Kelsey Mattsen
CASCADE CONFERENCE SCHOLAR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Whether she is defending the toughest opponents on the basketball court or conducting research in a world class medical lab, Warner Pacific graduate Kelsey Mattsen ’12 doesn’t back down from a challenge.

A Human Biology / Pre-Med major out of David Douglas High School, Mattsen was named the 2011-12 Cascade Collegiate Conference (CCC) Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year. The honor caps one of the most prolific careers in the history of WP athletics. Mattsen ranks second in all-time scoring for women’s basketball, and has twice been named First Team All-Conference and CCC Defensive Player of the Year.

In addition to her athletic success, the college named her the Most Outstanding Science major for the 2012 graduating class due to her work with the prestigious Murdock Scholars Program at Oregon Health Sciences University. The program, funded by the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, gives promising undergraduate science students lab experience at the Heart Research Center at OHSU.

Working in the lab of Dr. David Sahn and Dr. Muhammed Ashraf, Mattsen used 4D echocardiography to study the effects of surgically-induced anemia (lack of sufficient red blood cells) on the mitral valve in the hearts of fetal sheep. At the conclusion of the project, Mattsen – who had a grade point average of 3.75 – presented a paper summarizing her research. She is now looking ahead to nursing school.

“It was a lot of work, but I really appreciated the chance to perform hands-on research at OHSU inside one of the top labs in the country.”