

Clark College announces plans for fall



Students, classes, and services will return to Clark College's main campus and other locations in fall 2021 as part of a gradual return to on-site operations. *Photo: Clark College/Amy Tam*

Clark College announced today its plans for fall term and the first phase of its return to on-site operations.

Earlier today, President Karin Edwards announced the following:

- **The college will strongly encourage students and employees to get vaccinated against Covid-19, but will not require vaccinations.**
- **For the time being, everyone on campus must wear an appropriate face covering and observe social distancing requirements, which are now 3 feet in most circumstances. This policy (and the exact definition of safe social distancing) may change as fall term progresses, based on evolving guidance from the**

state.

- Additionally, the college will continue with its plan for a **gradually phased-in restoration of on-site activities and operations**, with some employees, services, and events returning during fall term, and more employees, services, and events returning in the 2022 winter term.

In spring term, the college announced that roughly one-third of its fall classes would have an on-campus component.

The college's decisions follow guidance from Gov. Jay Inslee's proclamation covering higher education, which was issued on June 30 and revised on July 12. They also incorporate feedback from the college's staff and faculty unions, student government, and interdepartmental planning groups focused on the college's recovery and return to on-site operations.

"Our students and our employees need to know the college's way forward in order to plan for the future," said Dr. Edwards. "At the same time, we need to remain ready to adapt to the ever-evolving realities of this pandemic and its effects. We will continue to carefully monitor the situation and provide information about fall term as we further develop our plans—always with a focus on equity, access, and the safety of our whole community."

Additional information about the college's decisions for fall term can be found at www.clark.edu/covid-19.

Executive Vice President of Operations named



Galina Burley. Photo courtesy of Galina Burley.

Clark College has announced the hiring of Galina Burley in the role of Executive Vice President of Operations. She will begin at the college on July 8.

Burley was hired through a nationwide search. She will be entering a newly created position which oversees college operations including facilities, business, finance, security and safety, marketing, communications, and auxiliary services.

“Galina brings a breadth of experience and significant skill in leading complex organizations. Additionally, Galina demonstrated her understanding, appreciation and commitment to social equity and inclusion,” wrote Clark College President Karin Edwards in an email announcing the hire to the college community. “This position serves a crucial role at the college, especially as we recover and plan our post-Covid future.”

Burley (pronouns: she/her/hers) immigrated to Vancouver,

Washington from Sochi, Russia with her parents in 1991. Her history at Clark College began soon afterward, when she began taking English as a Second Language classes and then went on to earn her associate degree. Burley also holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Concordia University and a Master of Public Administration from Troy University. In addition, she earned certification in High Performing Organizations from the University of Virginia and is a 2012 alumna of Leadership Clark County.

Burley's previous work experience includes leadership roles at the City of Norfolk, Clackamas County, and the City of Portland. Most recently before joining Clark College, she served as Clark County Parks and Lands Manager. She has received an award for leadership from the American Association of Public Administrators of Hampton Roads; the Golden Ivan Award for her work with the Slavic refugee communities in Oregon and Southwest Washington; the President's Recognition Award from the Crime Prevention Association of Oregon; and nomination as a Woman of Achievement by Washington State University Vancouver. Burley identifies as Armenian-Russian-American. In her free time, she enjoys reading, volunteering, and spending time with her family.

"It feels very special to return to the Penguin Nation, where I began my educational journey and learned English," said Burley. "I look forward to sharing my experience and lifelong commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion with our college community. I also hope that my journey will inspire others to join Clark College, where we will help you discover your greatest potential."

Exceptional Faculty Awards



Professor Michelle Mallory is all smiles before Clark College's 2021 Commencement ceremony. *Photo: Clark College/Tarek Kanso*

Six outstanding members of Clark College's faculty have been recognized for their contributions to the college with a 2021 Clark College Exceptional Faculty Award.

These awards are presented annually to full-time and part-time faculty members. Nominations can be submitted by Clark College students, faculty, classified employees, administrators, alumni, Board members, and Foundation directors. Traditionally, they are announced during Commencement. This year, Commencement was held on June 17 on Christensen Soccer Field.

