

# New scholarship recognizes high-achieving transfer students

EOU recognized by Phi Theta Kappa for offering a PTK financial aid award

East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — High-achieving transfer students have a new home at Eastern Oregon University, thanks to a unique scholarship program aimed at supporting their continued success.

The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society boasts 19 chapters and more than 2,000 student members at community colleges across Oregon, but EOU is the only public university in the state recognized by Phi Theta Kappa for offering a PTK financial aid award.

“Currently, EOU offers a Transfer Scholarship that’s based on both merit and financial need, but the Phi Theta Kappa Award is specifically designed for high-achieving students as a way to honor their hard work,” said Cody Singer, an online and transfer stu-



EOU photo by Vicky Hart

**Full-time transfer students to Eastern Oregon University can apply for a \$1,000 Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Award through EOU’s Financial Aid Office, and combine the funds with other EOU scholarships. The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society boasts 19 chapters and more than 2,000 student members at community colleges across Oregon, but EOU is the only public university in the state recognized by Phi Theta Kappa for offering a PTK financial aid award.**

dent advisor at EOU.

Full-time transfer students can apply for the \$1,000 PTK Award through EOU’s Financial Aid Office, and combine the funds with other EOU scholarships, including the Transfer Scholarship

up to \$2,500.

PTK advisers invite students to join their chapter if they have a high GPA and have earned at least 12 credits. Singer began exploring a partnership with regional PTK groups earlier this year, and soon

received a wave of positive responses.

In a survey from Singer, more than half of Oregon PTK advisors indicated that their students rate scholarships “very important” in selecting a transfer school.

## STATEWIDE PTK CHAPTERS

Blue Mountain Community College, Chemeketa Community College, Clackamas Community College, Clatsop Community College, Columbia Gorge Community College, Klamath Community College, Lane Community College, Linn-Benton Community College, Mt. Hood Community College, Oregon Coast Community College, Portland Community College, Southwestern Oregon Community College, Tillamook Bay Community College, Treasure Valley Community College and Umpqua Community College all have participating PTK chapters.

Alexis Butzner of Chemeketa Community College. “To have a dedicated scholarship that applies to a public institution in Oregon would be incredibly exciting and would greatly boost interest in Eastern’s programs for transfer students.”

Advisers from Portland Community College, Umpqua Community College and Clackamas Community College echoed her sentiments, noting the lack of scholarships available from Oregon public universities for this elite group of transfer students.

“It’s a great opportunity for us to provide affordable, efficient ways for these students to complete their degrees, with the personal support and small classes EOU is known for,” Singer said. “Attracting high-achieving students aligns with our institutional goals to increase enrollment, retention and completion while serving the region.”

EOU will begin offering the PTK Award during its summer term, which begins June 24, and in fall term, which starts Sept. 25.

## LOCAL BRIEFING

### Pendleton woman dies in crash

PENDLETON — The Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office confirmed a 21-year-old Pendleton woman died in a crash near Pendleton.

The sheriff’s office at about 8:30 a.m. Tuesday responded to Mill Road near Hoeft Road near Pendleton for a single car rollover. Initial reports provided confusing information about the location, but deputies arrived and found a Chevrolet Malibu rolled over and the driver and only occupant of the vehicle was dead.

The sheriff’s office did not release the name of the victim but stated the case remains under investigation to determine the cause and other factors in the crash.

The sheriff’s office also reported it would release more information as it becomes available.

### Union resident begins Peace Corps service

WASHINGTON — Union resident Margaret Sheehy has been accepted into the Peace Corps and will depart for Benin on June 10 to begin training as a health volunteer.

“The Peace Corps promotes a lot of values that I hold, including service, intercultural awareness, opportunity to travel and live in a different country, and of course, peace,” Sheehy said. “Peace Corps will serve as a bridge between my college education and my career post-college, and I feel lucky to have an opportunity to do something meaningful that will help me develop practical skills and professional attributes.”

Sheehy is a graduate of Union High School and the University of Portland, where she earned a bachelor of arts

in social work, psychology and Spanish in May. Prior to joining the Peace Corps, she held a variety of residence hall positions while in college, including as a service and justice coordinator who provided students with service opportunities at local organizations. During her senior year, she worked as an intern at the Marie Smith Center, a day center for older adults with functional or cognitive impairments.

During the first three months of her service, Sheehy will live with a host family in Benin to become fully immersed in the country’s language and culture. After acquiring the necessary skills to assist her community, Sheehy will be sworn into service and assigned to a community in Benin, where she will live and work for two years with the local people.

Sheehy joins the 184 Oregon residents currently serving in the Peace Corps and more than 6,547 Oregon residents who have served in the Peace Corps since 1961.

### Comments open on vegetation project

PENDLETON — The Walla Walla Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest is seeking review and comment on the draft environmental assessment for the proposed Upper Touchet Vegetation Management Project.

The 4,450-acre project is located 20 miles south of Dayton, Washington, and is anticipated to increase forest health and vigor, decrease wildfire risk, and protect values at risk through vegetative thinning and prescribed burning.

The Forest Service has evaluated four alternatives in the draft environmental assessment in response to public comment that was received during scoping. Forest staff now are interested in hearing feedback on specific issues that the public feels still need to be addressed. The comment period is an opportunity for the public to be involved in the process and offer thoughts on alternative ways the Forest Service can accomplish the project purpose and need.

The comment period for the project is anticipated to begin on Friday and will be open for 30 days from the date of publication of the legal notice in the *East Oregonian*.

Comments may be submitted electronically through [www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53438](http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53438); or hand-delivered between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday; or mailed to District Ranger, Michael Rassbach, Walla Walla Ranger District, Upper Touchet Project Comments, 1415 W Rose St., Walla Walla, Washington, 99362.

For additional information, contact Johnny Collins at 509-843-4643.

## Youngest defendant in drive-by shooting readies for trial

MILTON-FREEWATER — The youngest defendant facing three counts of attempted murder and more for a drive-by shooting last August in Milton-Freewater could go to trial.

Gabriel Ivan Arriaga Cruz, 16, has a trial readiness hearing June 7 in the Pendleton courtroom of Circuit Judge Jon Lieualen. Cruz faces 13 counts in all. According to court records, Cruz will appear via video from the juvenile jail at the Northern Oregon Regional Correctional

Facility, or NORCOR, in The Dalles. His next appearance, then, comes June 26 for a 12-person jury trial.

That’s still plenty of time for him to follow fellow co-defendants Charley Lozano Magana, 25, Juan Venegas Esquivel, 25, and Michael Angelo Cantu, 28, all of Walla Walla, who took plea deals. Esquivel and Cantu are serving more than three years each in prison for unlawful use of a weapon for their roles in the shooting, which

resulted in no injuries, while Magana is serving almost seven years for two counts of unlawful use of a weapon stemming from the drive-by and one for an unrelated third-degree assault.

The final defendant in the case, Aurelio Vilalobos Rodriguez, 38, of Milton-Freewater, remains in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, on charges of conspiracy to commit murder and unlawful use of weapon. He has a pretrial conference June 11.

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