

# PERRY NEWS

what's happening at perry technical institute



**03**  
Doug Oswalt  
Brings Fun to  
the Classroom



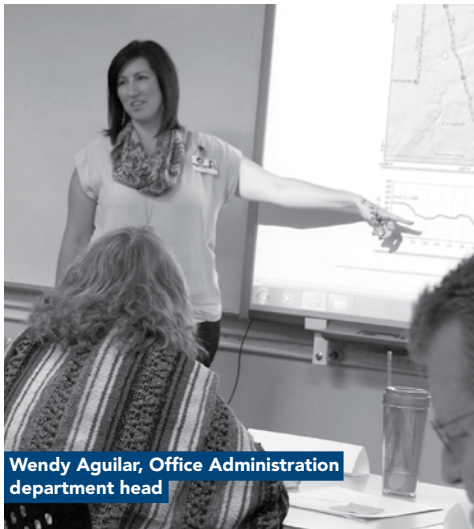
**05**  
Grad Remains  
Connected to  
Perry



**06**  
Having Fun  
with  
Technology

Summer 2013

## Business Technology to Grant Associate Degree



Wendy Aguilar, Office Administration  
department head

For the first time in the school's 74-year history, Perry Technical Institute will offer graduates an associate degree.

Graduates of the Business Technology & Accounting Program (BTA) will be awarded associate of applied science degrees. "The associate degree will make our graduates even more employable," says Perry President Christine Coté. "The degree will give them a competitive edge."

Graduates of Perry's 10 other training programs receive certificates of completion. The associate degree will be awarded to graduates starting with the class which began school on June 24.

Perry applied and received approval to award the associate degree from the Department of Education, the Washington Student Achievement Council, and the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges.

Wendy Aguilar, head of Perry's Office Administration programs, explained that the new designation does not change the program's curriculum. "The AAS degree is widely recognized in our industry," she says.

Perry's Business Technology & Accounting is an 18-month program that prepares students for careers as bookkeepers, office managers, administrative assistants, and support positions in accounting, payroll, and human resources. •

## Perry Tech 101: Students Learn Strategies for Success

A new, mandatory workshop is helping students learn strategies that will help them succeed in the classroom and beyond.

The goal of Perry Tech 101 is to increase student retention rates. "Many students don't have the skills necessary to succeed in school," said Jennifer McMurtrey, Perry's associate dean of student affairs. "They may not have learned the strategies to be successful students."

Jennifer, along with Perry's career services specialist Dax Wandling, cover subjects such as dealing with change, increasing self-esteem, motivation, goal setting, learning styles, memory development, listening skills, note-taking, study skills, test-taking techniques,

and critical thinking skills.

The workshop was included in the curriculum for the first time in September 2012. Karina Causor, a student in the Business

Technology & Accounting Program, was among the first group of students to go through Perry Tech 101. She found it a useful addition to her educational tool set.

One of the stand-out lessons of the class for Karina and her classmates was the learning-style quiz. Students answered questions, which then guided them to understand what type of learners they were.

"For example, a kinesthetic learner may study better if they chew gum while they do homework," Karina explains.

The one-hour workshop meets once a week, for five weeks.



Jennifer McMurtrey, associate dean of student affairs, leads a session of Perry Tech 101.

(cont. on pg. 7)

## Excitement is in the Air at Perry Tech



Christine Coté

Record-setting enrollment, climbing placement rates, expansion plans in the works. And, late last month, news that Perry Technical Institute has been approved to grant its first associate degree. Good news abounds on the Perry campus.

The excitement actually began with last fall's announcement that Perry Technical Institute was one of only 17 schools out of more than 800 nationwide to be named a School of Excellence by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges.

Last month, enrollment reached a new high – nearly 700 students enrolled in our 11 training programs. Every program is full until 2014. We have responded to the increased demand for our programs by adding classes. Two programs, Instrumentation and Electrical, have switched from trimesters to quarters, allowing

an additional 88 students to enroll in the two programs each year.

To respond to the increase demand, we are making plans to build a new Instrumentation building. Look for details on the new building in the fall issue of the Perry News.

We're pleased to report that placement rates are rising as the economy recovers from the recession. Overall, placement fell from 87% in the spring of 2009 to a low of 77% in 2011. Placement is now at 90%.

