

VOLUNTEER of the Week

presented by



ERIKA MARTINEZ

Where and how do you volunteer?

"I volunteer at the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, Capital FC Timbers and West Salem Athletic Booster Club. I do numerous community and fundraising events with Keizer Chamber and Capital FC Timbers and I serve on the board at West Salem Athletic Booster Club."

Why do you volunteer?

"I volunteer because I feel it is very important to give back to the community we live in. There is so much to be done and if we all do a little to give back it makes a huge difference. It's how change happens."

What does volunteering do for you?

"I volunteer because it fills my cup. There is no greater feeling than knowing that I am making a difference in my community and helping others in need."

How would you get others to volunteer in their community?

"Find something you are passionate about and find a way to help build that passion in your community."

McNary students to benefit from \$1.5 mil. Chemeketa grant



Rochelle Farris, former College and Career Advisor at McNary High School. FILE PHOTO, Keizertimes

JOEY CAPPELETTI Of the Keizertimes

McNary students will directly benefit from a \$1.54 million grant Chemeketa Community College received earlier this month to increase dual enrollment accessibility for underrepresented student groups.

"Chemeketa's dual enrollment program opens the world of college-going to hundreds of high school students each year," said Jessica Howard, Chemeketa's president, in a written statement. "With this grant, we will be able to extend that opportunity to more students, particularly those in rural areas and those who have faced barriers due to historic marginalization. The grant funds courses,

teacher training, technology and college advising to increase the number of students completing college."

Chemeketa's College Credit Now department allows high school students to begin earning college credit before graduation and for a fraction of the cost. For \$30 a year, students can take classes at their high school, taught by certified teachers, and earn both high school and college credit.

"Many of our students graduate with almost enough credits to complete their first year of college because of the classes they take," said Rochelle Farris, who served as McNary's college and career advisor for five years. "It reduces the amount that they are going to have

to pay for an associate or bachelor's degree by a significant amount."

A total of 163 students from McNary participated in Chemeketa's dual enrollment program last year, taking a combined 1,812 dual enrollment credits and saving \$169,877 compared to what the class would cost at Chemeketa.

In total, Chemeketa's College Credit Now department saved 1,682 Oregon high school students a combined \$1.27 million last year.

Sara Hastings, Chemeketa's dean of high school partnerships, said that with the grant, the college hopes "to focus on identifying gaps at the schools that we serve where certain students aren't participating in dual enrollment programs."

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