

# The Weekly News: Week 24



## This past week

I can't believe this is the last weekly news for 2019. My time at the Penguin Nation has flown by fast. As I reflect back on the last twenty four weeks, I count your success and the amazing work you have done in teaching and supporting our students. I look forward to all that 2020 brings to Clark College, including its next President.

## Correction

My apologies for the oversight in listing the Presidential search committee members in last week's Weekly News: I accidentally omitted

Cath Keane from Career Services. I greatly appreciate Cath's participation on the Search Committee. Thanks, Cath.

## **Presidential Finalists College Forums**

The four presidential candidate finalists will be on campus in January. I encourage everyone to attend the college forums that will be held as part of the two-day long interview process and provide your feedback. We are still finalizing the location on campus but I can tell you the forums will be held 12:00-1:00pm on the following dates:

- **Tuesday, January 14:** Dr. Sara Thompson Tweedy, vice president of student access, involvement, and success at SUNY Westchester Community College.
- **Friday, January 17:** Dr. Karin Edwards, president of the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College
- **Wednesday, January 22:** Dr. Lamata D. Mitchell, vice president of instruction and academic operations at Pima Community College
- **Friday, January 24:** Dr. Joaquín G. Martínez, district vice provost of institutional effectiveness at Miami Dade College

Biographies of all four finalists are available online at [www.clark.edu/presidential-search/search/finalists.php](http://www.clark.edu/presidential-search/search/finalists.php)

## **Budget news from Olympia**

The Governor released his 2020 Supplemental Operating and Capital Budgets on December 18. Below is a summary of the Governor's proposals

that impact the community and technical college system:

## Operating Budget

1. **\$2.4 Million for the Job Skills Program** – In alignment with his Career Connect Washington initiative, the Governor proposed to expand customized, short-term and job-specific training for incumbent workers through the Job Skills program. Job Skills co-invests with employers who need customized training due to growth and changes in technology, and to address skills shortages. Currently, the Job Skills Program has \$5 million in funding to provide training to meet employers' specific needs. Due to the high demand, the entire \$5 million has already been committed for this biennium. If funded by the Legislature, this would allow a 50 percent expansion of the program, which is highly respected by both business and labor.
- **\$1.6 Million for Increased Attorney General Services** – These funds were requested by both the Attorney General and SBCTC to cover unanticipated legal costs.

## Capital Budget

The Governor's budget does not include any new capital funding or local financing authorities for the CTC system.

These are the "bigger pieces" of his budget affecting our system. Minor changes that typically

occur in a supplemental budget (i.e., changes in pension rates and funding) are also proposed. I will let you know if we discover anything noteworthy as we dig into the details, as well as updates on the Legislature's budget decisions.

## **Faculty Negotiations continue**

Clark College and the AHE are meeting today, December 27, to continue negotiations to settle a contract dispute. I want to acknowledge the strain that this places on everyone at Clark: our students, our staff, and our faculty. Clark College is committed to our students to ensure they are able to start and successfully complete their winter quarter.

Contingency planning is underway in the event there is a strike. Communication will be critically important as we move forward. We have created a website, easily findable from the [clark.edu](http://clark.edu) home page, to help everyone stay up-to-date on events and how they affect the college's operations.

I am deeply concerned a strike would have detrimental impacts on students and our college community. Please know Clark College wants to reach a settlement, move forward, and support our students.

I want to also remind employees of our EAP resources

during these times of stress. It's easy to say and sometimes harder to do, practicing good self-care as stressors build up.

Washington State EAP is accessible, free and confidential. You can call (360) 407-9490 or toll-free at (877) 313-4455. You can also visit the EAP website for more information.

## Looking ahead

There is an exciting conference coming up on campus soon. Registration is still open for the inaugural Northwest Regional Equity Conference for Higher Education. Registration Fee: \$250

I'm also looking forward to attending our annual MLK event in Gaiser Student Center on Tuesday, January 21, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., and seeing the interactive, hands-on display of the history of Buffalo Soldiers/black cowboys, as well as attending the *Buffalo Soldiers of the Pacific Northwest* documentary screening and discussion from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Join me in honoring Dr. King's legacy of service to others by donating hair- and skin-care products for African-American families served by YWCA Clark County. Donations can be dropped off at the Student Center. More information at <http://www.clark.edu/campus-life/arts-events/mlk/>

As we say goodbye to 2019 and head into the new year, I'm getting excited about delivering the 2020 State of the College Address on January 16. The most exciting part, for me, is announcing the inaugural recipients of two new employee awards: the Lora Whitfield Social Equity Award and the Exceptional Administrative Exempt Award.

Thank you to all who nominated your colleagues for the inaugural Lora Whitfield Social Equity

Award. As a reminder,  
this award is given to a member of the Clark College community  
who has  
demonstrated a sustained commitment to advancing equity. We  
are excited to  
announce all the nominees:

- Dian Ulner
- Dr. Debra Jenkins
- Shanda Haluapo
- Connor Cantrell
- Cath Busha

For this inaugural year of the Exceptional  
Administrative-Exempt Award, 19 nominations were received. The  
award honors an  
Administrative-Exempt staff member who contributes in  
significant ways toward  
building a positive climate, inclusive environment, and  
improvement in the  
quality of life at Clark. The awards committee were impressed  
by all the  
submissions, whether nominees were eligible or not.  
Congratulations to all the  
nominees and heartfelt thanks to those who nominated them:

- Ben Cecka
- Kevin Damore
- Guisela Eberle
- Sarah Gruhler
- Shanda Haluapo
- Judith Hernandez Chapar
- Heather King
- Jennifer Lea
- Sami Lelo
- Kent Pruett
- Mirranda Saari
- Sabra Sand

- Ashley Schumacher
- Michael See
- Kevin Thomas
- Tasaday Turner
- Vanessa Watkins
- Melissa Williams
- Carley Willis

The winners of these two new awards will be announced at the 2020 State of the College Address on Thursday, January 16. A huge thank-you to all the nominees for making Clark College a better place to work and to learn.

