

PERRY NEWS

what's happening at perry technical institute



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Fall 2015

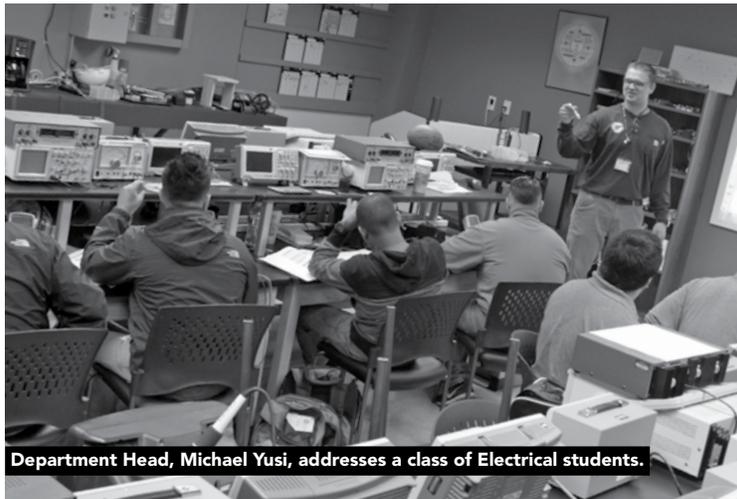
Changes Energize Electrical Technology Program

You don't have to spend much time in the Electrical Department to catch the enthusiasm – it's in the air.

From labs in the classrooms to enhanced curriculum, from the addition of solar and motor control labs, to a larger working space, Perry's Electrical Technology Program is recreating itself.

The program is preparing to move from its longtime home in the Smith Electrical Technology Building, located behind the main building, to the former Instrumentation Building. This move will take place late this fall after the Instrumentation Program moves into its new quarters in Plath Hall. The Electrical Department will gain 5,000 square feet in the move which will give the program more breathing space as well as room for the solar and motor control labs.

"The curriculum modifications center around the changing needs of the electrical industry," says Michael Yusi, department head. Perry is one of two schools in Washington which are licensed as 01 journey training schools by the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries. The curriculum will continue to evolve with changes in the WAC (Washington Administrative Code), the RCW (Revised Code of Washington), and the NEC (National Electric Code).



Department Head, Michael Yusi, addresses a class of Electrical students.

Another big change has been the program's move from trimesters to quarters. This change brings the Electrical Program in line with Perry's nine other training programs.

The Program Advisory Committee (PAC), comprised of representatives from industry, helped direct the changes made to the program. "The

PAC has done an excellent job of helping us keep pace with industry," says Nathan Hull, Perry's Dean of Education.

Over the past few years, the program has been incorporating the technology behind renewable energy sources, such as photovoltaics and wind power generation, into the curriculum. Students are also learning to work with smart technology such as daylight harvesting and plans are in place to bring home automation into the program. Plath Hall has served as a practical training ground for these technologies.

One of the major changes for the program is the addition of labs in the classrooms. "We are moving away from traditional classrooms

and creating functional labs housed within classrooms," Nathan explains.

"The result of these changes is that when students graduate they will have exposure to more specialties," says Michael. "This makes for a more diversified electrician." •

IN BRIEF

Medical Assistant Program Now One Year in Length

Perry Tech's Medical Assistant Program recently switched from 18 months to 12 months in length.

The program prepares students for entry-level positions as medical assistants. The curriculum concentrates on teaching clinical and patient care skills. Medical assistants are commonly employed in physicians' offices, outpatient clinics, health maintenance organizations, and

hospitals.

The courses prepare students to take the Registered Medical Assistant (RMA) examination.

Nathan Hull, Perry's Dean of Education, explains that the Medical Assistant Program Advisory Committee (PAC) recommended the change. "The PAC recommended consolidating some of the coursework in the program and this change offers the student an equally robust curriculum that can be completed in a shorter amount of time," he says.

The change was approved by the Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board and the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Campaign Helps Share Perry's Mission



Christine Coté

With the construction of Plath Hall in its final days, I am looking back at the capital campaign which made this expansion a reality.

The process of reaching out to the community has been an incredible experience. It has been both challenging and rewarding for myself, Foundation Director, Erin Fishburn, and head of the Instrumentation Program, Tony Nirk.

The campaign was challenging because it cast us in a role we weren't accustomed to playing. We have a long

history of receiving generous support from the community, alumni, and industry. Because of this ongoing support, we have never made a widespread appeal to fund capital improvements.

