



Shasta College

2024/2025

FOREST HEALTH

YEAR IN REVIEW



Shasta College

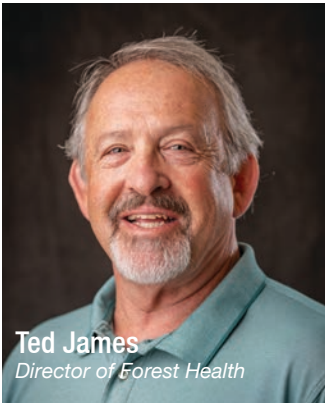
www.shastacollege.edu

Shasta College is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

**Business, Ag and
Career Technical Education**
(530) 242-7560

MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Success takes many forms—reaching goals, gaining new skills, pursuing what you love, and preparing for meaningful work. Shasta College’s Forest Health & CTE programs help students achieve their own definition of success through hands-on, career-focused learning.



This year, our programs continued to grow with new courses, cutting-edge training tools, and expanded industry partnerships. Students explored Forestry & Natural Resources, Heavy Equipment Operations, Truck Driving, and Heavy Equipment Logging Operations—each pathway equipping students with real-world skills that translate directly to employment.

We are proud of our faculty and success teams who guide students from interest to achievement and of our industry partners who help ensure our programs reflect California’s evolving workforce needs.

FOREST HEALTH STUDENT SUCCESS & SUPPORT TEAM

“From first interest to career launch, seeing students grow is why we do what we do.”

Our student success team, Aloni Cardwell and Kloe Gray, brings encouragement and hands-on support that students often tell us made all the difference. And behind the scenes, keeping everything running with daily laughter, is Patricia Cascio, our Administrative Professional.

Together, we’re at our best when we’re supporting students, celebrating their wins, and helping them find their place in the workforce. This isn’t just our work, it’s who we are. These are our people, and we’re grateful to be part of their journey

— Janis Logan



FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES

This year the Forestry and Natural Resources Program applied for Society of American Foresters (SAF) accreditation candidacy. SAF is the gold standard for forestry education, ensuring that programs meet rigorous academic and industry expectations. Achieving accreditation will strengthen the credibility of our degree program and support students in meeting the qualifying experience required for the Registered Professional Forester exam.

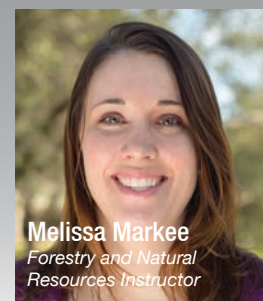
We are currently developing the candidacy report and preparing for a future site visit by the SAF Review Committee. While the process takes time, we are committed to completing each step with care — and we hope to receive accreditation within the coming years.

— Karine Hunt

MEET THE TEAM



Karine Hunt
*Forestry and Natural
Resources Instructor*



Melissa Markee
*Forestry and Natural
Resources Instructor*



Megan Peña

Student Highlight **Megan Peña**

AS Forest Science & Technology

Balancing life as a mother, full-time employee, and dedicated student, Megan earned an internship at the Western Shasta RCD, where she gained hands-on experience in fuels management and restoration.

“Invest in yourself, even when it feels hard to balance it all. The experience is worth it.”



Student Highlight **Minga Wigington**

While at Shasta College, Minga worked seasonally as a maintenance aide with California State Parks. She hopes to pursue Fire Ecology and become an environmental scientist.

“Dr. Susannah Fulton and Professor Dan Scollon have been extremely supportive throughout the past year, and I’m grateful for their guidance during my educational journey.”

“You’ll get out of your education what you put into it. Keep putting in effort, and the pieces will fall into place.”



Minga Wigington (GIS)

EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Our Heavy Equipment program continues to grow, with enrollment higher than ever and strong employment opportunities for students. To support this growth, we are reconstructing our training grounds to better accommodate our expanding fleet while maintaining the highest standards of safety.

A major highlight this year is the addition of our brand-new motor grader—affectionately named “**The Heidi.**” It has quickly become a favorite among students and instructors and represents our commitment to providing industry-relevant training on modern equipment.

— Troy Towery



Student Highlight
Cody Norbury

“Real-world readiness made the difference—I was hired within 2 months of graduating.”

Cody graduated Fall 2024 and was hired by Tullis, Inc., joining Operating Engineers Local 3.

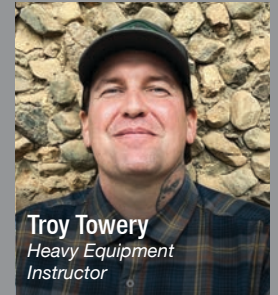
As part of our forward-thinking approach, we will launch a new **Heavy Equipment course at the Tehama Campus** in Fall 2025. Thanks to Strong Workforce support, we have acquired five state-of-the-art pieces of heavy equipment: a skid loader, skid steer, Kubota tractor, water tender, and mini excavator. This expansion strengthens our training program and provides valuable hands-on experience that prepares students to excel in high-demand careers.