If you have been nominated, be sure to attend the State of the College Address to be recognized. Please join me in honoring your colleagues at this event next month.

To all those who are off campus for the break, I wish you safe travels on your way back to us. I am off for a few days to attend my daughter's wedding in Leavenworth, Washington. They are having an outdoor wedding in the snow on January 4. I'm hoping for clear roads to get over the pass.

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## **The Weekly News: Week 22**



## **This past week**

Usually the week before the holidays is quiet on a college campus. Not so at Clark College this past week.

## **Presidential Search Finalists Named**

I am happy to share the news that four finalists have been selected in the search for Clark's next college president.

The Board of Trustees approved the list as recommended by the Presidential Search Advisory Committee.

The four finalists are: Dr. Karin Edwards, president of the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College; Dr. Joaquín G. Martínez, district vice provost of institutional effectiveness at Miami Dade College; Dr. Lamata D. Mitchell, vice president



of instruction and academic operations at Pima Community College; and Dr. Sara Thompson Tweedy, vice president of student access, involvement, and success at SUNY Westchester Community College.

Full biographies of all four finalists are available online at [www.clark.edu/presidential-search/search/finalists.php](http://www.clark.edu/presidential-search/search/finalists.php)

Clark College received 65 qualified applications. Last week, the Presidential Selection Committee interviewed ten semifinalist candidates and made their recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

This is a milestone in the process and I thank everyone from Clark College who served on this committee:

Danielle Plessner, Dannie Nordsiden, Donivee Randall-Jones, Dr. Siri

Wickramaratne, Evans Kaame, Heather Adams, Justin Flint, Rashida Willard,

Suzanne Southerland and Tanya Kerr. Thank you!!

The finalists will be invited to the college in January for constituent panel interviews and public forums. It is expected that the Board of Trustees will make its selection by the end of February 2020 and that the new President will begin onboarding in the summer of 2020 in preparation for the 2020-2021 academic year.

More information about the ongoing search process—including photos and complete biographies of the finalists—can be found at [www.clark.edu/presidential-search](http://www.clark.edu/presidential-search).

## **Faculty Negotiations continue**

Clark College and the AHE will meet Friday, December 27 to continue negotiations to settle a contract

dispute. I want to acknowledge the strain that this places on everyone at Clark: our students, our employees and our faculty. Clark College is committed to our students to ensure they are able to start and successfully complete their winter quarter.

Contingency planning is underway in the event there is a strike. Communication will be critically important as we move forward. Starting Monday, December 23, we will provide updated information on our website on the homepage.

I am deeply concerned a strike would have detrimental impacts on students and our college community. Please know Clark College wants to reach a settlement, move forward and support our students.

I want to also remind employees of our EAP resources during these times of stress. It's easy to say and sometimes harder to do, practicing good self-care as stressors build up.

Washington State EAP is accessible, free and confidential. You can call (360) 407-9490 or toll-free at (877) 313-4455.

You can also Visit the EAP website for more information.

## **New campus safety tool**

Clark College is launching a new safety tool called Rave Guardian. It's a free mobile app that turns your smartphone

into a personal safety device and college resource center. I just downloaded it on my phone and it was really simple.

By downloading the app on your mobile phone, you'll have access to safety features that directly connect you to the college's Security and Safety staff, as well as the ability to submit anonymous tips should you see something suspicious. You can invite friends and family to join your network as your "Guardians" and have one or more of them virtually walk with you on or off campus. It's like having a trusted friend with you at all times.

The Office of Security and Safety encourages all students, faculty and staff to enhance their personal safety by downloading the free app. You can text "Guardian" to 67283 to instantly receive the download link to register OR you go to your App Store or Google Play Store on your mobile device and search "Rave Guardian".

Jeff Kaliner can answer any questions you may have at [jkaliner@clark.edu](mailto:jkaliner@clark.edu). I appreciate all the work that has gone into this project, providing an extra layer of safety on campus.

## **Student**

# Entrepreneurship

I want to give kudos to one of our Business Professors, Nathan Webster. He's working with students who are entrepreneurs. Clark College is a member of the NACCE (National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship). Clark is hosting a networking event on Monday January 13, from 11am-2pm. This event is open to all students, staff and faculty. In fact, our faculty and staff business owners will be speakers. Nathan welcomes your questions about this event or other activities scheduled throughout the year. You can email him at [nwebster@clark.edu](mailto:nwebster@clark.edu). Thank you Nathan for all you do.

# Community Service

I want to acknowledge the service work that you do out in our community. Clark College Director of Teaching and Learning Center, Dr. Judith Hernandez Chapar recently spoke at the Habitat for Humanity's Women Build Luncheon. Her topic was the intersection between housing and educational attainment. Judith has been a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and carries a strong message about the need for safe housing in our community and the impact it has on people's lives. Well done Judith!

# This next week

To all those who are heading off campus for

the break, I wish you safe travels and good cheer shared with friends and family.

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## **The Weekly News: Week 21**



### **This week**

Thanks to everyone who participated in forums this past week with Dr. Chris Hill, AACC Coach, on Guided Pathways. She recognized the extraordinary work that has been done on Guided Pathways by the faculty and student services staff as well as the improvements we can make in communication and decision-making. She will be providing us with a summary of her observations and recommendations. I'll look forward to sharing

her report with you.

I stopped by the STEM building last week and was wowed by the Computer Science and Engineering students. I got to see learning in action with the students presenting ideas for their year-long projects. Walking through the lobby I chatted with students explaining their ideas for software applications, drones, robots, power systems, games, internet-of-things and online services. I can't wait to see the results of their work later in the year.

## Winter Social

You are all invited to the Winter Social **Tuesday, December 10**, at Gaiser Student Center. The reception begins at 2:00 p.m. and the program begins around 2:30 p.m.

As is the tradition, we will honor our Clark College employees who have retired in 2019. I am looking forward to carrying on this Penguin Nation tradition.

