

COCC foundation event raises $240,000 for scholarships

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The Central Oregon Community College (COCC) Foundationâ€™s 32nd annual Meal of the Year benefit raised more than \$240,000 for scholarship assistance for COCC students and related Foundation activities. Last yearâ€™s event raised \$225,000.

â€œThe best part of Central Oregon is the generosity and sincerity of so many who live here. That spirit was definitely displayed during these events, from restaurants donating their excellent cuisine and time on Friday, to businesses that donated to the auction, to the attendees who enjoyed themselves and gave to scholarships, raising more than \$240,000 in the process,â€• said Jim Weaver, executive director of the COCC Foundation.

This yearâ€™s benefit included â€œThe Taste of the Townâ€• on March 2 and the â€œMeal of the Yearâ€• dinner dance and auctions on March 3. The Friday event featured signature selections from 23 local restaurants, a martini bar and music by High Street Band. The Saturday dinner dance featured a gourmet dinner prepared by The High Desert Chapter of the American Culinary Federation, live and silent auctions and music by High Street Band.

Frank and Julie Jungers were honored for their longtime support of the COCC Foundation scholarship program as well as many causes in Central Oregon and beyond.

During the Saturday event, Eileen McLelland, chair of the COCC Foundationâ€™s Culinary Campaign, announced that the Jungers have committed \$1 million toward the campaign. The donation kicks off the Foundationâ€™s effort to raise \$3.5 million over the next three years to build a new facility for the collegeâ€™s culinary program and expand the programâ€™s enrollment from 20 to 120 students per year.