

COCC

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This flexible teaching style is perhaps one of many reasons why a national culinary professional organization deemed Cascade Culinary Institute as the best culinary school in Oregon — and one of the five best on the West Coast.

Earlier this month, the school received an exemplary accreditation from the Florida-based American Culinary Federation for both its programs — baking and pastries, and culinary arts. It is the only school in Oregon to receive this prestigious honor, according to the federation's website.

COCC officials say this accreditation will not only help current students start careers at prestigious restaurants and bakeries, but it could also help attract potential new students to Cascade Culinary Institute. "This organization, which is the biggest and best of its kind in the world, has said that we operate at the highest standard in their eyes," said Yeatman. "It's just an extra layer of confidence, that a student knows they'll have a top-notch education."

Representatives from the American Culinary Federation visit culinary schools once every few years to evaluate them on numerous aspects, Yeatman said. Typically, the representative will name a few infractions, and if the school addresses them within 90 days, the federation issues the accreditation.

However, if a school passes its evaluation with flying colors, the federation awards an exemplary accreditation,

Yeatman said.

The institute's culinary arts program earned exemplary accreditation in 2014, but its baking and pastry program — which launched in 2012 — didn't earn the honor until very recently. The federation won't give a program exemplary accreditation on the first visit, so COCC had to wait until a representative returned in October 2020 to prove the pastry program was still performing above and beyond, Yeatman said.

"They want to see a second visit with the same results," he said.

Although two other Oregon culinary schools, in Eugene and Coos Bay, have base-level accreditation from the federation, only Cascade Culinary has received exemplary marks. And just four other West Coast schools earned the same honor: Institute of Technology-Clovis and Orange Coast College in California, along with Bellingham Technical College and Seattle Culinary Academy in Washington.

This honor could help boost Cascade Culinary's enrollment in the 2021-22 school year, Yeatman said. After a couple years of growth, the culinary school saw enrollment drop from about 100 to 80 students this school year due to COVID-19, he said.

Laurie Chesley, president of COCC, agreed that this exemplary accreditation could put Cascade Culinary on the map across the country.

"I think a distinction such as this is going to make us even better-known in the culinary realm nationally," she said.

"We're certainly going to use it as a recruiting tool."

Yeatman said graduates from the culinary school have gone on to work in prestigious restaurants — including Canlis, one of Seattle's swankiest spots, and eateries in Austin, Texas, Chicago and the Napa Valley area.

A 2018 graduate, Nick Stan, stayed in Bend to start a restaurant: Mediterranean joint Kefi Fresh.

Stan wasn't surprised that Cascade Culinary Institute received recognition. He appreciated its attention to detail, hands-on teaching approach and focus on avoiding food waste.

"Their thing was, 'How can we work greener?'" Stan said. "Instead of throwing away parsley stems, (we) throw it in a stock. I don't know if a lot of schools do that."

Current student Avalon Peterson said the institute's teachers — who are experienced and friendly — make the school stand out.

"You can tell that they love coming to work," she said. "Everyone is really passionate about cooking and baking."

Sam La Duca — an assistant professor of hospitality management at COCC who teaches many classes at Cascade Culinary Institute — said the school stands out because it has high goals for its students.

"We don't want our students to be line cooks; we want them to be executive cooks," he said. "You've got to start (as a line cook) ... but we want to set you up to be the leaders."

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Caldera

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Gavin Meyers — an engineering teacher at Bend High School who's part of a group of future Caldera teachers shaping the school's academic goals — said one class would focus on the popular online shop Etsy. Students would make a product in woodshop, then pair with students in a marketing class to sell that product online, Meyers said.

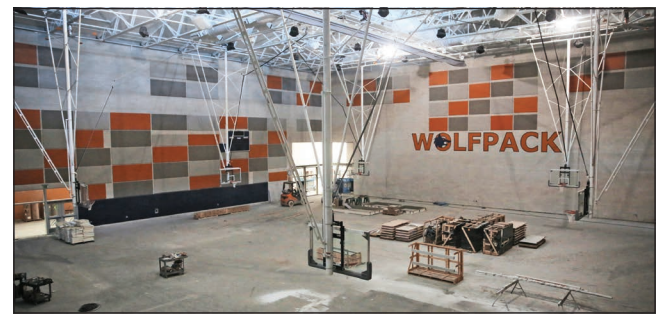
Another proposed class would be intentionally Bend-centric. Students would combine engineering, graphic design and construction lessons to build skis and/or mountain bikes, then test them out at Mt. Bachelor or Phil's Trail, Meyers said.

"What we're doing at Caldera is breaking down those walls (between subjects)," he said.

Boyd also plans to have every student participate in an advisory class. Freshmen and sophomores will focus on building connections between students, which will be crucial for a school where many students might be unfamiliar with most of their new classmates, he said.