The awards are made possible through an endowed trust fund established by the Washington State Legislature and the Clark College Exceptional Faculty Endowment Fund, which was established in 1993. That fund provides recognition of exemplary work performance, positive impact on students,

professional commitment, and other contributions to the college.

Below are this year's Exceptional Faculty members, along with quotes from their nominators:

Kayoko Barnhill, mathematics

"I have been taking Math for Elementary Education courses, and her course is very tailored not just to learning the materials, but learning how to teach each others in class. I have struggled with math my whole life, and her course gave me confidence that not only could I learn it, but I could gain deeper understanding and effectively teach it."

Tony Chennault, biology

"He believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. He encouraged me to keep going, he told me I could do it when I didn't think I could do it myself. He teaches in a way that you understand, even if it's not your strongest subject. He is so inspiring, motivating, and encouraging."

Nami Inoue, Japanese

"When I first began at Clark College, I had a very negative outlook on school based on my previous high school experiences. I decided to take some classes for fun and try out a college environment. Inoue Sensei's passion for teaching and love for her students was so warm compared to any teacher I've had before. She helped me rediscover the love I have for learning and school."

Michelle Mallory, early childhood

education

“To know Michelle is to love Michelle! She is a fierce defender of the learner and believes strongly in meeting the learner where they are at and with respect, dignity and recognition of the learner’s culture and style of learning.”

Joshua Patrick, English

“Professor Patrick has taught me that I should never be ashamed to voice my opinion. He made me feel smart, validated, and taught me how to communicate my thoughts and opinions to others in an effective way to make them listen. He also engraved some very useful critical-thinking skills into my brain that I think will be very helpful throughout the rest of my college experience—but most importantly, I’ll be able to apply these skills to my daily life.”

Kristi Taylor, dental hygiene

“Kristi has been incredibly supportive in a time of great financial uncertainty and worked on behalf of all her students to help us figure out a plan, or make contact with those who could offer us answers and help. She worked to provide all of us with an avenue for covid vaccination if we desired it. She works tirelessly on our behalf and still manages to answer emails in less than an hour. She’s basically Wonder Woman!”



Professor Kristi Taylor, top row second from left, stands with faculty, staff and graduates from the Dental Hygiene program at Clark College's 2021 Commencement. Photo: Clark College/Tarek Kanso

Clark College holds in-person Commencement



This will be the first time that the ceremony is held on the soccer field. Traditionally, the college's Commencement ceremonies have been held at Sunlight Supply Amphitheatre. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the college's 2020 Commencement ceremony was held completely virtually. This year, as restrictions on public gatherings began to lift, the college surveyed graduates to learn which format of ceremony students preferred: virtual, drive-through, or in-person. The in-person format was the top choice of survey respondents.

“Our students have navigated through so much this academic year—pandemic, economic downturn, social unrest, struggling with issues like job loss and food insecurity,” said Clark College President Karin Edwards. “It was important to us that we honor their achievement with a ceremony that met their hopes, while still conforming with public health guidelines.”

Other noteworthy highlights of this year’s ceremony:

- About 525 graduates are expected to participate in this year’s ceremony, out of approximately 1,650 graduates from the entire academic year.
- Graduates include those receiving Bachelor of Applied Science and associate degrees, as well as certificates and high school diplomas or equivalents.
- The Class of 2021 will include the first graduates from the college’s new Bachelor of Applied Science in Human Services degree program.
- Some of the participants are members of the Class of 2020. When that year’s Commencement was moved online, the college invited graduates to participate in the next in-person ceremony.
- The ceremony will be led by Dr. Edwards, and will be her first Clark College Commencement as president of the college.
- The student speaker is Jaelyn Sotelo, a Running Start student who is transferring to University of Washington to pursue a career in political advocacy. Introducing her is student government president Josiah Joner, also a Running Start student, who is in the third generation of his family to attend Clark College and is transferring to Stanford University in the fall.
- Also speaking are: Clark College Board of Trustees Chair Rekah Strong; faculty union president Suzanne Southerland; and Interim Vice President of Instruction Dr. Genevieve Howard.

College mourns Trustee



Jane Jacobsen

Today the college community learned that Clark College Trustee Jane Jacobsen had passed away over the weekend.

