



**02**  
Partnership  
Supports  
Plath Hall



**04**  
Learning  
About Solar  
Technology



**06**  
Admission  
Team Reaches  
Out

Winter 2015

## Three Trustees Uphold the Mission of Perry Tech

They are three men from three walks of life who share the same passion. Terry Schmalz, Curtis King, and Jake Jundt are the backbone of leadership, the Board of Trustees that governs Perry Technical Institute.

Attorney, senator, construction consultant, they bring diverse backgrounds, experiences, and personalities to their role as leaders. They share a long history of service and commitment to upholding the mission of Perry Technical Institute.

Terry Schmalz's relationship with the school began in 1970 when he started serving as legal counsel for Perry. In December 1988, trustee Fred Smith passed away and Terry was tapped to take his place. "While representing Perry, I developed an affinity for the school and its mission," he says.

During his 26 years as a trustee, Terry has served under three presidents, seen the school grow and expand its programs, and witnessed several major construction projects. "I've always been proud to be a part of Perry."

Terry has seen firsthand the value of a Perry education. His son, Curtis, graduated from the Automotive Rebuilding Program in 1991, and continues to work in the field. "Students come to Perry

because they are looking for a career, a career that will support them and their families for the rest of their lives."

As co-owner of family businesses King Brothers Woodworking and King Door and Hardware, Curtis King had a full slate of professional and community obligations when he accepted

then-President J. Tuman's invitation to join the Board of Trustees. Curtis had seen several of his employees better themselves by attending Perry. "I knew that Perry made a difference in people's lives and I understood that it was a great organization."

Since 2008, Curtis has represented the 14th District in the Washington State Senate. In 2009, he retired from the family businesses. While his public service creates a busy calendar, it hasn't diminished Curtis' involvement with Perry. "The mission of Perry Tech fits with what I believe in," he stresses. "I

am delighted to help an organization that allows people to grow, achieve success, and provide a living for their families."

Jake Jundt brought a wealth of experience in the construction industry when he joined the Board of Trustees in 2009. He co-founded Tri-Ply Construction in 1977 and served as company president until 2002. Jake currently owns a construction

*Continued on page 6...*



Perry's Board of Trustees includes Terry Schmalz, Curtis King, and Jake Jundt.

## Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Officially Opens Plath Hall



The wintry weather outside didn't dampen the enthusiasm for the crowd of Perry supporters who gathered on December 3rd to celebrate the ribbon-cutting for Plath Hall.

"As we open Plath Hall, we honor longtime Perry supporters Fred and Dorothy Plath, whose vision for the school enabled us to make this building a reality," said President Christine Coté.

The new, 38,000-square foot building serves as home to Perry's Instrumentation Program. Cutting the ribbon to the new building were Dorothy Plath and her son Rick Plath; Terry Schmalz, chairman of Perry's Board of Trustees; Tom Moser, group vice president for Emerson Process Management; and Lon Carlson, president of PCE Pacific. After the ribbon-cutting and a short program, visitors had a chance to tour the new building. Features of the building include roomy classrooms with state-of-the-art teaching aids such as smart boards, large shop areas, a process control room, and interview rooms for visiting employers.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

## New Building Symbolizes School's Vitality



Christine Coté

Earlier this month, we cut the ribbon on Plath Hall, entering a new era in the history of Perry Technical Institute.

The new building not only serves as home to Perry's popular Instrumentation & Industrial Automation Technology Program, it also symbolizes the growth and vitality of the school. The need to expand became evident as enrollment continued to climb. After completing a master plan, we began to look at what type of expansion would best serve students.

Perry's Board of Trustees, comprised of three forward-thinking leaders, recognized that in order to continue to grow, we needed to expand. They endorsed the project and their commitment to our mission served as the impetus to present the proposal to the community and to alumni, employers, foundations, and friends of the school.

With an estimated budget of \$8 million, Plath Hall was a huge

undertaking. We are grateful to Dorothy and the late Fred Plath for donating the seed money for the project. In the 75-year history of the school, we had never appealed to the community in a capital fund drive. Many people whose lives had been touched by Perry, as well as many others who believed in our mission, supported the project with generous contributions.

On October 7, 2014, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the school by breaking ground on Plath Hall. Thanks to a mild winter, the dedication of our general contractor, Tri-Ply Construction, and a team of skilled subcontractors, we completed the building under budget and ahead of schedule.

In addition to serving as a state-of-the-art home to the Instrumentation Program, Plath Hall also frees up space on the main campus for the expansion of existing programs and for the addition of new training programs.

