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*Dean's Corner*  
with **Zack Zweigle**

For a great many of our Shasta College students, their educational experience over the last two-years has been fraught with such a compressed set of challenges – certainly few other students have or will ever encounter as many during their college careers. They have endured fires, snowstorms, hailstorms, tornadoes, red flag wind days leading to rolling power outages, and now a global pandemic. Yet they continue to rise to the occasion and persevere amidst it all.

The new abnormal that we are now faced with as a result of the COVID-19 virus will certainly remain a factor in our decisions for delivering instruction during the upcoming semesters. While faculty across all disciplines are learning to adapt and transition their programs to this online modality, Career Technical Education (CTE) has had an especially unique set of circumstances that adds additional layers. So many of our programs and courses rely on practical skills-based learning. Many of our programs, from welding, to firefighting, to logging operations, not only require students and instructors to be physically present in order to accomplish the learning, but these courses involve the need for equipment that most do not have readily available at home.

As a result we have had to shift the learning environment to accommodate a new paradigm of social distancing and sanitation protocols not before seen. The last few months have not been easy, and have required some out-of-the-box thinking to execute. Needless to say, our commitment to our programs and our students have given us the resolve to ensure that proper measures are being taken so that we can provide students with the instruction we promised when they joined the program.

With the sudden stop to our spring semester in March, we found ourselves in need of make-up instructional hours for our students once the Governor's State-at-Home Order was lifted. As such, now our students in the heavy equipment, logging, and industrial programs will be back on campus July 6<sup>th</sup> – August 7<sup>th</sup> to complete the remaining lab hours necessary for fulfillment of their courses. The goal has been to keep students progressing through their programs so they can complete and enter the workforce.

While our focus is still on summer make-ups, we are simultaneously thinking about the upcoming fall 2020 semester. Our aim is to be proactive, so we moved many of our lecture courses fully online, as well as the lecture components of our practical skills-based courses online also. However, once again, the lab hours for these courses in many cases still need to be fulfilled in-person. Thus, we have made significant changes to the fall schedule. Many of our industrial courses, including welding, diesel, advanced manufacturing, and automotive are now moving to a compressed 8-week format. These courses will begin in August, but students will be able to complete them by mid-October, rather than December. With the potential of a resurgence of the virus in winter, this just seemed like the sensible solution. However, should we not see a resurgence, students have an additional 8-weeks from October through December to complete a second round of courses. The dubious gain here might be that students come to expect this shorter format, as it gets them through coursework and into positions within industry much sooner.

I am cautious and optimistic as I look to the fall semester. Very soon the focus will turn to spring 2021, and the cycle continues once again. It is important to reinforce to our industry partners that we at Shasta College have not lost focus on our mission and goals. We recognize how important education and training are to the vitality of our economy in the North State. Shasta College is critical in the process of properly preparing students for careers that will allow our region to flourish as we navigate a post-COVID pathway. And, while we realize many industries will be hit by the economic uncertainty in the coming months, we hope to all stand together buttressed and ready to regain momentum on the other end.

Please reach out and let us know how we can continue to be of service. Many thanks to partners that contribute so much to our programs, our students, and Shasta College as a whole.



## HEO TEAM

- Zack Zweigle**  
Dean  
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## PROGRAMS OFFERED

- 1. Heavy Equipment Operations**
- 2. Logging**
- 3. Truck Driving**



## Rick Boontjer

*Logging Operations and Heavy Equipment Instructor*

Rick grew up in Palo Cedro and graduated from Shasta College in 1988 with an AA in Diesel Technology. While attending Shasta College, Rick landed his first job working with logging equipment when he went to work for Paul Warner Enterprises in 1985. "I saved every dollar I made because I wanted to go to Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) in Klamath Falls, Oregon and get my bachelor's degree in diesel.

Rick's goal was to be a Heavy Equipment Mechanic and work for Caterpillar. With graduation from OIT in sight, Rick started talking to the service manager at Peterson Caterpillar. "I told Ben Clark, service manager, that I was graduating in June and I was coming to work for him."

In the summer of 1990 Rick went to work for Peterson Caterpillar. For two years Rick was working his way to journeyman level mechanic. During this time the Spotted Owl habitat legislation caused the logging industry to shut down. Peterson had to lay off several employees during this period and, unfortunately, Rick was one to go.

