

## CAREER CHOICES

# Charter school debuts new filmmaking program

BY JOAN BROWN  
Of the News-Times

LINCOLN CITY — Four high school students talked script and technique as they prepared to hold their first-ever auditions, which will be for an infomercial about their school, Career Tech.

"We're building a film program," said instructor Lucinda Ulrich. Prior to coming to Lincoln City, Ulrich was an independent filmmaker in Albuquerque, N.M., where she also started a high school film program that is still running.

Funded through an Oregon Department of Education grant, which was possible because of the passing of Measure 98 — the High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Act of 2016 — the video program started at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year and meets once a week.

"We're still working out all the details, the money just became available this month," Ulrich said. "This is kind of like a start-up experience, we're kind of building the ship as we're sailing it."

Currently the equipment being used works as a learning tool, but it won't get the students very far.

"There's a list of acceptable cameras that are considered broadcast-quality. If you don't own one of those cameras, you can't distribute to Netflix, you can't distribute to any of the major studios," Ulrich said. New equipment is forthcoming.

"Long term I really want to get to a point, maybe in the summer, where we're shooting actual short films and then we're partnering with union film people, that's sort of a long-term goal," she said.

Because of past experiences and contacts, Ulrich has been able to line up mentors from almost all aspects of the film industry. As students advance she will connect them with those who will be able to guide them in their film careers. "These are people who are professional, who are working, who can mentor," she said.

Of the four students in this first course, two students have no video experience and two students have made skate and music videos using their home equipment.

Trinity Shamberger, 15, said, "I don't have any film experience, but I take photos." Mostly she takes pictures of her cat and nature such as sunsets and raindrops on the grass. Shamberger said she would like to make videos featuring animals.

Faith Bennett, 17, said, "I don't really have any film experience. I've learned a lot from Lucinda, she really enlightened me about the whole cinematography world." Bennet said she would like to make videos featuring nature.



Tyler Rini makes sure the boom is in good working condition and Jeremiah Surber checks the connection to the camera as the students prepare to create the first-ever student production in Career Tech's new video program. (Photo courtesy of Trinity Chamberger)

Jeremiah Surber, 16, said, "I started filming skateboarding with my friends probably a year and a half ago on my iPhone. I found out I really liked it and purchased my first camera about a year ago. When I found out we got this video program this year I was super excited." Surber said he intends to go to college and study everything he can for videography.

Tyler Rini, 16, said, "I've filmed music videos for my brother, because he's an artist. Also, I'm a big editor — I like to edit stuff." Rini said his aim is to make music videos professionally.

"Next semester (each student) is going to have their own project and they're going to have their own pieces," Ulrich said.

For next year she hopes to run the class like a crew, and take on projects that students would get paid for. "We would be Career Tech's production company."

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## SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

## District down to six applications

BY JOAN BROWN  
Of the News-Times

NEWPORT — The first round of applicant screening has been completed and the schedule for hiring a new superintendent remains on track, with the new leader of the Lincoln County School District potentially starting on July 1.

On Jan. 19, the application period closed and a total of 18 people started applications for the district superintendent position. Three of the applications were incomplete, which left 15 people in the pool, then one of those dropped out, leaving 14.

"Compared to the previous superintendent search," said Tom Rinearson, the current interim superintendent and former superintendent for a decade, "there are fewer applicants, but they are stronger."

Unlike many application processes, this one did not include a cover letter. Instead, there was a one-minute cover video.

On Jan. 23, at a LCSD board of directors executive session, a group of 20 reviewers armed with 14 scorecards each watched the videos, looked over the application packages and scored the applicants. Each applicant was scored in a variety of categories by each of the reviewers.

The review board included the five board members, five district budget committee members, two teachers, two

district employees, two school principals and four community members.

While 15 of the reviewers were in one room the board members, a past board member serving as a consultant, and superintendent Tom Rinearson went into another room.

Each of the five school board members was given a copy of a list of ten interview questions, which were the end product of a brainstorming session held during the Dec. 12 regular session of the board.

After the group spent a few minutes honing the questions, a superintendent from another school district was invited into the room, and a mock interview commenced, followed by a debriefing. Then a second superintendent from yet another school district was introduced for another mock interview, again followed by a debriefing.

A week later, on Tuesday, Jan. 30, the board opened another executive session wherein the members, the consultant and Rinearson re-honed the interview questions and discussed the trends they saw on the scorecards, noting that six of the applicants had risen to the top of the pool.

While earlier discussions pointed to narrowing the pool to five applicants to bring to the school district for in-person interviews, the scorecards convinced the district to bring in six.

The other eight applicants will be notified by Rinearson, who planned on reaching out to them on Jan. 31.

First-round interviews are planned for Feb. 12 and 13 at the district office with the board of directors. Three of the applicants live outside the Pacific Northwest, and three live in Oregon or Washington.

Conscientious to not compromise the position of the applicants, no names have been released to the public. In compliance with policies governing the board, more exact details of the executive sessions may not be released.

After the first round interviews the six will be winnowed down to two or three. At that time the school district will conduct background searches. Names and information of the finalists will be released.

Second-round interviews are planned for Feb. 26 and 27, and include visits to schools and community meet-and-greets in north, south, east and west locations throughout the county.

Start date for the new superintendent is tentatively set for July 1, and the entry salary is \$160,000.

LCSD will share dates as they become finalized. [http://www.lincoln.k12.or.us/superintendent\\_search/index.php](http://www.lincoln.k12.or.us/superintendent_search/index.php)

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