

Honoring she-roes



On March 7, while people around the world prepared to celebrate International Women's Day the next day, members of the local community gathered in Gaiser Student Center to honor five women's contributions to Southwest Washington at the 2019 Iris Awards.

Guests enjoyed refreshments and light fare provided by Beaches Restaurant as they celebrated the honorees. Ceremonies began with a greeting from Clark College President Bob Knight, after which the evening was turned over to emcee Colleen Boccia, chief marketing officer of Columbia Credit Union. Boccia introduced speeches by both the honorees and their nominators.

This year's Iris Award recipients were:

- Ann Fischer, founder of the Healthy Equitable Living Project
- Stacey Graham, president of the Humane Society for Southwest Washington
- Maureen Montague, executive director of Columbia Springs
- Rekah Strong, executive director of Educational Opportunities for Children and Families
- Lynn Valenter, vice chancellor for finance and operations at Washington State University Vancouver

This annual ceremony has a long tradition in this community. The event began in 1985 as a photography exhibit during Women's History Week, which later developed into a larger awards program and ceremony known as the Southwest Washington Women of Achievement Awards. In 2012, the event was reintroduced as the Iris Awards with the same core mission: honoring the women of Southwest Washington for their outstanding contributions in the categories of public, private, philanthropic, and civic service.

Ann Fischer



Ann Fischer and Diane Irby

The evening got off to an emotional start when Diane Irby took to the podium to describe her experience being a client of the Healthy Equitable Living Project, which Ann Fischer runs and founded.

“The pantry has fed my body quite well,” she said. “But the pure unselfish love [Ann] provided me has fed my soul and my heart and was something I didn’t even know I was starving for.

“The pantry keeps me alive,” Irby continued, facing Fischer directly, “but you make me want to *stay* alive.”

Fischer embraced Irby before beginning her own remarks, which centered on the work that HELP does providing food to families in need at 14 different schools. She spoke about the importance of not just providing people with food and assistance, but doing so in a way that allows them choice and dignity, mentioning how HELP sets up its food pantry so that clients can “shop”

for the groceries they prefer instead of receiving a pre-made box. Fischer also thanked the many volunteers and partners that support HELP, including Clark College nursing students who volunteered to provide clients with education on hygiene and first aid.

Fischer also made clear that it was not just the clients who benefited from HELP, but she herself found inspiration and motivation from the work. "The biggest gift you can give yourself is helping other people," she said.

Stacey Graham



Stacey Graham and Debra Hentz

The next honoree of the evening was Stacey Graham, president of the Humane Society for Southwest Washington. Before coming to HSSW, Graham had a long career that encompassed work in the Oregon State Legislature,

national public relations and advertising agencies, the United Way of Columbia-Willamette, and First Independent Bank. When she joined HSSW in 2013, she was charged with raising the level of awareness and visibility of the Humane Society in the local community and animal welfare industry; and dramatically increasing the save rate of the animals in care. Under her leadership, HSSW launched a five-year, \$6 million capital campaign. In 2018, HSSW was named the Best Nonprofit in Clark County.

“I’ve been a volunteer with HSSW for 20 years,” said nominator Debra Hentz. “One thing you see with people at humane societies is they say, ‘We want to focus on the animals.’ Stacey really focused on the people and building them up.”

Graham admitted that she wasn’t a born animal-lover. “I didn’t grow up with animals,” she said. “The first time I walked into the kennels, I was scared to death—that’s how I learned I was afraid of dogs. But I walked those kennels every day, and I learned to love dogs.”

Graham noted that caring about animals is part of caring about humanity, and noted that HSSW donated pet food to pantries like Ann Fischer’s. “We know how much animals mean to people,” she said. “We know they will give food to their animals before they feed themselves. So we’re hanging in there with you.”

Maureen Montague



Maureen Montague and Heidi Johnson Bixby

The next award presented was the H-RoC Iris Award, a special category created in 2017 to honor women in the community who have promoted civil discourse, teamwork, collaboration, and cooperation. H-RoC, a non-partisan political action committee dedicated to the advancement of elected and appointed female leaders in Southwest Washington, sponsors this annual award.

H-RoC member (and 2016 Iris Award recipient) Heidi Johnson Bixby introduced honoree Maureen Montague. Montague currently serves as the executive director of Columbia Springs, an environmental education nonprofit and protected urban natural area on the Old Evergreen Highway in Vancouver. Previous to this position, she was the co-founder and eventual executive director of

North Bank Artists.