We are pleased to announce that we recently received approval from the United States Department of Education, the Washington Student Achievement Council, and the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges to offer an associate degree in the Business Technology & Accounting Program. This marks the first time in the 74-year history of the school that Perry has been approved to grant a degree. The associate degree will give graduates an additional credential, making them even more employable.

As alumni and friends of Perry Tech, I hope you will join me in celebrating these victories. •

## IN BRIEF

### Donation Funds Improvement in Perry's Automotive Shop

A generous donation from an anonymous donor funded the purchase and installation of a new exhaust ventilation system in the Automotive shop.

The Euro Vent system is manufactured by John Dow Industries. The exhaust system removes harmful exhaust from vehicles while they are running in the shop.

Students from the Electrical Technology Program did the electrical work required to install the ventilation system.

"The new system has made a huge difference in the air quality in our department," says Jason Lamiquiz, department head.

### Pacific Power Grant Used to Purchase Safety Gear

The Pacific Power Foundation has continued its partnership with Perry Technical Institute by granting \$2,000 to help purchase arc flash safety suits and gear for the Electrical Technology Program.

The use of arc flash safety suits is part of Perry's ongoing efforts to create a safe learning environment and to prepare students for the safety challenges they will encounter in the field.

"We hope that these additional safety precautions become second nature for the students and that after they graduate they will be ambassadors for increased safety in their workplaces," says Erin Fishburn, foundation director.

The Pacific Power Foundation has a long history of supporting Perry's Electrical Technology Program with cash and equipment donations.

### Students Benefit from Articulation Agreements

Articulation agreements give students a head start on completing training at Perry and on earning Associate of Applied Science degrees at Yakima Valley Community College.

For years, Perry has articulated with YVCC. The agreement now allows Perry students to earn AAS degrees in four technical areas. The YVCC requirements may be completed before, during, or after completing the graduation requirements at Perry Tech.

Over the last several years, Perry has formed articulation agreements with the Yakima School District and the Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center. These articulation agreements provide high school students with the opportunity to earn credit for one quarter in Perry's Automotive, Machine, Welding, Business, Medical, and Legal programs.

To be eligible to participate, high school students must meet the terms outlined in the articulation agreement including having a minimum grade point average of 3.0.

### Plan to Attend Fall Open house

If it has been some time, or if you've never had a chance to visit the Perry Tech campus, put Wednesday, September 11, on your calendar.

Perry Tech will host an open house, from 3:30 to 7 pm. Open house is the perfect chance to reacquaint yourself with your alma mater, to introduce the school to friends and family members, or to make your first visit to campus.

Visitors will have a chance to tour each of PTI's specialized training programs: Automotive Technology; Business Technology & Accounting; Electrical Technology; Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology; Information Technology & Communication Systems; Instrumentation & Industrial Automation Technology; Legal Assistant/Paralegal; Machine Technology; Medical Assistant; Medical Office Administration & Coding; and Welding Technology.

Instructors and staff will be on hand to answer questions and provide information about the curriculum, enrollment process, and financial aid. Hot dogs and soft drinks will be served.

Perry Tech is located at 2011 W. Washington Ave., across the street from the Yakima Air Terminal. For more information, call the school at 453.0374 or toll-free at 888.528.8586. •

**PerryNEWS is a quarterly newsletter for alumni and friends of Perry Technical Institute. Please send address changes to:**

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## 'Love What You Do': Oswalt Brings Passion to His Teaching

Everyone knows a teacher can have a strong impact on a student's life. Fortunately for students in the fifth section of Instrumentation, they are learning from someone who truly loves what he does. Working at Perry for more than 10 years, Doug Oswalt says he looks forward to coming to work every day.

After working in the field of instrumentation with such companies as Borden Chemical and CH2M HILL, Doug decided to come to Perry and start teaching. He actually switched places with a friend who was teaching and wanted to get back into the field. Doug never looked back and has enjoyed his job at Perry Tech ever since.

Originally from Yakima, Doug likes to spend time boating, fishing, and playing tennis with his family. He has four children:

twin daughters Shae and Kay, 22; a son Ben, 16; and another daughter Mary who is 12. Faith is an important part of his life. His wife, Laurie, is a Presbyterian pastor and chaplain at Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital.

So what is automation? Doug says the best way to describe automation is that it is "designing, implementing, and maintaining a control system to take over a process that people used to have to do."

Doug originally became interested in automation through his mom, who used to be a proof operator at a bank. A proof operator would manually enter checking account numbers on a 10-key pad. This and many similar jobs are now done through controls.