The vision of our founder, the leadership of our trustees, the confidence of our students, and the generosity of our donors came together to allow what was once a dream to become a reality. Plath Hall represents the future of both Perry Technical Institute and the generations of students who will train within its walls. •

# FACULTY PROFILE

## Lashel Church: Every Day Teaching Brings New Challenges

If you're considering a career move, close your eyes and imagine yourself doing the job. If you can envision yourself in the role, chances are you have what it takes to be successful.

Lashel Church put this theory to the test nearly eight years ago when she made a career change from head of the billing department at Memorial Physicians to instructor in Perry Tech's new Medical Office Administration & Coding Program. Lashel had firsthand knowledge of the fledgling program, having served as a member of the Program Advisory Committee that helped establish the program's curriculum.

When a friend suggested she apply to teach the new program, Lashel's first reaction was skeptical. With more than a decade of experience in medical billing and office administration, Lashel felt confident of her skills in medical billing, but wondered if she would be able to transfer what she knew to students. "I liked everything I saw going on at Perry and I wanted to be a part of it," she says. "It took a leap of faith to leave a profession I knew and loved and move into something entirely new."

Now, the program is thriving and Lashel has never looked back at the career she left behind. She enjoys teaching because every class – and in fact every day in the classroom – brings new challenges. "In teaching, you never get bored. There are so many different kinds of learners. Every class challenges you to relay the information in different ways," she says.

The diversity of her students and their learning styles, combined with a constantly-changing medical landscape, keep the job both challenging and rewarding.

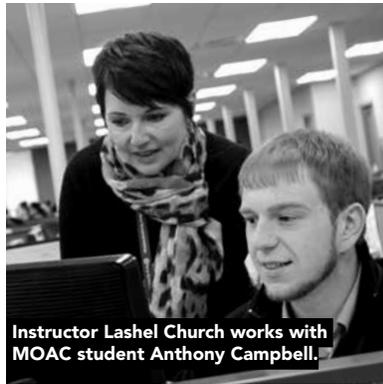
To stay abreast of the changes in industry, Lashel reads trade journals cover to cover. She also keeps up with her trade by staying in touch with students who graduated from the program. "My former students are excellent sources for what's going on in industry. It's their turn to be teachers," she says, smiling.

When she's not in the classroom, Lashel teaches yoga through the Yoga Collective of Yakima. Local yoga instructors volunteer their time to lead free yoga classes. She likes reading, gardening, and the "lost art" of canning. She also enjoys hiking with her husband of 25 years, Don, and spending time with her two sons and two granddaughters.

The lessons Lashel imparts go far beyond medical office and coding skills. She is the ideal role model on how to dress and behave in a professional manner. She encourages her students to identify mentors and aspire to be like them. "I tell them to find someone they look up to and model their behavior after that person," she says.

PTI graduate Janae West is putting the lessons she learned from Lashel to work as the pre-op and referral coordinator at Yakima Urology Associates. "She is a down-to-earth, approachable instructor who focuses on all the things that go into being a good employee," Janae says.

Surprisingly, Lashel says one of the most valuable lessons she teaches students is how to fail. "At some point, we all experience failures. What defines you is how you deal with those failures," she stresses. "Do we shift the blame, find excuses, or do we own up to our failures? If we can ask ourselves what part we played, we will learn from our mistakes. That, more than anything, will make you a valuable employee." •



Instructor Lashel Church works with MOAC student Anthony Campbell.

# Emerson/PCE Pacific Partner to Support Plath Hall

The need for technicians to replace retiring baby-boomers and the increasing complexity of control systems have created “the perfect storm” for students training in the field of instrumentation.

“While this spells fantastic opportunities for students, it presents huge challenges for our customers,” says Lon Carlson, president of PCE Pacific, the Bothell, Washington-based company that serves as the Local Business Partner for Emerson Process Management.

This was the message representatives from Emerson Process Management and PCE Pacific brought when they came to the Perry Tech campus to celebrate the opening of Plath Hall.

Over the years, the two companies have partnered to support Perry’s Instrumentation Program with generous equipment donations, including the Delta V Distributed Control System in 2008. The contributions from Emerson and PCE Pacific combine as the largest corporate donation to the Capital Campaign to build Plath Hall.

“We value the partnership we have with Emerson and PCE Pacific and are proud to put their names in our new facility,” says Christine Coté, Perry Tech president.