“Jane became a Clark College trustee in 2016, and throughout her two terms on the Board she was an indefatigable cheerleader for the college,” wrote Clark College President Karin Edwards in an email to the college community announcing the news. “She liked to say that Clark was ‘the community’s college,’ because to her, uplifting and positively impacting the community was the most important and valuable part of our mission.”

A resident of Vancouver for more than 30 years, Jacobsen had profound impact on the region. She served in leadership roles with such organizations and projects as The Columbia Land Trust, the Marshall Lecture Series, the Columbia Gorge Commission, as well as many others.

Of the many achievements in Jacobsen’s life, the one her name

is perhaps most closely connected with is Confluence. Jacobsen was the founding executive director of this ambitious nonprofit project to express the history of the Pacific Northwest through art and Indigenous voices. The Vancouver Land Bridge, located within Historic Fort Vancouver, is a Confluence installation.

During her two terms as a trustee at Clark College, Jacobsen served in many roles, including Board Chair from 2019 to 2020. She also served on the college's Presidential Search Advisory Committee, Social Equity Advisory Council, Guided Pathways Committee, and as an alternate Legislative Action Committee Representative to the Washington State Association of College Trustees.

"I know Jane touched the lives of many people at the college—including my own—and I know she will be missed," wrote President Edwards in her email.

An email from the Board of Trustees the college community read in part: "Those who knew Jane will remember her warmth, her kindness, and her seemingly limitless capacity for positive energy. Jane would show up with fresh-baked shortbread cookies just because she was thinking of us. Whenever there was a college event, you could count on Jane to be in attendance, joyfully participating in any activity offered. Whenever we had the opportunity to engage with students, Jane was the first to congratulate them on their successes and let them know she believed in their capacity to build better futures for themselves."

- Read the Board of Trustees' full letter
- Read an article in Partners Magazine about Jane Jacobsen's motivations for supporting students
- Listen to an interview with Jane Jacobsen about her work with Confluence
- Read the *Columbian's* obituary of Jane Jacobsen

A public Celebration of Life is scheduled for June 15 at 11:00 a.m. in Esther Short Park. Confluence has also created a tribute page where people can share their memories of Jacobsen and have their condolences forwarded to the family. Survivors include her husband, Paul, her sons, Ben and Gabe, a daughter-in-law, Allison, and two grandsons, Henrik and Emmett Jacobsen.



Clark College Trustee Jane Jacobsen, *center*, was a tireless cheerleader for the college who could be counted on to show up at college events, like this Sakura Ceremony.

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

New VP of HR named



Brad Avakian. Photo courtesy of Brad Avakian.

Clark College has announced the hiring of Brad Avakian in the role of Vice President of Human Resources. He will begin at the college on June 10.

“We are excited to bring someone with Brad’s breadth and depth of knowledge into this crucial leadership position at the college,” said Clark College President Karin Edwards. “His expertise will be crucial as we begin the complex work of returning to campus after more than a year in remote operations.”

Avakian earned his bachelor’s degree from Oregon State University and his doctorate of law from Lewis & Clark University. For many years he worked as a lawyer specializing in civil rights cases. Later, he served in the Oregon House of Representatives and the Oregon Senate representing parts of northeast Washington County. Avakian also served three terms as Oregon’s Commissioner of Labor and Industries, during which time he was a strong advocate for career and technical education programs, as well as for equity for women, people of color, and LGBTQ+ individuals. Since leaving public service, Avakian has taught Politics and Public Policy for Managers in Willamette University’s MBA program and worked in private practice as a mediator and arbitrator.

“Clark College is a historic school with an exciting and bright future,” said Avakian. “I am so grateful for the chance

to join the Human Resources team and broader Clark Community. It's good to be a Penguin."

Winter 2021 Classified Staff Excellence Award recipient: Jenny Shadley



Jenny Shadley. *Photo courtesy of Jenny Shadley.*

Congratulations to **Jenny Shadley, Graphic Designer, Communications and Marketing**, recipient of the 2021 Winter Quarter Classified Staff Excellence Award!