Johnson Bixby described Montague as “the first to raise her hand to volunteer” and someone with a gift for collaboration and community-building.

Like most of the night’s honorees, Montague said she learned the value of community service from her family. She recalled watching her grandmother sewing a quilt with fellow church members to donate to a recently widowed woman to keep her warm during the winter, and feeling “the kindness of that good deed in my heart.”

“Community service, to me, means collective kindness,” she said. “These things add up. ... I’m blessed to live in Clark County, where so many people seem to understand this.”

Rekah Strong



Jada Rupley and Rekah Strong

The next honoree of the night was also nominated by a former honoree. Jada Rupley, 2004 Women of Achievement Award recipient, introduced Rekah Strong by noting that they currently served together on the Clark College Board of Trustees. She praised Strong for her dedication to the community, saying, "Thank you for being a gentle teacher, thank you for being a fierce advocate, and thank you for changing our community."

Strong is executive director of Educational Opportunities for Children and Families. Prior to that position, she served in leadership roles at the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette and at Clark County. Along with her work on the Clark College Board of Trustees, she serves on Clark County's Developmental Disability Advisory Board and is a former board member of We Reign Youth Foundation and Southwest Washington Chapter Red Cross.

Strong spoke about her experiences as a young child attending political events with her grandmother and mother, drawing with crayons and not entirely understanding why she was there, but even so learning the importance of public engagement. "What my grandmother was doing for me was pouring into me, and creating a template for me that would come full circle in my life," she said.

Strong also noted a theme that arose from her experiences: "Small yesses can have huge outcomes." As examples, she offered the time she said yes

to an employee who needed to bring her baby to work, which led to a program that served a dozen employees and became a model for other workplaces. Another “small yes” was agreeing to speak at an open forum about Clark County’s system of governance, which in turn led to her becoming part of the work group that changed the county’s Freeholder process and expanded the Clark County Council.

Strong also recounted providing her own children with crayons as she took them to public meetings—and how, years later, her daughter would volunteer to visit the State Capitol to advocate for others.

“You never know the ultimate outcome of modeling for others, of pouring into other people, and all those small yesses,” she said.

Lynn Valenter



Lynn Valenter and Renee Bartocci

The final honoree of the night was Lynn Valenter, vice chancellor for finance and operations at Washington State University Vancouver.

Valenter, who began her career at WSUV more than 20 years ago, now leads a range of functions including budget and accounting, capital planning, facilities operations, human resources, public safety, and dining services.

Valenter was introduced by WSUV Chief of Staff Renee Bartocci, who expressed her appreciation for her colleague's work ethic and enthusiasm. "She's there to be a partner, to bounce ideas off of, and to ask the hard questions," Bartocci said. "And she's really good at it."

Valenter thanked her family for supporting her work—both in her career and as a volunteer—acknowledging the difficulty women face when they try to manage the obligations of their families with those of their workplaces and communities. "For many, many years, the daily prayer was for balance," she said. Even so, she said the balancing act was worth it.

"I believe each of us finds satisfaction when we make a difference," she said. "That can be in your family, in your work, and in your community."

To view more photos from the event visit our [Flickr page](#).

How to stay safe during the measles outbreak



Health experts say that even one dose of vaccine could prevent the contraction of measles. *Photo courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control*

Clark County is experiencing an outbreak of measles. While the college has not identified any confirmed cases on campus at this time, we want to prepare our community members in the most proactive manner possible, and let you know about the steps you can take to protect yourself, your loved ones, and the Clark College community.

As of today, the current number of confirmed cases in Clark County is reported to be 63. On January 25, Gov. Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency in all counties.

- Recommendations from the Clark County Department of Public Health
- What would happen if a confirmed case of measles was discovered at Clark College
- If you are exposed to measles elsewhere
- How to stay informed

Recommendations

Here are recommendations from the Clark County Department of Public Health:

- Locate your vaccination records – specifically for MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
 - This may include documentation of blood titer tests (proving immunity)
 - If you are unsure of your vaccination status, contact your health provider
- If you are not protected, **get the MMR vaccination as soon as possible**. While not perfect, a single dose of the vaccine is 93 percent effective in protecting against measles; two doses are 97 percent effective. Importantly, getting even just the first dose of the vaccine now will prevent you from being excluded from the college, should a measles case be discovered here.
 - Those with health insurance should check with their health care provider to learn if your plan covers the cost of vaccines.
 - Students can get the vaccine at cost (\$70 per dose) at our Counseling and Health Center in the Health Sciences Building (HSC) room 124. If cost is a concern, please contact the Counseling and Health Center to discuss available options.
- Stay home if you are sick; pay attention to fevers
 - Symptoms of measles are:
 - Runny nose
 - Coughing
 - Conjunctivitis (red, itchy eyes)
 - Fever
 - Rash
 - Most of these symptoms may begin before the rash, and you are contagious as soon as any of these symptoms begin
- If you believe you may have measles symptoms, or develop

symptoms:

- Stay home
- Avoid public spaces if possible
- Call your doctor (do not sit in waiting rooms)
- If you have questions about vaccine efficacy or your own personal health risks, please contact your health care provider for advice.

If measles is discovered at Clark College

While there are still no confirmed cases at Clark College at this time, the outbreak's spread does bring up the question of what would happen if a case was discovered here.

If a case of measles was confirmed at a college location, Clark County Public Health could determine that any individual who was exposed and could not prove immunity would be excluded from the college for up to 21 days. (This process is called an "exclusion.") The college is working on details regarding how to keep students subject to an exclusion in class remotely (where appropriate) and how employees would report leave. However, the most effective way to prevent being part of an exclusion is **to proactively find your record of immunity and, if you do not have immunity, to get vaccinated as soon as possible.** (See Recommendations section above for more information.)

If you are exposed to measles outside of Clark College

Any individual who has been notified that they are part of a measles-exposure exclusion and who does not have documented proof of immunity to measles should consult with their health care provider for guidance. Students who do not have a health care provider may contact the college's Counseling and Health Center.

If a measles-exposure exclusion prevents someone from visiting Clark College locations, they should alert their instructor and/or supervisor. The college is examining options to allow excluded individuals to continue their studies and/or employment during an exclusion.

How to stay informed

If Clark College is notified of a confirmed case of measles at a college location, further communication will be shared via your Clark College email account. Depending on advice from Clark County Public Health, the college may also send alerts via our RAVE Alert system, the college's home page, and our Alerts web page.

Anyone

with questions about measles infection or the measles vaccine should call their

primary care provider or their local county health department:

- Clark County Public Health, 360.397.8021
- Skamania County Public Health, 509.427.3850
- Klickitat County Public Health, 509.773.4565
- Multnomah County Public Health, 503.988.3406
- Washington County Public Health, 503.846.3594
- Clackamas County Public Health, 503.655.8411

Some helpful links with more information

Clark County Public Health Latest Measles Updates:

<https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/measles-investigation>

Measles Basic Info Sheet

(available in multiple languages):

https://www.clark.wa.gov/sites/default/files/dept/files/public-health/CD/Resources/Measles_Basic_Info_english.pdf

CDC Measles FAQs:

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/about/faqs.html#am>

This article will continue to be updated as the college receives new information. It was last updated on Feb. 21, 2019.

Kelly Love joins Clark



Kelly Love

Clark College has hired Kelly Love as the college's new Chief Communications Officer. She begins working at Clark on Wednesday, March 20.

"Kelly

Love is a proven communicator and leader with a strong connection to the

Southwest Washington community," said Clark College President Robert K. Knight.

"I look forward to the insight she will bring to our leadership team as we

communicate about a wide range of new initiatives here at the college and

market our programs to an increasingly diverse community."

Love

comes to Clark College with a wide range of communications experience. For the

past three years, she's worked at Legacy Health as a public relations

specialist at Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center and Legacy Cancer Institute.

Prior to that, she served five years as CEO of the Greater Vancouver Chamber of

Commerce. Love also served as U.S. Representative Brian Baird's District

Director from 2005 to 2010. She began her career as a broadcast news reporter

at KGW TV in Portland.

"I'm a

lifelong learner and have been fortunate to have such varied jobs," Love said.

"They share a core value: serving the community. I'm thrilled to join the team

at Clark College supporting our students, faculty, and staff."

A

longtime resident of Vancouver, Love is an alumna of Clark College. She earned

her bachelor's degree in communications from Washington State University

Vancouver. She currently serves on the boards of The Children's Center,

Columbia Credit Union, and Pink Lemonade Project. Additionally, she has served

on the boards of the Association of Washington Business, Southwest Washington

Workforce Development, Leadership Clark County, Cascadia Tech Academy and the

Council for the Homeless of Clark County Washington. Love is a member of the

Poet Laureate visits Clark



Claudia Castro Luna

The Clark College Columbia Writers Series continues its 2018-2019 season with noted poet Claudia Castro Luna. This event, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Thursday, January 31, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Gaiser Hall room 213 on Clark College's main campus.