That pride is shared by both Emerson and PCE. “It is not often that we can permanently associate our company with as fine an institution as Perry Tech,” says Tom Moser, group vice president of Emerson Process Management, while visiting the Perry campus for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Emerson Process Management is based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The company employs 35,000 workers worldwide, with approximately one-third of its sales in the United States. In addition to direct employees, the company has 22 independently-owned Local Business Partners such as PCE Pacific which sell,

support, and service many of Emerson’s product lines.

“Every graduate who enters this field, no matter where they go to work, will use our products,” says Tom. “We want them to receive the knowledge and training they need to make the best use of these systems. Perry has a well-established reputation in industry as one of the nation’s premier training programs.”

Emerson and PCE Pacific view the equipment donations, as well as their contribution to the Capital Campaign to build Plath Hall, as investments. “The fact is, we are making an investment in the next generation of customers and employees,” says Lon.

The strength of Perry’s program, they contend, lies in teaching fundamental skills, offering a rigorous course of study, and holding students to high standards of accountability.

As retiring baby-boomers leave the industry they take with them “legacy experience.” “The techs entering the industry today may not have the mechanical skills of these workers, but they bring a thorough understanding of digital systems,” says Tom.

Emerson caters to a dozen industries, each with a unique set of measurement and control challenges. “Our customers are making huge investments in reliable equipment. They can’t afford down time,” says Lon. “But, the fact remains that you can have the best equipment money can buy, but it all comes down to people, people who have the skills needed to maximize the performance of the equipment we sell.”

While industry depends upon manufacturers such as Emerson to produce high quality equipment, companies look to schools such as Perry Tech to keep them supplied with technicians who have the skills to make automation productive and cost effective. •



Representatives from Emerson Process Management and PCE Pacific visited the Perry campus for the Plath Hall ribbon-cutting ceremony.

## Perry Responds to the Needs of Ag Industry

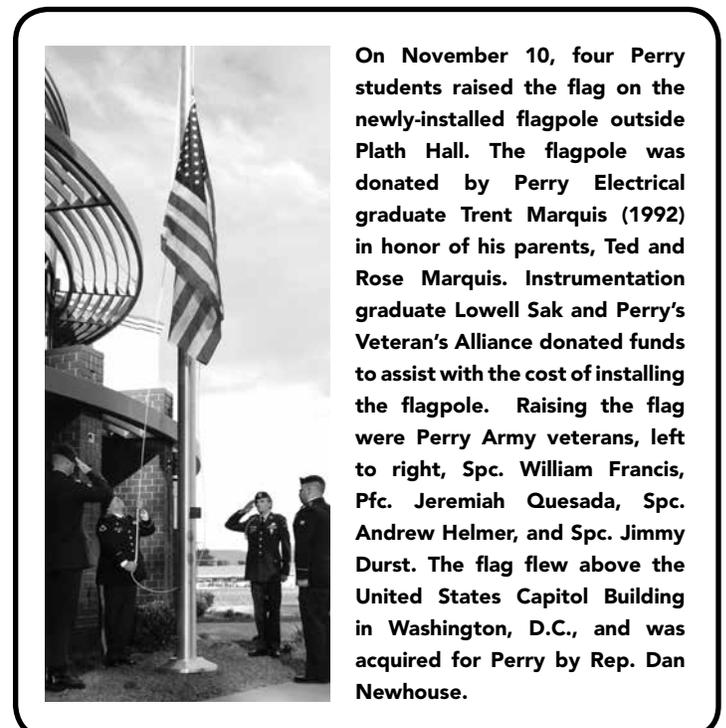
Perry Technical Institute is stepping up to meet the needs of the agriculture industry by adding an Agricultural Equipment Technician Program.

The new 12-month program, which starts in June 2016, will prepare students for employment as entry-level technicians in the agriculture and construction industries. “Leaders in the local agriculture industry have expressed the need for qualified equipment technicians and we are very excited to collaborate with them as this program evolves at PTI,” says Nathan Hull, Perry’s dean of education.

The curriculum for the new program includes classroom theory and hands-on instruction in hydraulics and implements, fuel and electrical systems, electronics, and power train theory. Students will learn to diagnose, repair, modify, and overhaul a wide variety of equipment including tractors, combines, cultivators, seeders, and sprayers.

The new program has been approved by the Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board and accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges.

