

## TBCC 2018 Graduation: A Chance to Celebrate, Reflect, and Look Forward

There is little more thrilling than the opportunity to throw your cap in the air, pose for photos with family, friends, and classmates, and finally envision the future ahead as a college graduate. The Tillamook Bay Community College graduating class of 2018 had every reason to celebrate. This year's commencement, held on June 15, saw 43 total participants, which included eight GED recipients, and 35 degree recipients. TBCC had 55 graduates in total this year, the largest number on record for the college.

Graduation is no small feat, as any college graduate will tell you. It truly takes a village, and much of the accomplishments seen at this year's commencement would not have been possible without the support of TBCC Foundation donors. Over \$122,000 of Foundation and institutional support dollars went to help fund the two-year

college careers of many graduates this year, covering tuition, fees, books, educational supplies, and beyond. With tuition being only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the financial burden of gaining your diploma, relief from scholarship money can positively affect a student's bigger reality.

"My typical day as a student consisted of getting my children ready first, and then making sure I was prepared for classes," says 2018 TBCC graduate and commencement speaker Amanda Swift.

"As a single parent and part-time employee, life was a balancing act. I lived and breathed by a strict study schedule, and now I get to spend time with my daughters, lifting them up and being the

example that you're capable of anything if you're willing to do the work."

Generosity of donors, and the tremendous impact of emotional support from family, friends, and the broader Tillamook County community, has helped create the platform from which our graduates will be able to step into bigger and brighter futures. The TBCC Foundation congratulates the TBCC graduating class of 2018!



(l to r) Zak Fletcher, Christian Mata, Ben Oldencamp, and Anthony Freehill demonstrate they made it to their goal as they prepare to line up and receive their diplomas.



Over 300 people attended Tillamook Bay Community College's 37th Annual Commencement Ceremony to celebrate student success.

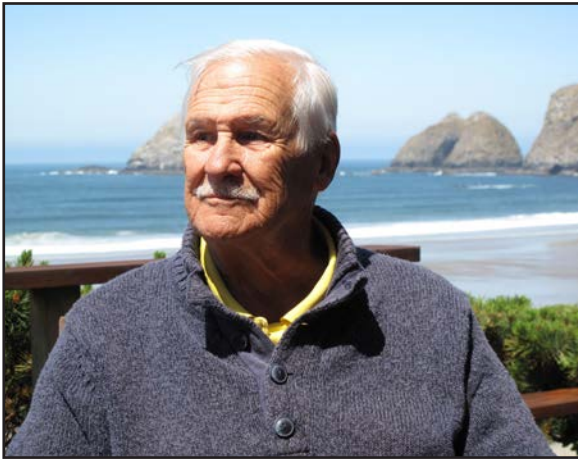


Amanda Swift (r) the student speaker for this year's commencement poses for a photo with fellow classmate Shana Potts (l).



Dr. Ross Tomlin, TBCC president stands proud with the graduating class.

## President's Message



They come from widely diverse backgrounds and life stories, but they all have a common quest: the 37 student recipients of the Tillamook Bay Community College Foundation scholarships all want to get a higher education to improve their life choices.

The Foundation has awarded \$62,000 in endowed and named scholarships that will start the students on their way. The students will be honored at the 16th annual Mildred Davy Memorial Scholarship and Recognition Luncheon on October 18.

At the Foundation Board's annual meeting on June 8, I was surprised – and honored – to be elected president of the board, succeeding Chris Weber, who had held the position for two years. I trust I will be able to carry on his good works for the Foundation and for the students it supports.

Also at that June gathering, the Foundation Board held a joint, three-hour workshop with the Tillamook Bay Community College Board of Education to continue crafting a strategic plan for the next three years. Guided by two consultants – Lara Miller and Clarinda Hanson White – the group prioritized fundraising philosophies that will move our community college forward. The board members reviewed the College's strategic plan and core themes to align strategies to meet the college's needs. The core themes are:

- 1) Educational Excellence
- 2) Economic Success
- 3) Leadership, Partnership, and Community Engagement

The Foundation is moving forward on these and other fronts to improve its service to the college and to the students who need financial help. We appreciate the community's support of our mission.

