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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 24, 2015**

### **Former Monroe High School Student Wins WSU Award a Year Early**

**Monroe, WA** – Washington State University's College of Engineering and Architecture has given the Outstanding Senior award to Monroe High School graduate and current WSU mechanical engineering student Carl Bunge. There's just one problem – he's a junior!

"As far as classes go, I'm considered a junior in the mechanical engineering department, but with credits I'm in the senior category," Bunge explained. "They had to pick through all of the seniors and technically I'm up there as a junior so it's cool – it's an awesome honor."

"Ever since I was a little guy, growing up on a family farm, anything with wheels really intrigued me," he said. "It's really the hands-on and diverse aspects of the mechanical engineering field that interests me, going from engineering a tractor to the 3-D high tech printing. I like being involved in something with such a wide scope of opportunities."

Last summer he interned with aerospace company Astronix, in Kirkland. "I was on the engineering team and this year they want me back." He was excited about the prospect of working with them again. "They're good people."

Bunge, the son of Annica and Dale Bunge, believes he was chosen for the WSU award because he has been able to keep a good balance of interests at school. "I'm involved in some of the student clubs on campus, and I go play basketball almost every day in addition to classes. But I think I'm really lucky because there's a whole bunch of other kids here doing just as well."

The WSU College of Engineering and Architecture gives out the Outstanding Senior award annually. Bunge joked that since he'd be eligible to win it again next year, they'd have to call him a "Super-Outstanding Senior".

"In high school I developed some good study habits that have carried through until now," he said. "Monroe really prepared me for how to be successful. Looking back on my high school years, it really was the foundation to be where I'm at now," Bunge noted. "Being involved in varsity basketball and in ASB, it prepared me to be involved and be well rounded here."