

Jacobsen named new trustee



Jane Jacobsen

Jane Jacobsen has been appointed to the Clark College Board of Trustees by Gov. Jay Inslee. Her term began February 23 and ends September 30, 2019.

“I am thrilled and honored to have been named a trustee of Clark College,” said Jacobsen. “It is an integral part of our community and essential for an increasing number of students.”

A resident of Vancouver for the past 27 years, Jacobsen has long been an influential presence in the Pacific Northwest. She was the founding executive director of the Confluence Project (now known simply as Confluence), which creates educational art installations in Washington and Oregon that connect people with places. Jacobsen led that organization for 12 years and now serves as its board treasurer.

Jacobsen was instrumental in bringing nationally recognized speakers to Vancouver’s Marshall Lecture Series, including Bill Richardson, Madeline Albright and Tom Brokaw. Jacobsen has also co-developed programs and exhibits to celebrate the history of the Pacific Northwest through folk art. In 2001,

commission



Dolly England

Clark College is pleased to announce that Dolly England, Diversity Outreach Manager, was recently appointed to the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs by Gov. Jay Inslee. As a commissioner for Southwest Washington, England will help shape policy and understanding regarding African-Americans in Washington State.

“Dolly England’s appointment to this important commission is a wonderful example of the important roles Clark College employees play in serving our community,” said Clark College President Robert K. Knight. “I am sure she will bring a wealth of insight and energy to the commission, just as she has done here at Clark.”

England, who has more than 15 years of experience working in community health and is the former vice president of the Vancouver NAACP, joined Clark College in January to help guide the college’s efforts to attract and retain diverse employees. Creating the Diversity Outreach Manager position is just one step in Clark’s effort to ensure the college continues to attract the best and brightest employee candidates. As part of this role, England is leading several efforts to expand and modernize the college’s outreach to potential new candidates.

Some highlights of these new outreach efforts include:

- Members of the Clark's Human Resources staff have begun attending regional community events and career fairs—totaling more than 15 by the end of 2015.
- Human Resources staff will attend national career fairs during the key faculty recruitment period of November – January.
- The college has recently contracted with social recruitment vendor CareerArc to strategically expand its job postings into the realm of social media.
- The college has set an ambitious new goal of ensuring the candidate pool for each new job opening is at least 25 percent diverse, a description which includes race, color, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, creed, and veteran status.
- Clark College is a participant in the newly formed Southwest Washington Community Human Resources Group, which was developed by local employers to share and develop strategies to diversify recruitment both within their respective organizations and in the region as a whole.

“This is an exciting time for Clark College,” says England. “By expanding our reach and using some of the same tools Fortune 500 companies use to recruit the best and brightest candidates from across the country, we can ensure that Clark is building a workforce that will maintain its high reputation for decades to come.”

Clark College employs 1,600 employees. As a nonprofit Washington State institution, Clark College offers faculty and staff the opportunity to serve the community by guiding individuals to achieve their educational and professional goals. The college also offers many attractive benefits for potential employees, including its location in the heart of the Pacific Northwest; its beautiful, 101-acre campus; access

to discounted classes; fitness center membership; on-site child care; ample opportunities for professional development; high-quality teaching facilities; and teaching-focused faculty.

Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Meet the Coaches



With their low tuition rates and open-door enrollment policies, community colleges have long been a way for students of all socioeconomic backgrounds to pursue higher education and career advancement. However, students experiencing poverty often face challenges that go beyond paying for school. Financial hardship can turn anything from transportation to

Internet access into a potential obstacle that could derail a student's plans.

That's why Clark College recently hired four new Resource Coaches to help students remain successful and supported all the way through their educational journey. The coaches were hired through a Working Families Success Network grant announced earlier this year, with supplementation from a grant from the Community Foundation of Southwest Washington, and are part of a collegewide effort to improve Clark's support and understanding of students in poverty.