Our dream was born in 2011 when longtime Perry supporter and Foundation Board member, Fred Plath, pledged seed money to expand our campus. When Fred died in 2012, his widow, Dorothy, and family, honored Fred's commitment. The Plath family has continued to support Perry's mission and has closely followed the progress of our expansion. In October 2014, we broke ground on Plath Hall, named in honor of the Plath family's longtime support of the school.

In March of 2013, we began meeting with potential donors. We shared information about the school, outlined how we had grown, explained our plans to expand, and asked for help to do so. The response was overwhelming! To date we have raised \$7.89 million, just \$111,000 short of our \$8 million goal.

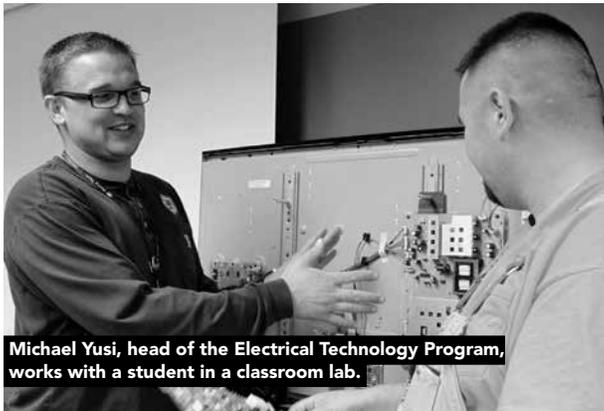
The capital campaign brought many first-time visitors to campus. These visits allowed us to share our mission with community members as well as employers, corporations, and foundations who were not familiar with the school. It enabled us to reestablish relationships with alumni who had lost touch with their alma mater.

There is nothing I enjoy doing more than sharing information about how Perry changes lives by offering students of all ages and walks of life the skills and work habits they need to launch successful careers. These visitors not only generously supported the school, they became ambassadors for us amongst their peers, business associates, and families. They left our campus with a new awareness of the value of technical education and of the rich history of Perry Tech.

To everyone who has taken time to consider our needs – whether or not you chose to donate – I thank you. Perry Technical Institute was born out of the vision of the late John M. and Harriet I. Perry. Their vision is alive and well both in our halls and in the lives of our students. •

FACULTY PROFILE

Michael Yusi: Offers Encouragement Every Step of the Way



Michael Yusi, head of the Electrical Technology Program, works with a student in a classroom lab.

What do you get when you combine one part skilled electrician, with one part natural-born leader, one part perpetual optimist, and one part kid at heart? The answer – Michael Yusi.

Michael has been a shot in the arm to Perry's Electrical Technology Department. Since he took over as department head in January 2014, Michael has been making changes big and small, but even more important than the changes he's made is the enthusiasm he's brought to the Electrical team.

"We're a group of people who like what we do and who like working together to give students the best possible introduction to the field," says Michael.

As a child in Okanogan, Washington, Michael was fascinated with how things worked. He once retrieved a Discman from the trash and tinkered with it until it played. He carried a container of spare wire, magnets, and motor parts with him on the school bus and built projects out of them when he finished his schoolwork. "I even made myself a pair of headphones. I think I was born to be an electrician," he says, with a grin.

Michael is trying to pass on his passion for electronics to his two young sons, Sawyer, 3, and Jasper, 10 months. "Sawyer already says he wants to go to Perry!"

That isn't a surprise since Michael and his wife, Megan, met while attending Perry. Michael graduated from Electrical in 2009 and Megan from Graphics in 2008.

Michael's trade is more than a profession – it's also his hobby. Last year, he worked late at night in his garage programming multiple strings of lights to create an impressive Christmas light display. He has bigger and better plans for this year!

Michael likes nothing more than to share his passion for the electrical trade with students looking for a career. Student Joseph Greisen was frustrated with working odd jobs when he came to Perry shopping for a career. "When I toured with Michael, there was no doubt that this was what I wanted to do," he says.

Much more than a good tour guide and salesman, Michael sticks by his students through thick and thin, offering advice and encouragement every step of the way. "There's nothing I like better than to see them succeed." •



Plath Hall, the new home for Perry's Instrumentation Program, is located northeast of the main campus.

Plath Hall: A New Era for Perry Tech

With workers putting the finishing touches on Plath Hall, Perry Tech is sitting on the dawn of a new era.

The 38,000-square-foot building is home to Perry's Instrumentation & Industrial Automation Technology Program.

