"I'm thankful God led me here."

CFO Maralee Greer reflects on her 42 years of service at Northwest Christian Schools

Read Maralee's story and other stories, inside.
“I'm thankful God led me here.”

It’s the end of an era at Northwest Christian Schools.

**After 42 years of faithful service, Chief Financial Officer Maralee Greer will retire in June.**

“It will feel very weird not to wake up and drive to Northwest Christian Schools,” she says.

It all started in 1981 when Maralee joined the NWCS staff as the Financial Controller. She was working for a CPA firm in downtown Spokane when a gentleman from her church approached her about applying for an open position in the NWCS business office.

“I wasn’t looking for a new job, but I felt led to apply. I thought I would stay until I had children.”

Northwest Christian has definitely been a Greer family endeavor. Maralee’s children, Aunalee and Josh graduated from NWCS, and Aunalee currently teaches science at the high school. All six of her school-age grandchildren either attend or have graduated from NWCS.

We asked Maralee to give us a few highlights from her 42-year tenure. “Goodness!” she says, “there are so many.”

In the fall of 1981, the school had one campus, known as the Central Campus, located where the Cedar Campus is now. It had about 35 faculty and staff, and 350 total students in grades K-12. The total operating budget was $500,000.

1981-1985 were financially challenging years. Decreasing enrollment had the Board of Regents seeking the Lord’s guidance as to whether or not they could keep the doors open. It was during this time that four amazing men came forward and co-signed the $200,000 loan documents that allowed the school to remain open.

Not only did enrollment increase, but the full $200,000 loan was paid off in less than five years. “God’s faithfulness brought us through a very difficult but trust-filled time. This was a definite highlight.
Another highlight for Maralee has been to walk alongside the teachers to accomplish God's mission at NWCS. “They are a gifted and exceptional group of people whom I have come to love, cherish, and consider family. Our faculty and staff lead with a servant's heart. The Lord has provided the right people at the right time to accomplish His goals in the hearts and minds of students.”

“Thank you, Maralee, for blessing us with your gifts and serving so faithfully for 42 years. Well done, faithful servant! May God bless you in this next chapter of your life. You will be greatly missed!”

By 1996, NWCS had outgrown the Central Campus which now consisted of 575 students in grades K-12. “God allowed us to purchase a 116-acre lot in Colbert, which was to become the NWCS Colbert Campus. We spent six months remodeling to make it suitable for classrooms and moved grades 9-12 there in September while grades K-8 remained at the Central Campus.”

In 1998, the junior high wing was built, and the baseball and softball fields were developed. The long-awaited regulation-size gymnasium, also known as the Activity Center, was completed in 2000. This was a dream that had been in the hearts and minds of school families for over 50 years.

In 2006, the Board of Regents once again sought the Lord’s direction and timing for a new elementary school to be built at the Colbert Campus. In 2010, the financing came to a halt. But God provided an avenue to raise the $7 million needed to keep the construction moving forward.

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To this day, the Lord continues to faithfully provide.

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On Friday evening, May 5, the junior high held their annual Human Clue event. This fun and lively evening finds students attempting to solve a mystery based on clues given to them by their teachers, who this year were dressed as world travelers. In the end it was Mr. Hansen (aka Arlo Beau) in Egypt with the blow dart!

The Colbert 5th grade takes monthly trips to Serve Spokane, a food and clothing bank run by North Church. The children learn to sort fresh fruit, vegetables, canned food, and clothing to help Serve Spokane in its mission of blessing those who are food insecure.

Cedar Campus Principal, Chelsea Ginder is moving to the Vancouver/Portland area with her family as her husband recently received his PhD and will begin work at OHSU. We will miss you, Mrs. Ginder!

Five NWCS seniors were recognized for their academic achievement by the Spokane Scholars Foundation:
- Morgan Barnett, World Languages
- Trace Sinclair, Fine Arts
- Emily Edstrom, Science
- Ava Russo, Social Studies
- Azalea Vlietstra, English

Congratulations!

PE teacher Todd Green organized a Field Day for the K-6 grade students at the Colbert Campus that included a variety of outdoor games and activities by grade level. The day was made possible through the help of many parent volunteers.