"We want these coaches to be a resource not just for our students, but for our employees as well," said Associate Director of Workforce Education Services Armetta Burney. "Our hope is that, when staff or faculty encounter a student who seems to be overwhelmed by poverty-related challenges, they'll know that they can refer the student to one of our coaches for help."

According to most-recent data, almost half of Clark's students are low-income, and almost three-quarters of them are first-generation students. These students may lack stable housing or a quiet place to study. They may have difficulty affording basic school supplies, or child care, or transportation to and from school. Additionally, college can feel very lonely for these students. Because they're the first to attend college, they may not feel like they can turn to their family or friends for support or advice; meanwhile, they may feel alienated from classmates and faculty who don't understand the unique challenges they face.

These four new Resource Coaches are meant to change that dynamic. Now, when a student is making the transition from basic education courses to credit-bearing college ones, they'll have support from a Transitional Studies Coach during the process. When they're struggling to afford housing or food, the Workforce Education Services Coach can help them

apply for public benefits and connect with community organizations. If college becomes overwhelming and their grades begin to slip, the Retention and Career Coach can help them get back on track. And if they find their finances stretched thin, the Financial Literacy Coach can help them set up a budget and figure out strategies to make the most out of their financial resources.

While many of these services have been available at the college in different forms, the coaches add a personal relationship that can help keep at-risk students from slipping through the cracks.

“We almost never talk to a student just once,” explains Transitional Studies Coach Nicole Hopkins. “After we meet with a student, we call them back. And I will call them again and again if I have to: ‘Hey, how are you doing? Are you working on that plan we figured out for you?’ I am happy to walk students across the street to someone’s office if I think they need more help after our meeting.”

Additionally, the Resource Coaches serve as advocates to the rest of the college, sharing their students’ perspectives and working to make Clark a more inclusive environment. They offer workshops to Clark faculty and staff on how to communicate with students experiencing poverty, including one held during the college’s first-ever Teaching and Learning Days in August. The additional grant from the Community Foundation of Southwest Washington funds the Financial Literacy Coach’s work teaching workshops on financial resources and skills to students in order to help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

“We want to help remove the stigma and misperceptions about poverty, both here at Clark and within our broader community,” says Director of Career Services Edie Blakley. “We see it as part of the college’s role as a learning institution.”

Meet the Coaches



Nicole, Transitional Studies Coach

Nicole works with students enrolled in Clark's Transitional Studies program—which includes English as a Second Language, Adult High School Diploma, and GED Preparation—as they transfer into credit-bearing courses at the college. When students come in to meet her, she helps them assess which resources they have, and which they lack, to succeed at Clark. She discusses their personal and educational goals and helps them identify potential barriers, connecting them to resources that might help diminish those barriers. Often she guides them through options like I-BEST and Learning Communities that could help them enter college successfully. And she helps them with college logistics like testing and registration.

Nicole calls her job “exciting and inspiring,” adding, “each one of us has our own story, and it is my privilege to be a part of someone’s story. I get the opportunity to help students move past the barriers on their journey toward success and the best part is, I get to celebrate with them as they reach each goal.”

Contact: TBG 209; M-F 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; nhopkins@clark.edu



Angelica, Workforce Education Services Coach

Angelica works primarily with students enrolled in Workforce Education programs, which help low-income and unemployed individuals earn vocational/technical degrees and certificates. She helps guide these students through college processes, from applying for financial aid to setting up their student email. With years of experience working with people experiencing poverty, she can help connect students to support services both inside and outside the college so they can focus on their education.

“My position excites me because I am able to provide information to students about resources that they may not have been aware of,” Angelica says. “I love to see students grow and develop into professionals as they complete their degrees at Clark. I have been able to build lasting relationships with students that go beyond degree attainment.”