## Supporting students during Finals Week

This will be my first Finals Week at Clark College—and the first for many of our students as well. It can be a time of stress for them. They may try to read their notes as they're walking through the parking lots; they may show up in unconventional spaces (like an unoccupied conference room) as they try to study in peace; they may forget to eat. Let's all offer them a little extra dose of grace and patience as they navigate this important milestone in their education.

Speaking of which, the college is offering help for their *next* milestone: There's an open lab held most of this week to provide one-on-one assistance to students trying to enroll on ctcLink for next term. Located in APH 210, its hours

are:

- December 9 and 10, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- December 11, 9:00 a.m. – noon

## **Time to nominate outstanding employees**

A new award for 2020 is the **Clark College Administrative and Exempt Excellence Award** honoring two Exempt staff members who contribute in significant ways toward building a positive climate, inclusive environment, and improving the quality of life at Clark. Submissions can be made by filling out the online submission form by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 13.**

## **'Tis the season**

You may have seen or heard recent news reports of this season's first confirmed measles case in Clark County. Last January, when Clark County Public Health announced an official outbreak, college employees were asked to locate their immunization records in case a confirmed case at the college led to CCPH instituting an exclusion protocol. It's probably a good idea to once again make sure you know where those records are—just in case. Not sure if you have your immunization records? For those of you visiting childhood homes during Winter Break, they often wind up in a back drawer or old photo album. And if you were vaccinated here in the state of Washington, chances are that your records are available online. Staff at the Counseling and Health Center have very kindly volunteered to help any student or employee find their records through the state's online database. They are located in HSC 124. Let's all help to keep each other healthy and safe this winter!

## **Lace up those sneakers!**

Before coming to Clark, I knew that Penguins *marched*, but I had no idea how many of them *ran* as well! Every March, a “Clark Penguins” team participates in Portland’s Shamrock Run. To register for the event, visit the [2020 Shamrock Run Registration Page](#); this link will automatically identify you as part of Clark Penguins when you register. To find out more about this event, contact Haley Tucker in Event Services, who is organizing this year’s team.

## **Progress on ctclink**

Now that ctclink has been up and running for a month, the college is starting to leverage its functionality. One great example of this is the “academic advisement reports” being created for every certificate and degree at the college. These will take the place of the myriad program worksheets, educational plans, Degree Audits, etc. that people have used to map and track students’ program progression—creating a single source of truth for students, faculty, and staff alike. As of this week, we now have academic advisement reports created for 31 of the college’s programs—including the Big One, the Associate in Arts – DTA degree (by far the most common degree that our students earn). Kudos to everyone in Credentials, Advising and the Office of Instruction for their work on this monumental task!

## **Great things have been happening across the college—congratulations!**

Congratulations to **mechatronics professor Chris Lewis** on being awarded \$603,397 for equipment purchases approved in the grant application for the Semiconductor and Electronics Manufacturing Technician Career Preparation and Launch program funded by the SBCTC through a capital budget appropriation



Congratulations to **the Nursing Faculty and Jennifer Obbard, Associate Dean-Health Sciences**, on the approval for continuing ACEN accreditation. I received a letter from a former colleague who is now the Director of Nursing Education for the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission announcing the approval and thanking the program for their continued commitment to quality nursing education in Washington State.

Congratulations to **Dr. Jacob Funk, Director of Choral Activities**, and **Shelly Williams, Program Coordinator for Music**, on a very successful Choral Festival. I recently received a letter from one of the adjudicators who noted, "I was struck by several positive aspects during the festival: the careful and thorough organization of the festival; the visible good nature of all the student helpers involved; and the star quality of the lynchpin of the day, Ms. Shelly Williams, the sine qua non of the Department, who was everywhere to solve all the little things that are bound to come up at events of this kind. Clark College should be very proud of this event."

## **Looking forward to next week**

Next week are Final Exams and Winter Registration for new students. As students and faculty prepare for Winter Break, I know our Enrollment Services team will be working hard to get students ready for Winter Term.

I am looking forward to hosting some new members of our community from my old neighborhood with a tour of the college with the Foundation staff and introducing them to the great programs at Clark. I'm also excited about recognizing our retirees at the Holiday Retiree Reception on Tuesday. I hope I can catch a glimpse of the Christmas ships from the riverfront this week before I leave for the Washington Association of Community and Technical College Presidents meeting on Thursday.

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# The Weekly News: Week 20



## This week

Welcome back from the holidays! I hope you had time to rest and enjoy time with friends and family. I enjoyed volunteering delivering Meals on Wheels in Hillsboro with my husband and finalizing plans for my daughter's wedding in January. It was wonderful having 4 days to spend with family.

This morning our student leaders hosted Washington State Legislators at the Clark College annual legislative breakfast. They talked to

our elected officials about their priorities, specifically college accessibility and affordability. We have a strong ASCC leadership team this year, and they were excellent representatives of our college students.

Also today, we are meeting with our AACC Guided Pathways coach, Dr. Chris Hill. She is on campus today and tomorrow to review our work to date and assist us in moving this important work forward. Dr. Hill will be meeting with the Guided Pathways Core Leadership Team; Pillar 1, 2, 3 and 4 Teams; Board of Trustees; faculty; students; and professional development teams to learn more about our progress and plans for implementing Guided Pathways. Everyone is invited to attend the College Debrief at the conclusion of her two-day visit on Tuesday at 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in GHL 213.

## **Career Launch at Clark College**

Our Mechatronics Program has been endorsed as a Career Launch Program by the SBCTC. This is exciting news for several reasons.

- It formally acknowledges our partnership with SEH America to provide students with real work experience while pursuing their AA degree.
- It also opens the door for state grants to provide equipment for the program.

- It provides incentives for additional businesses to participate in the Career Launch program.

A formal announcement will be made next week. I wanted to give you advance notice of this great news. It signals a new chapter in our partnerships with local employers.

I want to acknowledge the work of Mohammed Maraee, who has brought the Center of Excellence for Semiconductors and Electronic Manufacturing to Southwest Washington. He is working closely with Clark College and area employers to build these important relationships.