Jenny Shadley "is committed to serving students and demonstrates her passion through her daily work to ensure student voices are amplified."

Other comments about Shadley:

- "Jenny worked on Guided Pathways from its inception."
- "She is an active participant at the college in

professional development and other committees and brings her holistic approach and her passion for equity to everything she does.”

- “Jenny has redesigned the Get Started landing page for prospective students with the student experience in mind, making it far more functional, user-friendly and attractive for users.”
- “When COVID-19 created scheduling concerns for some of her colleagues, Jenny was the first person to swoop in and offer to tackle projects to help.”

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of the other nominees:

- Damon Grady – Security Sergeant, Safety & Security
- Darci Feider – Program Coordinator, Student Life

Damon Grady, Security Sergeant, Safety & Security

“As a long-term employee, Damon has watched Clark evolve and always lends a kind ear to those who are confused or frustrated and quite often offers calming insight based upon his experiences at the college.”

Other comments about Grady:

- “Damon has been with Clark College’s Security and Safety Department since November of 1997 and served as a Campus Security Officer for 20 years before being promoted to the Sergeant in January 2018.”
- “Damon’s supervisory position requires him to be available to his staff 24/7 and he often adjust his schedule to best support the needs of others and is recognized as a mentor across the campus.”
- “As a member of the security team, Damon has contact with the entire college community and takes the time to

listen in the hopes of understanding the needs and resolution for each person he speaks with.”

- “Damon is aware that each interaction with a student or potential student is important, and he always puts his best foot forward to make sure their initial interaction at Clark College is a positive encounter.”

Darci Feider, Program Coordinator, Student Life

“Darci led and organized the Thanksgiving dinners sent out to 170 students and their families by the Penguin Pantry in November 2020. She is passionate about helping our Clark students and community, in every way she can.”

Other comments about Feider:

- “Darci coordinates dozens of programs and clubs that would not function nearly as smoothly without her, especially during remote operations.”
 - “Darci shows up every day ready to work with a smile on her face, no matter what the day may have in store for her.”
 - “Darci is kind, compassionate, and takes the time to work through projects with patience and support for others.”
 - “Students benefit from Darci’s contributions—whether that is through assistance with the Penguin Pantry, help with Archer Gallery and Clark Art Talks programming, or working with any number of things across campus. She is devoted to making an equitable and accessible community at Clark.”
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Rosalba Pitkin receives Social Equity Award



Rosalba Pitkin

Rosalba Pitkin was named the recipient of the 2020-2021 Lora Whitfield Social Equity Award, which honors a Clark College employee who has demonstrated a sustained commitment to advancing equity.

“She creates and sustains an inclusive environment for members of the college community in several ways, including advocacy for students and education for colleagues,” said Vice President of Diversity Equity and Inclusion Rashida Willard when she presented the award to Pitkin on Opening Day. “Though she will go above and beyond her role to support any student, her heart lies with immigrants and undocumented students, a particularly vulnerable segment of our student population. Rosalba creates an environment of belonging for these learners by welcoming them to the college, explaining the U.S. education system and how Clark can help them reach their goals, walking them through admission and enrollment processes, and offering consistent academic and personal support throughout their time at the college.”

During her years of working at Clark College, Pitkin has held different job titles, but her work has always centered around serving diverse students, prospective students, and their families. She currently serves as the Diversity Outreach Manager in the Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion. In this role, she also provides employee training on topics that include how to support Dreamer (DACA) students.

Pitkin is a well-known figure for her work around equity and inclusion not just within Clark College, but in the greater Vancouver-Portland metro area. She served two terms on the Washington State Commission for Hispanic Affairs and helped to streamline Mexican Consulate services for Mexicans who live in Southwest Washington. She is also a 2016 graduate of the Social Justice Leadership Institute.

Pitkin often works closely with non-native English speakers. As someone who grew up in Mexico and had to take English as a Second Language classes before earning her bachelor's degree in international business from New Mexico State University, she can relate to the struggles these students can experience.

Pitkin often refers to some advice given to her by her grandmother, whom she credits with instilling the importance of education in her: "It's important to plant good seeds wherever you go. Just take care of them, and they will grow."

