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Celebrating 75 Years

Winter 2014

Perry Commemorates Anniversary with Groundbreaking

Perry Technical Institute celebrated 75 years of putting people to work by breaking ground on a new building. On October 7th, employees and guests gathered to commemorate the school's 75th anniversary and to witness the groundbreaking ceremony for Plath Hall.

This project marks the first time in the school's history that Perry has expanded outside of the main campus. The new building is being named Plath Hall in honor of longtime Perry supporters Dorothy and the late Fred Plath.

"We are excited to be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the school by expanding our campus," says President Christine Coté.

The United States was just beginning to recover from the devastating effects of the Depression in 1939 when Harriet I. Perry announced plans to establish a trade school in memory of her husband, Yakima business pioneer John M. Perry.



Construction is progressing on Plath Hall. The project is scheduled to be completed in the Fall of 2015.

Mrs. Perry and her husband had discussed the need for a trade school in Yakima before he died unexpectedly in 1938. "I believe this proposed trade school fits his ideas. I intend to concentrate all my efforts toward developing this school and make it a perpetual memorial of growing usefulness," she said in announcing plans to open the school.

Mrs. Perry created the Harriet I. Perry Trust to fund the school's construction and appointed three trustees – Roy Matson, Arthur Coffin and Harcourt Taylor – to oversee its operation. J.M. Perry Institute of Trades Industries

Agriculture was dedicated on December 27, 1940, and opened its doors to students on January 2, 1941. The school offered 14 training programs; five of those programs are still offered today.

During World War II, the Army Air Corps used the school for nine months to train aircraft mechanics, welders, and parachute riggers. When the military was finished training at Perry, Pan

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Murdock Trust Supports Capital Campaign

Perry's Investing in Excellence Capital Campaign received a boost in August when the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust contributed \$300,000.

"We are pleased and honored to receive funding from this noteworthy organization," says Erin Fishburn, director of Perry Technical Foundation.

The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust was created by the will of the late Melvin J. "Jack" Murdock, co-founder of Tektronix, Inc. of Beaverton, Oregon. Since it was established in 1975, the trust has focused its grant-making efforts on the Pacific Northwest, distributing 4,818 grants, valued at a total of \$658 million.

The trust's mission is to enrich the quality of life in the Pacific Northwest by providing grants to organizations that seek to strengthen the region's education, cultural, and spiritual base in

creative and sustainable ways.

Jack Murdock was born in Portland, Oregon. After graduating from high school, he opted to go into business rather than pursue a college education. With help from his parents, he purchased a shop for the sale and service of radios and electrical appliances. In 1936, Jack Murdock began a long-term working relationship with his technician, Howard Vollum. After serving in World War II, they renewed their business partnership and founded Tektronix. Jack Murdock died as a result of a float plane accident in 1971.

Tektronix has become one of the world's most prominent electronic instrumentation companies and has spun off dozens of related companies. While the trust takes pride in its Tektronix heritage, it is a private foundation with no connection to the company. •

Anniversary is a Milestone in Perry Tech's history



Christine Coté

Seventy-five years ago, Harriet I. Perry had a vision. She chose to honor her husband, J.M. Perry, by creating a school that would serve both the community and industry. As we celebrate our 75th anniversary, we remember Harriet's vision and work to uphold the mission upon which she founded the school.

We made history this fall. On October 7, we broke ground on Plath Hall, the new home for our Instrumentation & Industrial Automation Technology Program. As I stood on the same ground as Harriet did in 1939, I found myself remembering her

vision for the school and recalling the journey we traveled to reach this milestone.

When J.M. died, Harriet chose to honor him by making one of his dreams a reality. She used the bulk of their estate to found J.M. Perry. Her goal wasn't just to put people to work, but to create

pathways to lifetime careers – careers that would support families and provide secure futures.

Some of you may not realize that Harriet established the school as a school for boys. The first female wasn't admitted until 1971. Although she created the school to educate young men, I think Harriet would be pleased that women now comprise 18% of our student body.

A look at our early history shows Perry's connection to the military. During World War II, the military used the school to train aircraft mechanics. Our connection to the military remains today in Perry's commitment to support veterans.