During junior and senior years, that advisory class will shift focus toward having each student create a senior presentation about post-graduation career plans. Students will have to meet with an adult in that career for the project, Boyd said.

This senior presentation will teach students the adult skills of networking and goal setting, he said.



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

The gym at Caldera High School on Wednesday.

"How do you develop a plan and execute that plan?" he said. "That's important for becoming your adult self."

Building nearing completion

As of late February, Caldera High School is about 70% to 80% complete, said project manager Mike Condon.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic slowed down work — because a few construction workers have gotten sick and because outbreaks have periodically shut down factories that deliver needed materials, Condon said.

The construction site also completely shut down for a week this fall, due to poor air conditions caused by wildfire smoke, he said.

But Condon is still happy with the progress his crew has made on Caldera High.

"All things considered, it certainly could've been a lot worse," he said.

These delays will result in construction continuing through mid-September, meaning crews will be putting finishing touches on the final classrooms while students are starting school, Condon said. Luckily, because Caldera

will only host freshmen and sophomores in its first year, the school won't be at full capacity, so crews can finish the job without disturbing class, he said. If the work is too loud, workers will either put up a temporary wall, or do the work early in the morning or after the school day ends.

"It won't disrupt any of the learning," Condon said.

Caldera's southern wing, comprised of core classrooms and a large library, is the furthest from completion. There are walls and ceilings in place, but it still is very much an active construction site with lots of exposed steel, pipes and insulation.

The central commons hallway, with its Hogwarts-esque high ceiling, is a little more complete. And the northern end of the school — with CTE classrooms, weight and fitness rooms, music rooms and the gym — is nearly complete. It just needs furniture, flooring and the dust cleared. There are even analog clocks installed throughout, although few of them show the correct time yet.

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Walkout

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Oregon currently has the second lowest rate of infection in the nation, which Brown and Oregon Health Authority leaders have credited to strong measures to cut off the spread of the virus. While trends in the past month have shown a steep drop in COVID-19 cases, the OHA says the virus is still a major threat and spikes have been caused by earlier moves to loosen the rules to allow more social and business interaction.

"When I issued my first state of emergency declaration last March, there were 14 known cases of COVID-19 in Oregon," Brown said. "Today, we have now seen more than 150,000 cases across the state, and, sadly, 2,194 deaths."

The walkout caught senators who arrived at the Capitol by surprise, with 18 Democrats gathering on the Senate floor, an activity that some lawmakers have worried could expose them to infection. All lawmakers were wearing face coverings on Thursday.

Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, the Legislature's longest-serving member, came to the podium after the roll call showed no Republicans had come to the floor.

"I did not know they would do this," Courtney told the senators. "Yes, there are hard feelings here and there, but nothing of this magnitude."

Courtney called the Republican action "gameplaying" and said he wouldn't take part, opting instead to adjourn until next Wednesday.

"They need to be here and

do what they need to do to show their opposition on the floor and allow us to move forward," Courtney said.

The Republicans' move meant five bills that could have been moved into position for votes next week are now delayed. The 18 Democrats could not move ahead without some GOP help.

"We need two more to satisfy our constitution to have a quorum to do the people's business — all the people's business, not just our own."

He asked the Republicans to return to the floor for the session next week. He then gaveled the chamber into adjournment.

"Very regrettable," a glum Courtney said.

Republicans walked out in 2019 and 2020 over carbon cap legislation that Democrats said they had enough votes to pass in both chambers. House Republicans joined in the 2020 walkout.

Knopp and then-Rep. Cheri Helt, R-Bend, did not join the 2020 walkout. Both lawmakers were locked in tight reelection campaigns in increasingly Democratic districts. Knopp narrowly won his district, while Helt was defeated by Rep. Jason Kropf, D-Bend.

Republicans attended three special sessions last year to deal with emergency legislation addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, its associated economic upheaval, wildfire recovery and police reforms.

Knopp and Hansell confirmed the letter to Brown also called on her to open schools, open businesses and not redirect shipments of vaccine away from rural counties that have

met the current Phase 1 vaccination goals and want to move onto other groups.

"The governor continues to keep schools closed, continues to keep businesses closed, despite science that shows they can open safely with appropriate health measures," Knopp said. "We hope this will open a dialog about what is important to all Oregonians, not just the advocates who got them elected."

Hansell said the edicts from Brown and the Oregon Health Authority have his constituents confused and angry.

"I get emails from teachers saying 'please open the schools,' from parents who say 'please open the schools, this is driving our child to depression,' from seniors who can't understand why they can't get a vaccination and the state took it away from Morrow County,"

Senate Democratic Leader Rob Wagner, D-Lake Oswego, slammed the Republicans for using the walkout again, especially amid a pandemic.

"Senate Republicans continue to sabotage Oregon's democracy and undermine the will of voters," he said. "They have abdicated the oaths of office many of them took just weeks ago."