Claudia Castro Luna is the **Washington State Poet Laureate**. She served as **Seattle's Civic Poet** from 2015-2017 and is the author of the Pushcart-nominated *Killing Mariás* (Two Sylvias Press) and *This City*, (Floating Bridge Press) and the creator of the acclaimed Seattle Poetic Grid. Born in El Salvador, she came to the United States in 1981. She has a Master of Arts degree in Urban Planning, a teaching certificate, and a Master of Fine Arts in poetry. Her poems have appeared in *Poetry Northwest*, *La Bloga*, *Dialogo* and *Psychological Perspectives*, among others. Her non-fiction work can

be read in several anthologies, among them *This Is The Place: Women Writing About Home*, (Seal Press). Castro Luna is currently working on a memoir, *Like Water to Drink*, about her experience escaping the civil war in El Salvador. Living in English and Spanish, she writes and teaches in Seattle. Since 2009, she maintains **Cipota bajo la Luna**, a blog with reflections, writing, and reviews.

The Columbia

Writers Series was launched at Clark College in 1988, bringing local, national and international authors to the college and the region. This year's lineup of authors will continue with:

Winter

- February 2019 (date TBA): Elizabeth McCracken, award-winning fiction writer.

Spring

- May 20, 2019: Alexis Madrigal, author, journalist, and staff writer at *The Atlantic*.
- May 21, 2019: Gina Oschner, award-winning author and Clark alumna
- May 22, 2019: Release of *Phoenix*, Clark College's award-winning arts and literary journal

Information

about the Columbia Writers Series is available at www.clark.edu/cc/cws.

This

event is held on Clark College's main campus at 1933 Ft. Vancouver Way. Directions and maps are available online. Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP). The DSS office is located in room 013 in Clark's Penguin Union Building.

President Knight announces retirement



President Robert K. Knight

President Robert K. Knight has announced that he plans to retire at the end of the 2018-2019 contract year on August 31.

“On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, I want to thank President Knight for his exemplary service during his 13 years leading Clark College,” said Royce Pollard, chair of the Clark College Board of Trustees. “For more than a decade, he has provided stability and vision that has allowed the college to grow, adapt, and serve its community.”

Knight joined Clark in 2004 as Vice President of Administrative Services. In 2006, he was named acting president, and a year later was named president. During his tenure, he has overseen many changes at the college, including the opening of its Columbia Tech Center location in 2009, a new STEM Building in 2016, and the development of the college’s first three Bachelor of Applied Science degree programs.

Knight publicly announced his retirement on January 18, the day after delivering his annual State of the College address, in which he shared the news of the college’s recent successful accreditation process.

President Knight will continue to serve as president until his retirement date.

“While this is a decision that my wife and I have been weighing for some time, I wanted to see the college through its accreditation process before informing trustees and Executive Cabinet,” Knight wrote in an email to college employees this morning. “Now that our review is complete and the college has received commendations in six areas, I feel comfortable that I am leaving this institution on firm footing.”

Pollard said that the Board of Trustees will begin the work of selecting a replacement for President Knight at a special board meeting to be announced soon.

Read the full text of President Knight's email below:

Dear college community,

As many of you know, I have spent 15 years working at Clark. It has been a privilege and an honor to lead the college for more than a decade, and I am proud of the work we have done together to serve our students and our community.

So it is with mixed emotions that I announce that I will be retiring at the end of my contract year on August 31.

While this is a decision that my wife and I have been weighing for some time, I wanted to see the college through its accreditation process before informing trustees and Executive Cabinet. Now that our review is complete and the college has received commendations in six areas, I feel comfortable that I am leaving this institution on firm footing.

The Board of Trustees will be holding a special meeting, to be announced soon, to begin the process of seeking new leadership for the college. I have the utmost faith in their ability to steward the college safely through this period of transition and to find the right leadership to guide Clark into the future. In the meantime, I am committed to spending the next seven months ensuring that the college continues to work toward fulfilling its mission.

Please know that I will continue to support Clark and be a part of its community, even after I retire. After all, once a member of the Penguin Nation, always a member of the Penguin Nation.