Judson Randall, President

## Foundation Board Officers Elected for 2018-2019

**President:** Judson Randall, Oceanside

**Vice President:** Tim Dolan, Garibaldi

**Secretary:** Marilyn Phegley, Tillamook

**Treasurer:** Michael Weissenfluh, Rockaway Beach

**TBCC Board of Education Liaison:** Tamra Gammon, Netarts

We would like to thank Kathy Gervasi, previous TBCC Board Liaison, and Chris Weber and Kathy Shaw, both long-time Foundation board members, who each served two consecutive years as president and secretary.

## TBCC Foundation and College Board of Education Work to Plan Foundation's Future



*Back Row: Bob Reed, Dr. Betlinski, Michael Weissenfluh, Chuck Bridge, Chris Weber. Third Row: Lara Miller, Mary Faith Bell, Mary Jones, Van Moe, Judson Randall, Pam Zweifel, Betsy McMahon, Clarinda White. Second Row: Jeanette Hagerty, Tamra Gammon, Kathy Gervasi, Kathy Shaw. Front Row: Heidi Luquette, Tim Dolan, Dr. Ross Tomlin.*

Many thanks to everyone who participated this spring to assist the TBCC Foundation in developing a new three-year strategic plan.

In March, the Foundation contracted with Rose City Philanthropy to help guide us through the work. It included a deep dive into the needs of the college, and examined how the Foundation could develop financial resources to support those needs.

Interviews were held with board members, college leadership, and community donors, and a SWOT analysis was conducted to identify

the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the Foundation.

The work culminated in a joint workshop where both boards discussed the college's core themes and strategic plan. The outcome was an outline that identified ways the Foundation can step forward to bring resources to programs, students, and partnerships at TBCC.

Thank you to community member Denny Pastega, and Foundation Board Member Ron Gienger who participated in the initial learning interviews for the project but are not pictured above.



## Benjamin G. Nunez and Priscilla Gleason Nunez Endowed Scholarship New For 2018/2019

Ben Nunez, longtime owner of the Terimore Hotel in Netarts, was turning 80. There was a party in the works, family was coming to town, and invitations to a community celebration were almost in the mail. By all accounts, Ben was excited. Yet, he wanted to do more than just celebrate; he wanted to commemorate. He wanted to pay tribute to a life well lived, and to a love that helped him build the happiness he has today. Ben wanted to honor his late wife Priscilla.



*Priscilla Nunez enjoying the beach.*

“Priscilla was my best friend. She was my partner. It was her that encouraged me early in my life, and it was Priscilla who brought us to Netarts,” he shares. “I spent my life in accounting. I worked long hours. Priscilla spent her life in public service serving others. I wanted to do something that would support people to do better, like Priscilla did.”

Ben reached out to the TBCC Foundation to talk about starting a scholarship in his late wife’s honor. He had supported

students on his own to go back to school by covering tuition for a student or two over the years, but this would be different. This would be a scholarship that paid tribute to them as a family and shared with others, as Priscilla had.

The Benjamin G. Nunez and Priscilla Gleason Nunez Endowed Scholarship was created, and it was awarded to a student for the first time this spring. The student who received the scholarship said in her thank you note to Ben, “receiving this scholarship is a privilege for me. I promise that I will make very good use

of this money, and that you will not regret choosing me as a recipient of this scholarship. Thank you for taking the time to even allow students to have such opportunity as this one.”

The TBCC Foundation is honored to have supported Ben to establish this important scholarship, and look forward to stewarding it in he and Priscilla’s honor for many years to come.

## Giving Back to Our Community Even When We Aren’t Here



*Chris and Patsy Weber of Rockaway Beach are devoted to giving back to the community they love, and spend countless hours volunteering and serving others.*

You may have seen Chris and Patsy Weber this spring as you drove down Third Street in Tillamook. Both in gloves, garden tools in hand, donating volunteer hours to keep the Mildred Davy Memorial Rose Garden at Goodspeed Park weeded and pruned.

“There are lots of things we can do. We can plant, cook, coral kids; when we see a need, we like to help. This community has been good to us, and we are just trying to be good back,” says Patsy.

In 2016, Chris and Patsy met with their attorney to update their will. Upon their passing, they intend to leave a gift to the TBCC

Foundation and a few other favorite organizations. “We have had a pretty good life together,” says Chris. “We feel blessed to live the life we have. We want to provide opportunities for other people to succeed who may not be able to otherwise,” he says.

Setting up a gift to benefit a non-profit through your will is easy to do, and is an excellent way to support the organizations you care about.

“We chose the college because after working with them in some capacity for at least the past 12 years, I have personally witnessed how getting an education can enhance a person’s life,” states Chris. “Seeing a student go on and find success in their life is pretty cool. We want to support that. And we are lucky to have a community college here to do it.”