Contact: GHL 128; T 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., W 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., Th 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; WESCoach@clark.edu



Craig, Financial Literacy Coach

Attending college brings with it a whole slew of financial challenges. For a person who's used to living paycheck to paycheck, receiving a quarter's worth of financial aid at one time can be difficult to manage. Books, fees, and equipment can cost hundreds of dollars. Craig's job is to help students manage their budgets and avoid common pitfalls. He helps them check their credit scores and shop for the best bank or credit card to fit their needs. He works with them to develop plans to work through any debt or financial challenges they currently have, as well as long-term plans to help them create a solid financial foundation from which to build. Additionally, Craig regularly holds workshops on financial literacy through the Career Center and the Library.

"I enjoy helping students understand how to make money work for them, thereby bringing them closer to attaining their dreams," he says.

Contact: PUB 002; M-F 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; cebersole@clark.edu



Alex, Retention & Career Coach

Most students come to Alex for one of two reasons: Either they're not sure where they want to go, or they've hit a stumbling block on the road to get there. Alex helps students explore careers and academic fields that fit their skills and interests, and then create a plan to reach their chosen goal. Additionally, she helps students whose grades have triggered an Academic Early Warning, helping them take the steps they need to get their grades back on track without jeopardizing their financial aid. She takes a holistic look at their lives, helping connect them with services that can help them with not just their academic challenges but their personal ones as well.

"I think being a former Clark student myself helps me understand what these students are going through," says Alex, who earned her associate degree in 2009 before transferring to Portland State University for her bachelor's. "What excites me about this position is the opportunity to support students in accessing and using relevant campus and community resources, help prioritize their success and set strong, personalized goals, and ultimately tie these skills to their future career goals."

*Contact: HSC 124; T & W 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Th 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.;
amartin@clark.edu*

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Emergency Drill on Main Campus



Clark College and the Vancouver Police Department will conduct a joint training exercise around the Health Sciences Building on Clark College's main campus on August 26.

On Wednesday, August 26, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., individuals on or near the Clark College main campus will notice a high level of police activity as Clark College partners with the Vancouver Police Department on a joint exercise.

During the exercise, the Health Sciences Building and the

Brown Parking Lot will be closed. There will be a high concentration of police activity in the area as the groups work together on a daylong scenario.

This exercise builds on the college's ongoing security efforts and helps strengthen ties with the Vancouver Police Department. In preparation for the exercises, the VPD is reaching out to affected neighborhoods, and on campus the college is making sure that all groups affected are informed in advance of the event.

There will be no live weapons used in the drills, nor will there be unusual amounts of noise or simulated explosions. Most individuals should not be affected other than seeing an unusually high number of VPD officers.

This drill is intended to help both the college and the police improve their emergency response procedures.

Clark College's main campus is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way. The Brown Lot and Health Sciences Building are located in the northeast corner of the campus, south of Water Works Park and east of E. Reserve St. at E. 18th St.

Notice of Public Hearing



A hearing will be held at the May 27, 2015 meeting of the Clark College Board of Trustees for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on proposed revisions to rules for inclusion in the Washington Administrative Code. The rules are titled chapter 132N-300-001 and 132N-300-010, Non-discrimination and harassment statement of policy and grievance procedure and chapter 132N-125-035, Code of student conduct prohibited student conduct.

The proposed revisions are necessary to comply with the latest Title IX, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and Campus SaVE requirements.

The hearing will be held on May 27, 2015 at the Board of Trustees meeting. The meeting will be held in the Ellis Dunn Community Room, GHL 213, at 5:00 p.m. Persons wishing to submit written comments may send them to Bob Williamson, Vice President of Administrative Services, Clark College, MS BRD 159, 1933 Ft. Vancouver Way, Vancouver, WA 98663 by May 25, 2014. Written comments may also be faxed to (360) 992-2884 or e-mailed to bwilliamson@clark.edu.