I want to thank our team at Clark—Julie Robertson, Genevieve Howard, Armetta Burney, Sachi Horback, and the mechatronics faculty—for your work in responding to industry and moving this important initiative forward.

## **Presidential Search Milestone**

On November 25, the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, having reviewed 65 applications, selected ten semifinalists to be considered as our college's next president!

The next step will be confidential semifinalist video interviews conducted by the Search Advisory Committee during the second week of December.

Three or four finalist candidates will then be advanced to the Board of Trustees for their approval at their December meeting.

During January, approved finalists will participate in constituent panel interviews and public forums at Clark College. Evaluation visits to finalists' colleges will also take place in January.

It is expected that the Board of Trustees will make their selection by the end of February 2020, and that our new President will begin onboarding in the summer of 2020 in preparation for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Thank you everyone who is supporting this important work for the College, our students, staff and community. More information on Clark's presidential search can be found at [www.clark.edu/presidential-search](http://www.clark.edu/presidential-search).

## Grant Awards

Clark College was awarded **\$100,000** from SBCTC to expand access to the college's Student Emergency Grant Program.

This funding is \$50,000 per year for two years, starting January 2020.

This funding provides monetary assistance to students experiencing unforeseen emergencies or situations that affect the student's ability to attend classes (e.g., paying for food, transportation, childcare, or other goods or services needed in order for the student to continue attending classes). This funding will provide low-barrier access for students (with no income restrictions), even if they do not meet the traditional

definition of a  
“high-need” student. To date, Clark College has awarded over  
\$44,000 in  
emergency grant assistance, and this additional funding will  
allow the program  
to prevent even more students from dropping out due to  
financial emergencies.

The Emergency Grant fund includes support from Clark County  
Community Action Fund Grant, SBCTC Student Emergency  
Assistance Grant, and  
Clark College Foundation. Combined, these funds provide  
approximately \$100,000  
each year to support our students! Starting in January, all  
Emergency Grants  
will be administered through the Financial Wellness Program in  
Student Affairs.

Thank you to the team who helped write the grant: Julie  
Robertson, Kevin Thomas, Edie Blakely, Selena Castro and Cath  
Busha. Well done!

## **Concerts this week**

**The Clark College Orchestra Fall Concert** is set  
for Wednesday evening at 7:30pm on December 4. Our  
congratulations to Dr.  
Donald Appert: This is his 30th anniversary leading the  
orchestra. The  
performance begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Skyview High School  
Auditorium, 1300 NW  
139th St., Vancouver. Free Admission.

**The Clark College Women’s Choral Ensemble and Chorale**, under  
the direction of Dr. Jacob Funk, will perform their Fall  
Concert on Thursday,  
December 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the Vancouver First United  
Methodist Church, 401 E.

33rd St, Vancouver. A second concert is scheduled for Saturday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m., also at Vancouver First United Methodist Church. Admission to both concerts is free.

**The Clark College Concert Band**, under the direction of Dr. Doug Harris, will perform "Fanfares & Dances" on Friday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Durst Theatre of the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, 3101 Main St. Free admission.

I want to thank everyone in the Clark College Music Department for their talents and time in creating memorable moments for our students and our audience. Congratulations!

## **Giving Tuesday**

Tomorrow is Giving Tuesday – a global generosity movement encouraging people to contribute time and treasure to their favorite charities. As a reminder, we have an employee giving campaign at Clark College supporting students through the Foundation.

You can choose where and how your gift is used. There is a match program ongoing for the Penguin Pantry. A generous donor has committed to a \$5,000 match for the pantry if we reach our goal of 220 donors who make a gift of \$10 or more by June 18, 2020. You can make a gift here any time.

However you choose to observe Giving Tuesday, I appreciate all the ways you support our students at Clark College.

## Next week for your planning

You are all invited to the Winter Social **Tuesday December 10, 2019** at Gaiser Student Center. The reception begins at 2:00 p.m. and the program begins around 2:30 p.m.

As is the tradition, we will honor our Clark College employees who have retired in 2019. I am looking forward to carrying on this Penguin Nation tradition.

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## Penguins are champion walkers



Oswald and some Clark College Walktober participants pose with their 2020 trophy.



For the first time, Clark College has won Walktober, a 31-day walking challenge between Clark College, Lower Columbia College, and Washington State University Vancouver.

Participants used fitness trackers and mobile apps to track steps and entered their daily activity on a Walktober log. The school with the most steps, Clark College, is presented with a trophy (and bragging rights).

The following three

Clark winners will be awarded prizes for taking the most steps:

- **1<sup>st</sup> place: Sydney Brahmavar from Environmental Science** with 843,756 total logged steps
- **2<sup>nd</sup> place: Aaron McPherson from Facilities** with 826,264 total logged steps
- **3<sup>rd</sup> place: Travis Kibota from Biology** with 720,732 total logged steps

The **Departmental Walktober Challenge Winner** was Environmental Science, with an average daily total of 27,218 logged steps.

## **Official Walktober results**

- **1<sup>st</sup> place: Clark College** with an average daily total of 9,694 logged steps (based on 68 participants).
- **2<sup>nd</sup> place: Washington State University – Vancouver** with an average daily total of 9,399 logged steps (based on 48 participants).
- **3<sup>rd</sup> place: Lower Columbia College** with an average daily total of 8,391 logged steps (based on 57 participants).

## Now What?

- **Consider participating in the Free Fall Fitness Fun Run or Walk** on Tuesday, November 26 at 1:15 p.m. in front of Cannell Library.
  - **Keep up with your activity levels** by setting Specific, Measurable, Actionable, Realistic, and Timely (S.M.A.R.T.) goals, scheduling time on your calendar to move, and finding an accountability partner.
  - **Come to an event.** You can find upcoming events by visiting the **TLC Event Schedule**. Remember, we follow a more holistic model of wellness, so there are various ways to engage throughout the year. Check out the **Six Dimensions of Wellness** for more information.
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## The Weekly News: Week 18



## **National Honors**

Clark College has been named a 2020 Best for Vets college in the Career and Technical College category by *Military Times*—just one of 19 colleges across the nation to receive this designation. It's the third year in a row Clark has earned Best for Vets status. Kudos to everyone in the Veterans Resource Center, as well as everyone across the college who helps support our student veterans!