Chris and Patsy are great examples of philanthropy. They give of themselves every day and are planning for ways to keep supporting the things they care about in the future when they aren’t here. “We are truly lucky to have them in our community,” states Heidi Luquette, Executive Director of the TBCC Foundation.

When you don’t see them volunteering in one of their many capacities through Kiwanis Club of Tillamook, or a host of other non-profits, you may see them off on the horizon, fishing in the ocean. “When Chris was the Foundation board president, I always knew where I would find him if the fish were biting.” laughs Luquette. “He still always took my calls.”

## American Association Of University Women Provide Funding to Cover GED Testing

In Tillamook County, for more than a third of the working population, a high school diploma or the equivalent is their highest level of education attained. In addition, 18.2% of people aged 18-24 have not received a high school credential.

This impacts an individual's ability to earn a wage that can support their family.

The median annual earnings in Tillamook County for those over age 25 is \$30,027.

### With a high school degree or GED:

Males: \$34,205

Females: \$20,953

### With less than a high school degree:

Males: \$16,208

Females: \$11,774

Earning a college degree increases the options for careers and wage earnings exponentially.

In 2018, 24 students received their General Equivalency Diploma (GED), at Tillamook Bay Community College, which is the online testing center in the county. Some of those students also enrolled

in the GED preparation courses taught at TBCC to help them prepare. "We are extremely proud of those students who achieved this goal for themselves, and hope we will also see them enroll at the college," states Dr. Ross Tomlin, TBCC president. Each GED recipient receives a voucher that covers tuition costs for one three-credit course at TBCC.

Testing for a GED is not cheap. There are four test components that must be passed to earn the equivalency. Each test is \$38.00 for a total cost of \$152.00.

This amount can be cost prohibitive to an individual who is not currently working, or is working a minimum wage job. Even with the determination and grit it takes to go back to school as an adult, the cost of testing can hold people back.

As a way to help, the American Association of University Women (AAUW), has been providing funding to cover the cost of GED testing for women who do not have the means to pay. The Foundation wants to publicly thank them for this support, and the many other ways they partner with TBCC to help provide women in our community access to higher educa-



*GED Preparation Instructor Irvin Jacob poses with four students who received their GED and walked in the 2018 commencement ceremony.*

tion. Since they began offering support in 2016, 12 women have received funding to cover testing fees. Four of those women received their GED this year, and two of them proudly walked across the stage this June at the commencement ceremony.

Through support similar to that received from the AAUW, we will continue to move forward as a community. If you would like to help, please contact the Foundation to learn how you can contribute.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Estimates.

## How to Donate

**To make a donation to a scholarship, or support a program at TBCC, please contact the TBCC Foundation:**

### **In Person**

TBCC Foundation, Office 108A  
4301 Third St.  
Tillamook, OR 97141

### **Phone**

Heidi Luquette  
503.842.8222 ext. 1025

### **Email**

heidiluquette@tillamookbaycc.edu

### **Online**

www.tillamookbaycc.edu  
Click 'Discover TBCC and the Foundation'

## Olive Bridge Fund: Emergency Support for Students

Five TBCC students completed their academic year due in part to support they received from a new emergency fund.

The Olive Bridge Fund is new to the TBCC Foundation, and was an anonymous donation. "Last fall a call came to the Foundation from a gentleman who said he had attended community college when he was first starting his education. He said he and his wife understood that sometimes, just to stay in school, a student may need help to get through a rough spot," says Heidi Luquette, who took the call from the family behind the Olive Bridge Fund.

The family wanted to be be sure there is an emergency fund opportunity in place at TBCC if students need it.