"I teach what we call the geek section," jokes Doug. This class works on the brain for the machine performing the task. They "teach" the machinery how to do the tasks they were built for. "We're the ones that work the controls and tell the machine what to do."

When Doug started teaching, they were primarily using a DOS, or disc operation system, with Windows 95 on occasion. When Windows XP came out, it was a pretty big deal. They were then able to teach industrial programming languages using strictly Windows.

Although it sounds like a lot of tough work – which it is – Doug sees it as all as worthwhile, especially if you love what you do. "Working hard and enjoying life are not mutually exclusive," Doug explains. "Life is

meant to be lived to its fullest. That means having purpose...and having fun."

And this desire for enjoyment doesn't stop with him; he wants his students to feel the same way.

He understands that if people aren't enjoying what they do, then they won't perform well, and then down the road the customer won't be happy either.

On the wall of his living room at home is a large black and white sign that reads, "Work Hard and Be Nice." According to his wife, "This captures his philosophy for life, and it's what he wants to instill in the students. Hopefully, they'll want to live – and work – that same way." •



Doug Oswalt works with students in the fifth section of Perry's Instrumentation Program.

## Perry Expands Recruitment Team



Garet Gasseling



Mike Palencia

Perry Technical Institute has added Garet Gasseling and Mike Palencia to its recruitment team.

Garet was raised in Wapato and graduated from Wapato High School. He is a graduate of Perry's Business Technology & Accounting Program. He was previously employed in a local document destruction business.

Mike is a Yakima native and a graduate of Davis High School. He earned an associate of arts degree with a business option from Yakima Valley Community College and studied comparative ethnic studies at Washington State University. Before joining the Perry staff, Mike was a community health educator at Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and Northern Idaho.

Perry's student recruitment team attends career and college fairs, gives presentations in high school classrooms, and participates in community events. The recruiters concentrate their recruitment efforts on Washington and Oregon, but also make trips to California, Montana, and Alaska where many Perry graduates are placed. •

# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



November 2012

## Matthew McInnes

Graphic Technology

Matthew McInnes knows what it takes to get the job done.

All those skills earned him the honor of being named Perry Technical Institute's November Student of the Month.

"Matt is a self-starter who is motivated to succeed," says instructor Shawn Hayden, an instructor in the Visual Communication & Graphic Technology Program. "Matt's positive attitude in class sets the bar high for his classmates."

Matt graduated from East Valley High School in 2002 and worked in retail for 10 years before returning to school. "This has been an awesome experience for me. It has definitely exceeded my expectations."

Matt graduated in December and did an externship in the sign department at King Beverage Company.

Perry no longer offers the Visual Communication & Graphic Technology Program. Matt was a member of the program's last graduating class.



December 2012

## Shawn Brownlee

Welding Technology

Shawn Brownlee is the kind of student who makes teaching easy.

Matt Medearis, head of Perry Technical Institute's Welding Technology Program, says Shawn is the first one to complete assignments and then help fellow students. For this and other accomplishments, Shawn was named Perry's Student of the Month for December.

"Shawn's class work and lab projects are always on time and require very little, if any, correcting," says Medearis. "His level of commitment is one of the best I have seen in my career."

The decision to come to Perry was a positive change in Shawn's life. "My life hasn't always been what I'd like it to be, but without adverse life experiences I wouldn't be who I am today," he said.

For now, Shawn is focusing on school while working part time at a local pizza restaurant. When he graduates in September, he says he's willing to go wherever opportunity takes him.



January 2013

## Mayda Arellano

Legal/Assistant Paralegal

An exceptional work ethic, strong communication skills, and a positive attitude – combined with a 3.9 grade point average – earned Mayda Arellano the honor of being named Perry's January Student of the Month.

A lifelong interest in the legal field led Mayda to enroll in Perry's Legal Assistant/Paralegal Program. So far, it's been everything she expected, and then some. "I have learned so much more than I expected to learn," she says.

Mayda entered the program in 2012, a year after graduating from Davis High School. When she was in the second quarter, her father lost his job and Mayda took a job working the night shift in a fruit warehouse. She would get out of school at 4 pm, sleep an hour, and then work all night. She would then catch a short nap and be back to school at 7 a.m.

Mayda put her skills to work in an externship at Montoya Hinckley Law Firm. She graduated from Perry in March.



