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The Central Washington University

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## Another admin resigns

*Paul Baker feels partially at fault for misuse of CWU credit cards*

by Joseph Siemandsl and Jason Davis  
Asst. News editor and Staff reporter

On Wednesday morning, Paul Baker, Central Washington University vice president of University Relations announced his resignation from Central effective on Feb. 29, 2008. According to Interim Vice President for University Relations Jen Gray, Baker stepped down to spend more time with family and because of the controversy surrounding the misuse of foundation credit cards.

"He holds himself personally accountable for letting this situation with Julie Cloninger get out of hand," Gray said.

Recently, two former University Relations staff members, Julie Cloninger, former vice president of development, and Nate Harris, a staff member with the alumni relations' office, were found to have abused funds on the Central foundation credit card. The amount of credit card funds abuse was more the \$10,000.

Baker, who ran the records from July 1, 2006, to Dec. 31, 2007, identified the \$8,850 in charges that Cloninger was responsible for. In the week since Cloninger's resignation, several reports have surfaced detailing not only the extent of the questionable charges but also the amount of time the university knew about the charges and their lack of disciplinary action.

According to a report describing an internal audit conducted by Margaret Smith of the CIA, charges were made between October 2004 and September 2007, ranging from personal clothing purchases to family vacations to Montana.

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## DSS students feel excluded during third week without transcribers

by Chelsea Krotzer  
News editor

At first glance, McKenna Tinker is similar to any other Central Washington University senior. She takes a full load of classes and is planning to graduate this spring with her bachelor's degree.

However, Tinker is not like all the rest. She, as well as several other Central students, has a hearing impairment. Since she was a child, she used her shoulder-length brown hair to cover up her "plastic ears" to avoid the taunting of classmates on the playground.

Those same plastic ears provided her the ability to hear something as simple as a cricket for the first time at the age of four.

"My Dad squatted down next to me and said, 'Can you hear that?'" Tinker said. "I didn't know what [crickets] sounded like before. It was the sweetest, most romantic sound."

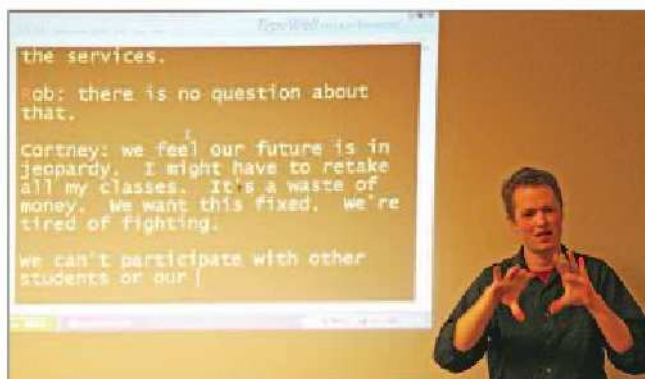
At 23, Tinker recently received a new pair of hearing aids and now has the ability to hear the click of a door handle for the first time.

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Photos by Buanne Jette/Observer

Tears fell last Tuesday afternoon during a meeting discussing the options for providing accommodations for Central's deaf and hearing-impaired students. From left: Cortney Peters, Mary Ebenal and Laurel Ebenal began to cry after Rob Harden, director of Disability Support Services and ADA compliance officer, left mid-meeting, claiming he didn't "want to intimidate" the students. Five transcribers gave their 24-hour notice on Feb. 11.



Translator Andrew Brune signs for several hearing-impaired students during last Tuesday's meeting. Next to him is a projection of the TypeWell system, used to aid DSS students.



Rob Harden addresses students' concerns during their meeting Tuesday.