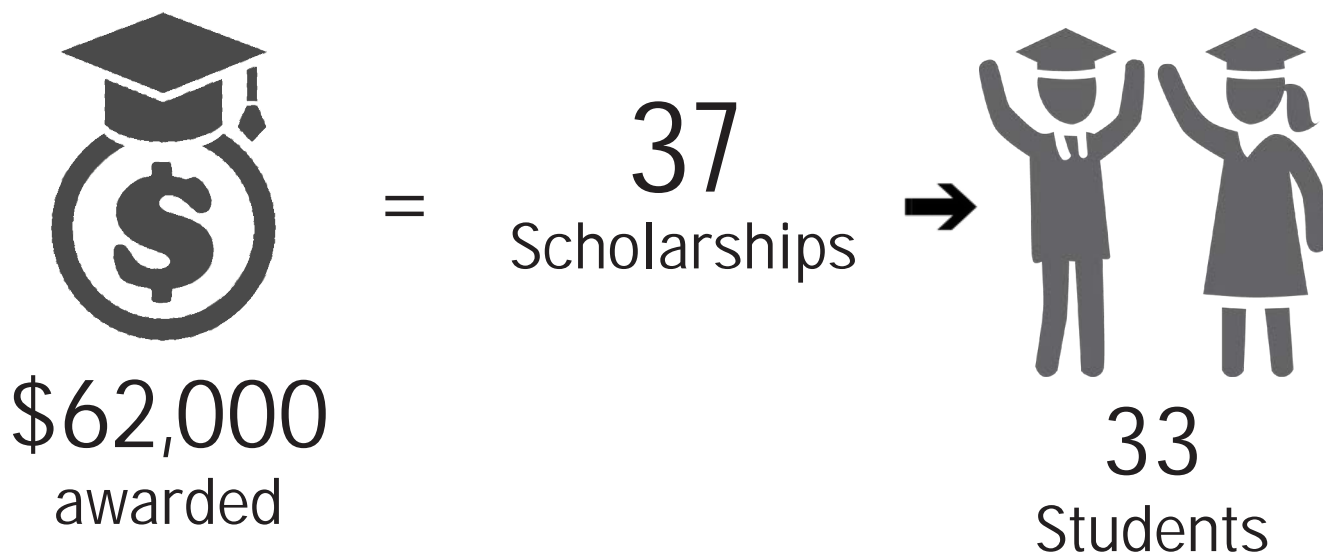
The most recently funded request came

when a student reached out to the student services team and was upset because she and her children had become homeless. She wanted to complete her term, but had nowhere to live during finals week. After speaking with local agencies to learn what resources were available to the family, the Olive Bridge Fund was utilized as a stopgap to help provide the support she needed to complete the last week of the term.

"The national statistics about student homelessness and hunger are staggering, but we have families here in Tillamook who are struggling too. We like to think the need isn't here, but it is. We want students to know there is a life line if you need it to stay in school," shares Luquette.

Information about The Olive Bridge Fund is available through student services.

## Foundation Awards Over \$62,000 in Scholarships During the Spring Scholarship Cycle



### 30 Years of Giving: Esther Milne/Pat Sears Endowed Scholarship

Esther Milne cared deeply about encouraging young women to find opportunities to learn and broaden their horizons. That is why after her passing 30 years ago, a committee came together to establish a scholarship in her name as a meaningful way to honor her. Since then, a total of 149 scholarships and eight donations to youth groups have been made, totaling \$67,700.

To continue to fund the scholarship, organizers undertook yearly events including a beloved Garden Tea held for many years at Pat Sear's home in Tierra Del Mar.

In 2012, the scholarship transitioned to the TBCC Foundation and became the Esther Milne/Pat Sears Endowed Scholarship.

Today, the endowment has grown to \$36,345, and provides one of the most versatile scholarships the Foundation offers. It covers not only tuition, books, and fees, but also educational supplies, child-care expenses, transportation costs, and living expenses. Esther Milne understood that often it was childcare and transportation costs that held women back from seeking opportunity.

The scholarship focuses on helping women who have been out of school for a few years and are seeking to go back to earn a better living for themselves and their families.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Esther Milne/Pat Sears Endowed Scholarship you can send a check made out to the Tillamook Bay Community College Foundation with Esther Milne/Pat Sears Scholarship in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to TBCC Foundation, 4301 Third Street, Tillamook, OR 97141.

### Five New Scholarships Were Awarded for the 2018-2019 Academic Year

Each new scholarship is unique, and was created to help a student achieve their education. If you would like to learn more about how to create a scholarship to benefit TBCC students, contact Heidi Luquette, (503) 842-8222 ext. 1025.

#### Tillamook Entrepreneurial Scholarship

This scholarship was made possible through a generous donation from J.A. Roberts.

#### J.M. "Jim" Brown Scholarship

This scholarship was made possible through a generous donation from J.M. Brown.

#### Benjamin G. Nunez and Priscilla Gleason Nunez Endowed Scholarship

This scholarship was made possible through a generous donation from Ben Nunez.

#### Buck and Elnora Monroe Endowed Scholarship

This scholarship was made possible through the generous donations from family and friends of Buck and Elnora Monroe.