Update on ctclink

As the new Clark ctclink Project Director, I am pleased to relay the good news we received from the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges: Clark College's Go Live date for ctclink (i.e., PeopleSoft) has been deferred to August of 2016. This additional time will benefit Clark for the following reasons:

- Since most of our current student and business processes are based on our 40-year-old legacy management systems, the college now has the time to plan and implement more effective and efficient processes that will fully utilize PeopleSoft's capabilities.
- The college now has the time to correct inaccuracies and duplications within our current system. This will enable us to start anew with clean data.
- We have the time to learn from the FirstLink colleges' transition, receive appropriate training, and identify clear expectations for each employee group in how PeopleSoft will impact our work. The FirstLink colleges (Tacoma Community College and Community Colleges of Spokane) will go live in August 2015.

The Clark ctclink project timeline has been adjusted:

- April 1 through October 1: Clark is taking a break from large scale discussions about ctclink as a few teams focus on specific tasks which will prepare us for the project.
 - The Technology and Security Team will continue to work on an overall strategy to solidify Clark College's data security plan.
 - The Alignment Team will continue to work on

aligning student and business processes with PeopleSoft.

- The room scheduling software (R25) will be replaced with 25Live—a component of PeopleSoft. The new software has better functionality and can be implemented independent of PeopleSoft.
- October 1, 2015: A new ClarkNet site for ctcLink will be launched to keep the college informed.
- After October 1, 2015: The other teams, Communication, Training, and Go Live Weekend, will resume.

I am confident that PeopleSoft will be implemented; this will not be another Rehosting scenario. If you have questions about the project at this stage, please direct them to me and/or check out <https://connect.clark.edu/sites/ctclink>.

Demolition Begins Near Main Campus



Demolition work will begin the week of March 30 on the corner of Fourth Plain Blvd. and Fort Vancouver Way on the northwest end of Clark College's main campus. The buildings and the property being demolished are owned by Clark College Foundation.

The future of the corner will have several phases. After the demolition, some of the space will be converted into parking, which will help to offset parking losses due to the construction of the college's new 70,000 square-foot STEM building and remodeling of a culinary facility on the Clark College campus.

Long term, the corner of Fourth Plain Blvd. and Fort Vancouver Way is part of the Facilities Master Plan at the college and many options are under consideration. One option is for the foundation or college to partner with a developer to develop the property, but the location currently has no funding identified for any project or specific use.

The demolition will run through approximately April 3, 2015.

Weaving a Stronger Safety Net



Clark College has received a major grant toward the college's efforts to help low-income students complete their education. Work is already underway on the three-year Working Families Success Network (WFSN) grant, which provides \$100,000 per year to hire staff and equip them to work with students.

WFSN is a program of Achieving the Dream, a partnership of seven nonprofit organizations that has grown to become the largest non-governmental reform movement working in higher education today. Achieving the Dream works at 200 higher education institutions in 34 states and the District of Columbia helping nearly 4 million college students realize greater economic opportunity.

Through the WFSN grant, Clark College will have an opportunity to provide more support to students in the areas of financial literacy, career services and gaining access to public benefits. "One of our goals is to remove the stigma and

mystery surrounding some of the public benefits that students may be eligible for," Armetta Burney, Associate Director of Workforce Education Services, said. She explained that the grant allows the college to hire four part-time coaches to work one-on-one with students, helping them to access resources and manage their finances as they reach for their educational goals.

"We also have an effort underway to help faculty and staff understand how to direct and encourage low-income students," Burney added. "This is a large issue for the college as a whole, as 47 percent of Clark College students are classified as low-income." Burney added that there are many ways for faculty and staff to encourage students, but one of the easiest is to share the website www.washingtonconnection.org, which helps students quickly and easily determine their eligibility for public benefits.

The grant parameters state a goal of reaching 25 percent of low-income students with both high- and low-touch services by the end of the three-year grant. High-touch services include one-on-one interactions like financial coaching, career coaching, or assistance with access to public benefits. Low-touch services include workshops, classes and general information on resources and services provided by the college.