Applications for admission are now being accepted for summer enrollment. For more information, call the Admissions Office at 509.453.0374 or toll-free 888.528.8586. •



On November 10, four Perry students raised the flag on the newly-installed flagpole outside Plath Hall. The flagpole was donated by Perry Electrical graduate Trent Marquis (1992) in honor of his parents, Ted and Rose Marquis. Instrumentation graduate Lowell Sak and Perry’s Veteran’s Alliance donated funds to assist with the cost of installing the flagpole. Raising the flag were Perry Army veterans, left to right, Spc. William Francis, Pfc. Jeremiah Quesada, Spc. Andrew Helmer, and Spc. Jimmy Durst. The flag flew above the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., and was acquired for Perry by Rep. Dan Newhouse.

## CLASS NOTES

2004 Telecommunications graduate **William Dobbs** is IT Administrator for Phillips Law Firm in Woodinville, Washington. After graduating from Perry, William worked his way up from telephony to carrier class licensed radio technology to IT Administrator for a large nationwide law firm.

**Joe Dobie**, who graduated from the Instrumentation Program in 2011, is employed as a Senior Instrumentation and Controls Technician for a semiconductor manufacturer in Malta, New York.

Perry grad **John Pfaeffle** is looking for Perry grads from his era. He earned his aircraft engine license in 1948.

A 2012 Instrumentation graduate, **Garrett Thorne**, worked for Global Foundries in upstate New York for a year and a half before accepting a position with United States Gypsum in Auburn, Washington. He is responsible for the plant's PLC and HMI programming as well as IT administrator duties. He was recently elected as LEAN officer and has been learning to lead LEAN events in the plant.

**Valerie (Redfield) Weddle** is a Service Writer at McCurley Subaru in Pasco, WA. She graduated from the Automotive Program in 2009.

**Bradley Wheeler** is an IC&E Technician for Calpine in Coyote, California. He is a 2014 Instrumentation graduate.

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

# Electrical Students Exposed to Solar Technology



Electrical students installed the solar panels on Plath Hall. The project received funding from Pacific Power's Blue Sky Program.

Solar energy is helping to power Plath Hall. A Blue Sky grant from Pacific Power financed a solar energy system for the new building and gave Perry's Electrical Technology students an opportunity to gain experience with solar power. Students in the fifth section of the Electrical Program installed the system.

"It was a great learning experience for them to see a real-world application of solar energy," says instructor Ron Zike, explaining that students normally learn about solar energy by using a trainer.

Students relied on their blueprint-reading skills to assemble the ballast system used to mount the 56 solar panels and converters. They used the grounding and bonding skills they learned in a previous quarter to build the service for the panels and they ran conduit.

The electricity produced by the system will be tracked by a monitor in the lobby of Plath Hall allowing students and visitors to the building to see the productivity of the system.

The Naches Valley School District recently received a Blue Sky grant to fund a solar system at the district's new elementary school. Following Perry's successful installation, the school district asked Perry's Electrical Department to install the system at the district's new school.

"This is great opportunity for another class of students to be exposed to the hands-on solar training," says Ron.

Blue Sky is a voluntary program that provides Pacific Power customers an easy way to support renewable energy in the region. Customers who enroll in the program help support the development of community-based renewable energy projects. In addition to Plath Hall, the Blue Sky project has also funded local renewable energy projects at West Valley Junior High School and Yakima Valley Community College. •

## Perry Begins Reaccreditation Process

This fall, Perry began the process of reaccreditation through the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC).

Reaccreditation occurs every five years and includes a thorough self-evaluation, review, and site visit. The purpose of accreditation is to assist schools to become stronger institutions by setting standards of a quality education.

ACCSC, based in Arlington, Virginia, is a private, non-profit, independent accrediting agency which is recognized by the United States Department of Education as an organization which works to ensure quality education for more than 250,000 students at more than 800 accredited institutions

across the United States.

ACCSC's mission is to serve as a reliable authority on educational quality and to promote enhanced opportunities for students by establishing, sustaining, and enforcing valid standards and practices which contribute to the development of a highly trained and competitive workforce through quality career-oriented education.

In 1969, Perry Technical Institute was the first private technical school in Washington to be accredited by the ACCSC. Perry was last accredited in 2011 when the school received ACCSC's highest approval with the designation of School of Excellence. •