Many changes have taken place over the seven and half decades since Harriet established the school. Some original programs remain, other have been replaced. Most of our building has been renovated. Over the years, we have adapted to the needs of industry, but our core values are the same – providing industry with well-trained people and giving students the resources and guidance to succeed in their careers. •



75 Years of Memories: Grads Recall the Good Times at Perry

The pages of Perry's history contain more than a chronological list of events – they include the life stories and memories of the thousands of students who have passed through our doors.

Celebrating graduation by throwing your instructors in the creek that runs behind the school. Living in a chicken coop turned into a dormitory. Having an eraser bounced off your head if you nodded off in class. The knowledge learned at Perry lasts a lifetime and so do the memories.

On a recent visit to campus, Instrumentation graduates Ernie Hamm ('69), Lowell Sak ('69), and Gene Trelstad ('64), reminisced about the funny antics they pulled off with classmates: stringing dead rattlesnakes on a wire, surprising instructor Fred Iraola by attaching a charged capacitor to the handle of a cabinet door, and putting a bomb on Ernie's truck and laughing as it exploded when

he started the engine.

"It was a fun-spirited time of life," says Ernie.

Bill Kozacek, who graduated from Auto Body & Fender in 1949, agrees. "Oh, we had a lot of fun, but we took school seriously," he says.

Bill and his friend, John Greiner, lived in the barn turned into a dormitory and both remember cutting up boxes and laying the cardboard on the bed springs to block drafts. "It was hot in the summer and cold in the winter," John says.

Bill remembers stealing potatoes from the field adjoining the school and cooking them in a bucket on a hotplate they kept in their room. John's roommate had a glass eye which he took out at night. "I don't remember his name, but I sure do remember him taking that eye out when he went to sleep."

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

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Perry Tech Timeline



1939 – Harriet I. Perry announces plans to create J.M. Perry Institute of Trades Industries Agriculture as a memorial to her husband, John M. Perry.

June 1940 – Crews break ground on school.

1941 – J.M. Perry Institute opens its doors, offering 14 training programs to 211 students.

March-December 1942 – Military takes over the school to train aircraft mechanics.

1969 – J.M. Perry Institute is the first private technical school in Washington to be accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology, now known as the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges.

1971 – J.M. Perry Institute begins admitting female students.

Late 1970s-early 1980s – Unprecedented growth creates the need to build and equip three additional buildings on campus – the Bond Instrumentation Laboratory, the Harvey L. Smith Electrical Building, and the Burnham Prince Agriculture Mechanics Building.

1999 – The new Instrumentation Building is dedicated. Former director and Instrumentation instructor Fred Iraola is honored at the dedication for his 46 years of service to the school.



2006 – Ribbon-cutting ceremony commemorates the opening of the new Machine/Instrumentation Building which replaces the Bond Instrumentation Laboratory which was destroyed by fire in 2004.

2009 – The renovated hangar building is dedicated as the Eugene Shields Technical Training Center.

2012 – The 16th Avenue Building is renovated and renamed the Medical Annex to house the Medical Office Administration & Coding Program and the school's newest offering, the Medical Assistant Program.



2012 – Perry Technical Institute is one of 17 schools out of more than 800 nationwide to be named a 2012 School of Excellence by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges.

October 7, 2014 – Employees and guests gather to commemorate the school's 75th anniversary and to witness the groundbreaking ceremony for Plath Hall.

Perry Technical Institute Leadership

Frederick Leasure, Director • 1939-1943

Fred Iraola, Director • 1975-1992

W.O. Wikstrom (Pan Am Air), Director • 1943

Dr. J. Tuman, President • 1992-2007

Herbert Buckman, Director • 1944-1970

Christine Coté, President • 2008-present

John Wilson, Director • 1971-1974

New Instructors Join Faculty



Valerie Ryan

Juan Becerra

Four new instructors have joined the Perry Tech faculty. They include Valerie Ryan, Juan Becerra, David Ackermann, and Gareth Gasseling.

Valerie is a Yakima native who graduated from West Valley High School. She earned a bachelor of science degree in fashion merchandising from Central Washington University. Valerie worked in retail sales for American Eagle and Nordstrom before accepting a teaching position in the fashion merchandising and credit retrieval programs at the Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center. Valerie is teaching the first three quarters of the BTA Program.