#### Tillamook County Pioneer Museum Endowed Scholarship

This scholarship was made possible through a generous donation from Judson Randall.



## Mildred Davy Endowed Scholarship Fund Grows to \$122,000 and Awards \$5,000 in Scholarships

Each year in October, the TBCC Foundation holds the Mildred Davy Memorial Scholarship and Recognition Luncheon. It celebrates scholarship recipients and the donors who make it all possible, while also paying tribute to one of the college's most loyal advocates, Mildred Davy.

Mildred was a beloved radio personality and education enthusiast in Tillamook County, and was one of the largest champions of Tillamook Bay Community College since the college's inception 36 years ago.

She was known for her wit, and would often quip, "Read, read, read. Learn, learn, learn."

The first Mildred Davy Luncheon was held in 2000 as a way to thank her for years of support. At that luncheon, the Mildred Davy Endowed Scholarship was announced, and by October had raised \$26,000.

The endowment fund has since grown to over \$122,000, and as it grows, each year it is able to offer more support to send

students to Tillamook Bay Community College.

In 2017-2018 that meant providing scholarship funding for three students: Doris Flores, Maria Claudia Hernandez, and Jonathan Cordova.

For 2018-2019, the scholarship was awarded to student Charlene Sullivan.

"Mildred would love to see how her scholarship is helping people," said Van Moe, one of the original organizers of the Mildred Davy Event and friend of Mildred's. "Mildred was passionate about a lot of things, but education was at the top of her list," he says. "It is pretty special to see the community still making donations to grow it in her name."

Though the event bears Mildred Davy's name, it is held to recognize all of the Foundation scholarship recipients who received a scholarship for the year.

Recipients and those who make the scholarships possible receive invitations, but anyone who is interested in seeing



*Rachel Fults, a 2016 Mildred Davy Memorial Scholarship Recipient shares her excitement with Chief Academic Officer Hovey at her graduation last year.*

how a scholarship can impact a life is welcome to attend.

The event is scheduled for Oct. 18, at noon at the Tillamook Church of the Nazarene. Details will be available in Sept.

## Kiwanis Club of Tillamook County - Lyle Specht Memorial Scholarship Recipient Speaks at Governor's Luncheon

An opportunity to speak in front of peers, mentors, and state legislators doesn't often present itself, and when TBCC student (and now graduate), Mikayla Ebel was honored with the chance, she took her moment and shone.

Ebel, the 2017-2018 recipient of Kiwanis Club of Tillamook County - Lyle Specht Memorial Scholarship, was chosen as one of three speakers at this year's Governor's Luncheon, held at the state capitol in Salem on April 23. Ebel, along with classmate Zak Zwald, represented TBCC as All-Oregon Community College Academic Team recipients.

Recipients are nominated by their college through Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the Honor Society for two-year college students, and are chosen based on their



*TBCC Students Mikayla Ebel (l) and Zak Zwald (r) celebrate with their PTK Advisor, Sheryl Vanselow (m) at the 2018 Governor's Luncheon.*

demonstration of academic excellence, quality stewardship of their campus, and a dedication to community service.

"Mikayla's drive to do outstanding work

in both classes and community, and her commitment to PTK, made her a natural choice for the honor of speaking at the luncheon," says Sheryl Vanselow, TBCC PTK Advisor.

Accomplished in both academics and her professional life, Ebel worked as an editor for the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum, and as such, published a wild-life guide for the Kilchis Point Reserve. She was a member of the honor roll while attending TBCC.

Ebel graduated this year with her Associates of Arts Oregon Transfer and Associates of General Studies degrees, and plans on transferring to Portland State University to study Communications.

## TLC, a Division of Fibre Federal Credit Union, Makes Three-Year Pledge to TBCC Foundation

TLC, a Division of Fibre Federal Credit Union, is pledging \$7,500 over the next three years to support the Tillamook Bay Community College Foundation.

"We want to help contribute to developing vital communities. We believe the community colleges in our service areas are supporting that same mission, and have chosen to provide financial support to help each of them," was the message Shannon Cahoon, Fibre Federal's Community Development Manager, delivered when she contacted TBCC about the pledge.

This is not the first time TLC, a Division of Fibre Federal, has stepped forward with support for the college; it also made a donation to the Partners for Rural Innovation Building during the capital campaign project in 2016.

Supporting the development of the PRI

Building also demonstrated their commitment to supporting innovation and community vitality.