# ACCSC

# Thank You Donors of Plath Hall

Dorothy & Fred Plath  
David & Christine Cote  
Jeff & Leanne LaBissoniere  
Erin Fishburn & Nate Bergeson  
John & Jill Cope  
Mark & Carol Helms  
Hull Family  
Jennifer, Sean & Rowan Brown  
The Medrano's  
Deborah Vlcek  
Lurdez C. Mendoza and Family  
Joseph J. Aguilar  
Paul & Nicole Woolpert  
Becki Willard & Family  
Nirk Family  
Dagdagan Family  
Doug Oswalt  
The Sylvanus Family  
Joe & Lupe Martinez  
Dale Eckman  
Tracy Stoffer & Rob Chandler  
Dan & Erinne Steinmetz  
McMurtrey Family  
Ron Zike  
Michael G. Tucker  
Maria R. Pulido  
Sam & Mayra Fernandez  
Mariafrancesca De Maddis Lenz  
Jay Wellner Family  
Josh, Amanda & Avry Wesselius  
Michael G. Smith  
Bill & Sally Douglas Family  
Kaila Lockbeam & Pablo Llamas  
Gerry Ries  
Craig Heckart  
Andrea & Andrew Vosberg  
Dan & Christy Lovestrand & Family  
The Russ Warner Family  
Luna Family  
Jeanine & Lori Benoit  
Emerson-Fisher  
HUB International  
TransCanada Pipeline U.S.A. Ltd.  
Marc Mitchell  
The Shields Family  
Koenes Family  
Platt Electric  
US Bank  
Jack & Connie Bloxom  
Marvin & Patricia Sundquist  
Pepsi Cola Bottling Company/Noel Corporation  
Francisco J. Magana  
Dustin Morrill  
Alegria & Company, P.S.  
Cascade Quality Molding, Inc.  
Washington State  
Gilbert Saenz  
Don & Lashel Church  
Max & Elizabeth Dodd  
Windsor H. Bond Charitable Trust  
The Estate of Lowell D. Cavin, Class of 1942  
Lowell Sak, Class of 1969  
Jordan Ramos & Family  
Patricia Wade Temple  
Tara Matson  
The Boeing Company's Gift Match Program  
Don & Marcie Carrell  
Jerre Hale Paxton, The North American Foundation

Joyce Kehrer Roether  
LeRoy & Carole Hefflinger  
Blueline Equipment Company  
Pexco Aerospace, Inc.  
Richard Mortensen  
George & Beverly Alexander  
Alumni 2012  
Zirkle Fruit Company  
Harry Emtman  
Donald Gano  
Ernest Earhart  
Rick Olson  
Senator Curtis & Lois King  
Doug & Danette Hester Family  
Galen Allen  
Kenneth Mounts  
Norma Jean Sutton  
Ray Monroe  
Scott Fulcher  
Field Instruments & Controls, Inc.  
Donald De Leeuw  
Mike Floyd  
Steven Brunelle  
Marion Marvich  
Cynthia J. Fiscus  
Michael Jakeman  
William O'Day  
Regan Zutter  
Wesley Stilwell  
Ted Marquis  
Graf Investments, Inc.  
Robert Burton  
David Franklin  
Express Farms, Gary Schwisow  
Larson Berg & Perkins PLLC  
Matson Fruit Company  
Paul Weigand  
Michael Ewald  
Monty & Nita Rudd, Mundial Group  
Ben Garrity  
Jeff Sheppard  
Darrell Glenn  
Tree Top, Inc.  
David Nelson  
Eric L. Myers  
Jerry Danner  
Steve Rabinowitz  
Heraclio (Rock) Flores  
Jeff Gray  
Yakima Valley Electric, LLC  
Process Solutions, Inc.  
Robert Peters  
Anonymous  
Lee Peterson Motors, Inc.  
Bruce & Linda Mortimer  
Wayne & Marilyn Baldwin  
Michael Kovis  
The Cottle Family Fund  
Jason & April Lamiquiz  
Ernie & Kathy Hamm  
Mike Huffman  
Rock Point Advisors, LLC.  
Sanchez Family  
Jake & Karren Jundt  
Patrick & Julie Jones  
Anonymous  
Joan & Terry Schmalz  
Del Monte Foods, Inc.  
Iron Workers Local Union #86  
SAaCKS RLT  
Bob & Sheryl DiPietro  
Jon Durand