"Rosalba Pitkin puts that cherished advice from her grandmother into practice every day," said Willard during the award presentation.

About the Lora Whitfield Social Equity Award

Created in 2019, the Lora Whitfield Social Equity Award recognizes Clark College employees based on their exceptional work in removing systemic barriers for people with

systemically non-dominant identities – people of color, people with disabilities and people who identify as LGBTQIA2S+ – in one or more of the following categories:

1. Creating and sustaining an inclusive environment for members of the Clark College community.
2. Improving intercultural competency for members of the Clark College community through diversity, equity and inclusion dialogue and education.
3. Exhibiting leadership in best practices for social equity.
4. Building and sustaining practices that challenge systems of power, privilege and inequity.
5. Making the larger community a more just and equitable place to reside.

Award recipients receive a plaque along with \$1,000 funded by Clark College Foundation. This award is presented at Opening Day before the beginning of fall quarter each year.

Other nominees for the 2020-2021 were **DeGundrea “Dee” Harris** in the Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion and **Zach Lattin** in Disability Support Services.

Exceptional Employee Awards

Classified



Connor Cantrell and Jeff Kaliner

Two outstanding employees were recognized with Exceptional Classified Employee awards at the 2020 Opening Day event.

The annual event, held online this year due to COVID-19, is always held the week before fall term classes begin as a way to help employees get ready for the coming academic year.

This year's recipients were **Library Paraprofessional Connor Cantrell** and **Emergency Program Manager Jeff Kaliner**.

**Connor Cantrell, Library
Paraprofessional 4**



Connor Cantrell. *Photo courtesy of Connor Cantrell*

Connor Cantrell has worked as a Library Paraprofessional in Cannell Library for almost two years.

When the college shifted to remote operations, Cantrell established new interlibrary loan (ILL) processes to accommodate the need to work from home. She used her organizational skills to ensure all necessary staff had access to digital paperwork when needed and worked with each employee to make sure they had adequate support and the essential tools to perform their work during remote operations.

Other observations from nominators include:

- “Connor has helped the library become a welcoming and inclusive place by making improvements to services, procedures, and processes. The training Connor has done with employees has helped them use equity-based critical thinking when responding to complaints and/or observing biased based incidents.”
- “Connor has shown outstanding customer service by listening to library patrons and adjusting normal procedures as needed to ensure each patron has the support to succeed. She worked with students to make sure they could register when they had fines and extended due dates when they required items longer for assignments. “
- “Connor’s dedication to ensuring our students have the

best Clark College experience is one of the things that makes her a remarkable asset to the library. She listens to students when they are upset, confused, angry, and defeated and ensures that students are connected to needed resources.”

Jeffrey Kaliner, Emergency Program Manager



Jeff Kaliner. *Photo courtesy of Jeff Kaliner*

Jeff Kaliner joined Clark College as its Emergency Program Manager in 2018. While his position part of Security and Safety, Kaliner’s work is felt across the college community. Former Interim President Sandra Fowler-Hill wrote, “Jeff performed exemplary in managing several crises confronting the college last year. I was very impressed as I saw him quickly rise to the challenge of the COVID-19 crisis. All of his experience and skills were an asset in managing the college community safely through the crisis and onto recovery.”

Other observations made by Kaliner’s nominators include:

- “Without Kaliner’s guidance and planning, Clark College would have struggled to maintain business operations during COVID-19 while adhering to the Governor’s Directives.”
- “Kaliners relationships with the Clark County Public Health Department and Clark County Emergency Management have led to a coordinated response to the pandemic.”

- “Kaliner kept the college informed regularly on the challenges as well as the progress the Incident Management Team was making concerning quickly changing directives and facts about the coronavirus.”
- “Kaliner revised the college’s Emergency Operations Plan, which was approved by Executive Cabinet in February of 2020.”

