

# KeizerCommunity

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## Shop teacher served MHS students for 36 years

By DEREK WILEY  
Of the Keizertimes

Doug Stuiivenga joined the faculty at McNary High School 36 years ago because he wanted to serve.

"I became a teacher because I think as a Christian we're called to lives of service and I felt like I was providing a service to Keizer and Keizer's been beyond kind to me," Stuiivenga said on his final day at the high school.

Stuiivenga came to McNary in 1982 to teach drafting and electronics.

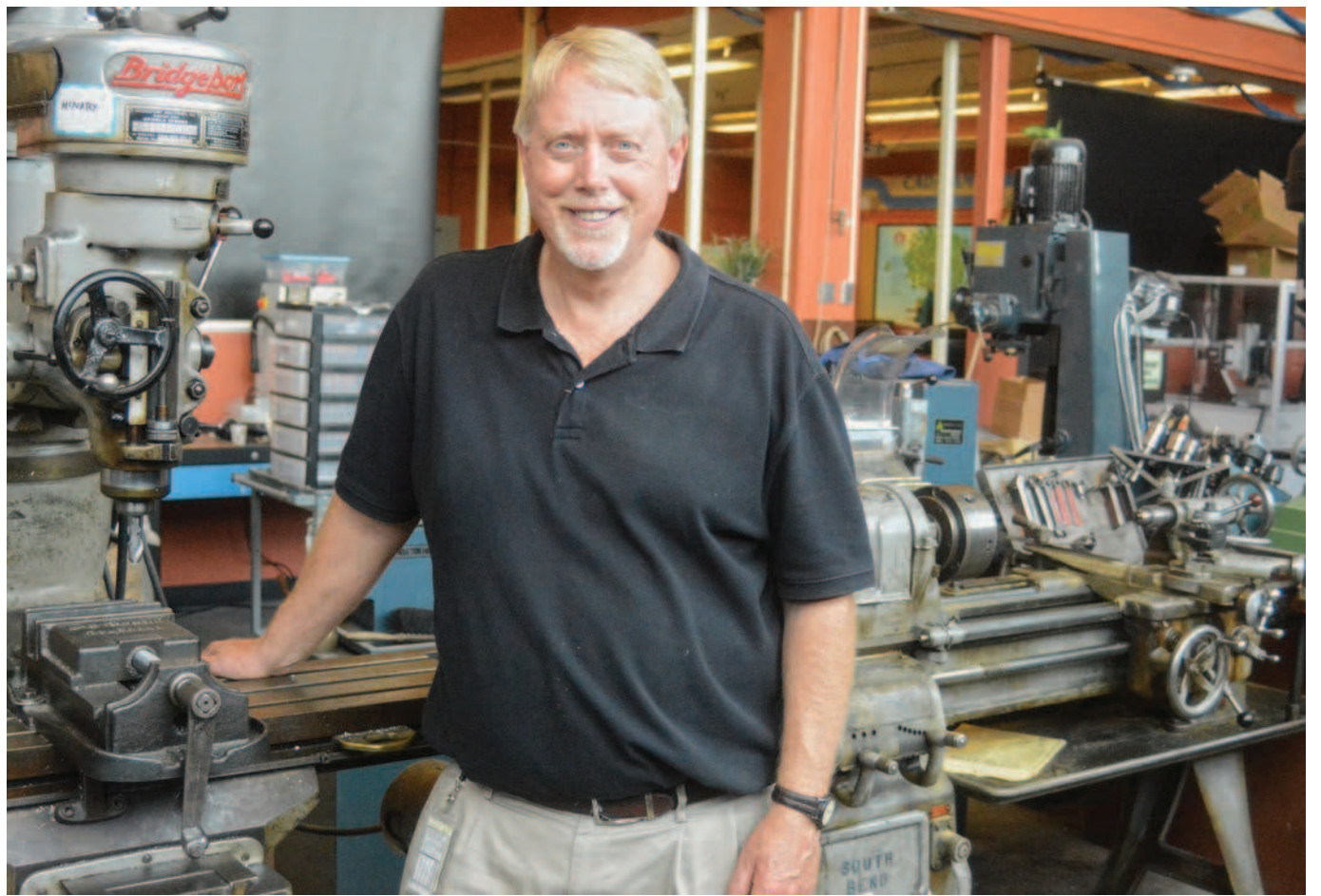
"I didn't really expect to stay at one place that long but the neat thing about my experience here is that whenever I've started to feel like I've

done this long enough, things would change," Stuiivenga said. "I really had a chance to do all kinds of different things over the years and stay in one school and do it."

To keep up with the all the changes in drafting, Stuiivenga took evening classes and went to summer school.

When he needed industry experience to become vocational certified, he spent a summer working at Boeing Portland.

When McNary didn't have enough full-time hours Stuiivenga taught freshmen and junior English along with his drafting classes. When Stuiivenga felt like he couldn't keep up with the changes in



Doug Stuiivenga taught drafting, electronics, English, technical theatre and was an advisor for the yearbook over his 36 years at McNary High School.

software of computer drafting, he requested to move to teaching only English.

"I felt like I needed to know every single command

on the software and what it did and I just couldn't, and probably nobody does today but at that time I thought I should be able to," Stuiivenga said.

"It was a great year. It was really fun. Every period that came in, I was hotter and more prepared and my jokes worked better."

After a year of teaching only English, he moved back to drafting.

"I thought a school this size really should have drafting so I went back to that again and built the program up," Stuiivenga said.

After attending a series of state-wide planning meetings looking at why schools weren't producing enough students that were prepared to go into engineering, Stuiivenga began emphasizing engineering in his classes.

"If they (students) come in here to take computer drafting, we're learning the soft-

ware and how to draw and make stuff but engineers have to solve the world's problems so now that you have those skills, here's a problem that you have to solve and you guys are going to be in a team and work together and figure out a solution," Stuiivenga said. "What they are really getting is a precursor to what it's like to be an engineer. If they took two or three years from me, they left with a really good foundation with some great life skills and some ideas of how the world works."

Along with drafting and English, Stuiivenga also taught technical theater and was advisor for McNary's yearbook for three years.

"It's been a lot of fun," Stuiivenga said. "There's never been a day when I didn't have a good time when I got to school, working with kids. They always amuse and energize me."

Stuiivenga didn't plan on retiring but McNary's drafting program was dropped in order to add a Geometry in Construction course.

Stuiivenga was told he could stay on staff and teach English.

"I considered it and I would have a good time but I thought maybe that's a good time to gracefully move on with my life," Stuiivenga said. "I could have gone on forever. You've got to get up everyday anyway."

Stuiivenga has a smaller shop at his home he'll have more time for as well as his hobbies—gardening, hiking and photography.

"It's been a little bit bittersweet," he said. "I'm going to miss it a lot, especially these last few years in this environment. This is as good as it gets. I've got everything I could ask for and the space for teaching what it's like to be an engineer."



"This community is beautiful and the whole staff is so attentive and caring! As a family member, I always want the very best for my Mom and I know that we have found an incredible place where I know that she is happy and well-cared for. The atmosphere is engaging and respectful and it is so good to know that Mom is in such good hands. I would highly recommend this community to anyone!" — HEIDI C.



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