"Plath Hall is a building that we can all take pride in," says PTI president Christine Coté. "It is a dream made a reality through the generosity and pride of many people."

Longtime Perry supporters Dorothy and the late Fred Plath provided the seed money for the building. Donations from businesses, foundations, alumni, friends of the school, and employees, plus \$2 million in funds from the State of Washington, were used to build the \$8 million building.

"We are grateful to the many people and organizations that made this building possible," says Christine.

The building was designed by BOR Architecture and Yakima's Tri-Ply Construction served as general contractor for the project.

Workers broke ground on the building on October 7, 2014, as the school celebrated its 75th anniversary. Due to mild winter weather and a dedicated construction crew, the project was completed a month ahead of schedule.

The Instrumentation Department is preparing to move and expects to begin some classes in the new building this month. The Electrical Technology Program will move to the existing Instrumentation Building. These moves will free up space on campus for the creation of new programs. •

Join the Celebration!
**Ribbon-cutting ceremony
for Plath Hall**
Thursday, December 3rd, 2 p.m.
**Plath Hall is located northeast of the main campus.
Park in the main lot or the student lot on Perry Street
off North 16th Avenue.**



Workers are putting the finishing touches on the classrooms.



Plath Hall features spacious labs for each of the Instrumentation Program's eight sections.

CLASS NOTES

Wayne Brule, a 1967 Instrumentation graduate, retired in February 2013 after working as an instrument technician and instrument/electrical maintenance supervisor and manager on the Hanford site for 42 years. He lives in Richland.

HVAC graduate, **Gabriel Garcia**, works as an electrician on an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. He graduated from the HVAC/R Program in 2002.

Susan Kramer is working as a communication technician assistant for Pacific Power. She joined the company as a meter reader in 2006, but automated meter reading led the company to downsize, eliminating her position. She decided to continue her education and enrolled in Perry's Instrumentation Program. Susan graduated from Perry in 2013 and went back to work for Pacific Power in 2014. Susan recently passed the test to earn a license from the Federal Communications Commission. Susan was featured in a recent edition of the Pacific Power newsletter.

Andrew Patterson, who graduated from Instrumentation in 2012, is employed as an instrumentation technician with Kapstone Paper in Longview, Washington.

A 2001 HVAC/R graduate, **Gabe Ponce**, is a senior technician with Royal Air in Houston, Texas.

Steven Rhodes, who graduated from HVAC/R in 1978, has been a certified inspector for the City of Spokane for the past 24 years. He previously worked as an installer and serviceman for a Spokane HVAC company for 15 years.

Gabe Ribelin works for BP on the Olympic pipeline. He graduated from the Instrumentation Program in 2004.

A 2009 Instrumentation graduate, **Michael Schwenker**, is a sales representative for Emerson Process Management. He sells Rosemount and Micro Motion Flow Products in Southwest Washington.

Steve Williams, a 2004 Instrumentation graduate, is a supervisor of Udelhoven Oilfield System Services in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

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 at perrynews@perrytech.edu.

Partnership Creates Jobs at Washington Beef

A close partnership with a beef processing plant has resulted in jobs for more than a dozen Perry graduates over the last 10 years.

Fourteen graduates of the HVAC/R, Electrical, Instrumentation, and Business Technology programs are working for Washington Beef, a Toppenish beef processing plant which is a division of Agri Beef Company. Washington Beef is a state-of-the-art beef processing operation. The Toppenish plant employs 950 workers.

Agri Beef, headquartered in Boise, Idaho, takes a comprehensive approach by being involved in every step of the beef lifecycle, including cattle ranching and feeding (AB Livestock), cattle nutrition (PerforMix Nutrition Systems), and beef processing (Washington Beef), while preserving natural resources (Agron Bioenergy). This model has led to a portfolio of globally recognized premium quality brands: Snake River Farms, Double R Ranch Beef, St. Helens Beef and Rancho El Oro.

Robert Rebholtz, Sr. founded Agri Beef Company in 1968. The company is still family owned and prides itself in working with family owned and operated farms and ranches throughout the Northwest.

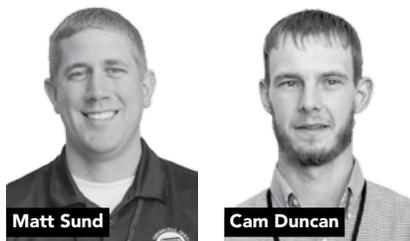
Helping to facilitate the relationship between Perry and Washington Beef is Burt Ross, former department head of Perry's HVAC/R Program who is the Director of Facilities at Washington Beef. "It is critical for us to have trained employees with the skills taught at PTI so I reached out to Perry department heads for qualified applicants," says Burt.

