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Plan (EDIP), available at lwtech.edu/diversity.

• **Community potluck celebrating food traditions:** The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Council (EDIC) sponsored the first-ever community potluck to celebrate food traditions of the LWTech community in June of 2018. This potluck, attended by an estimated 150 people, brought together faculty and staff to celebrate culinary delights from over 30 cultures and countries.

• **360 evaluations of cabinet members:** The original EDIP called for senior leadership to receive 360 evaluations, which is a process that uses confidential, anonymous feedback from peers and colleagues. After the EDIC provided substantive feedback into this review process, the 360 evaluations launched in spring of 2018. All cabinet members received robust feedback from both their cabinet peers and direct reports through this tool.

**Grant Development**

In 2017-18, LWTech continued to demonstrate excellence in securing new grant funds. The college received $450,000 from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to expand our nationally-recognized I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training) program. With this funding, LWTech will develop an I-BEST program for each of the seven schools and three programs of study. The college also launched The Northwest Network for Application Development (AppConnectNW). Funded with $800,000 from the National Science Foundation, this project brings LWTech together with four partner colleges and the Washington Technology Industry Association to align bachelor programs in software development with industry need.

The college will continue work on other National Science Foundation grants in 2018-2019, including:

• Future Tech Stars NSF S-STEM scholarship program (DUE 1458583)

• Photonics Technology program (ATE 1502032)

**Department of Education programs:**

• TRiO - Student Support Services (P042A150150 and P042A150152)

• Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success (CEVSS) (P116G150117)

Beyond federal grants, the college is funded by private foundations including:

• **Achieving the Dream (ATD)**
  • Open Educational Resources Initiative

• **College Spark Washington (College Spark)**
  • Smart Start Student Welcome Center
The LWTech Foundation provides hundreds of merit and need-based scholarships for students every year. These scholarships would not be possible without the contributions from generous donors, like Elling and Barbara Halvorson.

This year, Mr. and Mrs. Halvorson donated an incredible $200,000 to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) startup campaign. As the lead gift in the campaign, their donation not only contributes to LWTech’s goal to offer a four-year BSN program, but also establishes the Elling and Barbara Halvorson Endowed Scholarship for Outstanding Nursing Students, which will provide four scholarships, in perpetuity, to nursing students who demonstrate exceptional dedication to patient care.

Over the course of their 65-year marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Halvorson have worked with various nursing professionals. Their two youngest sons, twins Randal and Rodney, were diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy at an early age, requiring round-the-clock care by trained nursing staff. “We've had a lot of nurses and nursing assistants that have worked in our home. There are good nurses and excellent nurses. LWTech's
“I believe we all can make a difference.”

–Elling Halvorson

BSN graduates are going to be outstanding,” added Mrs. Halvorson. Randal recently celebrated his 60th birthday and lives with his parents in their home. Sadly, Rodney passed away in 2017. “Having seen, firsthand, the important work nurses do each day, it was important for us to do what we could to ensure that there continues to be qualified and skilled nurses in our community,” said Mr. Halvorson.

Mr. Halvorson’s contributions to LWTech go beyond his donation to the BSN program. He served on the college’s Board of Trustees for 12 years, and was the Chair of the Board in 2004. During that time, Mr. Halvorson brought up the idea of offering college degrees in addition to certificates. “I kind of shocked the Board a lot of times. They had never dreamt at that point of being able to award degrees outside of the terminal certificates,” commented Mr. Halvorson.

In addition to his contribution to LWTech’s associate and applied baccalaureate degrees, Mr. Halvorson was also the first to suggest changing the name of the school to include the words “Institute of Technology.” Mr. Halvorson’s dedication and visionary leadership to the college was recognized in 2018 by the LWTech Board of Trustees when they presented him with the first-ever “LW Tech Trustee Emeritus award” at the 5th Annual LW Tech Foundation Scholarship Reception.

Mr. Halvorson has always been involved in his community. While he wanted to go into the construction business, as his father had before him, he also wanted to be able to give back to the community. But then he read a book by inventor and businessman, Robert Gilmour LeTourneau. “Robert was giving 92-percent of his profits to charitable causes that help people. I read his book and thought, if he can do it, I can do it,” said Mr. Halvorson.