New to the Electrical Program is Juan Becerra. Juan was raised in Quincy and worked as the maintenance manager at the Gorge Amphitheatre before enrolling in Perry's Electrical Program. He graduated from Perry in 2009 and worked for Bryce Electric and Kinter Electric before accepting the position teaching the second quarter of the Electrical Program.

David Ackermann has joined the HVAC/R faculty. David was born in Germany and moved to Yakima when he was 8 years old. He graduated from Davis High School and served in the Army. David comes to Perry from ConAgra's Pasco plant where he worked for the last seven years. He is teaching the HVAC/R Program's second section.

Joining the Medical Office Administration & Coding Program's faculty is Gareth Gasseling. Gareth, who grew up in Wapato, was previously one of Perry's student recruiters. Gareth worked for American Data Guard before completing Perry's BTA Program. •



David Ackermann

Gareth Gasseling

Career Services Assists Students, Alumni, and Employers

Perry's Career Services Department is under the leadership of a new director, Chelsea Snodgrass.

The Career Services Department assists current students and graduates in their job searches and helps employers in recruiting qualified employees. Chelsea joined Perry's Enrollment Department in 2008 and worked in several departments before accepting the position of director of Career Services.

A Yakima native, Chelsea graduated from West Valley High School and earned a bachelor of science degree in community health from Central Washington University. Before joining the Perry team, she worked for the local chapter of the American Lung Association, managing teen tobacco prevention programs in five counties.

Chelsea oversees a team that works with students and alumni to equip them with the tools to conduct effective job searches, build powerful resumes and cover letters, and develop strong interviewing skills. With the help of faculty members and employers, Career Services has developed a workshop series that provides insight into the real-world experiences that a student may encounter during a job search.

If at any time over the course of their careers, Perry grads find themselves out of work, the Career Services team is available to assist with job searches. Computers are available in the Career Services Center for graduates to draft resumes and cover letters,

research potential employers, and complete job applications.

"We are also here to serve employers," Chelsea says. "We are committed to working with employers to develop win-win recruiting strategies."



Chelsea Snodgrass helps Jesus Valencia with his resume.

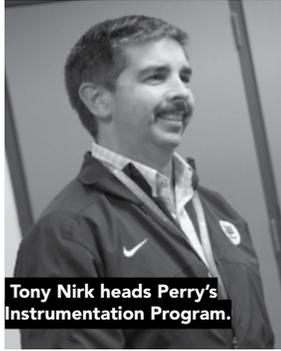
Career Services is hosting Employer Expos on April 22 and September 2, 2015. The expos give employers opportunities to recruit for current and future openings, do long-term workforce planning, and disseminate information about their companies and possible career paths. The expos are free, but space is limited. For more information or to register, contact Career Services at 509.453.0374 or email chelsea.snodgrass@perrytech.edu.

Chelsea says working with students, graduates, and employers is rewarding because she knows firsthand that Perry changes lives. Chelsea's husband, Josh, is a graduate of Perry's ITCS Program. "I have seen

the difference that Perry Tech can make in the lives of people, including my husband, and I know there are so many other people who could benefit from what we are doing here," she says.

"We have a large number of companies who contact our Career Services Department seeking graduates and I love connecting them with our students. There are amazing opportunities for them beyond graduation and I plan on helping to expand those options for them in the future." •

Tony Nirk: 'Their success is my success'



Tony Nirk heads Perry's Instrumentation Program.

As the department head of Perry's Instrumentation & Industrial Automation Technology Program, Tony Nirk wears many hats: teacher, coach, mentor, and counselor to name a few.

Tony leads the program's final section, the last stop before students enter a field full of unique and promising opportunities. He works one-on-one with students to map out their short- and long-term goals and develop what their careers might look like. "Most students come into the program not really understanding the foundation of skills they will develop and the wide variety of careers open to them."

When he returned to his alma mater in 2006, Tony brought with him 16 years of industry experience. "I can definitely relate what they will see in industry and impress upon them that being a

Perry Instrumentation graduate will open many doors."

Tony also shares the importance of building upon their skill set throughout their career. "They will need to continue their education whether at formal brick and mortar institutions or factory schools. As technology changes, we need to change with it."