Thank you,

*Bob Knight
President*

Knight delivers State of the College Jan. 17



Clark College President Robert K. Knight will deliver the annual State of the College address on Thursday, Jan. 17 at 11:00 a.m. in Gaiser Student Center.

During his speech, President Knight will address the college's ongoing work to better meet the needs of students and the community. Among the things he will highlight are the college's progress on implementing the "Guided Pathways" model of higher education. He will also convey the excitement created by fresh voices in the college's leadership and by an ambitious new fundraising campaign launched by the Clark College Foundation. Additionally, he will update the community on the college's progress toward implementing its five-year Social Equity Plan.

President Knight will also showcase the achievements of the college's highly regarded academic and technical programs, including the launch of its third bachelor's degree program,

the recognition of its Pharmacy Technician program as No. 1 in the country, and the historic significance of the college's nursing program graduating its 130th class. He will also share the findings of the college's accreditation report, which was recently released by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

Looking ahead, President Knight will advocate for the Washington State Legislature to pass a capital budget that provides for much-needed improvements in the state community and technical college system, including Clark College's new advanced-manufacturing training center at the Clark College at Boschma Farms location in Ridgefield. He will also explain the need for the Legislature to pass an operating budget that addresses longstanding salary inequities in the system.

The State of the College address, which is free and open to the public, will take place at 11:00 a.m. in Gaiser Student Center on the college's main campus. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. and seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Clark College is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver, Wash. Driving directions and parking maps are available at www.clark.edu/maps.

If you need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event, you should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP), or visit Penguin Union Building room 013, as soon as possible.

Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Nominations open for 2019 Iris Awards



Nominations are now being accepted for the 2019 Iris Awards, which honor outstanding women in Southwest Washington. The winners will be announced at the end of January, and the recipients will be honored at a

reception and ceremony on Wednesday, March 7, 2019, from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in Clark College's Gaiser Student Center. Tickets will go on sale in January.

Award criteria and nominations forms are available at www.clark.edu/cc/irisawards. Nominations must be received by January 11, 2019. A list of past award recipients can be found

at <http://www.clark.edu/campus-life/arts-events/iris/iris-award-honorees.php>.

The Iris Awards follow in the tradition of the Southwest Washington Women of Achievement Awards, which began in 1985 at Clark College. In 2012, the event was reintroduced as the Iris Awards, still celebrated on or around International Women's Day (March 8) and with the same core mission: honoring the lasting and far-reaching contributions of women in Southwest Washington and beyond.

One Iris Award recipient may be selected in each of four areas: service in the public sector; service in the private sector; philanthropic leadership; and leadership in the promotion of civil discourse, teamwork, collaboration and cooperation. This last category is a new addition to the Iris Awards, sponsored by H-RoC, a non-partisan political action committee dedicated to the advancement of elected and

appointed women leaders in Southwest Washington.

Anyone may submit a nomination, and more than one person can fill out a nomination form or provide letters of recommendation for the same nominee.

This year's awards are sponsored by Clark College, the Clark College Foundation, the *Vancouver Business Journal*, the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, and H-RoC.

Helping student parents



Clark College recently received a \$496,800 grant to help low-income parents pursue higher education.

The grant, which will be disbursed over four years, comes from

the U.S. Department of Education's CCAMPIS (Child Care Access Means Parents in School) program. The bulk of it will be used to subsidize child care in the college's Child and Family Studies program for Pell Grant-eligible student-parents. About one-quarter of Clark students have dependent children, and 43 percent are low-income.

"We are thrilled to be able to take this step forward in serving our student-parents with the CCAMPIS Student Parent Support Program," said Clark College Child & Family Studies Director Michele Volk. "We know that child care can be a barrier for many people who would like to go to college, so having safe, high-quality, and affordable early-childhood care and education right here on campus can help these students succeed and create brighter futures for their whole families."

According to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, only 33 percent of students with children complete a degree or certificate within six years; for single mothers, the rate is 28 percent. One study showed that student-parents who used their college's on-campus child care services were more than three times as likely to graduate on time as those who did not. At a time when many colleges across the country are shutting down their child-care centers, this grant will allow Clark College to expand its services to more students.

Founded during World War II as a parents' cooperative, Clark College's Child & Family Studies program has evolved into a full-scale child care center providing care to children ages 12 months to 5 years. Serving more than 123 families per quarter, it also serves as a learning lab for the college's Early Childhood Education program.

