

# Tina Fuchs Class of 1981

## Ephrata Alumni Association Noted Alumni



While attending Ephrata High School, Tina Fuchs participated in a leadership role of the Associated Student Body, Orange E, and the Help One Student to Succeed program. She earned varsity letters from the volleyball, basketball, and softball teams. She was a member of the 1980 basketball team that played in the state tournament.

During her sophomore year, Tina spearheaded the effort to bring girls softball to Ephrata High School athletics. After much debate, the school board voted to approve the addition of softball as a varsity sport starting in the spring of 1980.

After graduating from Ephrata High School, Tina

- Became a first-generation college student at Pacific University in Forest Grove, OR and graduated in 1985 with a BA degree in Elementary Education. Decided upon career in the field of Student Affairs
- Pursued career choice at Western Washington University at Bellingham, WA while serving as Resident Director on campus. Graduated with Master's degree in Student Personnel Administration in Higher Education in 1989
- Landed position as Assistant Director of Housing and Residence Life at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, OR. Advanced in career during the years 1989-2018 with latest promotion being to Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
- Became involved with professional associations and acted in leadership roles. Named the inaugural winner of Western Oregon University Housing Legacy Award
- Mentors college students, helping them achieve their goal of graduating from college
- Became life member of Ephrata Alumni Association and contributor to association's scholarship award program

## Ephrata Alumni Association-Requested Submission

### Noted Alumni Project – Submitted by Association Member Tina Fuchs



Tina Fuchs graduated from Ephrata High School in 1981. While in high school, Tina participated in activities such as ASB, Orange E Carnival Planning, HOSTS (Help One Student to Succeed) program, and athletics. During her sophomore year in high school, Tina, along with several other high school girls, made a proposal to the Ephrata School Board to add girls' softball to the EHS athletic program. After much debate, the School Board voted to approve the addition of softball as a varsity sport starting in the spring of 1980.

Tina was a varsity athlete on the volleyball, basketball, and softball team, and was awarded letters in all three sports. She served as team captain in basketball and softball, and was a member of the 1980 girls basketball team that went to the state playoffs.

After graduation from high school in 1981, Tina attended Pacific University in Forest Grove where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education in 1985. While she had every intention of teaching elementary school as a profession, she found a different interest while she was in college while serving on the Activities and Cultural Events Board and serving as a Resident Advisor (a student position that helps guide other students living on campus). Through those leadership experiences, she found a career in the field of Student Affairs on college campuses.

Upon graduation from Pacific University, Tina pursued her dream of working with college students at Western Washington University (WWU), where she served as a Resident Director on campus and pursued her Master's degree in Student Personnel Administration in Higher Education. She graduated with her M.Ed. in 1989.

Continuing on that career path, Tina landed a position as an Assistant Director of Housing and Residence Life at Western Oregon University (WOU) in Monmouth, Oregon following graduation from WWU. WOU is where Tina found a home, and was given incredible opportunities to thrive as a professional on campus. During the next 29 years, Tina advanced in her career from Assistant Director, to Director, to Dean of Students, and most recently, in 2018, was promoted to Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at WOU.

Tina's motivation for staying at WOU for so long is driven by the students she serves. WOU attracts a large number of first-generation college students, those who are the first in their families to attend college. Having been a first-generation college student herself, she understands the challenges students face navigating the college experience for the first time. Being a resource for students is what she values most about her role on campus.

Outside of her daily work life, Tina has participated in community activities and organizations including the Monmouth Beautification Committee, the Ash Creek Trail Advisory Committee; she has served on service learning trips with student organizations; and is a member of the Polk County (Oregon) Threat Assessment Team. She also participated, for nearly 20 years, in community recreational sports in Monmouth and Corvallis.

Tina is also involved with her professional association, Northwest Association of College and University Housing Officers (NWACUHO) and Association of College and University Housing Officers – International

(ACUHO-I). Through that involvement she has participated in leadership roles and activities over the course of her career. With NWACUHO she has served as President (three-year term); served on the master plan committee and awards and recognition committee; served as conference host for the annual conference twice. With ACUHO-I, she is currently serving as Regional Representative to the ACUHO-I Foundation Board.

Tina has been recognized for her involvement having been selected as a Salem YWCA Outstanding Woman in Leadership; Western Oregon University Staff Member of the Year; NWACUHO David B. Stephen Award for outstanding leadership and contributions; NWACUHO Roger Frichette Excellence in Service Award; and the Inaugural winner of the WOU University Housing Legacy Award.

When looking back on experiences that are notable or of special interest, Tina is particularly proud of the following events:

- Becoming a Life Member of Ephrata Alumni Association
- Spearheading the effort to bring girls softball to Ephrata High School Athletics
- Being selected to represent WOU's ROTC program in Fort Knox, Kentucky for a week-long experience. During that week campus representatives from across the country performed many of the same drills as ROTC cadets' practice during their summer training academy.
- Serving as a supporter of the 2017 Eclipse Experience in Monmouth – the Eclipse was a profound experience with Monmouth, Oregon in the path of totality. Western Oregon University hosted over 2000 visitors on campus in the days leading up to the event as well as the event itself. Interestingly, one of the visitors to campus during that event was Dave Gossett, who taught at EHS in the 70's (and specifically remembered teaching Tina's siblings – Joe, Jane, and Jean).
- Finally, and most importantly, serving as a mentor to college students, helping them achieve their goals of graduating from college.



WOU Commencement with one of our star students



Dave Gossett and Tina at the Eclipse event



Fort Knox, KY – Rappelling Course