February 2013

## Mystery Burnham

Medical Office Administration

Mystery Burnham leads by example, showing her two kids that hard work is the only way to reach your goals.

The single mother of two was rewarded for her efforts when she was named Perry Technical Institute's Student of the Month for February.

"Mystery is a phenomenal student," says instructor Doreen Pastrana. "She is an example of everything we want to see in a PTI graduate."

Mystery was working two jobs to support her family when she decided to enroll in Perry's Medical Office Administration & Coding Program.

Mystery says the 18-month program has equipped her with a new set of skills which she hopes will land her the kind of job she always wanted. She graduated in March and is now employed at Orthopedics Northwest.



March 2013

## Gregg Dunn

I.T. & Comm. Systems

Class leader, ideal student, an asset to have in class – that's how instructors describe Gregg Dunn.

A student in the Information Technology & Communication Systems Program, Gregg was recently named Perry Technical Institute's March Student of the Month.

"Gregg has been at the top of his class throughout his time at Perry," says Mike Smith, head of the ITCS program. "He has always had an excellent attitude and is focused on achieving success in his career."

A Kennewick native, Gregg graduated from Liberty Christian School in 2009. Following recommendations from family and friends, he enrolled at Perry. "I knew this was a good industry to get into and I wanted to be right on track to start a career," he says.

Gregg graduated in June and is employed at Lockheed Martin.



April 2013

## Susan Kramer

Instrumentation

Susan Kramer's career choice is ironic – she lost her job to automation and then chose to pursue a career in automation.

Susan had been a meter reader for Pacific Power for four years when the company went to an automated meter reading system. "I didn't have to think about what I should do. I knew right away that I wanted to go to Perry," she says.

The decision has proven to be a good one – Susan was selected as Perry Technical Institute's April Student of the Month.

After she lost her job, Susan used the waiting time to get into the Instrumentation & Industrial Automation Technology Program to complete the requirements for her associate's degree.

Susan, who graduated in June, said she likes the structure of studying at Perry. "It feels like I am still at work."

# Alum Gives Credit to Perry for Helping Him Reach His Potential

A single word – craftsmanship – is what Todd Eckman believes sets a Perry grad apart in the field.

Over the course of his 27-year career, Todd says craftsmanship has repeatedly brought him back to his alma mater to hire graduates.

Todd had just graduated from East Valley High School in 1983 when his grandfather insisted that he take a tour of Perry. Todd was interested in the Instrumentation Program which had a waiting list to enroll. He recalls how then-director of the school, the late Fred Iraola, literally pulled him across the hall to see Perry's newest program, Telecommunications. "He told me this was the wave of the future," Todd recalls.

Todd decided to take his advice; he was a member of the program's first graduating class in 1986 and the first of his classmates to land a job. He worked in the telephone industry and returned to Perry for five years to share his expertise as an instructor in the program. For the last 12 years, Todd has worked for Lockheed Martin, filling several engineering and management positions. He is currently the vice president of information management for Mission Support Alliance, a Lockheed Martin, Jacobs Engineering and Wackenhut Services, Inc. company.

While his career has taken him on a journey, he's always been loyal to his alma mater. "Perry is the place in my work life that I am most connected to,"

he says.

This loyalty has led Todd to serve on the Program Advisory Committee for many years. It has also led him to hire many Perry grads. "Perry graduates have a solid foundation of basic skills and the knowledge they need to build upon those skills," he says. "The Perry graduates we hire have everything they need to take that foundation and build it into a very successful career."



Todd Eckman

When his company hires a Perry grad, Todd likes to make a connection with the new-hire. "It opens up a whole new conversation; it gives us something in common."

Hiring a Perry graduate is a win-win situation: "The company gets a rock solid employee and I end up looking like a genius," he says, laughing.

After graduating from high school, Todd planned to become a logger until his grandfather brought him to Perry. "I was a farm kid who was not very successful in high school. Perry gave me a whole new life. Without Perry, I would never have seen my full potential."

Last December, Todd gave back to his alma mater in another way: He returned to campus to deliver the keynote speech at graduation. In her introduction, President Christine Coté described him as a Perry success story and a faithful friend of the school.

"I got a lot more out of this school than I could possibly give back," he says. •

## Perry Hosts Employer Expo



Perry staff members work at the check-in table at Perry's first-ever Employer Expo. They include Jennifer McMurtrey, Dax Wandling, and Jennifer Arnett.