Two of the Perry HVAC grads hired by Washington Beef recently earned worldwide certification. Daniel Zavala and Rene Sanchez, who are in charge of the company's ammonia refrigeration systems, earned the Certified Refrigeration Energy Specialist (CRES) designation which is sanctioned by the Refrigeration Engineering Technicians Association. The certification involves a rigorous written test and hands-on verification of refrigeration operation and energy saving projects. Daniel and Rene are two of only six refrigeration operators in the world to have earned the CRES certification. •



PTI graduates Rene Sanchez, left, and Daniel Zavala recently earned designation as Certified Refrigeration Energy Specialists.

Two New Instructors Join Faculty



Perry Tech has added two new instructors to its faculty. Matt Sund has joined the I.T. & Communication Systems Department and Cam Duncan is new to the Electrical Department.

A West Valley native, Matt graduated from Perry's Telecommunications Program in 2004. He worked in industry for Cascade Networks and the West Valley School District for three years before returning to school to earn an Associate Degree from Yakima Valley Community College and a Bachelor of Arts Degree and his teaching credentials from Central Washington University. He taught mid-level science and math classes at Highland Junior/Senior High School for five years before joining the Perry faculty.

Cam was raised in Okanogan and graduated from Perry's Electrical Program in 2009. He worked for electrical contractors in Wenatchee and Yakima before starting his company, Amped Electrical, two years ago. •

Betty Peterson: Perry Was Her Second Family

She was hired as a temporary worker to help the office crew catch up with a back-log of work. After nearly 46 years, that temporary worker, Betty Peterson, retired in June.

Betty has filled many positions – from front door greeter to president’s assistant – and saw all of them as a chance to promote the institution she adores. “It’s great to get up in the morning and come here and work among friends,” she says.

Over the years, Betty made a lot of friends. Students remember her welcoming smile and gentle demeanor. Instructors appreciate her helpful ways and wise advice. Co-workers admire her positive attitude and sense of style. Betty has the wisdom that comes with age, combined with youthful energy and enthusiasm.

Betty is a living archive of Perry’s history. Her memories chronicle the major milestones of the last four decades as well as the faces and personalities that have shaped the school. She’s seen programs come and go, worked under various leaders, and adapted as technology evolved. She was the last employee to give up her typewriter for a computer and she learned to look for information on the Internet rather than in file cabinets and on microfiche.

What didn’t change over the years was Betty’s dedication to Perry or belief in the importance of the school’s mission. “I’ve always been proud to work at Perry,” she says. “I think it’s the greatest school in the nation. Students who come here and apply themselves leave with everything they need to have successful careers.”

Betty saw this belief demonstrated when her youngest grandson, Todd, completed the Instrumentation Program and landed a job at

a California lumber mill. Ironically, the two graduated on the same day, Todd from the Instrumentation Program and Betty from her career at Perry.

The outlook for Betty’s retirement is far from retiring. She wants to get out and bike more often. She has lots of gardening, reading,

sewing, and knitting to catch up on. She loves attending events – the symphony, theater, community band concerts, to name a few. There are lunch dates with friends, walks with her dog, Toby, and family gatherings with her two sons, Mark and Gary; daughter-in-law, Roberta; two grandsons, Matt and Todd; and great-grandson, 1-year-old Karter. So much to keep a retiree busy.

Betty admits, however, that her decision to retire was bittersweet. “I’ve thought about it for a long time,” she says, explaining that she chose to “go out” with another longtime employee, ITCS instructor and department head Mike Smith. “It seemed easier to leave with someone by my side,” she says.

In December, Betty was honored for her service to the school. PTI President Christine Coté presented Betty with a metal sculpture made by Welding instructor Leonard Thompson, which she put in her yard. A stone monument in the flower bed near the main entrance to the school pays tribute to Betty’s service with

the following quote from actress Audrey Hepburn: “To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.”

While she has plenty to keep her busy in retirement, Betty says she will miss the daily interaction she had with her co-workers. “Perry was much more than the place I worked. The people there are like a second family.” •



Betty Peterson stopped for a photo with her grandson, Todd, who graduated from the Instrumentation Program on June 18.

The legacy that Mike Smith created during his nearly 30 years as an instructor at Perry Technical Institute will live on within the walls of the school. The hallway leading to the Information Technology & Communication Systems Program was named the Michael G. Smith Hallway in honor of Mike, former ITCS department head, who retired in June.



IN MEMORY

Automotive graduate **Donald Scott** died July 17, 2015, in Yakima. A Zillah native, Don enrolled at Perry after serving in the Navy and graduated in 1974. After graduating from Perry, he managed a service station in Toppenish.

Leonard "Len" Fraiser, a 1965 Instrumentation graduate, died on July 24, 2015, in Phoenix, Arizona. After graduating from Perry, Len served in the Air Force for 20 years, specializing in aviation mechanics. After retiring from the Air Force, he worked with several technical institutions, developing and managing training courses. He also did technical writing in the Phoenix and Philadelphia areas.

James H. Moore died on Friday, May 2015, in Yakima at the age of 70. A 1969 Instrumentation graduate, James worked for Pacific Power for 36 years, retiring in 2006.

Allen Stump died on August 3, 2015, at the age of 62. He was raised in Wapato and graduated from the Auto Rebuilding Program in 1994.

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

Pepsi Renews Support for PTI

Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company continued its long-time support of Perry by renewing its contributions to the scholarship program and donating funds for sponsorship of the Pepsi Barbecue Pit and for the construction of Plath Hall.

"We are pleased to support Perry Tech," says Mike Trammell, general manager. "Perry turns out some highly trained individuals and does a great service for employers and for students."

The local plant employs two Perry HVAC/R graduates, Michael Hutchinson and Morris DeLaTorre, and one Graphics graduate, Kevin Dodd. "These graduates brought strong skills to us," he says.

Each year, Pepsi sponsors two scholarships which are awarded through Perry Technical Foundation. Pepsi underwrote the cost of constructing the Pepsi Pit. The barbecue, located to the north of the main office, is constructed from bricks from the historic boiler building which was torn down several years ago. The barbecue is used for campus events for both students and employees.



Pepsi-Cola Bottling sponsored the Pepsi Pit, a popular gathering place on the Perry campus.

Pepsi also contributed to the "Investing in Excellence" Capital Campaign to build Plath Hall. The company's donation funded the Pepsi-Cola Bottling/Noel Corporation Lab.

Other contributions over the past several years include providing the banners which are displayed in the school's parking lots and helping to secure the digital reader board.

"We are grateful for Pepsi's ongoing support of students through the scholarship program and other projects on campus," says Erin Fishburn, Foundation Director. •

Welding Students Take on Mammoth Project

Perry Tech Welding Technology students used their skills to construct a life-size mammoth silhouette which they helped erect on a hillside overlooking the Wenas Valley, north of Selah, in July.

The metal silhouette marks the site where a mammoth bone was uncovered in 2005 during a road construction project. During the summer months from 2005 to 2010, a team from Central Washington University conducted field schools for scientific investigation of the mammoth bones.

In 2012, property owners Bronwyn, Doug, and Nancy Mayo and a group of local supporters founded the Wenas Mammoth Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting this piece of local history. The foundation approached Perry Tech several years ago asking for assistance in creating and erecting a life-size silhouette of the mammoth to display at the dig site. Perry worked with students

from the Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center on the project.

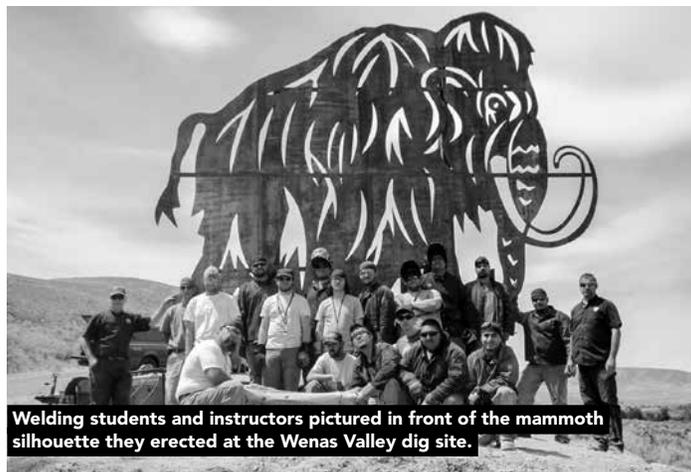
"The project allowed students to see how a customer can have an idea and how they can use their skills to help bring the idea to

life," says Jason Lamiquiz, Perry's Associate Dean of Education.