Student parents can receive CCAMPIS-funded subsidies through an application process and could begin receiving subsidized child care as soon as the beginning of winter quarter on January 7. CFS hopes to serve 40 student families during the first year of the grant.

Clark College hosts Dr. Fumiaki Kubo



Dr. Fumiaki Kubo

Clark College will host a renowned Japanese academic for a lecture on Japan-U.S. relations on Thursday, December 6, at 11:00 a.m. This event, which is free and open to the public, will be held in Gaiser Hall room 213, located on Clark College's main campus at 1933 Ft. Vancouver Way. The closest parking is in the Green Lot. Directions and maps are available online.

Dr. Fumiaki Kubo will give a lecture entitled "U.S.-Japan Relations under Trump and Abe: Challenges and Hopes." This event is sponsored by the Consular Office of Japan in Portland.

Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at

360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP). The DSS office is located in room 013 in Clark's Penguin Union Building.

About Professor Fumiaki Kubo

Dr. Fumiaki Kubo has been the A. Barton Hepburn Professor of American Government and History at the Graduate Schools for Law and Politics of the University of Tokyo since 2003. He is affiliated with the Japan Institute for International Affairs as a Visiting Scholar, as well as the Tokyo Foundation as a Senior Research Scholar. He studied at Cornell University in 1984-1986, Johns Hopkins University in 1991-1993, and Georgetown University and the University of Maryland in 1998-99. In addition, he was an Invited Professor at SciencesPo in Paris in the spring of 2009, and a Japan Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in 2014.

Dr. Kubo attended the Faculty of Law at the University of Tokyo and received his B.A. in 1979 and Ph.D. in 1989. He is the author of many books which include: *Modern American Politics* (with Hitoshi Abe), *Ideology and Foreign Policy After Iraq in the United States*, and *A Study on the Infrastructure of American Politics*. In 1989, he received the Sakurada-Kai Gold Award for the Study of Politics and the Keio Gijuku Award.

In 2001 and 2002, Dr. Kubo served on the Prime Minister's Commission on the Study of Direct Election System of the Prime Minister. Since 2007, Dr. Kubo has been a member of the U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON). In February, 2015, he became a member of the Japan-US Educational Commission. From June, 2016, he is the President of the Japanese Association for American Studies.

Paul Speer named to Board of Trustees



Paul Speer

Paul Speer has been appointed to the Clark College Board of Trustees by Gov. Jay Inslee. His appointment began October 31, 2018, and ends September 30, 2023. His first board meeting is tomorrow, Wednesday, November 14.

“Paul has deep roots in Clark County and a diverse background that will be a great asset to the Clark College Board of Trustees,” Gov. Inslee said. “He has skills in strategic planning, fundraising and capacity building and I know that he will help the college achieve its strategic plan and vision.”

A resident of Clark County for the past 37 years, Speer has long demonstrated a commitment to his community. He has volunteered or is currently volunteering with almost 20 different organizations, including on boards of The Historic Trust, Oregon Public Broadcasting, Social Venture Partners International, Leadership Clark County, and the Nonprofit Network Southwest Washington; and advisory boards of iUrban Teen, Cascadia Tech Academy, and the Superintendent’s

Management Task Force for Vancouver Public Schools. He has chaired the University of Portland's Engineering Dean's Advisory Council and its Franz Center for Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation board; the City of Vancouver's Aviation Advisory Committee; and the Pearson Field Education Center.

Currently, Speer is an executive advisor and coach who also appears as a guest lecturer and panelist on topics including leadership, new business creation, business planning, venture philanthropy, sustainable energy, and encore careers. He has a long career in the tech industry, including more than 25 years at Hewlett-Packard Company, where he retired as Vice President of Development Strategy in the Office of Strategy and Technology.

Speer earned his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree and his Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Portland. He earned his Master of Science in Aeronautics degree from Embry-Riddle University. Among his many awards and recognitions are his 2009 Outstanding Alumni Award from Leadership Clark County and his 2013 Pilot of the Year award from the Washington Pilots Association.

Speer joins other trustees Royce Pollard, Jane Jacobsen, Jada Rupley, and Rekah Strong.

About Clark College

Located in Vancouver's Central Park and serving more than 10,000 students per quarter, Clark College is Southwest Washington's oldest public institution of higher education. The college currently offers classes at two satellite locations: one on the Washington State University Vancouver campus and one in the Columbia Tech Center in East Vancouver. Additionally, its Economic & Community Development program is housed in the Columbia Bank building in downtown Vancouver.