The pre-K through 6th grade students in the NWCS Homeschool presented Traveling the Silk Road, a tour through Europe and Asia, at their annual Evening of the Arts.

- 14 students from the Cedar Early Learning Program will enter kindergarten at Cedar next year and 30 students from the Colbert Early Learning Program will enter kindergarten at the Colbert Campus.

NWCS is proud to graduate three seniors from its Homeschool program and 40 seniors from the high school. Congratulations, graduates!
NWCS Student Musicians Excel at Music Festivals

The junior high and high school concert band and percussion ensemble, under the direction of Mr. Quindrey Davis, and the secondary choir, under the direction of Mr. Rick Taylor, competed in the annual Stillwater Christian Musical Festival in Kalispel, Montana. The choir and percussion ensemble earned superior ratings, the highest rating given, and the concert bands earned excellent ratings.

NWCS also competed in the Spokane Falls Music Educator Association Solo and Ensemble Competition. The percussion ensemble received an excellent rating, and the following students were recognized for their solo performances:

- Joshua Mathison (piano), superior
- Geneva Barker (flute), excellent
- Michael Culbertson (baritone sax), excellent
- Berlin Galbavy (alto sax), excellent
- Nathaniel Barker (alto sax), excellent
- Justin Patrick (timpani), excellent
- Katie Coriell (snare drum), excellent
- Silas Newton (trombone), excellent

Congratulations Crusaders on these outstanding accomplishments!

NWCS Theater Delights Audiences with Shrek the Musical

For their spring production, the NWCS Theater Department delighted audiences with Shrek the Musical. Based on the Oscar-winning Dream Works animated film, Shrek the Musical, brings all the characters you love to life on the stage and tells a heartwarming story of beauty and friendship.

Under the direction of Mr. Rick Taylor, the cast and crew of over 50 junior high and high school students performed six shows from March 10-18 including one show that was also available via livestream.
Randy Wright Retires

Mr. Randy Wright is retiring after 27 years of service to Northwest Christian Schools. Randy joined the NWCS team in June of 1996 as the Maintenance Supervisor. Since that time, he has managed both the facilities and the grounds as well as campus security. We asked some of Randy’s colleagues to share their thoughts and reflections.

“Randy is a person of great worth and value. It has been a pleasure working with him over the years and I have been blessed to be his co-worker, junk tosser, softball field worker, ‘let’s get it done’ person, college football team rival and FRIEND!! Randy, may your next adventures be filled with family, friends, and fun!”

Malinda Nelson
Admissions Coordinator

“I appreciate Randy so much! We’ve had some great talks. He truly has a servant’s heart. Throughout the years he has worked tirelessly behind the scenes before anyone is on campus. He will often be on campus early preparing for what the students need to be successful. God bless you!”

Rick Taylor
Fine Arts Teacher, Theater Director

“I have had the privilege to work with Randy for 22 years. I appreciate that he responded so quickly to my requests and was a great help to me when I needed it. We have had a great working relationship and I consider Randy a friend for life!”

Kathy DeLaMatter
Technology Director

“I am thankful for Randy’s 24-hour service to the school for so many years. He made himself available on weekends, evenings, and holidays to serve the school.”

Jana Baldwin
Administrative Assistant, Colbert Lower Campus

“Randy has always been a constant, secure presence for me at NWCS. From maintenance to snow removal, from security to event set-up, from replacing lost keys to opening doors and gates, and so much more, he’s willingly been there for us all in so many ways. Randy, you will be incredibly missed my friend!”

Pam Vaughn
Gift Processing and Donor Relations
“Over the past five years, Randy and I have built a great relationship. There would be times that I would be going to the gym to do a workout with our boys and Randy would stop what he was doing to drive over and give me a hug and see how I was doing. His love for the school and Christ showed by how he would go out of his way to check on you. He also bailed me out a few times because I would either leave my car lights on or the door wouldn't shut all the way and the battery would be dead when I tried to leave. He was always willing to come over and give me a jump no matter what time of day it was. His friendship is truly special to me.”

Matt Clark
NWCS Parent and Assistant Boys Basketball Coach

"'Sweet and Salty' are the words I would use to describe my good friend Randy Wright. Through the years, Randy was known to be salty a time or two, but his saltiness was not nearly as strong as his sweetness. No one has a bigger heart or love for his fellow man than Randy Wright. When I first took over as AD Randy was continually there to help and support me in the new position and he has been my friend ever since.