Since then, Mr. Halvorson has been involved in several charitable organizations, including Doctors without Borders, Union Gospel Mission, and a number of higher education institutions, including LW Tech. He and his wife also helped to establish the Halvorson Cancer Center at EvergreenHealth in 2012.

Even with his philanthropic work, Mr. Halvorson is probably best known for being a business leader. He was an Executive Officer of Elling Halvorson, Inc., Chief Executive Officer and founder of Papillon Airways, Inc., Vice President and Partner of Grand Canyon Airlines (Scenic Airlines), President and Chief Executive Officer of Squire Motor Inns, Inc., as well as holding positions with other corporations.

“I’ve constructed supermarkets, churches, schools, and places like that. But I really had my primary focus on work that other people would probably not be so interested in. So, I did extra challenging jobs, like railroad relocation and mountain peak navigation systems,” said Mr. Halvorson.

These non-traditional construction jobs, specifically a five-year pipeline job in the Grand Canyon, led him to the aerial tours industry. “I started the helicopter business when we finished the pipeline with two or three helicopters. It was in a day when nobody knew much about helicopters. They were so new. Very few people had actually been around a helicopter, and it was second nature to us after working with them so much,” he said.

Because the helicopter tour idea was unique for its time, business was slow in the beginning. “For a number of years, our accountants and our bankers were saying, ‘Get rid of that business Elling. It’s taking you down.’ I said, ‘No, I think it’s going to be a good business.’ And it’s a $100 million business now.”

As a true visionary, Mr. Halvorson saw the bright future of technical colleges, and how putting an end to terminal degrees could positively impact the lives of thousands of students. That, combined with life experiences, business acumen, and a passion for exemplary patient care have made a difference in our community.

Mr. Halvorson adds, “My wife and I had a specific interest in nursing, saw an opportunity to do more, and we grabbed ahold of it. I believe we all can make a difference. Find what you’re passionate about, you’ll be amazed at what you can do.”
Spring Plant Sale Cultivates New Record

Attendance and sales hit an all-time high at LWTech’s 2018 Environmental Horticulture Program’s Annual Spring Plant Sale. More than a hundred plant varieties, all grown and cultivated by students, were available for sale at this beloved annual event; including, vegetables, herbs, petunia, colorful fuchsia and mixed hanging baskets, annuals, perennials, and many more. “I view the sale as our capstone project,” says Horticulture Professor Don Marshall. “We sell what the students grow, and the plants are a little different every year.”

The LWTech Foundation participated in the Annual Spring Plant Sale via the Jim Colman Endowed Scholarship Sale led by Northwest Nurseries. This “sale within the sale” complements the Annual Plant Sale by featuring a wide variety of perennials, shrubs, and trees with proceeds funding four annual full-tuition student scholarships in perpetuity. “My father, Jim Colman, was a huge supporter of LWTech’s Environmental Horticulture Program. He mentored students, hired graduates, co-taught courses and provided internships at Northwest Nurseries. The sale is a “win-win” as it connects the program with the community and honors my father by supporting future industry talent,” said Laura Wildfong, LWTech Trustee, Northwest Nurseries Owner, and former president of the LWTech Foundation Board of Directors.

“We were overwhelmed

Concerned about hunger on campus, LWTech’s student government spearheaded the creation of the Daily Eating Necessities (D.E.N.) Student Food Pantry on November 1, 2017. “Many students are forced to choose between food and educational expenses,” said Amanda Pelly, 2017-2018 President, LWTech Associated Student Government. “The purpose of the D.E.N. is to alleviate the stress of food insecurity while students are on campus.”