Twenty-seven employers participated in Perry's first-ever Employer Expo on April 24.

Participating companies and organizations included employers looking for skilled workers and those planning for future hiring needs.

Plans are in the works to host a second Employer Expo next spring. Employers interested in participating in the event should call Jennifer Arnett, Career Services coordinator, at 509.453.0374, x226.

## IN MEMORY

**Lynn Baker**, a 1943 graduate of the Aircraft Mechanic Program, died on December 2, 2012, in Everett. He was 88.

A 2013 graduate of the Instrumentation Program, **Daylon Beck**, died on May 11 in San Diego, California. He was 24. Daylon was working as an instrumentation technician in the computer industry.

Automotive graduate **Kendall Force** died on October 30, 2012, in Yakima. He graduated in 2003.

A 1989 HVAC graduate and former instructor, **Phillip Hearron** died on December 27, 2012, after a six-month battle with cancer. After graduating from Perry, Phillip taught in the Building Maintenance Program. Over the course of his career, he worked as a welder, fabricator, and machinist. After his retirement, he worked as a flagger for Riddco, Inc.

**Jay Richard Henderson** died on May 1 in Yakima. Jay, a 1971 Automotive graduate, retired from Hahn Motor Company in 2007.

**Henry "Big Jerry" Karle** died on March 17. After a 10-year career as a truck driver, Henry completed Perry's HVAC/R Program. After graduating in 2002, he worked for Thermal Supply in Yakima.

A 1955 Instrumentation graduate, **Milton Libby**, died on May 1 in Longview. He was 80. Milton retired from Longview Fiber Company in 1993 as a senior instrument engineer. He was a former member of the Instrumentation Program Advisory Committee.

Longtime Perry staff member **Pinky Paxton** died on April 28 in Selah. Pinky worked as a secretary and bookkeeper at Perry for 17 years.

HVAC graduate **Vaughan Russell** died on January 27 in Yakima. Over the course of his career, Vaughan worked both in and out of the state and for a time was part owner of Seattle Refrigeration.

Former Machine instructor **Hans Schuller** died on February 5. Hans worked as a tool and die maker at Hanford and for companies such as Sunstrand and Irwin Research & Development. He taught in Perry's Machine Program from 1999 until 2006.

**Rowland Seal** died on March 5, in Yakima. After graduating from Perry, Rowland worked as a pipe fitter at the Bremerton Ship Yard. He served in the Army Air Corps and returned to Yakima and worked for Burrows Ford, Yakima Valley Ford, and Ljutic Manufacturing. He ended his career by serving as the manager of the body and fender department at Pepsi-Cola Bottling for 17 years.

**Rich Seefried** died on February 19 in Yakima. After attending Perry, he worked for Boise Cascade and as a custodian for the West Valley School District.

**Roger Strand** died on April 22 at the age of 66. Roger was a graduate of Perry's Auto Body and Fender Program.



## CLASS NOTES

**Brad Baranouskas** is an I&C technician at the Columbia Generating Station. After graduating from Perry's Instrumentation Program in 2005, Brad worked as an I&C tech at refineries for five years and then started working nuclear plant outages across the country. He has also worked as a field engineer and a QC technician in electrical and I&C inspection.

**Nick Bobadilla** is the web master and promotions designer at Radio Yakima. He is a 2012 graduate of the Visual Communication & Graphic Technology Program.

**Ashley Burmaster**, a 2013 graduate of the Medical Office Administration & Coding Program, is working as a receptionist and coder for Kroner Chiropractic in Yakima.

A 2010 Electrical graduate, **Nathan Esparza** is employed as an electrical engineering intern for the Grant County Public Utility District.

**Robert Baker** retired two years ago after working at an auto dealership in Yakima and for The Boeing Company in Everett. Robert is a 1966 graduate of the Automotive Program.

**Jamie Garcia** is working at the Georgia Pacific paper mill in Camas. He is a 2006 graduate of the Electrical Program.

**Amanda Gonzales** was hired by Montoya Hinckley Law Firm. A Yakima Valley native, Amanda graduated from Perry's Legal Assistant Program in March 2012.

A 2012 graduate of the Visual Communication & Graphic Technology Program, **Stevan Gonzalez** was recently hired as a graphic designer at The Field Group, a Yakima-based advertising and marketing firm.