## **New VP of DEI named**

Please join me in congratulating Rashida Willard, who has accepted the appointment as the new Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Clark College. This is an important milestone for the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and a positive leap forward for the college in

supporting our staff, faculty and students.

Rashida stepped into the role as interim 17 months ago while still the Director of Operations and Risk Management in Administrative Services. She has taken on additional responsibilities in service to the college and she has earned the respect of her peers, our students, and the community as a strong and effective leader.

During this interim period, she has created and developed structures, spaces, and programs to help remove barriers for students and she's leading the effort to create a culturally competent campus to help students succeed. She is deeply invested in this work and passionate about creating inclusive, safe, and welcoming environments where *all* students have maximum opportunities to succeed.

Rashida holds a master's degree in Business Administration, a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, and an associate degree in Organizational Dynamics. She is currently attending Concordia University, pursuing a doctorate in Education with a concentration in Professional Leadership, Inquiry and Transformation.

Under Rashida's leadership, the ODEI team has built good momentum, developing new initiatives and programs that will help our college move forward.

Please join me in congratulating and thanking Rashida for accepting this role.

# Penguin Power!

We did it, Penguins! We won the Walktober challenge between Clark College, Lower Columbia College, and WSU Vancouver. Our 68 Walktober participants averaged 9,694 steps during the month of October, winning us a trophy and bragging rights. Special shout-outs to our top Penguin walkers:

- 1st place: Sydney Brahmavar  
(Environmental Science) – 843,756 steps
- 2nd place: Aaron McPherson  
(Facilities Services) – 826,264 steps
- 3rd place: Travis Kibota  
(Biology) – 720,732 steps
- Departmental winner:  
Environmental Science, with an average daily total of 27,218 steps

... And, of course, to Interim Director of Talent Acquisition and Development Vanessa Neal, who led our Walktober efforts. I invite all Walktober participants to join Vanessa, Oswald, and myself at noon on November 20 at the Japanese Friendship Garden (or inside O'Connell if it's raining) for a group photo with our fabulous trophy.

## Kudos to the STEM Team

Thanks to dozens of STEM Unit students, staff, and faculty volunteers who hosted the Elementary Science Olympiad on Saturday, in conjunction with the Southwest Washington Science Olympiad (WSO). Eighteen

teams of third-through-fifth graders from throughout Southwest Washington participated, representing 14 schools from 8 school districts, with a total 270 students. The challenging and motivating events of WSO align with Washington State Learning Standards. The events throughout the day were designed to enhance and strengthen both science content and processing skills.

And, thanks to the Clark College Surveying and Geomatics Department, in conjunction with the United States Forest Service, for hosting Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Day on Friday. GIS is a scientific framework for gathering, analyzing and visualizing geographic data to help us make better decisions. GIS Day included a number of speakers, displays, and interactive geospatial activities.

Also, congratulations to STEM Dean Peter Williams on his recent presentation with Dr. Carli Schiffner, SBCTC Deputy Executive Director of Education, and Dr. Gita Bangera, Dean of the RISE Learning Center at Bellevue College, on "Scaling Up Classroom Undergraduate Research Experiences Statewide" at the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Transforming STEM Higher Education conference in Chicago, Illinois.

# Time to nominate outstanding employees

There are three employee award programs now accepting nominations. I hope you will look around you and decide to make a nomination: the Lora Whitfield Social Equity Award, the quarterly Classified Excellence Award, and the Exceptional Administrative Exempt Award.

The Lora Whitfield Social Equity Award honors a member of the Clark College community that has demonstrated a sustained commitment to advancing equity. Award recipients will receive a plaque along with \$1,000 funded by the Clark College Foundation. This award will be presented at Opening Day before the beginning of fall quarter each year. This 2020 inaugural year, the award will be announced during State of the College in winter quarter.

For 2020, nominations should be submitted by **November 29** for the Executive Cabinet to review and select an award winner by State of the College in January.

Please nominate a Clark College Employee by visiting the Lora Whitfield Social Equity Award page and fill out the **online submission form**.

Do you know of an outstanding **Classified employee** at Clark? Have you been looking for a meaningful way to say “thank you” to that person who has gone above and beyond in their service to you,

your department  
or the college community? Now is your chance to acknowledge  
that special  
person.

Also, nominations are being accepted for outstanding  
Classified  
employee at Clark for the **2019 Fall Quarter Award**. Please  
continue  
reading for more information. Submissions can be made by  
filling out the **online  
submission form**. Please only submit a nomination for the  
current quarter. The  
deadline is **5:00 p.m. on  
Friday, November 22**. For questions, contact Vanessa Neal,  
vneal@clark.edu in Human Resources.

And, a new award for 2020 is the **Clark  
College Administrator and Exempt Excellence Award** honoring two  
Exempt staff  
members who contribute in significant ways toward building a  
positive climate,  
inclusive environment, and improving the quality of life at  
Clark has been  
created. Submissions can be made by filling out the online  
submission form by **5:00 p.m. on  
Friday, December 13**. For questions, contact Lisa Wolfson,  
lwolfson@clark.edu in the Office of the  
President.

Selection  
will be based on the following criteria:

- Exemplary Work Performance
  - Excellence in work performance
  - Makes a significant impact on the College (give examples of involvement, attitude, helpfulness, etc.).



- Contributes and demonstrates commitment to the College's mission and core values.
- Initiative and Collaboration
  - Positive interaction and engagement with all community partners (faculty, staff, students and the public)
  - Exhibits respect for fellow workers and students
- Special Achievements or Contributions to the College Community
  - Initiates or actively participates in projects for the betterment of the college community
  - Serves in leadership roles with campus groups/committees and/or external college partners
  - Displays consistent interest in and active support of diversity; seeks and promotes interaction with and between groups with differing ideologies, cultures, socioeconomic status, etc.