"We know that far too many of our students are just one financial crisis away from dropping out of school, and that once they drop out it can be incredibly difficult for them to return," said Edie Blakley, Director of Career Services. "With this grant, Clark College will be able to help more of these students weave a safety net for themselves that can allow them to stay focused on their long-term goals and create a plan for their financial wellness during and after college"

Strategic Plan Approved



The Clark College Board of Trustees approved the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan on Wednesday night during its monthly board meeting. The Board's approval is the final step in the approval process, and the campus will begin implementing the new strategic plan right away. According to Associate Vice President for Planning Effectiveness Shanda Diehl, the college has already begun to implement elements of the plan, as the final approval represents two years of discussion and work at the college to clarify the mission, vision, themes and values that will guide the campus over the next five years.

The updated vision statement for the college is, "Clark College inspires learners to excel, transforms lives, and strengthens our increasingly diverse community."

The updated mission is, “Clark College, in service to the community, guides individuals to achieve their educational and professional goals.”

Beyond the mission and vision, the college developed core themes to guide its priorities for the coming five years:

- **Academic Excellence:** Facilitate student learning by providing the conditions for intellectual growth through scholarship, discovery, application, creativity, and critical thinking.
- **Social Equity:** Facilitate student learning by providing the conditions that improve educational outcomes and eliminate systemic disparities among all groups.
- **Economic Vitality:** Facilitate student learning by providing programs, services, and conditions that improve the economic well-being of the students, college, and community.
- **Environmental Integrity:** Facilitate student learning by providing the conditions that continually improve the college’s physical, virtual, and social environment.

The complete strategic plan, along with many documents that led to its creation, can be found at: http://www.clark.edu/clark-and-community/about/strategic_plan/index.php.

Expanding Our Future



President Knight welcomes guests to his 2015 State of the College Address.

“Over the past year, we have seen many successes and we have seen many things that seemed like a dream or a far-off vision come to fruition.” So began President Bob Knight’s 2015 State of the College Address, held January 15 in Gaiser Student Center, in a speech full of hope and celebration.

As President Knight pointed out, there was much to celebrate: the successful completion of the Clark College Foundation’s capital campaign, the beginning of the long-delayed construction of a new STEM building, the introduction of the college’s first-ever bachelor’s degree, the acquisition of land for a new North County campus, the expansion of services in the Columbia Gorge, and much more.



Left to right, Clark College Foundation CEO and President Lisa Gibert, Bernice and Hank Boschma, and Clark College President Bob Knight at the 2015 State of the College Address.

Regarding the North County campus, Knight noted that Hank and Bernice Boschma were sitting in the audience and thanked them publicly for the donation of land that made the North Campus location possible. Knight also announced that there would be a public monument on the new campus that told the story of the Boschma Family, who moved to Ridgefield from the Netherlands and began a successful dairy farm.

“As we look to North County we are inspired by what the Boschma family created and we are looking for the next opportunities that will allow people to live, be successful, and contribute to the community of Southwest Washington,” he said. “That is why we are looking at Clark College at Boschma Farms as a possible center for advanced manufacturing and medical programs.”

Knight also took the opportunity to unveil the final draft of the college’s 2015-2020 Strategic Plan, which is undergoing a final round of public feedback before being presented to the college’s Board of Trustees for approval. “A key change from our old Strategic Plan is that we don’t just want to be a place that welcomes students in,” he explained. “We want to be

a learning college where people come and complete their educational goals.”



President Knight thanks 99-year old professor emeritus and WWII veteran John Deurwaarder for his service to the college and the country.

As is his tradition during the State of the College, Knight also awarded Presidential Coins to exceptional staff and faculty members in honor of their service. Early during his address, he also presented a coin to Professor Emeritus John Deurwaarder, who celebrates his 100th birthday in May.

At the end of his address, President Knight urged guests to make sure others know about the future plans and current accomplishments at the college. “You’re here because you care about Clark College and you care about our community,” he said. “You need to help tell the story about this wonderful asset in our community.”

See more photos from the State of the College on Flickr.

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley