

# 2025 State of the College in Video

Clark College presented its annual State of the College address in a new video format featuring messages from Clark College President Dr. Karin Edwards, members of the Executive Cabinet, and ASCC President Gurraj Singh Dhimi. The address highlights key achievements across the college and reinforces Clark's commitment to student success.

Looking ahead, Clark College remains steadfast in its mission to advance education and equity while nurturing student success and driving economic growth in Southwest Washington.

President Edwards said, "In light of the current challenges facing higher education, we must remain true to our mission, values, students, and the community we serve."

## Watch the State of the College Video

### 2024 Highlights

#### Enrollment

- Increased by 1,000 students in 2024 and approaching pre-pandemic enrollment
- Our five Bachelor of Applied Science programs have greatly exceeded predicted enrollment.
- 23% of Clark students are high school students enrolled in Running Start
- More than 55% of our students plan to transfer to a four-year college, with the majority heading to

Washington State University Vancouver.

## Program Milestones

- Bachelor of Applied Science in Teacher Education (BASTE) program celebrated the graduation of its first cohort in spring 2024.
- Medical Assisting program earned accreditation in 2024.
- On-campus student activities signaled the rebound of a vibrant student life, with the Associated Students of Clark College (ASCC) reporting a 54% increase in participation from 2023.

## New Programs for In-demand Fields

Working with community employers and listening to our students, Clark has developed programs that are key for the growth and economic vitality of Southwest Washington. New academic and workforce program developments include new bachelor programs, healthcare pathways, and technology.

**Three new programs and one new campus launching this fall include:**

- **Surgical Technology** – Students can begin taking foundational classes in spring and summer terms.
- **Bachelor of Science in Computer Science** – Clark's first Bachelor of Science degree.
- **The Advanced Manufacturing program** will be housed in our new Advanced Manufacturing Center (AMC) at our Boschma Farms campus in Ridgefield. The program is undergoing final approval.
- **The AMC building** will have a soft launch on April 7 and an official opening in fall term.

# Supporting Success for Students

Clark College recognizes that our students need more than access to higher education. We also support our students through essential programs and wraparound services.

- 35% of Clark students are from low-income backgrounds
- 47% are the first in their family to attend college

## To further support our students

- Clark launched a new Basic Needs Hub in 2024.
- Clark's Penguin Pantry distributed over 54,000 pounds of food to 800 students' families in 2024.

## Other Initiatives outlined in the State of the College

**Investments in improvements in technology** provided data-driven decision-making and included a new, automated solution for identifying fraud, and the completion of a multi-year project for evaluating software accessibility.

**Student financial aid support:** Clark's Financial Aid office distributed more than \$31 million in federal aid to Clark students despite federal delays related to the FAFSA last year.

**Stable college finances:** In 2024 Clark earned more revenue and spent less than expected, contributing to an increase of \$1.8 million in the available fund balance which allowed for funding 6 new positions, increasing the instructional adjunct budget, and adding funding for tutoring and security improvements.

**Clark College Foundation** celebrated 50 years of supporting

Clark's success. Clark College Foundation has contributed \$90 million to Clark initiatives since its inception and rolled out two new funds to support student success and college innovation.

**Clark's accreditation renewal** is happening this fall. More than a requirement for federal financial aid, accreditation is a rigorous evaluation of quality and continuous improvement, ensuring that our college fulfills its mission and meets the highest standards to deliver exceptional educational opportunities to our students.

**Community invitation:** President Edwards invited the community to visit our lovely campus with wildflowers in the bee gardens, cherry trees in the Japanese Friendship Garden, and a robust offering of arts, theater, athletics, and community events.

**Thank You:** On behalf of Clark College, President Edwards expressed gratitude to the board of trustees, students, faculty, staff, community partners, and legislative representatives for their contributions to the college's mission to ensure that education remains equitable and accessible to all who seek to learn and grow. Through education, empowerment, and opportunity, Clark College continues to elevate individuals in achieving their personal and professional goals.