Democrats have introduced legislation to lower the quorum required to a majority and force any member who misses 10 calls to the floor without permission of the presiding officer to be punished by forfeiting their ability to run for reelection. Both would need voter approval to amend the constitution.

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OSHA

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Both River Roofing and Kirby Nagelhout have filed notices of appeal with Oregon OSHA. Both dispute the claims and maintain information in the citation is inaccurate. "Kirby Nagelhout met or exceeded all criteria set forth in (the relevant law)," wrote Kirby Nagelhout safety director Jeshua Scheer.

Kirby Nagelhout is a Bend-based general contractor with a heavy focus on school projects around the state. It's the 16th largest builder in the state, according to annual billings.

River Roofing is a mid-sized Redmond roofing contractor with 44 employees. At the time of the accident, it was installing a new roof on the gym at the Caldera project, with an average daily crew of about 15 employees.

On Aug. 4, a five-person River Roofing crew arrived to work an hour early — at 6 a.m. — because that day was expected to be hot, the inspection report states.

For Bickers, who'd been hired a month earlier, it was his first day working "cart crew" on the gymnasium roof, hauling materials to where they were needed.

At 6:58 a.m., Bickers and the four others in the cart crew

were relocating a 200-pound rubber-wheeled cart carrying a 900-pound bundle of rigid insulation. At the time, part of the roof was covered in plywood and the remainder in a water shield that was covered with dew, making it slightly slick, the report states.

The crew took positions around the 1,100-pound cart, two in front and three in the back. After lifting it over an 8-inch gap, it began to roll away from them. As the cart came within 10 feet of the edge, the two men in front dove to the side and the other two men in back let go of the cart, the report states.

It's thought Bickers held on longer than the others and his momentum carried him over the edge, the report states.

Bickers fell 45 feet to the concrete below. Paramedics attempted CPR before pronouncing him dead at 7:05 a.m.

Safety inspectors with Oregon OSHA were on site a total of seven days, and 14 employees of Kirby Nagelhout and River Roofing were interviewed. They reported that numerous loads had been transported in the same manner in the weeks before the accident. The roofing foreman overseeing Bickers that day told inspectors using the cart was the best way to move materials on the roof and he'd

never had any close calls using it. But several River Roofing employees reported that using the cart was difficult and "sketchy," the report states.

The report states that River Roofing violated safety rules by not ensuring Bickers was trained on using the cart on a pitched roof. Additionally it did not provide him all possible safety measures. The report includes a blown-up photo of the cart involved in the accident showing a warning sticker advising that the device is intended for use on flat surfaces.

In October, Bickers' parents, Mary and Bill, were named representatives of his estate. They've retained Portland civil attorney Thomas D'Amore to sue for wrongful death.

D'Amore expects to file suit in two to three weeks, he told The Bulletin.

"This kid was beloved by a lot of people, not just his family," D'Amore said. "It's a real tragedy for a lot of people."

Bickers died two weeks before he was to be married. His fiancée, Brooke Takacs, told The Bulletin on Thursday she was relieved the report found fault with the contractors. She called Bickers an "amazing man" who was no stranger to dangerous jobsites and working at height.

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Beer tax

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Jennifer Sitton, spokeswoman for the Oregon Wine Council, a statewide industry advocacy association, told the Capital Press the council is "strongly opposing this extreme proposal."

According to the council, wine tasting room sales have already declined during the pandemic by an estimated 80%, a \$3 billion loss, while smaller wineries relying on tasting room and restaurant sales lost more than 60% of their revenue due to COVID-19 closures.

Sam Tannahill, founder and winegrower at A to Z Wine-works and Rex Hill winery in Newberg, said in an emailed message Wednesday that the idea of increasing the tax on

small, local wineries during an economic crisis is "incomprehensible."

"As written, this proposal would potentially force most of Oregon's prized wineries to simply shut down, as they would be unable to sustain their operations with this drastic of a tax increase," wrote Tannahill.

The bill's advocates, including Oregon Recovers, the non-profit coalition backing the bill, say the proposal is an important step toward addiction recovery.

The text of the bill says the funding will be used to establish an Addiction Recovery District for each geographic region and tribe in the state and will fund treatment beds, detoxification centers and intensive outpatient openings.

But the bill's critics point

out that most consumers don't want a tax hike. According to a survey last month taken by Patinkin Research Strategies, a research firm, 3 out of 4 Oregonians say Oregon's existing alcohol taxes are either too high already or about right.

The Oregon Beverage Alliance, comprised of brewers, winemakers, cidemakers, distillers and suppliers, said in a statement the potential tax hike could be harmful to their industries.

"Oregon already has some of the highest alcohol prices in the country," the Oregon Beverage Alliance reported. Tax increases, the organization said, will "only make it harder for these businesses to invest in rehiring, equipment, upgrades and expansion, and will result in higher prices for consumers."

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