— Nicole Dawson



Heavy Equipment Operations Cohort

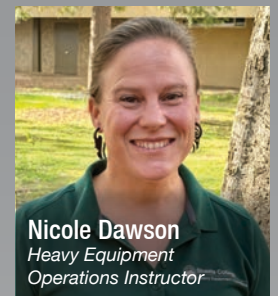
MEET THE TEAM



Troy Towery
Heavy Equipment
Instructor



James Johnson
Instructional Program Tech-
nician-Heavy Equipment



Nicole Dawson
Heavy Equipment
Operations Instructor



Anthony O'Dell
Instructional
Program Technician

HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOGGING OPERATIONS (HELO)



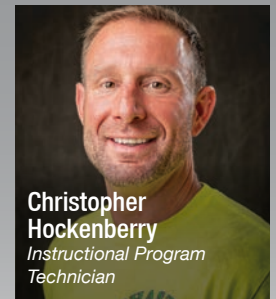
The **HELO** program expanded its Wood Products class with three new sawmills, an edger, and a firewood processor. These additions give students hands-on experience in the final stages of the lumber process from raw logs to finished products and create a sustainable revenue stream that helps support the program. Interest in the program has never been higher, with employers actively reaching out to hire graduates and apprentices.

— Jonas Lindblom

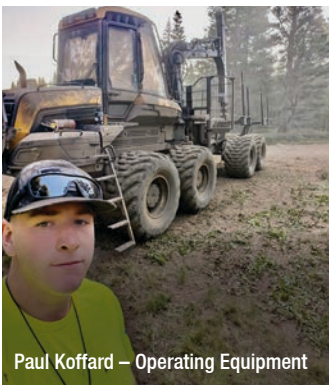
MEET THE TEAM



Jonas Lindblom
HELO Instructor



Christopher
Hockenberry
*Instructional Program
Technician*



Paul Koffard — Operating Equipment

Student Highlight **Paul Koffard**

“Stick it out. Every ounce of doubt is a test of your conviction.”

After completing HELO, Paul worked as a skidder operator for VM West and is now part of Shasta College’s Heavy Equipment Department.

Jonas Lindblom, Troy Towery, James Johnson, and Christopher Hockenberry have all had a significant impact on my career choice and are people who I would say helped me grow my success both as a student and in my personal insight.

HELO Outstanding Student of the Year.

Student Highlight **Austin Pritchett**

“Get to know your instructors — they set you on a clear career path.”

Austin completed HEO & HELO and transferred to Feather River College to pursue Ranch Management.

EOM Outstanding Student of the Year.



Austin Pritchett



Austin Pritchett

INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT: CREEKSID LOGGING



Like many in the forestry industry, Delbert Gannon, owner of Creekside Logging, had a difficult time finding reliable operators until partnering with Shasta College's HELO and CRAFT programs.

"Our apprentices have been with us a couple of years now and have grown into real seasonal operators. They've benefited our company—they're loading the log trucks, skidding logs. In my opinion, they've excelled because of the training they got from the HELO program."

He emphasized that HELO is "what our industry has needed for a long time," and noted that additional time spent on water bar and skid trail training would strengthen readiness.

"The training these students get shows in the field."

CRAFT APPRENTICESHIP

The **CRAFT apprenticeship** blends 272 hours of classroom instruction with 3,000 hours of on-the-job training. Fall and Spring Skills Showcases allow students (pre-apprentices) to demonstrate their abilities and connect with employers. Most students receive employment offers immediately following the events. Pictured below are photos from the Student Skills Showcase hosted by CRAFT.



Noah Bodwell Signing with Craft



Spring Showcase



Fall Showcase



Left to right-Angela Cordell, Zane Peterson, Christopher Hockenberry & Jonas Lindblom

TRUCK DRIVER TRAINING

Now in its sixth year, the Truck Driving Program continues to help students earn their CDL safely and confidently. Our success is fueled by motivated students and a dedicated team of Professional Experts and staff who consistently help learners exceed their own expectations.

Behind-the-wheel training will soon be transitioning to a Contract Education model, allowing completion in just two weeks.

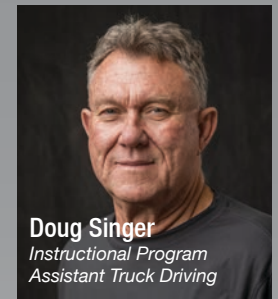


PILOT LOG TRUCK TRAINING

Shasta College's Pilot Log Truck Driver Training offers advanced instruction for drivers who already hold a Class A license. Supported by insurance underwriters and the Associated California Loggers (ACL), the program addresses the growing need for skilled, insurable drivers in the forest industry.



