

Centralia College Names Four Outstanding Students

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Centralia College has named its Outstanding Student of the Year Award recipients.

The students are chosen for their campus involvement, their high academic achievement and the impact they have on their communities, stated a press release.

Each year, the college chooses between one and four students to represent “the best and brightest of the student body.”

“I’m amazed at the caliber of our students, and this year is no exception,” Centralia College President James Walton said. “Each of them has gone above and beyond what is required to become successful students. They make a huge impact on our campus and in their communities. We are proud to call them Trailblazers.”

The students will be recognized at the college’s commencement ceremony at 4 p.m. on June 17.

The students include:

Alejandro Romero — Associate of Business Management/Associate of Arts

As the vice president of the Associated Students of Centralia College, Alejandro works on multiple projects and campus events, and serves on several committees. He is an active member of TRiO Club, the club for disabled, low income and first-generation students, and the Multicultural Club, which promotes campus diversity. Off campus, Alejandro is committed to his community of Rochester, where he belongs to the Rochester Organization of Families and has volunteered for Operation Santa, the Rochester food bank and Rochester Walk-N-Knock. He also tutors children in afterschool programs, often acting as a translator for Spanish-speaking families.

(Willard) Wilson Kessel — Associate of Arts/Accounting

As the ASCC student body president, Wilson is involved with several committees and has either founded, hosted or supported many activities and events, including the Oxfam Hunger Banquet; the Blazer Kids Club, which brings books to local grade schools; and the newly formed Student Athlete Advisory Council, which positively promotes Trailblazer Athletics at Centralia College. Wilson is also a member of the Forensic Accounting Club, has volunteered at the Lyle Overbay Baseball Camp, and is an umpire for high school all-star baseball games. In addition, Wilson received the 2015-16 Centralia College Sportsman of the Year award for his leadership in athletics.

Ravi Patel — Associate of Science/Aerospace Engineering

Ravi is the president of Centralia College's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for two-year colleges. PTK spearheaded multiple projects of importance to the college and greater community. For example, the group hosted an organ, tissue and bone marrow registration drive and quarterly work parties to improve and maintain the Kiser Natural Outdoor Learning Lab on campus. The chapter won third place regionally for Honors in Action and received international Five Star Status for 2015. Ravi is a member of several clubs and secretary for the Applied Physics and Engineering Club. He is also a speech, advanced math and chemistry tutor.

Emily Allen — Associate in Science/Mechanical Engineering

Emily has maintained a 4.0 grade point average for three years while also competing on her high school volleyball team. She is one of Centralia College's 2016 All-Washington Academic Team members and one of only 40 students nationwide chosen to be a 2016 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Gold Scholar. She is a Centralia College Foundation STEM scholar and has received accolades for her achievements in athletics and her involvement in the community. She is a member of the Applied Physics and Engineering Club and serves as a tutor for speech, advanced math, chemistry and engineering classes.