With Rick's experience in the logging industry, he started researching the possibility of starting a small logging operation. In the spring of 1993 Rick and his dad started Lighthouse Chip Company. The logging company was focused on removing dead or dying trees and converting the trees into chips. The chips were used for fuel at cogen electric power facilities throughout the north state.

In 2016 John Livingston and Rick began talking about the heavy equipment program and how it could be expanded into training workforce specific to the logging industry. Rick was hired full time to teach heavy equipment operating in 2017 and began teaching logging equipment operating in the fall of 2019. "It doesn't feel like work anymore. I look forward to going to class and teaching my students how they can be successful, productive equipment operators."

Rick, his wife Kim, and four boys are actively involved in the community. They enjoy camping and outdoor activities as well. Rick's philosophy in teaching is to engage students, be available, and assist students in making industry contacts for future employment.



## Jim Lepage

*Featured Industry Partner*

Our featured industry partner is Jim Lepage of Lepage Company, Inc. in Red Bluff, California. Jim grew up in the Almanor area where his father was a home contractor. Jim started his company in 1997 as a general contractor, and then transitioned around 2005 to focus on Heavy Civil Contracting after completing his Engineering License and later his LTO (Licensed Timber Operator.) The diversity of the company has helped it weather the economic changes over the past twenty years.

Jim Lepage became involved with the Shasta College Heavy Equipment Program over the last couple of years. He has recently been asked to be part of the Shasta College HEO advisory committee. He was introduced to the program by an industry partner when he delivered a load of logs to the HEO facility on the campus.

In fall of 2019, Jim was one of the first companies to complete a partnership MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the college to have student drivers in the Class A CDL Truck Driving class (CONS 149) held at the Tehama campus drive with his company drivers. This partnership allows Shasta College CDL permitted students to get more driving hours prior to taking the final CDL test. Jim feels that the training the college is providing, and the willingness to listen to the industry direction, is paramount in producing the type of employees needed now and in the future. Because the program is willing to make changes based on industry recommendations, students will have practical experience and a tangible background that is verifiable.

Today, Lepage Company works with various entities, both private and public, in the areas of road improvement, restoration projects, water quality issues, mastication for fuel reduction, mining and coring, bridge building and more!

When asked what he looks for in an employee, Jim explained, "Dependable, wants to learn, flexible, and quality of work." Much of the industry is moving to computerized equipment operations, and a cross section of talents are needed. He said, "Employees will not just run a loader." His crew will learn all phases of a construction job and the equipment needed.

When asked about his philosophy, he was adamant that family is first. This is true for his family including his wife Roneita and three kids who enjoy hunting, fishing, and roping/rodeo. He carries this culture forward in the business model for his 12+ employees. They take care of each other, and give family needs a priority. He takes a lot of pride in supporting local organizations, such as high school baseball, junior rodeo, Red Bluff Roundup, and the local fair. He is a HUB zone business, as designated by the Small Business Association.

When asked about the future, Jim said that businesses need to be adaptable, willing to take some risk, and stay up with the new technologies and regulations. These characteristics will demonstrate the resilience of a company in seeing changes coming and planning accordingly.

Jim would like to see the Shasta College HEO program expand into the Tehama County area to serve the needs of the industry and potential employees.



Aaron Phipps is a 2019 graduate of the Shasta College Heavy Equipment and Truck Driving programs. Aaron took a position with Pro Aggregate in Chico, CA. Pro Aggregate supplies individuals and construction companies with various types of aggregate. Aaron said he trained on an end dump, transfer, lowbed and water truck. He has also hauled lumber in the wintertime when construction is slower.

When asked what were some of the highlights of the Heavy Equipment Program at Shasta College, Aaron said that a sense of accomplishment really came to light at graduation. Certainly was a big day and felt good to complete a program that offered so many opportunities.

He said for new students coming into the program, it is so important to take advantage of your equipment time and to definitely get your CDL (Commercial Driver's License). Staying the course and making your education and seat time a priority will translate to job success.

Looking for a job as an older student, Aaron had a few challenges until he found his niche. Aaron enjoys the variety his job offers. Traveling to different locations and doing different things keeps it interesting.



## John Livingston

*Equipment Operations and Maintenance*

In my 28 years of teaching there has never been anything like the COVID-19 Quarantine that we are in. The challenges everyone faces are daunting. Amidst the chaos and confusion of shuttering schools across California, the added impact of business closures, work transitions and financial uncertainty has burdened Californians with a stress similar to the Great Depression. The impact on our Heavy Equipment students has been painful. They have had to make significant changes to their school schedules and lifestyles. Many have school-aged children they have to start home-schooling while adjusting to changes at work. Shasta College faculty who have never taught an online class have had to suddenly switch their instruction away from face-to-face teaching.