Dan Steinmetz, head of Perry's Precision Machining & Manufacturing Program, helped to design the silhouette. Working under the direction of Welding instructor Leonard Thompson, the students used the department's plasma cutter to cut out the 10 panels that form the silhouette. Students loaded the pieces on a 20' trailer they had constructed to haul them to the site to be erected.

The project was a great example of groups within the community coming together to

use their talents and skills to help a community project. "Now they can all take pride in this impressive structure which will be around for many years to come," says Jason. •



Welding students and instructors pictured in front of the mammoth silhouette they erected at the Wenas Valley dig site.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



June 2015

Heather Pepper

Business Technology & Accounting

She's punctual and motivated, personable and helpful. For all these traits – and the grades to match – Heather Pepper was named June Student of the Month.

A 2010 graduate of East Valley High School, Heather is enrolled in the Business Technology & Accounting Program.

"Heather always makes sure she gets her work done early so she can help other students," says Valerie Ryan, head of the BTA Program.

In addition to keeping up with schoolwork, Heather has represented the program on the school's Safety Committee and recently trained two students to take her place when she graduates in September.

Heather enjoys working with numbers and when she graduates, hopes to find a position where she can utilize her skills in accounting.



July 2015

Ana Mesina

Medical Assistant

Ana Mesina has everything it takes to qualify as July Student of the Month – top-notch grades, punctuality, and a strong work ethic. However, there's another attribute that puts her at the top of her class.

"One of the most inspiring things about Ana is the level of caring she shows fellow students," says Cheryl Johnson, Ana's instructor in Perry's Medical Assistant Program.

After graduating from Eisenhower High School, Ana worked at several jobs before deciding she needed to return to school for further training. She is combining the principles of providing excellent customer service that she has gained working in retail sales, with the office and clinical skills she is learning at Perry.

When she graduates in December, Ana would like to stay in the area and put her skills to work for a local physician or clinic.



August 2015

Elisabeth Pena

Medical Office Administration & Coding

With attending school full time and holding down both a full-time and a part-time job, it's a wonder that Elisabeth Pena has what it takes to be named August Student of the Month.

But according to her instructors, Elisabeth has more than enough qualities to earn the honor. "Elisabeth exemplifies the qualities that you want, not just in a student, but in a future employee," says Lashel Church, head of Perry's Medical Technology Programs.

Elisabeth is enrolled in the Medical Office Administration & Coding Program. Her grades and work ethic have helped her to finance her education – she's been awarded a total of five scholarships.

Elisabeth will graduate in March 2016 and she hopes to remain in Yakima or move to the Tri-Cities and work in a large health care facility such as a hospital.

Grants Benefit Perry Tech

Perry Tech is benefitting from the generosity of several organizations which have recently granted funds and donated equipment.

- The Jeld-Wen Foundation donated \$10,000 toward the Capital Campaign to build Plath Hall. Founded in 1969, the Jeld-Wen Foundation is a private, non-profit organization that works to improve the lives of Jeld-Wen families and the communities in which they live. A leading manufacturer of windows and doors, Jeld-Wen employs 20,000 people worldwide. Jeld-Wen operates a plant in Yakima.

- The Pacific Power Foundation awarded \$2,000 to support improvements to current labs and to create additional labs and curriculum on variable frequency drives in the Electrical Technology Program. The Pacific Power Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Pacific Power. The Foundation's mission is to support the growth and vitality of the communities served by Pacific Power.

- Fluke continued its longtime support of Perry Tech by donating equipment to the Automotive, Electrical, and HVAC/R Programs. Fluke Corporation is a world leader in the manufacture, distribution, and service of electronic test tools and software. •

In Brief Continued from page 1

Open Positions Posted on Perry Tech Website

The Perry Tech Career Services Department offers resources to alumni who are seeking employment.

Open positions at Perry are posted at <http://www.perrytech.edu/careers/>. Applicants may view job descriptions and apply for the positions online. Open positions with other organizations are posted at <http://www.perrytech.edu/alumni/jobs.html>.

We encourage employers looking for qualified workers in the fields for which we offer training, to post openings on the website. Open positions may be posted at <http://www.perrytech.edu/employers/jobs.html>.

If you have questions or would like further information about the services offered through Perry's Career Services Office, please contact Chelsea Snodgrass, director of Career Services, at 509.453.0374, x5776.

Support Perry With Amazon Purchases

Support Perry with every Amazon purchase you make by enrolling in the Amazon Smile Program.

By attaching Perry Tech to your Amazon.com account, Amazon will donate .5% of the amount you spend every time you shop. To take advantage of this service, search for Perry Technical Institute on AmazonSmile.



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