About the Exceptional Classified Employee Award

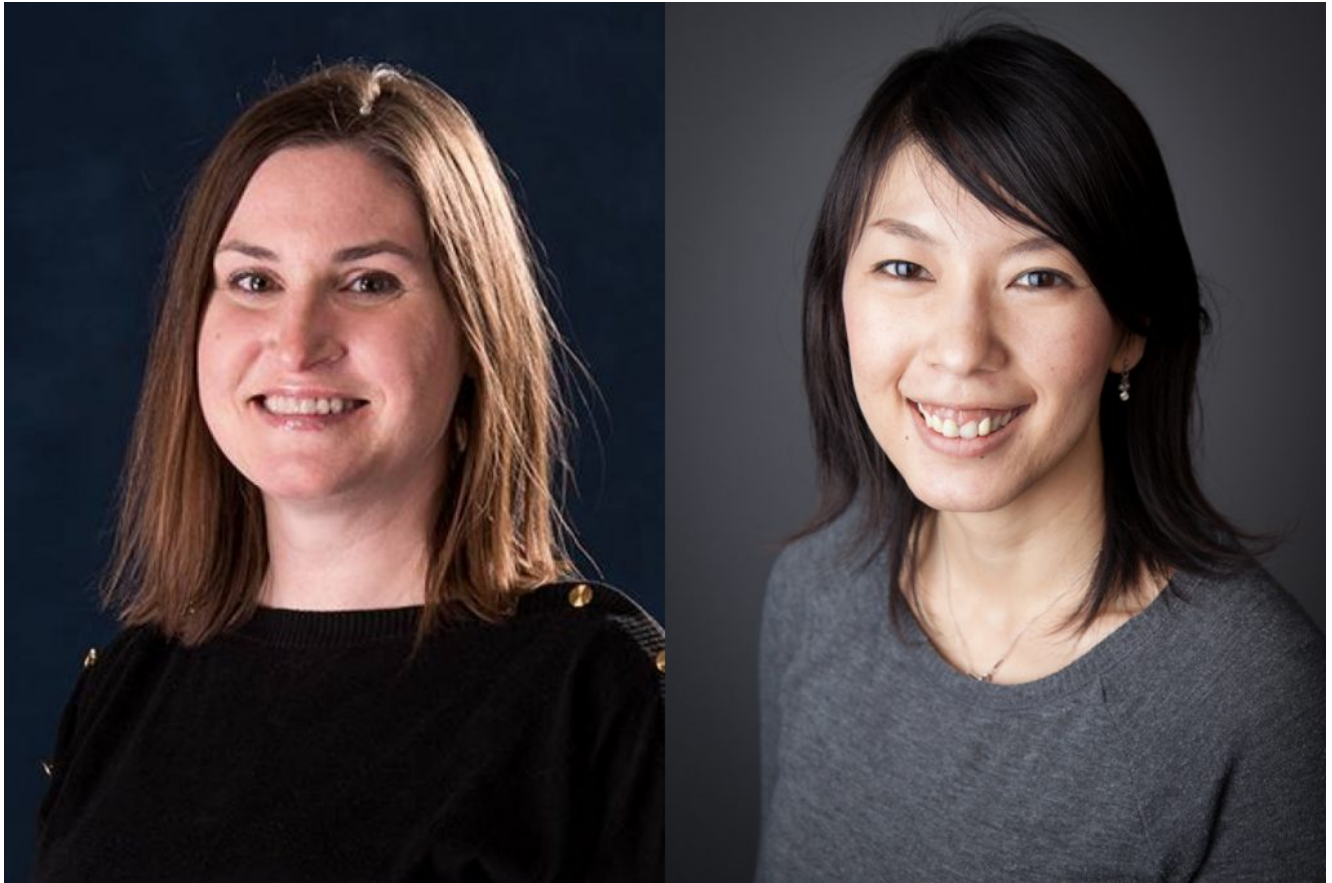
Established in 1997, this annual award recognizes two classified staff who have demonstrated exemplary work performance, outstanding service to the college, a positive and cooperative spirit, and special achievements or contributions to the college community. (Classified staff is a category of Washington State employees; the majority of non-faculty employees at Clark College are classified.) To be eligible for the award, an employee must have been nominated for the quarterly **Classified Staff Excellence Award** in the past academic year. Award recipients are presented with certificates and, thanks to the generous support of the Clark College Foundation, cash awards during public recognition ceremonies each year.

