

Centralia College STEM Students Set Milestone With Research

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By The Chronicle

Two Centralia College Science, Technology, Engineering and Math scholarship students set a major milestone for themselves and the college when they presented their capstone research projects at the Northwest Scientific Association conference last spring in Portland.

Christina Williams and Colleen Suter were the first community college students invited to present research to the NWSA since the organization's inception in 1923, according to Pat Pringle, a Centralia College professor of geology.

"This was an incredible opportunity for the students and a huge honor for the college," Pringle said in a press release. "It gave them an opportunity to present scientific research like students at the undergraduate level do."

The students presented scientific research on evidence of an earthquake dating back thousands of years. Their research may suggest findings of a previously unknown mega-thrust earthquake.

Suter's research focused on evidence of the prehistoric earthquake, which may have created a massive rock slide at Washington's Glacier Lake.

Williams' research focused on a submerged forest located in the Puget Sound lowlands.

Using Centralia College's tree ring labs, the students analyzed submerged fossilized tree ring samples to help date their findings.