Gary Price  
Trent Marquis  
Julie Valdez  
David & Janice Gonzales  
Emerson-Rosemount  
Steven Rhodes  
John M. & Renee Kabrich  
Georgia-Pacific  
CPC International Apple Co.  
Orchard-Rite Ltd  
Peggy Lewis  
M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust  
Chris Falk  
Mark & Debbi Baldwin  
Virginia S. Hislop  
Emerson Process Management  
Gary Bannerman  
E.S. Bell, Jr.  
Anonymous  
Thomas Reid  
Wright-Jackson Family  
Max York  
Snodgrass Family  
Familia Palencia  
Anonymous  
In Memory of Fred Plath & Gene Shields  
Thomas W. Albert, William G.  
Albert, Beatrice M. Albert  
Apodaca & Brisenio Family  
Alan Frazier  
Advanced Life Systems  
John Cooper  
Pacific Power's Blue Sky Renewable Energy Customers  
Steven Perez  
Shawn Rucker  
Chuck Stegeman  
Row's - Charles Sr., Charles, Jr.  
David, Doug & Rocky  
Eugene Hess  
Jack Pusel  
Jon Jurmu  
Paul & Betty Burkhart  
Robert Daniels  
William Kozacek  
Norman Tucker  
Raymond Cotton  
John Lowsley  
Columbia Reach Pack  
Anonymous  
Senator Jim & Jerri Honeyford  
Anonymous  
Walter Fahlenkamp  
Julie Houston  
Janet Diehm  
John Clubb  
Carla Safie  
Christopher Gagner  
In memory of Ernest R. Hamm  
Gene & Julia Ann Trelstad  
John & Faye Kohler, Jon Bishop,  
Jennifer Bishop  
Inland Fire Protection, Inc.  
Helen Marieskind, Ceres Fund,  
YVCF  
Autoline Controls Inc.  
Emerson-Micro Motion  
Kody Pitner  
M. G. Wagner Co. Inc.  
Betty Peterson  
Shell Oil Company

Denny Hert  
Tommy Hanses  
Dan White  
Instrumentation Program Advisory Committee  
Harry & Jackie Heliessen  
JELD-WEN Foundation  
Gery Huck  
Evans Fruit Co., Inc.  
Tri-Ply Construction, LLC  
Legacy Fruit Packers, LLC  
Price Cold Storage & Packing Co., Inc.  
United Sales, Inc.  
Morgan Birkby  
Dennis & Vikki Clark, Dennis Clark's Acoustical Ceilings  
BORArchitecture, PLLC  
Dorothy & Fred Plath Fund - Yakima Valley Community Foundation  
Thomas A. Norton  
Yakima Kiwanis Charitable Trust,  
Delmar Pearson Chairman  
John M. Hurson & Family  
Kenneth I. Hurson & Family  
Julie Eckel O'Brien  
Julie Lemke McIntire  
Carl Scott  
Marc Greninger  
e3 Solutions, Inc./Derek Karel  
Paint Smith Co.  
Bret & Shelley Bohoskey  
John I. Haas, Inc.  
Todd Peterson  
JEI Masonry  
T & M Heating & AC  
ISA Student Section  
Granite Construction Company  
Cabinet Tech, LLC  
Valley Steel Constructors, Inc.  
Perry Technical Institute Veteran's Alliance  
Generation Plastering, LLC  
In Memory of Betty Allen  
Poppoff, Inc.  
Lucero Montoya & Gustavo Montes  
De Oca  
Valerie L. Ryan  
Yadon Specialties  
Gasseling Family  
Bill & Corinne Duer  
Great Floors, Bob Bailey, Rico  
Bentancourth & Teresa Gavin  
Angela Fiscus  
Krissey Petersen & Scott Fendley  
Lee & Lauren Ellis  
Killion Dubow  
Butch & Lois Neubauer  
Jose & Ruby Aguilar  
Family Benitez & Tejeda  
Mardell Newhouse  
Jeff & Cheryl Johnson  
HLA Engineering & Land Surveying  
Darren A. Wood  
Paul & Judy Trammell  
Andy Fischer  
Interstate Sawing & Drilling, LLC

## IN MEMORY

**Eugene Lamont Ashman** died on May 16, 2015, in Yakima. He was a 2013 ITCS graduate.

A 1984 Automotive graduate, **Ronald Redfield**, died on August 26, 2015, in Yakima.

**Tyrone Bert "Ty" Rustin** died on September 12, 2015, in Spokane. He retired as manager of the tire shop in Costco's flagship store in Seattle.

Perry graduate **Paul Weigand** died on August 25, 2015, in Yakima. He attended Perry after serving in the Air Force.

A 1995 Electrical graduate, **Mark Woodruff**, died on September 8, 2015, in Moses Lake.

*If you know of a Perry graduate who has recently passed away, please notify us by emailing [perrynews@perrytech.edu](mailto:perrynews@perrytech.edu).*

### Join the Perry team!

**Perry Tech is a great  
place to work.**

We offer a competitive compensation  
and benefits package.

To view current openings, visit

<http://www.perrytech.edu/careers/>.