Recipients of this award will receive a glass plaque and \$1,000 funded through an anonymous donor's contributions to the Clark College Foundation. These awards will typically be announced on Open Day before the beginning of fall quarter each year. This inaugural year (2019-2020), the awards will be presented at the State of the College address during winter quarter.

To be eligible, the nominees must be a current full-time Administrative employee who has been in their current position for more than

twelve (12) months. Members of the President's Executive Cabinet are not eligible to be nominated.

## **Congratulations, Dr. Donald Appert**

The award-winning Clark College Orchestra will present its Fall concert as part of the 2019-20 season celebrating the 30th anniversary of Music Director/Conductor Donald Appert on Wednesday, December 4 at Skyview High School.

This all-orchestral extravaganza will include *La Valse* by Maurice Ravel, *Nuages* and *Fêtes* from Claude Debussy's *Nocturnes*, and Josef Suk's *Symphony No. 1 in E minor*. The performance is at 7:30 p.m. and admission is free and open to the public. Donations to the Orchestra General Fund will be accepted at the door.

For complete information about all the Clark College Music Department concerts including the orchestra, concert band, jazz ensemble, and choirs, please see <http://www.clark.edu/campus-life/arts-events/music/music-concerts>.

We are fortunate to have such treasures at Clark College.

## **Student Enrollment**

Clark College began registering students for Winter quarter this

past week for priority registration. While Clark's ctcLink Project Management team works to provide access to queries that will help manage enrollment, I ask for your patience. Planning and Effectiveness is working to redevelop our enrollment management tools in Tableau to be available to all during winter quarter.

## **Open Enrollment for employees**

It's that time – a chance to review and make changes to your public employee benefits. Open enrollment ends Saturday, November 30. To make changes go to *My Account* on the PEBB website. If you have questions about your benefits or account, please contact one of our benefits team members:

- Thao Schmidt, [tschmidt@clark.edu](mailto:tschmidt@clark.edu), ext. 2628
- Amy Harrington, [aharrington@clark.edu](mailto:aharrington@clark.edu), ext. 2325
- Guisela Eberle, [geberle@clark.edu](mailto:geberle@clark.edu), ext. 2119

## **Reflections from this past week and looking ahead**

Once again, I want to share my appreciation for the Clark ctcLink team, who have done an amazing job throughout the goLive conversion. I am inspired by the dedication of all the staff that I've seen

across the campus in Finance, HR, Student Services, Instruction, Planning and Effectiveness, and IT who have been problem-solving throughout the week. Change is hard, and this has been exhausting and frustrating work. This amazing team has risen to the challenge. The whole state community college system has been watching us to see how this is done. Congratulations again, Penguin Nation. You've got this!

This next week I look forward to my first quarterly meeting between the WSUV Executive Team and Clark College Executive Team. The following day the Clark College Executive Team is participating in a daylong retreat with Dr. Kathy Obear, continuing to work on improving ourselves as a team.

Congratulations to the Penguin Men and Women who are running the NWAC Cross Country Championship in Lacey today (Monday, November 18). Go Penguins!!

I will be in Seattle the remainder of the week with Shanda Haluapo, Associate Vice President of Planning and Effectiveness and Clark College Accreditation Liaison Officer, at the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities Annual Conference on Student Success, where I look forward to learning more about the new Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards for 2020. I plan to stay in Seattle for the weekend to have an early holiday with my family.

This coming weekend will be a busy one on campus, with performances of “A Bright New Boise” in the Decker Theatre in Frost Arts Center

Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m.; Men’s and Women’s

Basketball games in O’Connell

Sports Complex; and the Clark College Jazz Band, under the direction of Dr.

Doug Harris, presenting its “A Salute to the Big Bands” on Saturday at 7:30

p.m. in Gaiser Student Center.

And just because Walktober is over, that doesn’t mean we Penguins

should stop being active: Get ready for the Fall Free Fun Run and Walk next

Tuesday, November 26, at 1:15 p.m. in front of the Cannell Library.

Registration is free and starts at 1:00 pm.

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## **VP for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion announced**



Rashida Willard

Clark College announced today November 14, 2019 that Rashida Willard has accepted the position of Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the college effective immediately.

“Rashida has earned the respect of her peers, our students and the community as a strong and effective leader,” said Clark College Interim President Sandra Fowler-Hill who made the appointment. “She has created and developed structures, spaces and programs to help remove barriers for students and she’s leading the effort to create a culturally competent campus to help students succeed. The college is thrilled to make this announcement.”

Willard joined Clark College four years ago as Operations Manager of Administrative Services. She has taught as an adjunct professor, has served as Director of Operations and Risk Manager, and for the past 17 months has served as Interim Associate Vice President of Diversity,

Equity and Inclusion.

During that time, she has developed, aligned and integrated new and existing initiatives and procedures into a cohesive platform to foster a more inclusive, welcoming and diverse college community.

“I am deeply invested in this work, and am passionate about creating inclusive, safe and welcoming environments where *all* students have maximum opportunities to succeed,” Willard said. “I am eager to move forward in community and collaboration, building on our team’s momentum of the last several months.”

Willard was a participant and graduate of the Social Justice Leadership Institute for the Washington State Community College System in 2017-2018 and was nominated as a Real Hero by the Learn Here Project in 2018. She is also a part of the Vancouver Police Chief’s Diversity Advisory Team.

Willard holds a master’s degree in Business Administration, a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, and an associate degree in Organizational Dynamics. She is currently attending Concordia University, pursuing a doctorate in Education with a concentration in Professional Leadership, Inquiry and Transformation. Her current research explores strategies that faculty and staff employ to create culturally engaging spaces for students of color attending predominantly white institutions and how campus racial climate

affects their persistence and completion rates. This research will be used to examine and identify strategies to close the equity gap among students of color in higher education.

