Our award winners share a common trait: Their enthusiasm is not just inspiring, it is infectious. Our 2013 honorees personify the very best of what a LCSC education stands for: dreaming big, working hard and reaping the rewards of a job well done.

The Outstanding Alumni award is presented to an alumnus/alumna who has enriched the lives of others through their generous gifts of time and talent, their involvement with civic, charitable and social causes and their ability to inspire.

Jamie Olson

Jamie Olson’s career goal was always to work for the tribe. After graduating from Lewis-Clark State in 1989, she worked for the Nez Perce tribe’s forestry department, but left for an opportunity to participate in a management training program offered by First Security Bank. She ended up working there and then at Wells Fargo when it acquired First Security, for 20 years. Jamie returned to work for the tribe as the Executive Officer of Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises. In her position she oversees the growth in tribe’s enterprises, including the new event center that is scheduled to open later this month.

Jamie serves as co-chair for the LCSC Alumni Native American Chapter. She has worked to increase the chapters’ activities and, along with her husband, Zeke, has been instrumental in organizing the chapter’s annual golf tournament, which raises money to support Native American scholarships. She also serves on the Campaign LCSC steering committee and the Valley Vision board of directors.

Bob Sobotta, Director of Native American/Minority Student Services and co-chair of the Native American Alumni Association shared, “Jamie is a true multi-tasker. Along with her work responsibilities, I am able to see her at the Lapwai Schools with her kids, at sporting and community events in Lapwai, along with activities in the LC Valley too. Jamie is truly concerned about community relations, economic development and education among other things, but we are fortunate she places a great deal of time, talent and treasure into LCSC and education. Her leadership within the LCSC Native American Alumni Chapter has been a blessing for our students and campus. She has taken the lead of fundraising to support the Native Alumni Chapter Scholarship with an annual golf scramble and raffles being the main source and she does an excellent job of leading these events. I feel the alumni association has made a great selection in recognizing Jamie for her contributions to LCSC and the community.”

Jamie and her husband, Zeke Domebo, have two daughters, Alexis and Andrea; two sons, Terence and Terrell; and four grandchildren.

The Rising Star - Young Alumni Award recognizes significant contributions by an individual in their field of endeavor, whether through professional achievement or community service. The recipient is aged 40 or under, and sets an inspirational example for future young alumni.

Lynette Sampson

Lynette graduated from LCSC in 2002. She earned her Master’s in Public Administration in 2005 with high honors from Idaho State University. Lynette has become synonymous with success while working as the Community Development Coordinator the South East Idaho Community Action Agency. For the last six years, Lynette has raised millions of dollars to support multiple programs through grant applications and fund raising efforts that have helped numerous people throughout the community. The programs she has helped include funding for low income families, economic seminar education, homeless military veterans, energy conservation and housing developments. Her tireless efforts have increased community awareness and keeps children and veterans off the streets and safe. Lynette has been recognized by SEICAA’s Director, Deb Hemmert, as one of the most important assets of their organization. Last August, Lynette received distinction as a Certified Community Action Professional.

Lynette is an active member of the Civitan Club, a charitable organization focused on bringing awareness to the disabled. Lynette is the chair of the Junior Civitan Committee and is responsible for organizing regional conferences in the western United States for the organization. Lynette has also served on the Board of Directors for the Pocatello Charter School and has been involved in policy decisions and hiring of new teachers for that...
Her nomination letter states “Lynette’s tireless efforts to maintain her professional knowledge and efforts are amazing, and she is also a wonderful wife and loving mother of two. She balances her work and family, making sure neither are neglected for the other. She has been successful in every endeavor she undertakes, whether is education, professional, or personal. I feel Lynette is a shining example of the excellence created by Lewis-Clark State and the professors that instructed her.”

We are proud to recognize Lynette Sampson as our Rising Star Alumna for 2013!

_Spirit Award for Extraordinary Service._  
This award is presented to individuals that build pride and spirit on campus and who consistently demonstrate extraordinary loyalty, commitment, dedication and service to Lewis-Clark State College and their community.

_Tate and Soo Lee Bruce Smith_

This year’s recipients Tate and Soo Lee Bruce Smith exemplify the qualities of this award in every way. Tate and Soo Lee met and fell in love at LCSC, and they also have the unusual twist of both working at the college. Soo Lee is the Director of New Student Recruitment while Tate is Coordinator of the Tech Prep program.