## Admissions Team Shares Information About Perry Tech



Perry's Admissions Department has a new office, located near the school's main entrance. Pictured are two members of the Admissions Team, Rainan Viernes and Kayla Curtsinger.

The Admissions Team is the face of Perry Technical Institute, bringing information about the training opportunities available through the school to prospective students and interested community members.

The six staff members who comprise the Admissions Team are often the first to greet visitors to the Perry Tech campus. The department is headquartered in a new office, located just inside the main entrance.

The department includes three Admissions specialists – Amber Riddle, Kayla Curtsinger, and Rainan Viernes – and three Admissions representatives – Jessica Buckner, Andrew Hilyard, and Nereyda Zaragoza. Overseeing the department are Director of Marketing & Admissions Nicole Trammell Woolpert and Associate Director

of Admissions Raul Luna.

The three Admissions Specialists are based on campus while the three Admissions Representatives spend the majority of their time off campus. Andrew and Nereyda work from the main campus and Jessica works remotely, visiting schools and other events in Western Washington.

Perry Tech recruits students throughout the Pacific Northwest and representatives occasionally visit Montana, Alaska, and California. Admissions representatives give presentations and provide information on Perry's 11 training programs in high school classrooms, at career fairs, and other events. They work closely with high school counselors and teachers and with counselors and representatives from government agencies and non-profit organizations which provide assistance and funding for retraining.

The Admissions Specialists working on the Perry campus lead group and individual tours and answer telephone and in-person inquiries. "Our Admissions staff is a friendly, outgoing group of people who enjoy sharing how amazing Perry Tech is with potential students," explains Nicole. "Our goal as a department is to expand our reach so that people who don't know someone who went to Perry still learn about us."

Alumni and friends of the school serve as an extension of Perry's Admissions Team. If you're interested in learning more about Perry or if you have a friend or family member who would benefit from the training we offer, please call the Admissions Office at 509.453.0374 or toll-free 888.528.8586 or visit our website at [www.perrytech.edu](http://www.perrytech.edu). •

## Perry Board of Trustees Continued from page 1

management business in addition to volunteering in leadership positions with a number of community organizations.

Jake sees his involvement with Perry as a natural outgrowth of the values he prescribes to as a businessman. "The three qualities I look for most in employees – honesty, a strong work ethic, and the ability to work well with others – are the same qualities that Perry instills in students," he says. "Perry does an excellent job of preparing people to be good employees. This is something that is greatly needed in industry."

The three trustees have a combined tenure of more than 40 years. Over the years, they've witnessed curriculum modifications to meet the changing needs of industry, building renovations to house new programs, and expansions to the school's infrastructure to accommodate a growing student body.

Perhaps the most noticeable change is the appearance of the campus. "For years, the school appeared more industrial than educational," observes Terry. "Today, the school looks like the sophisticated, top quality vocational school that it is."

Maintaining the continuity of the school's architecture is

important, he says, adding that the design of Plath Hall is an extension of the school's overall look.

The capital campaign to build Plath Hall was the biggest undertaking the school has ever seen. "The success of the campaign is a testament to the way Perry is viewed in our community. The school is well known by employers in our state and its reputation is growing across the nation," says Curtis.

Terry agrees, pointing to the designation of Perry as a School of Excellence by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges in 2012 as evidence that Perry is one of the nation's premier technical training institutions.

The space created by the Instrumentation Program moving into Plath Hall gives Perry the room it needs to grow. The trustees agree that this potential, combined with strong leadership and a qualified and motivated team of employees, creates a bright future for the school. "Perry has experienced phenomenal growth. It's rewarding to see the school have the ability to change even more lives," says Jake. •

# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



September 2015

## Chris Martin

I.T. & Communication Systems

It wasn't difficult for Chris Martin to choose a career. The Information Technology & Communications Systems Program at Perry Technical Institute was a natural choice for Chris who has always loved anything to do with computers.

Now in the second half of the two-year program, Chris has been singled out by his instructors as September Student of the Month. "His interest in the field is unparalleled," says instructor Francisco Magana. "He is always sharing insights with his classmates."

Raised in Yakima, Chris moved to Auburn when he was in eighth grade. He attended community college classes and worked several part-time jobs before moving back to Yakima and enrolling at Perry. "Because of my interest in computers, the program was something I could really throw myself into," he says.



October 2015

## Brian Ellerd

Instrumentation & Industrial Automation

While a college degree opens many doors, Perry's October Student of the Month, Brian Ellerd, discovered that it doesn't always qualify you for the career of your dreams.