The other finalists for the 2019-2020 awards were:

- Rick Bartz, IT Support Technician 2, Information Technology Services
- Lameleanique (Meleani) Bates, Program Manager A, Career Services
- Emily Castle, Secretary Supervisor, Transitional Studies Division
- Chris Chaffin, Program Coordinator, Student Tutoring Services
- John Condit, Media Technician Lead, Event Services
- Dan Ellertson, Retail Clerk Lead, Bookstore

- Margaret (Peg) Estes, Program Specialist 3, Credential Evaluations
- Neil Fykerud, Program Specialist 2, Transitional Studies Division
- Kate Ireland, Program Specialist 2, Teaching & Learning Center
- ITS GROUP NOMINATION, which includes:
 - Darin Rathbone, IT Customer Support – Journey
 - Brian Riechman, IT Customer Support – Journey
 - Vadim Boligar, IT Customer Support – Journey
 - Lucy Shao, IT Customer Support – Journey
 - Jim Meek, IT Customer Support – Journey
 - Joyce Ho, IT Customer Support – Journey
 - Dennis Davis, Entry – IT Customer Support
 - Foster Nostrand, Senior/Specialist – IT Admin
 - David Sims, IT Support Technician 2
 - Brandon Johnson, IT Support Technician 2
- Brandon Johnson, IT Support Technician 2, Information Technology Services
- Charla Kimball, Fiscal Technician Supervisor, Accounting Services
- Silvia Marinova, Program Specialist 2, Transitional Studies Division
- Mira Olenin, Program Specialist 2, Financial Aid
- Cathy Reynolds, Fiscal Analyst 3, Office of Instruction
- Thao Schmidt, Human Resources Consultant 3, Human Resources
- Brenda Shular, Procurement & Supply Specialist 2, Purchasing and Central Services
- Mike Silva, IT Support Technician 2, Information Technology Services
- Mitch Sott, Engineering Technician 3, Workforce, Professional, & Technical Education
- Jenny Stone, Program Coordinator, e-Learning
- Bryton Williams, Administrative Assistant 3, Business & Health Services

Administrative Exempt Awards



Special Projects and Activities Manager Michelle Golder and Senior Software Engineer Eriko Otsuka

Two outstanding employees were recognized with Exceptional Administrative Exempt Employee awards at the 2020 Opening Day event.

The annual event, held online this year due to COVID-19, is always held the week before fall term classes begin as a way to help employees get ready for the coming academic year.

This year's recipients were **Special Projects and Activities Manager Michelle Golder** and **Senior Software Engineer Eriko Otsuka**.

About Michelle Golder

Michelle Golder has worked at Clark College for more than a decade. While many members of the college community have enjoyed the results of her work, they may not have realized it at the time. As the head of the college's Event Services department, Golder oversees the logistics of the college's signature events, which include both cultural events like Sakura or MLK Day, as well as an institutional event like State of the College or Opening Day. Whatever the event, Golder works tirelessly to make sure everything runs according to plan and stays within budget. This year, she had the extraordinary challenge of organizing the college's first-ever virtual Commencement ceremony.

"Whatever the challenge, she rises to meet it," said Vice President of Administrative Services Bob Williamson as he announced the award.

About Eriko Otsuko

Eriko Otsuko is also a behind-the-scenes person whose work many at the college have benefited from without knowing it. She is praised for her ability to work collaboratively with clients to design software solutions that meet their needs.

"It's due to her hard work that we have an online health screening tool that allows students and employees to come to campus during COVID-19," said Williamson. "She has also logged countless hours rewriting applications so they can work in the ctcLink environment."

About the Exceptional Administrative Exempt Award

The Clark College Exceptional Administrative-Exempt Award was

announced on Opening Day 2019. The award recognizes the contributions of Administrative Exempt employees, a category that includes employees who work at all levels and in all areas of the college. Each year, it honors an Exempt staff member who contribute in significant ways toward building a positive climate, inclusive environment, and improving the quality of life at Clark.

The full list of 2020 nominees is:

- Michelle Golder
- Ryan O'Meara
- Eriko Otsuka
- Michael See
- Abby Thompson
- Tasaday Turner
- Brenda Walstead
- Melissa Williams