**Dell Harney** has been named 2012 Maintenance Technologist of the Year by the North Carolina American Water Works & Waste Environmental Association. A 1988 Instrumentation graduate, he has worked as an instrumentation and process controls technician for the City of Greensboro, North Carolina, for the last 15 years.

**Joe Jaquins**, a 1970 Automotive graduate, retired from the City of Yakima in June 2012 after a long career in the automotive industry. After graduating from Perry, he worked at the Major and Thomas General Motors Dealership in Ellensburg; Yakima Dodge; Scott's Toyota; and retired from the City of Yakima garage after 34½ years of service.

**Bill Lizotte**, a 1989 Telecommunications graduate, recently started a consulting practice in Pleasanton, California. Over the last seven years, Bill had completed many projects with Arup, including working on the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's world headquarters in Seattle.

A 1990 Telecommunications graduate, **Ward Miller** works in ammonia refrigeration for Americold Logistics in the western region.

**David Nelson** retired from Honeywell in 1990 after 37 years of service. David, a 1952 Instrumentation graduate, lives in Anchorage, Alaska.

A 1983 HVAC graduate, **Ken Packwood** is the lead facilities/HVAC mechanic for the Fluke Corporation in Everett.

## PTI Instructors, Staff Honored

Three Perry Tech faculty members were honored with teaching awards and two employees were presented with service awards at the close of last year.

Automotive instructor Dusty Morrill was named Faculty Member of the Year. Dan Henderson, an instructor in the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Program, and Francisco Magana, an instructor in the Information Technology & Communication Systems Program, were named Outstanding Faculty Members for 2012. The honorees were selected based on student comments gathered over the previous year.

Dusty was described by students as being understanding, smart, and helpful. "I selected Dusty as Faculty Member of the Year because he is always helping us and he never gets upset. He always has a good attitude, plus he's very funny," said one student.

Another said, "I feel he enjoys teaching what he loves. He is a true auto guy. He understands that not everything written is the same as it really is in life."

Dusty joined the Perry faculty in 2010 with 16 years of experience in the automotive trade.

Students singled out Dan for being very knowledgeable, always prepared and for being an extremely hard worker. "He's the smartest, most technical person I think I've ever met," said one nomination. "He actually likes his job and enjoys teaching," said another student.

A 1993 Perry graduate, Dan had 14 years of experience in the forestry industry in 1994 when he launched a new career as an HVAC instructor.

Students described Francisco as an instructor who makes it easy to learn. "He helped me get through all the basic tools and gave me the right state of mind to be successful in my time at Perry Tech. He is very understanding and never gave up on me. I will never forget what he taught me."

Francisco first joined Perry in 1999 working as an instructor in the Computer Technology class Perry sponsored at the Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center. He moved to Perry to teach in the ITCS Program in 2010.

Also honored were two longtime Perry employees. Service awards were presented to:

- President Christine Coté, 15 years of service.
- Larry Dagdagan, Instrumentation instructor, 10 years of service.



**Nineteen middle school students participated in Perry's third annual Robotics Camp this summer. Students learned to use simple hand tools, explored the fundamentals of DC electricity and motors, and built and learned to manipulate a robotic arm. The camp was offered free of charge to students through underwriting from Shields Bag & Printing Company and Pacific Crest Planning.**

# Perry Welcomes Five New Instructors



Five new instructors have joined the Perry Tech faculty: Max York in the Instrumentation & Industrial Automation Technology Program; Danette Muntz in the Medical Office Administration & Coding Program; Cheryl Johnson in the Medical Assistant Program; Sam Perez in the Automotive Technology Program; and Matt Shipley in the Electrical Technology Program.

## **INSTRUMENTATION & INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Max is a graduate of Perry's Instrumentation Program. He retired from the Army National Guard in 2008 with 21 years of service. While in the National Guard, Max was an electronics mechanic. He worked on Army vehicles, fought a forest fire, and was deployed to Iraq.

Max is a native of San Diego, California, but has lived most of his life in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Together, Max and his wife, Kimber, have six grown children and 12 grandchildren. The new instructor's hobbies include radio-controlled helicopters, running, and playing video games.

## **MEDICAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION & CODING**

Danette served as assistant manager of a local optometric practice before accepting a coding position for Personal Group, Inc. where she maintained/updated electronic health records and assigned codes for Indian Health Services. She also has 20-plus years of experience in the hotel/restaurant industry.