Randy loves and cares for the students at NWCS in ways that are real and tangible but also sometimes unseen. Arranging transportation, finding drivers, or driving himself, cleaning, repairing, maintaining, building, planning, and supervising detentions are not often seen or appreciated, but Randy served loyally and faithfully for many years in those capacities and many more.

Randy, thank you for your service to the students of NWCS over the years. Your heart for the Lord and His people has had a lasting impact on me and many others. God bless you, my friend!"

Aaron Spuler
Assistant Principal, High School Social Studies & Bible Teacher, Head Boys Basketball Coach

Thank you for serving the students, staff, faculty, and families of NWCS so well, Randy. We will miss you!
High School Girls Basketball

- Finished 2nd in League
- Top 12 teams in State
- Team GPA 3.491 - Outstanding Academic Award
- 1st Team All-League Honors - Makenzie Ritchie
- 2nd Team All-League Honors - Paisley Cox and Georgia Crockett

High School Boys Basketball

- Finished 2nd in League
- Top 8 teams in State
- Team GPA 3.121 - Distinguished Academic Award
- 1st Team All-League Honors - Avi West. Also selected for Basketball Showcase to the Denny Humphrey/Jack-Blair Memorial All-Star Game and has scored over 1000 points so far as a sophomore
- 2nd Team All-League Honors - Asher West and Nate Clark

High School Wrestling

- Five athletes advanced to Regionals
- Nakoa Rocha placed 4th in Regionals, qualified as alternate at State
- Joel Phillips - WSWCA Academic Award, All State Academic Honorable Mention
- Team GPA 3.155 - Distinguished Academic Award
High School Boys Soccer
- Finished 1st in League
- Finished 1st in Districts
- 15-5 overall record through State play-offs
- Team GPA 3.137 - Distinguished Academic Award
- All League Awards - Lincoln Crocket, Offensive MVP; Ethan Jones, Forward; Elijah Friedly & Josiah Popa, Defense; Seum Lee, Midfielder; Michael Siemens, Goalie

High School Track & Field
- 21 athletes advanced to Regionals
- 10 athletes advanced to State
- Boys Team GPA 3.189 - Distinguished Academic Award
- Girls Team GPA 3.821 - Outstanding Academic Award

High School Golf
- Dan Harrington, Gianna Harrington, Ahyra Robins qualified for Districts
- Dan Harrington placed 1st in State
- All-League Players - Dan Harrington, Gianna Harrington
- All-League Player of the Year – Dan Harrington
- Team GPA 3.18 – Distinguished Academic Team Award

High School Baseball
- Finished 2nd in League
- Finished 2nd in Districts
- Team GPA 3.186 - Distinguished Academic Award
- 1st Team All-League – Jacob Bell, Pitcher; Ryan Waters, Infielder; Emmett McLaughlin, Outfielder
- 2nd Team All-League – Kaden Van Dyke, Pitcher; Zach Wing, Catcher

High School Softball
- Finished 1st in League
- Finished 1st in Districts
- Competing at State at the time of this printing
- Team GPA 3.741- Outstanding Academic Award
- 1st Team All-League – Makenzie Ritchie, Abi Iverson, Kaitlyn Waters
- 2nd Team All-League – Katie Coriell

High School Track & Field
- 21 athletes advanced to Regionals
- 10 athletes advanced to State
- Boys Team GPA 3.189 - Distinguished Academic Award
- Girls Team GPA 3.821 - Outstanding Academic Award

Junior High Baseball
- There were 21 boys who played junior high baseball
- The Varsity boys record was 5-2
- The JV boys record was 2-4-1

Junior High Softball
- There were 11 girls who played junior high softball
- Their record was 5-4-1

Elementary
- We had 11 soccer teams, 4 baseball teams, and our first-ever wrestling team!