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## **The Weekly News: Week 17**



### **Veterans Day**

Thank you to our student and employee Veterans who have served our country. We have 304 Veterans enrolled at Clark College this fall. I'm so proud of our Veterans Resource Center that is available to help veterans and their dependents get connected



with the resources and networks of support available to them at Clark College and in the local community. The Center provides welcoming staff, mentoring from other student veterans, and tools to succeed academically and personally including subsidized dental care, a Books for Vets program, and tutoring.

## ctcLink Success

Congratulations and thank you to our amazing ctcLink team!

89% of our staff have now activated their accounts. 47% of our students and 55% of our faculty have activated their accounts. Here's a helpful link for students with step-by-step instructions on how to activate their new accounts. The timing is important because registration starts this week with eligible student veterans, and continues in waves through next week.

It's the beginning of the third week and while we've made tremendous progress, and there is still considerable work to be done. **I ask for your continued patience** right now.

Staff are not able to respond to requests because they are very busy making sure the information is correct in ctcLink. It's hard on everyone. Our staff want to respond to questions and yet they don't have the bandwidth at this moment.

Thank you for your continued patience and let's give grace to one another in every way possible, knowing everyone is doing the best they can.

## Congratulations, Athletic Director Laura LeMasters!

What great news to see that our own Laura LeMasters has accepted the position of athletic director at Clark

College. Laura joined Clark College as assistant athletic director in 2016 and most recently served as interim athletic director since June. She has a master's degree in Kinesiology with an option in Sport Management from California State University – Long Beach and a bachelor's degree in Sport Management with an emphasis in Communication from WSU Pullman.

Laura brings a wealth of experience in student success, college athletics, marketing, operations, and recreation from her prior roles at Occidental College, Central Wyoming College, and Lewis & Clark College. Laura is a strong student advocate and has played an important role in ensuring our compliance with state, federal and NWAC regulations. Laura is committed to continuing our focus on academic and athletic excellence in our athletic department.

## Go Penguins!

I watched the Clark College women's soccer team play hard on Saturday in the rain. The No. 4- ranked Penguins were upset by Tacoma Community College for the NWAC quarterfinal round. It was a tough ending, but much respect to Tacoma and best of luck going forward. Clark Penguins finished the season 11-4-1. Congratulations to our Penguins! You make us proud.

## Time for nominations

Do you know of an outstanding Classified employee at Clark? Have you been looking for a meaningful way to say "thank you" to that person who has gone above and beyond in their service to you, your department or the college community? Now is your chance to acknowledge that special person.

We are pleased to announce that nominations are being accepted for the **2019 Fall Quarter Award**. Please continue reading for more information. Submissions can be made by filling out the **online submission form**. Please only submit a nomination

for the current quarter.

Nominations will be reviewed by the Classified Staff Awards Committee and will be evaluated entirely on the basis of the information submitted on the nomination form. The deadline is **5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 22, 2019**. For questions, contact Vanessa Neal, [vneal@clark.edu](mailto:vneal@clark.edu) in Human Resources.

## Student enrollment

Each week I'd like to share with you enrollment facts that paint a picture of our student body.

Under the Guided Pathways model, all new, degree-seeking students entering fall 2019 identified their Program of Study, under the six Areas of Study. Here are the paths our students have chosen:

- 16% Creative & Communication Arts
- 17% Business & Entrepreneurship
- 27% Healthcare & Biosciences
- 3% Advanced Manufacturing & Mechanical
- 13% Public Service, Society, & Education
- 23% Science, Technology, & Engineering

We'll continue to work on program mapping and other vital tools within the framework of Guided Pathways to help our students choose their path and stay on the path. Thank you to the Guided Pathways team for all you do.

## Open Enrollment for employees

It's that time – a chance to review and make changes to your public employee benefits. Open enrollment ends Saturday, November 30. To make changes go to *My Account* on the PEBB website. If you have questions about your benefits or account, please contact one of our benefits team members:

- Thao Schmidt, [tschmidt@clark.edu](mailto:tschmidt@clark.edu), ext. 2628
- Amy Harrington, [aharrington@clark.edu](mailto:aharrington@clark.edu), ext. 2325
- Guisela Eberle, [geberle@clark.edu](mailto:geberle@clark.edu), ext. 2119

## Reflections from this past week

This past week I joined Dr. Sachi Horback and Mohammed Maraee, Associate Director of the Southwest Washington Center of Excellence for Semiconductors and Electronics Manufacturers, at Portland Community College's Swan Island Center to discuss with PCC leadership opportunities to collaborate to meet our regional workforce needs in welding. I enjoyed the McClaskey Culinary Institute's Tapas Fiesta Bar with the Executive Council last Tuesday. It was delicious! I loved hearing from the students about how they prepared the creative menu selections. I continued my listening tour with a tour of some of the WPTC Programs. Thanks to Interim Dean Armetta Burney and the amazing faculty in Welding, Machining, and Diesel who shared the exciting work they are doing in these areas. I joined Rashida Willard at the Vancouver Education Diversity and Inclusion Committee to discuss with community leaders how we can partner to "grow our own" systemically non-dominant K-12 teachers. It was an interesting discussion with PSU Dean of Education, Dr. Marvin Lynn, sharing information about the Portland Teachers Program that has been a leader in this work for over 30 years. I ended the week with two of our Board of Trustees (Chair Jacobsen and Trustee Bennett) at the statewide Association of College Trustees Legislative Action Committee and Fall Conference in Seattle and was sorry to miss Bingo for Vets Thursday evening.

This week I am looking forward to meeting with the newly formed Clark College Community Equity Council, celebrating November birthdays with you, meeting the President of WSU at the WSUV Advisory Council, and recognizing the ctLink team at the Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday evening.

