

# The Larry and Debra Stephens Academic Scholarship

The Larry and Debra Stephens Academic Scholarship was created in 2016 and named after Larry Stephens and Debra Pillette-Stephens.

Larry Stephens has a long history with OPOA that started as a charter member, then serving on the OPOA Executive Board for 20 years and finally as the OPOA Business Secretary for 15 years.

Larry served 32 years with the Salem Police Department retiring as a Sergeant. During his time with Salem PD Larry worked patrol, narcotics, administration and crimes against person. He was the president of the Salem Police Association, Oregon Narcotics Association, Oregon Robbery Association and of the Oregon Peace Officers Association.

He is the recipient of the Prestigious "L. Dale Morris Award", Oregon Crime Victim Network Service Award, Public Service Award and he also received a Certificate of Merit award.

Debra Pillette-Stephens served as a Middle School Teacher for 4 years, then a Marion County Deputy Sheriff for 1 year and Salem Police Officer for 7 years. During that time she worked patrol and Detectives. Debra then combined her teacher and law enforcement careers and has been a full time Criminal Justice Instructor for Chemeketa Community College since 1992.

At CCC Debra has been the program Chair for the Criminal Justice Program and over the years has taught hundreds of students who have later become Law Enforcement members.

Larry and Debra have been married since 1976 where they combined their strengths and experience in Law Enforcement into Education. They have been strong proponents of education and training so much that every year they have spearheaded the OPOA Scholarship. They have spent countless hours developing, reviewing and made recommendations for the scholarship recipients each year.

Due to the love and compassion that Larry and Debra Stephens have for the Oregon Peace Officers Association and the future of the Oregon Law Enforcement Profession all future OPOA Scholarships will be known as the Larry and Debra Stephens Academic Scholarship.