

# Career Tech: Education and Job Skills

By Diane Rodriguez

High school can be a tough time no matter who you are. It can be especially hard if you don't feel like you fit into the classroom structure inherent in many high schools.

Career Tech in Lincoln City is a public charter high school open to high school-age students in Lincoln County that is operated by Community Services Consortium. It combines traditional classes with technology-based education and helps prepare students for the workforce through four different programs – marine services and natural resources management, woods and metals fabrication, culinary arts and drone technologies.

The Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund's grant of \$4,735 in 2018 included funding for mileage, meals, cooking supplies and student incentives for the culinary program. Additionally, the fund provided a grant of \$4,560 in 2005 for a student mentorship program.

According to the school's website, "Career Tech is a workplace simulation. This means students are 'hired' for a quarter at a time. At the end of each 9-10 week quarter, students meet with their family and school staff for a performance evaluation. We examine productivity (credits earned), attendance and employability skills. Students who are making adequate progress are invited to return. Most students make adequate progress."

Students spend three hours in the morning or afternoon attending classes with an instructor, then are expected to spend sufficient time in online courses

or in the field in one of the four programs mentioned above to complete their studies.

Joel Riverman, education supervisor and science/social studies teacher, said students become part of Youth Crews in these four hands-on programs where they learn skills that will prepare them for the workforce.

The culinary program, for example, was launched with help from the Lincoln City Visitor and Convention Bureau (now called Explore Lincoln City), which provided funding and access to the Culinary Center for classes.

"The culinary program is tied to the local economy. We've talked to employers, the restaurants and hotels, and they're very underserved with employees with basic skills," said Riverman. "We work on the soft skills – be there on time, be there every day. We talk about behaving socially responsibly and the proper use of words."

These skills were evident on a November morning at Vivian's Restaurant and BBQ in Lincoln City, where four students were working under the watchful eye of Vivian's owner Ann Williams, also the instructor of the Career Tech culinary program.

She echoed Riverman's comments about needing workers with basic skills. She also lamented the lack of affordable housing in the area, which has cost her some of the employees she had hired because they couldn't find any housing in the area they could afford.

The students that morning handled busing tables, washing dishes, general cleaning in the restaurant and some food prep. They never stopped moving and once they were done with something, moved on to another task or asked Williams what they should do next.

Williams or one of the line cooks, Bill, patiently explained what was needed and the students got to work.

According to Riverman, three of the students in last year's culinary program are now working in local restaurants. He also said that one student on the woods and metals crew a few years ago ended up working at Camp Westwind (where this Youth Crew goes to learn its trade). He received training in a multitude of things while at the camp and should become a full-fledged electrician in another year.



Photos by Diane Rodriguez

Above: Two students do prep work at Vivian's Restaurant and BBQ.

Below: Ann Williams talks with a chef at Vivian's.



Even though Career Tech focuses on graduating students with marketable skills, it also encourages students who want to go to college. Having these types of skills

never hurts, though, and can even help pay for some of those college expenses. For more information about Career Tech, visit <https://careertech.us>.

Joel Riverman

Courtesy photo



## Carol Jean Blomstrom – 1946-2019

Carol Jean Blomstrom 72, of Siletz, Ore., passed away April 9, 2019, at home in Siletz surrounded by her loved ones. Carol and her twin sister were born on July 27, 1946, in Toledo, Ore., to Fritz and Marie Chapman.

Carol was raised in Siletz with her twin sister, Barbara, and brother, Fritz. She attended and graduated from Siletz High School in 1964. She then lived in Siletz and the surrounding area.

She worked locally in the fish plant and motel industry. She then started and loved working at the Tenas Illahee Childcare Center, where she finished out her career.

Carol loved playing Bingo, attending cultural events, gardening and spending time with her friends and family.

She was blessed with and left behind three children, Gail Johnson, Perry Johnson and Anthony Blomstrom; nine grandchildren, David Johnson, TJ Johnson, Corey Loving Jr., Joshua Johnson, Ava Johnson, Uriah Johnson, Kai Blomstrom-Florendo, Ash Blomstrom and Mindy Blomstrom; and one great-grandchild, Addiana Butler.

She also leaves behind her mother, Marie Chapman; sister, Barbara Wood; and many family members and friends.



Courtesy photo