Soo Lee graduated from LC in 2000, while Tate graduated in 2001. Both were involved in numerous activities as students at LC, including the Pathfinder and the Student Programming Board. Tate served as Student Body President. Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Andy Hanson, shared the following: “Tate and Soo Lee exhibit great pride in and enthusiasm for Lewis-Clark State. They were both active students and both made decisions to devote their professional lives to making the college a better place for future generations of students. Tate’s efforts have resulted in exponential growth in the college’s Tech Prep enrollments. In fact, when he first took over the program, there were barely a handful of students taking Tech Prep classes. Now, there are well over 1,000 students taking those classes. Soo Lee has been active in developing a robust high school recruiting program as well as the college’s orientation program. Under her watch, there has been a surge in programming intended to entice prospective students to apply and enroll at LCSC. Both Tate and Soo Lee are always willing and even eager to stretch the confines of their job descriptions and explore new opportunities for the college to grow and diversify. Tate has never declined a request to serve on a committee or to lead a project. Soo Lee is always a willing and eager partner with colleagues across the campus to get a project started and completed. Both are very well liked and very well respected. I am the first in a long line of people who admire them, respect them, and laud them for their contributions to the college."

Their love of LC is apparent and they support as many campus activities as their busy schedules will allow. They are both active supporters of the LCSC Alumni Association and past board members. Soo Lee is a past LCSC Alumni Association board president and they both were instrumental in creating the Alumni Golf Scramble, now known as the Warrior Golf Classic. Tate has also served on various Professional-Technical advisory boards, is a member of the Clearwater Economic Development Association’s board of directors, serves on the Partnerships in Education Planning Committee, and is the advisor of the LCSC college radio station.

They are the proud parents of two budding Warriors, Mason and Mia.

Tate and Soo Lee, have done outstanding work at the College in building both pride and spirit on campus and consistently demonstrate extraordinary loyalty, commitment, dedication and service to this institution.

_Excellent in Education Award_  
recognizes superior achievement in the field of education. The recipient serves as a role model and sets standards of excellence to which others can aspire.

_Jim Poindexter_

Jim Poindexter graduated from Lewis-Clark Normal School in 1957. He later graduated from the University of Idaho with a B.S. in Social Studies and received his M.A. in School Administration from the University of Idaho in 1967.

Jim began his teaching career in Idaho, where he taught for five years in the Winchester/Reubens School District and Pierce High School. In the fall of 1964, he began teaching at Clarkston High School. During the next 30 years, his assignments included teaching, coaching, Athletic Director, Assistant Principal and Principal. Jim retired from Clarkston High School in 1994. After retiring he taught History at Walla Walla Community College for one year.

The next five years were very special to Jim. He was hired as the Director of Field Experience at LCSC and worked with student teachers and cooperating teachers throughout the area. He
continues to help with interviews of students coming into the Educational Program.

In 2009, the Clarkston Education Foundation honored him with the Legends of Clarkston Award.

Jim has made a positive impact on countless lives during his career in education. In fact when this year’s award winner was announced, the comment we heard repeatedly was that it could not have gone to a more deserving individual.

Jim and his wife Kaye have two sons. They are enjoying their retirement life of traveling and lots of golf! They also volunteer at their church and deliver Meals on Wheels.

It is an honor to recognize Jim Poindexter with this year’s Excellence in Education Award.

Our next award, the Aletha Pabst Award pays tribute to someone who is not an alumnus, but has made significant contributions to Lewis-Clark State College and their community.

Don and Joanne Poe

This year’s recipients, Don and Joanne Poe are great supporters of Lewis-Clark State College and have been heavily involved in our community.

Don is currently serving his second term on the L-C Foundation Board, and is currently serving as co-chair of Campaign LCSC. Don and Joanne established the Don and Joanne Poe Faculty Excellence Award which recognizes faculty who have high standards of academic excellence in teaching and mentoring LCSC students. They have adopted a student through the Foundation Scholars program since 1999 and they are also members of the Women’s Basketball Scholarship Club.

Don graduated from Whitman College in Walla Walla with a degree in education. He taught and coached in Oregon for three years before he returned to Clarkston to join his father in the family paving business. Don opened asphalt plants in Pullman and Post Falls as the business continued to grow.

Don credits Joanne on being an incredible wife and mother. They have four children, Lori, Tamara, Deonne and Mark, who now owns the family business. Don and Joanne enjoy traveling and visiting with their grandchildren.

Thank you, Don and Joanne, for making a difference! We are so proud to have you as part of our LC family!!

Dick Riggs

Dick graduated from the University of Idaho in 1955, where he majored in history. After graduation, he was commissioned as an Army lieutenant, where he spent time in Korea.