Inspired by the effort to combat on-campus hunger, Brenda Nunes, LWTech Foundation board member and Managing Broker, Keller Williams Eastside, engaged her fellow Keller Williams Eastside realtors in a highly successful holiday food and cash drive to support the D.E.N. During a presentation at a Foundation board meeting, Brenda and her colleagues, Trevor Gage and Ashley Redfearn, surprised student leaders with two carts chock-full of the food items most needed on campus such as granola bars, Cup of Noodles, and other non-perishable foods, as well as over $300 in cash and gift cards for the D.E.N. “Keller Williams cares, and has a strong culture of giving back,” said Brenda Nunes. “It was gratifying to see my fellow agents and colleagues wholeheartedly embrace the student food pantry at LWTech.” “We were overwhelmed with gratitude,” added Pelly. “Because of Keller Williams Eastside’s generosity, students experiencing hunger will have access to food while attending classes on campus.”

Photo – pictured right to left: Ashley Redfearn (Keller Williams), Brenda Nunes (LWTech Foundation Board Member, Keller Williams), Trevor Gage (Keller Williams), Ali Amjad (LWTech ASG Officer), Amanda Pelly (LWTech ASG President)
The LWTech Foundation’s Student Emergency Fund is designed to ensure that no student has to choose between staying in school, or dropping out, in the event of an unanticipated emergency situation.

The Foundation is grateful to generous donors, James Kinsella and Robert McNeal, for spearheading The Bridge the Gap Matching Challenge Grant, at LWTech Foundation’s 2017 Bright Futures Benefit Breakfast. The challenge raised $25,000 at the event, and was matched by Kinsella and McNeal for a $50,000 student emergency fund for the 2017-2018 academic year. The fund will provide financial assistance to eligible students for tuition, school supplies, rent, emergency housing, food, utilities, childcare, medical needs and transportation (gas and bus passes).

“The ability to offer financial assistance to students in catastrophic situations strongly correlates to student persistence and completion rates,” said Dr. Ruby Hayden, VP, Student Services at LWTech. “Crisis happens in all of our lives; we don’t want that to prevent success in college. As a result of the matching challenge, we will be able to serve more students with greater support.”

The LWTech Foundation is pleased to announce Cathy England, RN, BSN as the recipient of the 2018 LWTech Foundation Annual Distinguished Alumni Award!

Cathy earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in French Language and Literature from the University of Oregon in 1990. She enjoyed studying French, yet had a strong desire for a career focused on helping people to attain, maintain, or recover optimal health and quality of life.

Cathy enrolled in the Nursing Program at LWTech in 2010, where she excelled, benefiting from the program’s small class sizes, state-of-the-art learning labs, and clinical experiences and opportunities.

She graduated from LWTech with her Associate’s Degree in Nursing in 2012, and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Washington, Bothell. She holds a Maternal Newborn Nursing Certification from the National Certification Corporation and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Society of Nursing.

Cathy and her husband are staunch supporters of workforce development and education. In 2017, Cathy and her husband traveled to Switzerland alongside Governor Jay Inslee, LWTech President, Dr. Amy Morrison Goings, and a delegation of business, education, and government groups to learn about the Swiss apprenticeship model of career connected learning.

Cathy is active in her community, serving as a volunteer with Program for Early Parent Support (PEPS), the Seattle/King County Public Health Medical Reserve Corps, and the Girls Scouts of Western Washington.

“I wouldn’t be where I am today without LWTech,” Cathy adds. “I met my current manager through an innovative senior practicum experience offered by LWTech. I am forever grateful for the faculty and nursing education.”

Cathy is currently a Registered Nurse, specializing in Labor and Delivery at Swedish Medical Center, Issaquah Campus.

Congratulations to Cathy on this distinguished honor!

Bridge the Gap Matching Challenge Raises $50,000 for Student Emergency Fund

2018 LWTech Foundation Annual Distinguished Alumnae – Cathy England

2018 Distinguished Alumnae Cathy England

with gratitude.
– Amanda Pelly

Some of the thankful 2018 scholarship recipients (and family)
Each year hundreds of students are able to enroll in a program at LWTech, to get the education that will help them get a job, learn the skills that employers need, or update their skills as technology advances. Your generosity provides the scholarships and emergency help they need to fulfill their dreams.

On behalf of the Foundation, and all who benefit, thank you!

A Big Thank You! to Our 2017 Donors

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