Once again, I want to share my appreciation for the Clark ctcLink team, who have done an amazing job throughout the goLive conversion. I am inspired by the dedication of the leadership team and the problem-solving that I've seen across the campus in Finance, HR, Student Services, Instruction, Planning and Effectiveness, and IT throughout the week. Change is hard, and this amazing team has risen to the challenge. The whole state community college system has been watching us to see how this is done. Congratulations again, Penguin Nation. You've got this!

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## **Clark College names new Athletic Director**



Clark College recently announced that Laura LeMasters has accepted the position of athletic director at the college.

LeMasters joined Clark College as assistant athletic director in 2016 and most recently served as

interim athletic director since June. She has a master's degree in Kinesiology with an option in Sport Management from California State University – Long Beach and a bachelor's degree in Sport Management with an emphasis in Communication from WSU Pullman.

LeMasters brings a wealth of experience in student success, college athletics, marketing, operations, and recreation from her prior roles at Occidental College, Central Wyoming College, and Lewis & Clark College.

“Laura is a strong student advocate and has played an important role in ensuring our compliance with state, federal and NWAC regulations,” said Vice President of Student Affairs Bill Belden. “Laura is committed to continuing our focus on academic and athletic excellence in our athletic department.”

“I am grateful and honored to be selected for the role of athletic director at Clark College,” said LeMasters. “I hope to continue to build the level of commitment to academic and athletic excellence as well as create a student experience for athletes, coaches, staff and the entire student body, that will enhance the pride of Penguin Nation.”

## **About Clark College Athletics**

Penguin Athletics has a proud tradition of competitive success within the Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC). The department offers 11 intercollegiate sports programs: Baseball; Men's and Women's Basketball; Men's and Women's Cross Country; Men's and Women's Soccer; Softball; Men's and

Women's Track & Field; and Women's Volleyball.

Penguin Athletics places great emphasis on academic performance as well as athletic achievement. The program offers student athletes the opportunity to reach their educational goals, as well to pursue meaningful athletic accomplishments. For more information, visit [www.clarkpenguins.com](http://www.clarkpenguins.com).

*Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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## **The Weekly News: Week 16**



# Well done, Clark College!

It's Day Five of the ctclink conversion, and I'm so proud of our ctclink team that has put in such long days this week to help the college through the transition. This has been a herculean task requiring patience, perseverance, flexibility, creativity, humor and grace.

Please, as you see them, join me in thanking them for their extraordinary work:

- Susan Maxwell, myClark ctclink Project Director
- Sabra Sand, Director of Business Services and Financial Management Pillar Lead
- Miranda Saari, Associate Dean of Enrollment Services and Registrar and Campus Solution Pillar Lead
- Guisela Eberle, Human Resources Assistant Director and Human Capital Management Pillar Lead
- Genevieve Howard, Associate Vice President of Instruction and Instructional Lead
- Andy Barsotti, Director of Data Services and ITS Lead
- Tanya Kerr, ctclink Internal Controls and Business Analyst (Campus Solutions and Financial Management)
- Jennifer Ward, Program Manager for myClark ctclink
- Shanda Haluapo, Associate Vice President of Planning and Effectiveness and myClark ctclink Executive Sponsor

This really is a team sport. I thank everyone who has made this our No. 1 priority this week. I know it's been



consuming. The long-term benefits to our staff and our employees will be significant.

We also have student resources you can help share with students as they log onto their new and improved MyClark. It's vitally important they're in the system by next week. Registration for winter term starts next Friday. Thank you to our faculty, our staff, our Student Ambassadors, and Tech Hub crew for helping students make the jump onto our new platform.

## **Well Done, Penguins Soccer Team!**

Congratulations to our amazing Clark College women's soccer team! They concluded their 2019 regular season on Saturday, October 26. They have gone 64 league games without a loss, dating back to October 2014; claimed their fourth Southern Region title in a row; and have earned a bye for the first round of the NWAC soccer tournament.

We are set to host the NWAC quarterfinal round at Kim Christensen Field at noon on Saturday, November 9. We will be host to the winner of the Tacoma CC vs. Columbia Basin CC game set for next week. You will be hearing more about showing your Penguin spirit with a new cool scarf that will be available soon.

Go Penguins!!

## Columbia Writers Series next week

This looks like an interesting lunchtime event next Thursday on campus: The Clark College Columbia Writers Series kicks off its 2019-2020 season with “The Female Gaze” featuring 2019 National Book Awards Fiction long-listers **Kali Fajardo-Anstine** (*Sabrina* & *Corina*) and **Kimberly King Parsons** (*Black Light*). This event, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Thursday, November 7, from noon to 2:00 p.m. in PUB 161.

The event includes a reading and discussion on building buzz around debut short story collections and highlighting the many faces of contemporary female identity in literature. It will feature brief readings, a moderated conversation, and question-and-answer session followed by a book signing.

“The Female Gaze” is presented by the **National Book Foundation** and **Clark College** in a new partnership. Information about the Columbia Writers Series is available at [www.clark.edu/cc/cws](http://www.clark.edu/cc/cws).

## Reflections from this past week

Once again, I want to share my appreciation for the Clark ctcLink team who have done an amazing job throughout the goLive conversion. I am inspired by the dedication of the leadership team and the

problem-solving that I've seen across the campus in Finance, HR, Student

Services, Instruction, Planning and Effectiveness, and IT throughout the week.

Change is hard, and this amazing team has risen to the challenge. The whole

state community college system has been watching us to see how this is done.

Congratulations again, Penguin Nation. You've got this!

Thanks, Oswald, for stopping by in your

"penguin burger" costume to share some treats with us yesterday. I enjoyed

seeing some very creative costumes as I walked across the campus yesterday.

I'm looking forward to celebrating

Indigenous cultures at our Annual POWWOW tonight with the Dreamcatcher

Scholarship recognition and Grand Entry with drummers and dancers. It should be

a great way to end the week.

Finally, I've walked 152,926 steps this Walktober around the college and on

the weekends in my neighborhood. Don't forget to turn in your steps to [vneal@clark.edu](mailto:vneal@clark.edu) to help Clark win the

Walktober Challenge. Keep on walking, Penguin Nation!