Visit nwcatheletics.org
for all athletic information, schedules, awards, photos, streaming, and more!
These Are a Few of Our Favorite Things

We asked members of the senior class what they will remember most about their time at NWCS

“Running with the high school as an 8th grader and being able to run at state.”
Ben Graham

“Hanging out at retreat and playing volleyball.”
Morgan Barnett

"Being part of a community of people. The community that is formed between the students and teachers feels more like a neighborhood than a school."
Preston Fazio

"Senior car wash during Teacher Appreciation Week."
Azalea Vlietstra

"Time spent with Orrin and Aubrey during our common free period. It was very fun, and we spent most of the time in the kitchen talking about all sorts of things from politics to string theory to study practices."
Kaleb Dassow, NWCS Homeschool

"Becoming friends with not just some, but all my classmates over the years. I've also appreciated how the program fostered a personal mentor relationship between student and teacher. This was especially wonderful whenever I hit a personal or academic roadblock."
Aubrey Jones, NWCS Homeschool

"Playing on the soccer team since freshman year."
Semira Krauss

“Seeing Mr. Gilchrist get hit with the soccer ball and frisbee during recess when we were in the 6th grade. He thought I made him my target.”
Marshall Pinney

"Going on senior retreat and growing closer with everyone."
Hannah Davis
How would you sum up this year?

Across every campus and through every one of our educational models including preschool, traditional K-12, and homeschool, there were great things accomplished.

We enhanced and better defined our preschool and early learning programs at both Cedar and Colbert.

Our traditional elementary programs at both Cedar and Colbert instituted standards-based grading and report cards. This approach provides greater support and understanding of student learning and potential.

At our Secondary School, grades 7-12, we faced a challenging year without a Secondary Principal, but the admin team and faculty stepped up in such a beautiful and collaborative way. We strengthened our programs and instruction and implemented new academic teams to better support student learning and achievement.

District-wide, we finished up our accreditation process with Christian Schools International (CSI) achieving a “unanimous recommendation without reservation” for accreditation. Coming out of this process, we have a well-defined five-year school improvement plan that identifies strategies to enhance academics and learning, professional development, student support, community engagement and facilities.

Lastly, our Board has worked diligently on creating their own initiatives including measures to strengthen our community, broaden our impact, and build new classrooms at the upper campus in Colbert.

What are you excited for next year?

The academic team and I are excited about stepping into our 75th year as a school and seeing what the Lord has ahead. As a Christian educational community, our mission may never have been more important than it is today. This nation and the world need young men and women who understand their identity in Christ and who are prepared to step into this world and equipped to demonstrate truth, love, and grace.

I am excited about the ways our faculty, staff, and coaches at all of our campuses work to educate, support, and facilitate learning, growth, and spiritual formation within all of our students. I am excited to hear about the testimonies of our students who are achieving things they never thought they could in academics, athletics, and arts and who are experiencing God in real and transformational ways.

I am excited about growing together as a community and learning how to be better parents, spouses, and followers of Christ.

I am excited about seeing our campus expand as we see God provide us with the resources to build out six new classrooms including a new college-level science lab and STEM lab at the upper campus.

Lastly, I am looking forward to giving God the glory for all of the amazing things He is doing at Northwest Christian Schools.

How can we pray for NWCS?

Please pray for protection from any plans of the enemy to disrupt or destroy our efforts. Pray for our principals and admin team that we can serve and lead well. Pray for our Board that they will hear clearly from the Lord regarding His strategies and vision for NWCS.

Please pray for provision so that we can continue to provide excellence in our programs and facilities. Pray protection for our students, families, and staff. Pray that we remain unified as a community in the mission and vision of what the Lord has called us to accomplish. And finally, please pray for our 2023 graduates as they step into the new seasons and opportunities the Lord has ahead for them. Your prayers are so appreciated and much needed!
Thank you to all of you who participated in the NWCS Annual Benefit Auction: That’s Amore! From sponsors to donations to grade-level projects, volunteers, and those in attendance at the event, we are extremely grateful for your support.

Because of you, more than **$223,000** was raised to benefit the students and programs of Northwest Christian Schools. These gifts reflect the generosity of our sponsors, online and in-person auction bidders, the paddle raise, ticket sales, and donations.

To each of you who took part in this record-breaking year for the auction, we thank you! We are overwhelmed by God’s goodness and praise Him for His faithfulness to Northwest Christian Schools.

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None of this would be possible without YOU.

Thank you for all you do to support Northwest Christian Schools.

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