The pledge is being used to sponsor the Mildred Davy Memorial Scholarship and Recognition Luncheon, which is where the Foundation and college celebrate the student scholarship recipients for the year.

"We are so grateful to be working with TLC Fibre Federal," says Dr. Ross Tomlin, TBCC president. "They are an excellent community partner, and we appreciate their commitment to the college, our students, and ultimately the health and strength of our community."

The event is open to the public.

*Save the Date*  
*Oct. 18, 2018*  
*Noon*

2018 Mildred Davy Memorial Scholarship and Recognition Luncheon. Details will be available in September.

## Overcoming Obstacles and Giving Back to the Community: A Student Finds Her Calling in Nutrition

When Misty Swanson gave birth to her daughter in 2015, she could not imagine feeling anything but joy and excitement for the newborn months ahead. When post-partum depression took hold, however, things took a turn. "It was horrible," says Swanson. "I didn't feel like myself, and everything had changed."

Her husband was the first to notice the change in her mood and behavior, and helped her realize the severity of the struggle. With a little research and a lot of support, Swanson decided her best route would be to tackle the issue through diet and exercise. "I completely changed the way I looked at food and how I took care of my body; finding health through nutrition helped me find happiness, and I knew working in the



*TBCC Student Misty Swanson (m) with her parents (l), daughter and husband (r).*

field of nutrition would be my calling." Swanson is the 2018 recipient of the Robert and Alicia Reed Endowed Scholarship, and is grateful for what the schol-

arship will do for her quality of life. "This scholarship will help my family, and I won't have to work extra, which means I can spend more time with my daughter and husband," says Swanson. "I want to give back and make a difference. My goal is to get the education needed to be a registered dietitian or nutritionist, and help people here locally find healing through diet and exercise."

Swanson is moving into a position coordinating the food program at Wilson River School while working towards her transfer degree at TBCC. In her spare time, she finds balance through riding dirt bikes and working out.



## Student Profile: Sommer Rogers

Spending time taking care of those around her has not stopped TBCC student Sommer Rogers from pursuing her own dreams at full speed, and she does not intend on slowing down. Picturing new opportunities, Rogers has stepped back into student life as a returning adult. She has a varied work history including such jobs as bartender, landscaper, deli attendant, and housekeeper, but she knew she was at a place in her life where she wanted more. "It was time to go back to school, and even though returning after so many years away is difficult, it was the right thing to do. I want to be a role model for my children, and help guide them in the right direction," says Rogers. "You truly don't realize school is important until life happens and you're forced to realize school is important. Sometimes you just need that nudge."

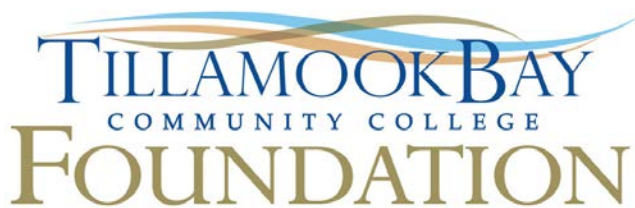
Rogers has already begun tackling her Associates of Applied Science degree in Business Administration, and has a goal of starting her own home repair service with her fiancé. She is hoping to use her entrepreneurial drive and the education she will receive at TBCC to apply leadership, accounting, and management skills towards running a successful business.

Rogers is one of the 2018 recipients of both the Mary Lou Hudson Endowed Scholarship, and the Mario and Alma Pastega Family Scholarship. She is thankful for the financial relief the scholarships will provide for her and her family. "I'm



*TBCC student and Foundation Scholarship recipient Sommer Rogers*

raising two teenagers, getting married this August, taking care of my mom, and preparing to become a homeowner. Having these scholarships will make it possible for me to focus on school, and allow me to keep taking care of those I love," says Rogers. "If I've learned anything from starting school again, it's that it's never too late to go back and do good things for yourself and others."



4301 Third Street, Tillamook Oregon 97141

**The Foundation's purpose is to engage the entire community and increase the level of philanthropic support for student scholarships and the growth, innovation and overall fiscal strength of Tillamook Bay Community College.**

2018/2019 Board Members: Judson Randall, Tim Dolan, Marilyn Phegley, Michael Weissenfluh, Ron Gienger, Jeanette Hagerty, Van Moe, Kathy Shaw, Dr. Paul Betlinski, Chris Weber, Tamra Gammon, and Omar Hernandez.

The TBCC Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit.  
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