A Sunnyside native, Danette moved to Yakima in 1985. She attended Yakima Valley Community College before completing Perry's Medical Office Administration and Medical Coding & Reimbursement Specialist programs.

Danette says she enjoyed working in industry, but welcomed the chance to return to her alma mater. "I see teaching as the perfect way to give back to the school that contributed to my success," she says.

The new instructor has a 22-year-old son. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, especially to warm, tropical locations. She also enjoys boating, jet skiing, sports, shopping, and going to plays and concerts.

## **Perry Tech 101: Students Learn Strategies for Success** *(cont. from pg. 1)*

Most lessons have a small homework assignment that the students work on throughout the week and bring to the next session.

"It was really helpful to take a lesson from the day, and then work on that skill, and figure out which method worked best for you," says Karina.

There is a significant amount of thought and planning behind what is taught in the workshop.

"The skills we teach are directly connected to student retention," says Jennifer.

Jennifer also says her one of her most valued lessons of the course is one in which they discuss making changes. Jennifer and

## **MEDICAL ASSISTANT**

A Selah native, Cheryl is a registered nurse with 12 years of experience in the field. She comes to Perry from the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic where she worked for the past five years. Cheryl previously worked for Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho.

Cheryl will teach the clinical portion of the 18-month program. Doreen Pastrana, an instructor in the Medical Office Administration & Coding Program, teaches the office administration courses offered during the first nine months of the program.

Cheryl and her husband, Jeff, have three grown children and two grandsons. Cheryl's hobbies include camping, skiing, and "do-it-yourself" projects around the house.

## **AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY**

Sam is teaching the night Automotive class which was added in June. Sam is a Toppenish native with 34 years of experience in the automotive industry. Before joining the Perry faculty, he did outside sales for Federated Auto Parts. He previously worked at Frank's Chevrolet, Bob Hall Chevrolet, Wagonmaster, and Bob Hall Auto.

Sam and his wife, Alicia, have two daughters and one son, five grandchildren, and one more on the way. Sam and Alicia live in Granger and enjoy traveling and camping.

## **ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY**

The newest member of the Electrical faculty, Matt was raised in Selah and graduated from Perry's Electrical Technology Program in 2005. He comes to Perry from Total Control Electric where he has worked since graduating from Perry. While at Total Control, he worked with apprentices. "I enjoy helping others learn the trade," he says.

Matt and his wife, April, live in Selah with their 5-year-old daughter and 2-year-old son. In his free time, Matt enjoys playing the guitar, working on his muscle car, a 1969 Chevelle, and spending time with his family. •

Dax urge students to take a step back, look at who is in their life, and decide who is going to help their success, and who will take away from it.

"It may be your friend, your husband, whoever," says Karina. "If they only want you to sit and watch TV with them when you should be studying, it is important to take that into consideration."

Out of all the lessons and strategies taught during this workshop, one of the most beneficial lessons overall to Karina was learning to speak in front of a group. "Being able to speak in front of a group will especially help me with trying to find a job," she says. •



