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Joe Krenowicz



Laura Craska Cooper

The **Central Oregon Community College (COCC)** board of directors at its July meeting elected **Joe Krenowicz** of Madras to serve as chairperson for the 2023-24 year. At the same meeting, the board elected **Laura Craska Cooper** of Prineville as vice chair. The two members represent Jefferson County and Crook County, respectively, within the college's nearly 10,000-square-mile district.

The role of COCC's board chair is to ensure the integrity of the board's processes and represent the board to

outside parties. Krenowicz will hold the leadership post through June of 2024; his current board term culminates in 2025.

A Madras resident since 1979 — opening a NAPA Auto Parts store when he first arrived in the community — Krenowicz currently serves as the executive director of the Madras-Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce. He has served the city as mayor, city councilor and as a member of the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council and East Cascades Workforce Investment Board. Krenowicz holds an associate degree in business from Bellevue College and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Washington State University. He has served on the COCC board since 2010.

Vice Chair Craska Cooper is a Prineville-based attorney who has served on the COCC board since 2012 and previously served as board chair from 2014 to 2015. She is chair of the Central Oregon Regional Housing Authority and past president of the Deschutes County Bar Association.

COCC's seven-member board of directors are elected from geographic zones within the tri-county district.

Brett Ferguson, APMA, a financial advisor with **AGP Wealth Advisors, Ameriprise Financial** in Bend, was named to the list of *Forbes* Best-in-State Next-Generation Wealth Advisors published by *Forbes*. The list recognizes "next-generation" financial advisors who have demonstrated high levels of ethical standards, professionalism and success in the business.

The rankings are based on data provided by over 29,000 of the nation's most productive advisors. Ferguson was chosen based on assets under management, industry experience, regulatory and compliance record and revenue produced for his firm.

Ferguson is part of AGP Wealth Advisors, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC.



Brett Ferguson



Jimena Pineda

Latino Community Association (LCA) welcomes **Jimena Pineda** as their new client services coordinator in Prineville. Pineda was born in Los Angeles, and her family moved to Redmond when she was six. She graduated with honors from Redmond High School in 2016 and enrolled in Central Oregon Community College. With her associate degree in human services from COCC, she is currently attending Oregon State University Cascades, working toward a bachelor's degree in human development and family sciences.

Pineda was a student and stay-at-home mom with three young children until 2022, when she began working for the Deschutes County WIC program in Redmond. That job helped her "regain focus on the work that needed to be done within the underserved community," Jimena said.

In her new role, Jimena wants to "empower Latino families and the student within those families, that they can do the unthinkable, that the power lies within them."

When she's not at work, Jimena enjoys running, camping, reading and

spending time with her husband, daughters and friends.



Jennifer O'Bryan

St. Charles Foundation announced the arrival of its new executive director, **Jennifer O'Bryan**. She brings to the Foundation more than 25 years of experience in nonprofit fundraising, including donor relations, strategic planning and event execution.

O'Bryan is an Oregon native who has spent the past two decades working in the nonprofit sector, first with the Portland Rose Festival Association, and then as senior vice president of Revenue and Development at the Children's Cancer Association in Portland.

O'Bryan earned her business degree from Western Oregon University in Monmouth. She said she is deeply inspired by what the Foundation has been able to accomplish through its generous donors.

Over the past several years, the Foundation has provided funding for much-needed advancements for the region, including leading-edge equipment, scholarship programs, grants, patient services and multiple capital projects like the Bend patient tower, which houses St. Charles' 24-bed Intensive Care Unit and 28-bed Progressive Care Unit.

Specialized Recruiting Group, an Express Employment Professionals (Express/SRG) company, announced that **Alex Norby** has joined their team a professional recruiter.

Norby is a Bend local of 15 years. He was brought to Bend in 2008 when Express/SRG recruited his dad to a Bend company, kick-starting his Central Oregon lifestyle. Norby graduated from Summit High School in 2020 amidst the pandemic, unsure of what the future held and which career path to pursue. He explored various fields, including roofing, construction and door-to-door commission sales. After trying different paths, Norby realized his interest in sales and working with people. In 2020, Norby learned about the recruiting industry through his brother, who works as an IT recruiter at TEKsystems in Hillsboro, Oregon.

As he dove deeper into the industry and discovered its blend of sales and the ability to provide a service that positively impacts people's lives, Norby became truly passionate about a career path and the industry he wanted to work in. He got the opportunity to interview with TEKsystems' satellite office in Bend in 2021 and started his first position as an IT Recruiter at the age of 19. Norby has enjoyed working as a Recruiter for the past two years and is excited to join the SRG team to broaden his career and to take a more consultative approach to recruiting. He is excited to be part of a family-like environment, collaborating with other professionals who possess a growth mindset and a team-oriented approach. During his free time, Norby enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking, skiing, boating and building/flying FPV drones.



Alex Norby



Lieve Maas

Central Oregon Community College introduces new instructor **Lieve Maas**.

Maas is a Dutch creative entrepreneur and educator specializing in design, branding and self-publishing coaching. After graduating summa cum laude from the Royal Art Academy in Antwerp, Belgium, she secured a graphic design position at a book publishing house in Amsterdam. In 2006, Lieve relocated to Portland, Oregon, and founded Bright Light Graphics, her graphic design studio. Now based in Bend, Bright Light Graphics is known for its expertise in visual storytelling, enabling business owners to communicate their narratives through captivating design. As an educator at heart, Maas is passionate about teaching entrepreneurs the power of

design and visual storytelling, empowering them to launch or rebrand their businesses successfully.

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