After spending two years in the armed forces, Dick began his teaching career. He taught in Seattle for two years and then returned to Lewiston to begin teaching at Lewiston Junior High, which later was torn down, and then at the brand new Sacajawea Junior High. He coached the first baseball team at Sacajawea, was the assistant football coach and officiated basketball. He then went on to be superintendent at several schools in the region: Rosalia, Anatone, Craigmont, and Asotin.

Dick and his wife, Barbara, have been Warrior boosters for the last 16 years and regularly attend LC basketball games.

Dick is almost always working on a project through the Nez Perce County Historical Society, of which he was president for over 16 years. He frequently writes articles for the historical society’s journal. He was actively involved in bringing the replica of the state’s first capitol to Lewiston. Dick was recognized with the Esto Perpetual award from the Idaho State Historical Society in 2006.

Dick and Barbara have been married for 50+ years. Their daughter Jolyn passed away in 2005; son Doug lives in Lewiston and son Matt lives in Bremerton, WA.

We say thank you, Dick, for your continued work and support of Lewis-Clark State College and our community!

The Marion Shinn Lifelong Achievement Award recognizes outstanding contributions of an alumnus who has shown long-term dedication and service to the College and their community. This year the board chose to honor Phil Shinn for his distinguished record of service and achievement.
Phil Shinn

After graduation from high school in 1965, Phil attended the University of Idaho for one year and then returned to Lewiston and attended Lewis-Clark Normal for three years. During his college years he worked at KRLC as an announcer and newsman. He graduated in 1969 with a teaching degree. He taught for one year at Kellogg High School. He then moved to Portland and began working for Beneficial Finance Company. Soon he was promoted to a manager position in the Lewiston office. He went back to KRLC as news director and shortly thereafter, Judy McFadden asked him to join her in developing a weekly free paper that she was purchasing from KRLC. At that time it was a four page flyer. Soon they needed to hire additional employees and they purchased a business building to house the enterprise. Thirty years later they sold the Moneysaver business and Phil retired.

Seven years ago, Phil began his second career as the City of Lewiston Forester. In this position, he was able to take a vision that began in 1992, and with the help of a dozen or so friends, establish a nature park. He was instrumental in purchasing the property and organizing the Modie Park Conservancy. Phil is the president/treasurer, newsletter writer, and promoter of the park. He has been a major fundraiser and has donated hundreds of hours and his own money to make the park a reality.

During his time at the Moneysaver, Phil developed a community grant that awards money to local non-profit organizations. Phil always finds ways to give back to his alma mater and believes in supporting LCSC students and the alumni association.

With his enthusiasm, Phil serves as an inspiration and we are proud to recognize him with this year’s Marion Shinn Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Outstanding Coeur d’Alene Alumni Award is presented to an alumnus/alumna who has enriched the lives of others through their generous gifts of time and talent, their involvement with civic, charitable and social causes and their ability to inspire. This year we are proud to recognize two outstanding Coeur d’Alene alumnae:

Amy Knisley-Winstead

Amy Knisley-Winstead has worked incredibly hard to complete her degree in Justice Studies and to use her knowledge to benefit the criminal justice agencies she works for and the community she lives in. Amy completed her degree in 2008 while she worked full-time as a misdemeanor probation officer for Kootenai County, where she had the sole responsibility for supervising probationers convicted of domestic battery.

Since earning her degree, she has been a law enforcement officer for the Kootenai County Sheriff’s Office and is currently a police officer for the Coeur d’Alene Police Department. Wayne Longo, Coeur d’Alene Chief of Police, shared that Amy is one of the hardest working and dedicated employees at the Coeur d’Alene Police Department. He has witnessed her dedication, compassion, and attention to duty in all areas of law enforcement. She has taken it upon herself to be the very best police officer she can be, especially in the area of domestic violence.

Amy also now instructs in the area of law enforcement at the North Idaho Peace Officers and Training Academy (POST) as well as in service classes for active duty law enforcement officers.

Amanda “Mandi” Yergler

Amanda “Mandi” Yergler is well known for her involvement with Lewis-Clark State. As a student, she was very active in campus activities and the Business Student Organization. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with her Bachelors in Business with Accounting Emphasis in 2012. Mandi passed all four parts of the CPA exam on her first try, which is no small feat!

She works for CORE Accounting and Consulting, a small accounting firm in downtown Coeur d’Alene, where she is the manager of accounting. She is a very active member of the LCSC Inland Northwest Alumni Chapter (even during the busy tax season) and is a huge asset in planning local alumni events and efforts to grow chapter involvement and visibility. Mandi works with current LCSC students as a mentor and tutor for accounting students. She also volunteers for Real Life Ministries in their young adult ministry.