After earning a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Southern California, Brian realized he was intrigued by the role of instrument techs in the power plant where he worked. He learned from them that a technical school in Yakima, Washington, offered a well-respected training program.

The Southern California native made a trip to Yakima to check it out. Now, nearly two years later, he is about to graduate from Perry with the qualifications he needs to enter the field. Instructors nominated Brian for Student of the Month, praising him for his academics, motivation and conduct.

Brian, who will graduate this month, has accepted a position as an instrument tech at Tesoro's Golden Eagle Refinery in the San Francisco Bay area.



November 2015

## Chase Gordon

HVAC/R Technology

Perry Technical Institute's November Student of the Month Chase Gordon is the type of student that Justin McRitchie likes to send into industry.

He is skilled and knowledgeable, yet always hungry to learn more. He is confident, yet humble and always willing to help his classmates. "Chase is just the kind of guy we are happy to put the Perry name on and send out to work in industry," says Justin, head of Perry's Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology Program.

Raised in Shelton, Chase moved to Yakima to help care for his great-grandmother while attending Perry. He was attracted to the HVAC/R program because the trade promised to be the right combination of hands-on work that was also mentally challenging.

Chase will graduate this month and he has already landed a job as an HVAC/R technician with Actionaire in Hoquiam.

## New Instructor Joins Instrumentation Faculty



Perry graduate Casey Floren has joined the Instrumentation faculty.

Casey, who graduated in 2003, is teaching the program's final section. Casey comes to Perry from PCE Pacific in Bothell where he has worked for the last 11 years, most recently as an industrial solutions architect. A Yakima native, Casey graduated from West Valley High School in 1999.

After graduating from Perry, he worked for Tyco Valves for one year before going to work for PCE Pacific, a leading provider of services and solutions for the process control industry. PCE Pacific is a Local Business Partner of Emerson Process Management.

Casey says PCE is an excellent company and he enjoyed the work, but he welcomed the opportunity to return to teach at his alma mater in his hometown, where he and his wife, Melissa, have family. Casey and Melissa have a 6-year-old son, Cody, and are expecting their second child in April. •

## IN BRIEF

### Check Out Perry's New Website

Perry Technical Institute's website has a new look.

For the latest on campus events, program descriptions, the admissions process and applying for financial aid, visit [www.perrytech.edu](http://www.perrytech.edu).

The website also has a job posting board for graduates looking for jobs and a board where current jobs on the Perry campus are posted. Also included are links to Perry's social media pages.

Stay in touch with Perry – visit our website today!

### Perry Named Veteran-Supportive Campus

Perry Technical Institute has been designated a Veteran-Supportive Campus by the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs.

Jason Alves, program manager of the Veterans Conservation Corps/Vet Corps for the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs

(WDVA), presented the award to Perry president Christine Coté at the school's annual veterans' assembly on November 10. The designation is awarded based on the school's demonstrated commitment to serving the needs of military personnel.

"Colleges are the landing point for many of our veterans today for a number of reasons," says Jason. "On behalf of the WDVA, it is my honor to recognize the work done by Perry Tech. Their commitment to their veteran population not only prepares many veterans for a fulfilling career, but also supports them in rejoining a community."

Perry Tech offers a range of services for veterans. The Veteran's Alliance meets on campus the third Thursday of the month. Perry veterans are served by a Vet Corps Navigator. The Vet Corps was created through a partnership between the WDVA and AmeriCorps. Perry's Vet Corps Navigator Allan Locia works out of the Student Services Department.

Perry Tech is one of 17 institutions of higher learning in Washington to be named a Veteran-Supportive Campus. •



**Perry Technical  
Foundation**

2011 W. Washington Ave.  
Yakima, WA 98903

---

**NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Yakima, WA  
Permit No. 90**

---

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Perry Technical Institute**

**new year.  
new career.**

**OPEN HOUSE SAT., JAN. 9th 10AM-1PM**

**Preregister at [perrytech.edu](http://perrytech.edu) or call us today! 509.453.0374 or 888.528.8586**

---

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

***Perry Technical Institute • 2011 W. Washington Ave., Yakima WA 98903 509.453.0374 • [foundation@perrytech.edu](mailto:foundation@perrytech.edu) • [perrytech.edu](http://perrytech.edu) • **President:** Christine Coté***

***Editor:* Leanne LaBissoniere | **Foundation Director:** Erin Fishburn | **Graphic Designer:** Nicole Trammell Woolpert | **Photographer:** Darren Wood**

---