MEET THE TEAM



Professional Experts:

Al Cardwell

Glenda Cole

Dave Parker

Kees Van Vugt

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

LOGGING SPORTS

Every year, Shasta College students play a vital role in supporting the Sierra Cascade Logging Conference, assisting with event setup, break-down, and on-site operations. Their professionalism, reliability, and teamwork continue to make a strong impression on industry partners.

This year, the Shasta College Logging Sports Team delivered an exceptional performance, tying for second place overall in the College Logging Sports Competition — an incredible accomplishment, especially as the only community college competing against four-year universities.

The team earned first place in four events:

- Women's Double Buck, Maria Gomez and Jay Barrett
- Men's Double Buck, Noah Bodwell and Richard Hodges
- Women's Single Buck, Maria Gomez
- 1st place Women's Axe Throw-Maria Gomez

They also took second place in both the Men's and Women's Choker Setting events.

Throughout the competition, the team demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship, dedication, and teamwork — showcasing their skill, discipline, and commitment to the forestry and logging profession.



Richard Hodges Men's Axe Throwing



Maria Gomez Women's Stock Saw



Noah Bodwell Men's Underhand Chop

SIERRA-CASCADE LOGGING CONFERENCE (SCLC) CASCADE IN-WOODS SHOW

This year's In-Woods Event welcomed over 725 students ready to explore hands-on forestry, equipment, and natural resource demonstrations. Shasta College Heavy Equipment and Heavy Equipment Logging Operations students played a key role in supporting the event.



Inwoods Demonstration



Inwoods Event



HELO Student Volunteers



Inwoods Event



Inwoods Event

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

NORTH STATE FARMS TOUR

Students from Chico, Las Plumas, Los Molinos, and Maxwell High School experienced Forestry, Logging, and Natural Resource pathways firsthand—identifying tree branches, touring the horticulture greenhouses to plant seeds, visiting farm units, and even operating heavy equipment machinery.



TRIO UPWARD BOUND

This summer, our TRIO Upward Bound students explored careers in Forestry & Natural Resources and Truck Driving. In Forestry, they headed into the Redwoods (on campus) to measure tree diameter, estimate height, and calculate log yield—getting a real feel for forest management tools and techniques. In the truck driving simulator lab, they practiced city and highway driving, shifting 5-speeds, and navigating obstacles, weather changes, and even a few surprise scenarios. These students showed up with curiosity and enthusiasm—we're proud to have been part of their summer journey!



NATIONAL PODCAST OUTREACH

Shasta College's Heavy Equipment Logging Operations (HELO) Academy was mentioned on Mike Rowe's YouTube podcast — "WHY Is America The Biggest Lumber Importer In The World?" with Mike Albrecht, the President of The American Loggers Council.

The program was recognized as a modern training model supporting the workforce goals of the American Loggers Council.

DEPARTMENT EVENTS



Student Tour



Student Tour



Tehama 8th Grade Career Day



Sierra Cascade Logging Conference



Upward Bound



Lisa Hoveman



Future Logger



Future Logger



Upward Bound



FFA Field Day



FFA Field Day



Fire S25 Graduates

DEPARTMENT EVENTS



FFA Forestry Field Day



FFA Forestry Field Day



FFA Forestry Field Day



Grill & Chill Logging Students



Troy Towery and Austin Pritchett



Students surrounding the Director



Aloni & Kloe Student Success Team



Farm Days



Farm Days



President Frank Nigro and Dean Mark Klever at Harvest Fest

CLOSING & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend our deepest gratitude to faculty, staff, students, and industry partners. Forest Health within the BACTE Division remains committed to innovation, sustainability, and hands-on education—building pathways to strong careers.

Forest Health Initiative funded by:



Our Partners: ●

- 5D Solutions, Inc.
- Associated California Loggers
- Axner Excavating, Inc.
- Bureau of Land Management
- California Highway Patrol
- California Licensed Foresters Association
- Cedar Creek Corporation
- Creekside Logging
- Del Logging, Inc.
- Fall River Resource Conservation District
- Hat Creek Construction & Materials, Inc.
- Lepage Company Incorporated
- Logger's Association of Northern California, Inc.
- Meyers Earthwork, Inc.
- Muse Trucking
- Pape Machinery
- Peterson CAT
- Peterson Timber
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Sierra Pacific Windows
- Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference, Inc.
- US Forest Service
- CA Licensed Foresters Assoc.
- Western Shasta Resource Conservation District

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Shasta College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in employment, in any of its educational programs, or in the provision of benefits and services to its students. A lack of English language skills and/or visual and hearing impairment will not be a barrier to admission or participation in any educational program, including Career Technical Education.



Shasta College

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