Tony's career serves as an example of the diversity of the field. After graduating from PTI in 1990, he worked for Brett-Ross, PCE Pacific, and Unit Process Company before becoming coordinator of Perry's Customized Training Services. Nine months later, he was appointed head of the Instrumentation Program. "I have a passion for Perry and this was an exceptional opportunity to give back."

For the last two years, Tony has taken on a new role, helping to shape the master plan and raise the funds needed to build Instrumentation's new home, Plath Hall. Perry's Instrumentation Program is one of the largest and most respected in the nation and Tony believes the new building will step it up to an even higher level.

Plath Hall will bring cohesiveness to the program, which currently has classes in two areas. "Students need to be able to network with one another because many of them will eventually be in hiring positions. Many students come from outside the area and need to build camaraderie."

What he enjoys most is seeing the growth of his students over the course of two years. "Being a part of that growth is phenomenal."

Add to the list of hats, that of career consultant. Not only does he help students define their career goals, he also follows their professional growth after they leave. "Their success is my success." •

Perry and PEXCO Form Valuable Relationship

PEXCO is a plastics manufacturing company that has operated in Yakima, under various owners, for more than 40 years.

The company specializes in plastic extrusion and machining, fabrication, and assembly of plastic and non-plastic parts for the aerospace industry. PEXCO, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, operates 10 manufacturing sites.

Over the years, PEXCO has been very generous in making donations to Perry. The company has donated equipment to the Machine Technology and Instrumentation & Industrial Automation Technology Programs, as well as donating to the Investing in Excellence Capital Campaign.

Martin Streich, plant manager, said that over the years, the company has hired many Perry graduates. "Time and time again Perry grads have been great additions to the workforce," he says. "They're good, solid workers, who are driven and have a high skill level right from

the start."

Martin says Perry graduates are always great assets to the team because of their skills, training, and incredible work ethic. "Perry grads understand the responsibility and commitment required for this kind of job and they always take it very seriously," he says. "They come armed with all the things we need from employees."

PEXCO has developed a very good relationship with Perry. The company continues to help the school through donations and appreciates the strength and success of the graduates the school produces. "We want to offer support whenever we can," says Martin.

Perry is often one of the first places PEXCO looks when searching for new employees.

"I'm thrilled to have Perry in the neighborhood," says Martin. "It's been a great relationship." •



HVAC/R graduate **David Bayfus** died on September 8, 2014, in Yakima. He worked as an orchard foreman throughout the Yakima Valley.

Levy "Lev" Covey died in Yakima on October 28, 2014, at the age of 92. He completed Perry's Carpentry Program and worked as a mechanic at Boeing before returning to Yakima in 1951. He worked as a patrolman at Hanford and was with the Yakima Fire Department for six years before buying a Naches Heights orchard in 1957.

A 1959 HVAC/R graduate, **Klaine Eaton** died in Yakima on June 29, 2014. He was 82. After graduating from Perry, he moved to Moses Lake and worked at Larson Airfield Missile Site. In 1963, Klaine moved back to Yakima and worked in commercial refrigeration. He and his wife, Rosemary, started Eaton's Refrigeration in 1977. He retired in 1993 and his sons continue to run the business.

Virginia Gable, who retired from her position as Perry's office manager in 1986, died in Yakima on October 12, 2014. She was 92.

Former Auto Body & Fender instructor **Leonard Heier** died in Yakima on October 4, 2014, at the age of 84. Leonard taught at Perry and owned Mead Body Shop. He enjoyed collecting and restoring old cars.

Henry Vanderwood, a 1950 Electrical graduate, died June 27, 2014, in Yakima.

Charles Richard Young died in Yakima on October 8, 2014, at the age of 77. He graduated from Perry's Auto Body Program and worked as a teacher's assistant in the program until health problems led to an early retirement.

If you know of a Perry graduate who has recently passed away, please notify us by emailing perrynews@perrytech.edu.

CLASS NOTES

Chris Baker, a 2006 Automotive graduate, worked in the automotive industry for five years before moving into working with industrial packaging equipment. He lives in Gresham, Oregon, with his wife and four children.

Rich Braun, a 1985 Instrumentation graduate, was a presenter in Pumps & Systems Magazine's webinar, "Eliminate Misalignment and Right-Size Your Pumps." Rich is a senior application engineer at Flux-Drive.

