

Centralia College Diesel Program Receives \$20,000 in Matching Grants

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The Diesel Equipment Technology program at Centralia College recently received a total of \$20,000 in funds from the Caterpillar Dealer Excellence Matching Grant.

The funds acquired came from NC Machinery and Caterpillar.

The \$10,000 from NC Machinery will be used for program expenses within the diesel program, said Julie Johnson, director of donor and alumni relations for the Centralia College Foundation. She said the money will go toward buying parts for diesel engines so students can continue to experience hands-on training.

"We have a lot of truck engines and stuff donated, but sometimes you need components to go into that," she said.

Another \$10,000 from Caterpillar will be split toward program expenses and diesel scholarships. The foundation works with diesel faculty to identify students, who must apply for the funds, and give recommendations on who should receive the scholarships based on the faculty's experience working with the students.

The matching grant has been awarded to the diesel program since 2005 and Johnson said the additional \$20,000 since 2005 has significantly helped the program.

The Diesel Equipment Technology program is aimed to prepare students for immediate employment as a technician in the maintenance, overhaul and repair of heavy equipment, including equipment used in construction, logging and mining, as well as agricultural equipment or trucking.

Currently approximately 45 students are enrolled in the associate of arts program, while 8 students are enrolled in the bachelor of science diesel program. There are approximately 50 students on the interest list for BASD in the fall of 2015.