Shasta College has transitioned as much as possible to online instruction, but the difficulties of moving full Career Technology Education (CTE) programs such as Heavy Equipment Construction Operations, Heavy Equipment Logging Operations and Commercial Truck Licensing has left all of us scrambling for the best possible solutions under the circumstances. Some of our classes could be transitioned over and some could not. Fortunately, our administration has worked with us to set up special five week make-up lab sessions to bridge the holes in training left by the quarantine. This summer, from July 6<sup>th</sup> - August 7<sup>th</sup>, students will be able to meet with their instructors on campus or in the Sierra Pacific Industries forest grounds to complete the practical portion of their equipment classes. They will meet in small groups, of no more than ten students, and practice social distancing and sanitation of equipment in an effort to comply with best practices. However, many of the students have personal situations that will not allow them to attend these scheduled make up labs, so they are taking an Excused Withdrawal option that allows them to come back in a future semester and retake the class.

Our Fall semester classes will look differently too. For classes with a lab component, the lecture portion will be given online. But, we will be able to meet the student face-to-face in the training grounds and in the forest lab areas. Our Commercial Truck Licensing classes will also be able to meet and drive.

REDDING CAMPUS CLASS

TEHAMA CAMPUS CLASS

INTERMOUNTAIN CAMPUS CLASS



# CLASS A & B License Training

This class provides students with the **instruction** and **hands-on** driving practice needed to take their **DMV test for their Class A & B licenses**. Class content includes:

- Walk-around inspections
- In-cab brake checks
- Commercial Driving Handbook
- On-road driving skills
- Backing exercises

**AUG 17<sup>th</sup>-DEC 17<sup>th</sup>**

**CONS 149A-F3724**

**Monday Lab** 12:00-1:50 PM | Redding Campus, Room 4500  
**Wednesday Lab** 12:00-2:15 PM | Redding Campus, Room 4500  
**Internet Course Lecture Day TBA, Times TBA**

**CONS 149A-F3725**

**Monday Lab** 8:00-9:50 AM | Redding Campus, Room 4500  
**Wednesday Lab** 8:00-10:15 AM | Redding Campus, Room 4500  
**Internet Course Lecture Day TBA, Times TBA**

**AUG 21<sup>st</sup>-DEC 11<sup>th</sup>**

**CONS 149A-F3728**

**Friday Lab** 8:00 AM-12:15 PM | Tehama County Fairgrounds  
**Internet Course Lecture Day TBA, Times TBA**

**CONS 149A-F3729**

**Friday Lab** 2:30 PM-6:45 PM | Tehama County Fairgrounds  
**Internet Course Lecture Day TBA, Times TBA**

**AUG 21<sup>st</sup>-DEC 11<sup>th</sup>**

**CONS 149A-F3726**

**Tuesday Lab** 10:45 AM-3:00 PM | SPI Burney Mill  
**Internet Course Lecture Day TBA, Times TBA**

Students must provide their own transportation to labs.  
Apply at [shastacollege.edu/Apply](http://shastacollege.edu/Apply). For more info please email [heavyequipment@shastacollege.edu](mailto:heavyequipment@shastacollege.edu) or call (530) 242-7538.  
For help in applying to Shasta College, email [admissions@shastacollege.edu](mailto:admissions@shastacollege.edu) or call 242-7650



## Rebekah Davis

Student Success Facilitator  
Career Technical Education (CTE)

My name is Rebekah Davis, and I am the Student Success Facilitator for the Shasta College Heavy Equipment Program. I help students get started in the program, and I also help manage the program's drug and alcohol testing. Our drug and alcohol testing not only ensures the safety of our classes and students, but also educates students in maintaining a safe and conscientious lifestyle that ensures their continued success as an employee in our partner industries.

I love meeting new students and watching them become experienced operators and drivers. My goal is for each student to grow from the challenges they face and discover how much they are capable of achieving. A relative newcomer to Redding from the Pacific Northwest, I enjoy the sunshine, wide open spaces, and did I mention the sunshine? While my job requires plenty of time on the office computer, working with students is the highlight of my day.

For more information about our classes, email [heavyequipment@shastacollege.edu](mailto:heavyequipment@shastacollege.edu) or call 530-242-7538.

## Our Partners



Fall River 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.