The Yakima Herald-Republic recently hired **Daniel Chiqui** as an advertising production/prepress operator. A 2009 Graphic graduate, he previously worked at the Ellensburg Daily Record.

HVAC/R graduate **Richard Lynch** has worked in the field for 38 years. "It's been 38 years since I attended J.M. Perry and I have been in the HVAC/R field every one of those years. Perry has stood the test of time. Why? Because the school is among the most elite in the USA," he says. Richard lives in Portland, Oregon.

Lenny Matthews, a 2011 Instrumentation graduate, is a senior technical facilities engineer/instrumentation and controls, for Global Foundries in Clifton Park, New York.

Washington Broadband Inc. has hired **Jeff Randolph** as system administrator. He recently graduated from Perry Technical Institute in the Information Technology & Communication Systems Program and previously worked at Columbia Asphalt as a superintendent of road construction.

Wayne Riddle, a 1987 Instrumentation graduate, was recently named the senior systems analyst at Solarity Credit Union.

A 1991 Instrumentation graduate, **Shane Wells** is the senior manager of maintenance for the Amgen Corporation in Thousand Oaks, California. He oversees a team of 50 staff, including managers, instrument technicians, electricians, mechanics, and administrative coordinators.

Noel Communications has promoted two 2001 Telecommunications graduates. **Josh Wesselius** has been promoted to sales engineer and **Gabrielle Springer** has been promoted to quote desk manager.

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.

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75 Years of Memories

Continued from page 2

Eric Myers, a 1978 Auto Body & Fender graduate, also remembers the cold Yakima winters. "We opened up those big hangar doors to move vehicles in and out and the wind and the snow would blow in."

The auditorium conjures up memories of Big Time wrestling matches and lunchtime basketball games.

The graduates point out that it was a different time, with fewer rules, and a simpler lifestyle. Longtime employee Betty Peterson agrees. Betty says the atmosphere at the school was much different than it is today. The building was austere, furnished with surplus equipment bought from the state surplus store. Washington Avenue was a two-lane street and the parking lot was unpaved.

Betty was hired as a temporary, part-time typist in 1969. During her 45-year tenure she has filled many roles, from taking roll and keeping attendance records to serving as administrative assistant to former PTI President Dr. J. Tuman. In 2007, she moved to her current position as administrative assistant in Human Resources.

In the 1970s when Perry offered the Culinary Program, Betty recalls that employees enjoyed a delicious perk – a gourmet lunch for \$2.50. "The girls in the office took orders and waited on tables. One time, the students roasted a pig with an apple in its mouth."

HVAC instructor Craig Heckart has seen many changes in his 31 years at Perry. One of the biggest is the growth in the number of staff and faculty members. "I remember a time when could all gather in one room in the morning," he recalls.

Charley Applegate, who graduated from the Aviation Mechanic Program in 1947, says attending Perry was one of the best decisions he's ever made. "It's a great school with a lot of good people."

The graduates agree that they've enjoyed watching their alma mater grow. Bill lives in Yakima and makes a point to stop by open house every year. "Don't want to miss that free hot dog," he says, laughing. •

Perry Tech Groundbreaking

Continued from page 1

American Airways used the school to train men for war service.

In the years following World War II, enrollment grew and the school added new programs. Originally created as a "school for boys," females began enrolling in 1971. The school was renamed Perry Technical Institute in 1986.

Several new buildings have been added over the years, all contained within the original campus. With the exception of the auditorium, every area on campus has been renovated. The hangar building was completely renovated and dedicated as the Eugene Shields Technical Training Center in 2009.

Over the years, programs have been added and eliminated according to the needs of industry.

Plath Hall will house the Instrumentation Program. The 38,000-square foot building was designed by Brockway, Opfer, Raab Architecture. General contractor for the project is Tri-Ply Construction. The \$8 million project is being funded through donations and grants.

Three trustees – Terry Schmalz, Senator Curtis King and Jake Jundt – oversee operation of the school. Perry currently has 671 students enrolled and employs 100 staff and faculty members.

"While the school has grown and changed over the years, Mrs. Perry's mission is still very much alive," says President Christine Coté. "We take pride in our rich history and the service we provide to our community and to industry." •

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

June 2014

José Ibarra

Electrical Technology



The fact that José Ibarra had to leave the jobsite and return to the Perry campus to receive his Student of the Month Award says a lot about his work ethic.

