

COMMUNITY

HSD bestows inaugural Distinguished Alumnus Award

Allen a 1980 graduate of Hermiston High School

BY JESSICA KELLER
HERMISTON HERALD

Like many high school seniors, when Hermiston High School class of 1980 alumnus Stuart Allen graduated 35 years ago, he couldn't wait to get out of Hermiston.

Also like many graduates he accomplished that goal, but Allen returned to his hometown Wednesday night when he was awarded the Hermiston School District's inaugural Distinguished Alumnus Award at Wednesday's Hermiston High School Evening of Excellence.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award recognizes HHS alumni who went on to serve critical roles in business, industry, academia and government in the United States. Hermiston School District Superintendent Fred Maiocco said Allen, who is the founder of Allen Trust Company and Allen Capital Management, was selected from several nominations by a panel of administrators, staff, students and parents, and was the ideal candidate to represent the inaugural distinguished alumnus.

"We were looking for somebody who is not only very successful in their career, but is also committed to community service and student outreach," Maiocco said.

Allen said he was proud to be honored at the Evening of Excellence, during which 119 Hermiston High School students received Career and Technical Education completion awards in their various areas of study, including agriculture, food and natural resource systems; arts, information and communication; business and management; family consumer sciences and human resources; industrial and engineering systems; and health sciences. As well, 31 HHS students, who maintained at least a 3.5 grade point average, completed 12 honors credits and passed state standardized tests, received honors medallions at the ceremony.

Allen said when he graduated 35 years ago, he never would have imagined he would have been recognized in such a way.

"This is the coolest thing I've ever gotten," he said after the evening's event.

Allen said Maiocco informed him he would receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award around April Fool's Day, and it took him a moment to realize Maiocco was not joking.

"I'm still just baffled and thrilled and honored," he said.

Maiocco said, when selecting the high school's first distinguished alumnus, several things made Allen stand out, beginning with his achievements and activities in high school.



Hermiston School District Superintendent Fred Maiocco prepares to present 1980 Hermiston High School graduate Stuart Allen with the inaugural Distinguished Alumnus Award at the HHS Evening of Excellence Wednesday.

While attending HHS, Allen was an entrepreneur, running a couple of his own businesses, while playing on various sports teams and participating in other clubs and activities. While at HHS, Allen was not at the top of his class academically, but rather was a middle-of-the-road student. Maiocco said, as such, Allen is someone with whom students can relate on several levels.

"We wanted somebody who was not so out of reach that they wouldn't connect with our kids," Maiocco said.

Allen describes himself as someone who was never really good at anything and only achieved all his goals through hard work. After graduating from HHS, he attended Blue Mountain Community College and then University of Oregon, where he earned a bachelor of science in finance and political science. He went on to receive his Juris Doctor from Texas Wesleyan University. He is a Certified Trust and Financial Advisor and an attorney with decades of experience in trust services and investment management, according to his biography.

"I just think that's a tremendous example for our kids to see," Maiocco said.

Maiocco said another reason why the district created the Distinguished Alumnus Award is to expose students to "positive role models" by having each year's recipient return to the school and speak to them about leadership, successful planning and accomplishing goals.



Hermiston High School construction teacher Curt Berger, right, congratulates Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient Stuart Allen at the 2015 HHS Evening of Excellence. Allen, a 1980 graduate, is the founder, president and CEO of Allen Trust Company and Allen Capital Management of Portland.

"This was not going to become a one time sort of a thing," Maiocco said of naming a distinguished alumnus.

More than the honor of being recognized, Allen said he is thrilled to assume the duties bestowed upon a distinguished alumnus award recipient.

"Once you've done a couple things in your life, you really want to give back and inspire others," he said.

Allen said he and his wife, Sarah, are active in the Lincoln School District, where their children attend school, and he has participated in numerous activities and done a lot of other work with youth through the years. He said he is proud to be able to share his experiences with Hermiston students and give back to his hometown in some way.

"Regardless of what you've done in the past, you

have to remain humble and remember where you came from," he said.

In addition to sharing with Hermiston High School Students his experiences and how to successfully plan

About Stuart Allen

Stuart Allen graduated from Hermiston High School in 1980. While an HHS student, he played football, basketball and tennis and was the student body treasurer and vice president and the president of Future Business Leaders of America his junior and senior years. He attended Blue Mountain Community College before graduating from the University of Oregon, where he received his Bachelor of Science in finance and political science. He attended Texas Wesleyan University and received his Juris Doctor. He is a Certified Trust and Financial Advisor and an attorney specializing in trust services and investment management. In 2001, he founded Allen Trust Company and Allen Capital Management in Portland, where he serves as the president and CEO. He also serves on the Board of Oregon Bankers Association Education Foundation and the Lincoln High School Foundation Board. He is also a member of the Oregon State Bar Estate Planning and Administration Section Executive Committee; a member and past chairman of the Oregon Bankers Association Trust Committee; and a longtime member and current treasurer and president-elect of the Oregon Forum. Nationally, he is on the Association of Trust Organizations Board. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling and has visited 43 countries, and coaching his children's sports. He has been married to his wife, Sarah, for more than 20 years, and is the father of Lizzy, 18, Carly, 16, and Clayton, 13.



Stuart Allen, 1980 Hermiston High School graduate, holds up his Distinguished Alumnus Award Wednesday at the HHS Evening of Excellence. Allen is the first to receive the award bestowed upon a Hermiston graduate who went on to excel after high school.

for the future next year, Allen will return next month and speak at the Hermiston High School graduation ceremony. Allen said, while he doesn't know if he will prepare a formal speech, he

knows he wants the message to be light but inspirational to the graduates.

Hermiston High School commencement ceremonies will begin at 10:30 a.m. June 6 in the school auditorium.

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Blue Mountain Community College

Student Spotlight: Did You Know?

Kevin Hawman
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BMCC Precision Irrigated Ag Student

Kevin grew up on his family's farm in Hermiston, and when he got to BMCC, he wanted the precision irrigated agriculture program to have its own pivot. Ever the go-getter, Kevin was able to raise more than \$60,000 in donations towards a new pivot. He then worked with Valley Irrigation to obtain a \$30,000 discount on the pivot's price. Valley Irrigation was so impressed with Kevin's tenacity that its leadership invited Kevin to Omaha, Nebraska, to see Valley's headquarters in person earlier this month. BMCC is proud to call Kevin one of its outstanding students!

Have you heard about the BMCC bond?

BMCC wants to continue to provide a high-quality education for students so they can succeed like our many distinguished alumni! Check out the bond page on our website to learn more about how BMCC could continue to provide an affordable education for family-wage jobs, a safe and secure learning environment and protect the community's investment. Look for the bond on the May 19, 2015, ballot!

www.bluecc.edu/about-bmcc/bond-measure

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