# Perry Technical Foundation

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Wendy Aguilar	Robert Daniels	Dan Henderson	Lupe Martinez	William Richards	TFC Credit Corporation
Thomas Albert	Gerald Danner	George Hernandez	Marion Marvich	Wayne Riddle	TOPS WA 976
Joy & Jon Alegria	Mariafrancesca De	Denny Hert	Sheila Mathews	Gerry Ries	Paul Trammell
Alpine Automotive	Maddis Lenz	Eugene Hess	Robert Matthes	Joyce Roether	Gene Trelstad
Steve & Andrea Altmayer	Vanessa DeJong	Paul Hilde	Corky Mattingly	Racheal Rosio	Triangle Auto Supply
ANR Pipeline Company	Kevin Desgrosellier	James Himrod	Jennifer McMurtry	Shawn Rucker	Mike Tucker
Argus Insurance	David Desmarais	Jennifer Holden	Measurement Analysis	Gilbert Saenz III	Brett Underberg
Company	Elizabeth Dodd	Bob & Jill Hooker	Corporation	Lowell Sak	US Bank
Jennifer Arnett	David Domine	Denise Horner	Matthew Medearis	Jeff Sak	Cristeen Valicoff
Baker Boyer Bank	Corinne Duer	Nathan Hull	Manuel Medrano	Sample Electric	Henry Vanderwood
Banner Bank	Darcy Dugger	David Ivy	Memorial Physicians	SAR Construction	Eugenio Vila
Juan & Kaytee Becerra	Dave & Kristine Dye	Robert Janosky	PLLC	Company	Andrea & Andrew
Rick & Tina Beck	Ernie Earhart	Joseph Jaquins	Marc Mitchell	Terry Schmalz	Vosberg
E. S. Bell	Jennifer Falk	Neale Jentsch	Ray Monroe	David Schmella	Ken Waggener
Jeanine Benoit	Jep Fator, Jr.	John I. Haas	Dean Moore	Jeffrey Schuett	Daniel Waldbauer
Nate Bergeson	Mayra Fernandez	Patricia Johnson	Dusty Morrill	Raymond Schuller	Dax Wandling
Deann Bergquist	Andy Fischer	Debra Johnson	Eric Myers	SW Searle	Ann Washut
Vernon & Carol	Cindy Fiscus	Margaret Jones	Pepsi Cola Bottling	Seneca Foods	Larry Webb
Bergstrom	Earl & Peggy Fishburn	Dave Jones	North Coast Electric	Corporation	Chase Webster
Morgan Birkby	Erin Fishburn	Sophia Juarez	Company	Robert Sheldon	Maria Werremeyer
Ken Blair	Alex Fitterer	Jake Jundt	Kirk Nortman	Shell Oil Company	Josh & Amanda
Bob Hall's Honda GMC	Fluke Electronics Corp.	Kamiakin Kiwanis	Neal Norton	Jeff Sheppard	Wesselius
Bret & Michele Bohoskey	Fluke Networks	Chris Kelley	Rick Olson	Tom Silverthorn	Charee Wheeler
Tina Borgert	David Franklin	Craig Kennedy	O'Reilly Automotive	Liz Silverthorn	Becki Willard
BP America Inc.	Alan Frazier	Curtis King	Store, Inc.	Jon Skjonsby	Matthew Williams
Bradford Plumbing Inc.	Christopher Gagner	Mary Kiser	Doug Oswalt	Del Smith	Richard Wonner
Mark Brady	Donald Gano	Kiwanis Club of Yakima	Pacific Power Foundation	Michael Smith	Mark Woodruff
Forrest Buchmann	Jane Gargas	John Koenes	Mike Palencia	Derek Smith	Nicole Trammell
Terra Burgess	Ben Garrity	Patrick Kraft	Matthew Pentland	Snap On Industrial	Woolpert
Robert Burton	Georgia Pacific	Leanne LaBissoniere	Dave Perrault	SNC-Lavalin	Kenneth Wright
Nick Camarata	Foundation	Jason Lamiquiz	Robert Peters	Chelsea Snodgrass	Elisabeth Wright
Christina Cantrell	Keith Gianella	Ken Lawrence	Theodoros Petropoulos	Donna & Rodney	Wunderlich-Malec
Mario Cardenas	Grandview Community	Judy Lefebvre	Josh Phillips	Sorensen	Engineering, Inc.
David Carpenter	Dollars for Scholars	Alex Lehman	Richard Picatti	Michoan Spoelstra	Yakima County Voiture
Don Carrell	Brian Guernsey	Ashley LeRoue	Gilbert Plascencia	Staver Locomotive LLC	88
Chris Carsner	LuPita Gutierrez-Parker	Kaila Lockbeam	Platt Electric	Matthew Steadman	Yakima Federal Savings
Cascade Quality Molding	Gyro Club of Yakima	Gary & Nancy Long	Sandra Powell	Lauri Stewart	& Loan
Central Washington CFC	Warren Hall	Eric Longan	Maria Pulido	Tracy Stoffer	Yakima Lions Club
Marcann Chichester	Bill Hall, Jr.	Dan Lovestrand	Jack Pusel	Tom Stokes	Yakima Rotary Charities
Combat Veterans United	Elsa Hamilton	John Lowsley	R.S. Excavating, Inc.	James Sullivan	Yakima Valley
Cooper Electric	Earnest Hamm	Raul Luna	Steven Rabinowitz	Norma Jean Sutton	Farmworkers Clinic
Jill Cope	Jimmy Head	Danielle Lyzanchuk	Jordan Ramos	Dave Sylvanus	Max York
Christine & Dave Coté	Craig Heckart	John Maas	Despina Reinmuth	Tacoma Model T. Ford	Regan Zutter
Alan Cottle	Carol Helms	Francisco Magana	Steven Rhodes	Club	