Weeks before graduating from the Electrical Technology Program, José landed a job with Rainbow Electric.

Raised in Zillah, José had worked in the fields and in masonry for seven years before deciding to continue his education. He chose Perry's Electrical Program because of the hands-on nature of the work. The choice was a solid one – José has been on the President's List all but one term.

"José is the first student to arrive and the last to leave," says instructor Forrest Buchmann. "He is a student who leads by example."

José is enjoying his new job which takes him to jobsites throughout the area. "Coming to Perry has really changed my life," he says, smiling.

July 2014

Nathan Goedert

Welding Technology



Welding student Nathan Goedert was surprised to hear that he had been chosen as July's Student of the Month, but to his instructors, he was the perfect choice.

Nathan commutes every day from Goldendale, but even with the long drive he still manages to be one of the most punctual students in the program.

"His military experience shines in the classroom," says instructor Lenard Halderman. "He continually strives to improve in all aspects of our program."

After 12 years in the Air Force, Nathan was unsure what his next steps were going to be, but after a suggestion from a co-worker, he decided to look at Perry Tech.

Now, with just a few weeks left before finishing his program, Nathan is excited to use his new skills in the workforce. Nathan says he has found hope at Perry. "It has given me a future."

August 2014

Chad Burch

Business Technology



Up until now, Chad Burch's careers have always chosen him. This time around, he's the one doing the choosing.

Chad, who is enrolled in the Business Technology & Accounting Program, was selected as August Student of the Month. He decided to pursue a career in business after his employer downsized and he lost his job. "It was time to make a change," he says. "This time I could choose what I wanted to do."

From the first day of school, Burch has been a "shining star" in his class, says Nathan Hull, Perry's dean of education.

His instructor, Michael Kovic, agrees. "Chad is a class leader," he says. "He is always on task and serves as a role model to his classmates."

In addition to attending school, Chad works as a football and basketball official. When he graduates this month, he hopes to work in accounting and eventually return to school to earn a bachelor's degree.

September 2014

Sara Maldonado

Medical Assistant



Described as a quiet leader with an excellent academic and attendance record, Sara Maldonado was named September Student of the Month.

"Sara is positive and passionate," says Cheryl Johnson, Sara's instructor in the Medical Assistant Program. "She is always eager and open to learning."

A 2011 Eisenhower High School graduate, Sara developed an interest in the medical field while in middle school. "It's fascinating to me," she says.

Sara says the Medical Assistant Program is a good fit because she is a hands-on learner who prefers not to learn solely out of a book. "I think of every day here at Perry as an opportunity," she says.

Now in her fourth quarter of the 18-month program, Sara is in the clinical phase of her training. "I'm excited to be wearing scrubs and feeling like a real medical assistant."

October 2014

Lydia Taylor

Medical Office Administration



Continuing her education was always in the back of Lydia Taylor's mind, but it didn't become a reality until the grocery store where she worked for more than 17 years went out of business.

Lydia was interested in the medical field, so enrolling in Perry's Medical Office Administration & Coding Program was the natural choice. Now in her third quarter, Lydia has been named Student of the Month for October.

"Lydia consistently demonstrates a high level of professionalism. Her quality of work and study habits are impeccable," says instructor Lashel Church, head of Perry's Medical Technology Programs.

Raised in the Lower Yakima Valley, Lydia graduated from White Swan High School. When she graduates from Perry next September, she hopes to remain in the area where her two teen-age daughters attend school.

November 2014

Austin Kerr

I.T. & Comm. Systems



Described by his instructors as an awesome student with a photographic memory, Austin Kerr was named Student of the Month for November.

"Austin is an awesome student and he is great at helping his classmates," says Jeanine Benoit, an instructor in Kerr's program, Information Technology & Communication Systems.

A 2012 graduate of West Valley High School, Kerr balances school with a part-time job at Dairy Queen. He also volunteers, working on the computers at his mother's work and helping his father work on his truck. "I like to work hard," he says. "It's my future and I want to make the most of it."

When he graduates in June 2015, Kerr plans to seek a job outside of the area. "I want to go see something new," he says.



**Perry Technical
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