

New bachelor's degree announced



On Wednesday, May 23, Clark College received approval from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), the college's regional accrediting body, to begin offering its third baccalaureate program: the Bachelor of Applied Science in Human Services (BASHS).

The BASHS degree program is designed for students who already hold an associate degree in Addiction Counselor Education or a related field, allowing them to advance their careers in the behavioral health professions. Sample courses include Multicultural Counseling in Human Services; Trauma, Grief, and Loss; Practical Family Therapy; and Systems and Social Justice.

Full-time students can complete this 90-credit program in two

years. Designed with working professionals in mind, classes are taught in-person two evenings a week, with electives being offered online. The program also provides all the educational requirements necessary to sit for the Washington Department of Health Chemical Dependency Professional (CDP) exam.

“This degree program answers a need we’ve heard from local employers, who want professionals who are cross-trained in mental health and addiction,” said Dr. Marcia Roi, BASHS Program Director and head of the Addiction Counselor Education department at Clark College. “It also serves the needs of our students, who historically have not had a straightforward pathway to a bachelor’s degree that also meets the educational requirements of the CDP exam.”

The college is currently taking applications for fall 2018, the first term the new degree will be offered. For more information or to apply, contact Marcia Roi at mroi@clark.edu. Information is also available online at www.clark.edu/cc/bashs.

Student art on display



The 2018 Student Art Annual comprises approximately 150 student artworks.

Approximately 150 works of art by 93 Clark College students are on display at this year's Student Art Show in Archer Gallery. Clark College art faculty narrowed down from an original pool of about 400 submissions. Artist Victor Maldonado made the final adjudication of awards. Maldonado is Inclusion Specialist and Professor of Art at the Pacific Northwest College of Art and was part of Clark College's Art Talk series earlier this academic year.

The show runs through June 16. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Friday through Saturday 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. Archer Gallery is located in the lower level of the Penguin Union Building on Clark College's main campus.

2018 Art Student Annual Award Recipients

Best in Show

Joanna Lafayette, *"Sad Jo"*

Sponsored by Artist and Craftsman Supply and Dengerink Art Supply

Award of Excellence

Bryce Van Patten, *"Emma"*

Sponsored by Dick Blick Art Supply

Award of Excellence

Stephanie Hale, *"Inner Machinations"*

Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore

Award of Excellence

Emily Clark, *"Re-define Woman"*

Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore

Award of Merit

Albina Kokhanevich, *"Self-portrait"*

Sponsored by Collage Art Supply

Best Ceramics

Channa Smith, *"Reconciliation of the Ancestors"*

Sponsored by Clay Art Center

Ceramics Award of Excellence

Sara Brandt, *"Vase"*

Sponsored by Georgie's Ceramics

Ceramics Award of Distinction

Eric Burren, *"Stellar Rust"*

Sponsored by Georgie's Ceramics

Ceramics Award of Merit

Chiara Marcy, *"Light Beyond the Breaking Point"*

Sponsored by Georgie's Ceramics

Best Photography Award

Lexi Dufault, *"Tomorrow Looking Into Today"*

Sponsored by Pro Photo

Photography Award of Excellence

Tricia Davis-Payne, *"Windows"*

Sponsored by Pro Photo

Photography Award of Excellence

Gwenn McGill, *"Hidden Memories"*

Sponsored by Blue Moon Camera

Photography Award of Excellence

Cy'aira Shotwell, *"Disconnect"*

Sponsored by Blue Sky Gallery

Best Metal Arts

Ray Bennett, *"Mask"*

Sponsored by Handley's Rock and Jewelry Supply

Best Welded Sculpture

Scott Kemper, *"Love Blossoms"*

Sponsored by the Clark Welding department

Welded Sculpture Award of Excellence

Ashley Kemper, *"A Bowl in a Garden"*

Sponsored by the Clark Welding department

Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley. For more photos from the

show, see our Flickr album.

Clark instructor earns Guggenheim



Orlando, Florida, June 12, 2016 is one of a series of paintings from Stephen Hayes' project *In the Hour Before*, for which he received a 2018 Guggenheim Fellowship. *Image courtesy of Stephen Hayes/Elizabeth Leach Gallery.*

Clark College is proud to announce that adjunct art instructor Stephen Hayes has been named a 2018 Guggenheim Fellow in Fine

Arts. Hayes is one of 175 scholars, artists, and scientists from the U.S. and Canada to receive this honor from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

“As one of the few community colleges in the state to offer an Associate in Fine Arts degree, Clark College takes pride in the high level of quality of the faculty members who teach in our studio arts programs,” said Professor Lisa Conway, chair of the college’s art department. “We are thrilled, though in no way surprised, by Stephen’s latest accomplishment.”

Hayes has taught classes including drawing, color design, and two-dimensional design at Clark since 2012, shortly after he presented a lecture during the college’s popular Clark Art Talks series. Besides Clark, his teaching experience includes Oregon State University and Yarmouk University. As an artist, Hayes has held over 35 solo exhibitions in the U.S. and abroad, and his works are housed in the collections of the New York Public Library, the Frans Masereel Centrum voor Grafiek in Kasterlee, Belgium, The Portland Art Museum, The Hallie Ford Museum, The Gates Foundation, Lewis and Clark College and more than 100 private and public collections in the United States, Europe, and Japan.

Hayes, who lives in Portland, will use the fellowship’s funding to pursue a project titled *In The Hour Before*, in which he uses Google Earth to view places that have been affected by gun violence and paints them as they would be seen in the hour before the violent event took place.

“It is both exciting and humbling to be awarded this fellowship,” said Hayes. “So many artists are as deserving of this kind of recognition. I have worked with focus for a long time and have gotten a few breaks over the years with exhibitions, grants, and awards. This one feels as if it can not only be a recognition for past efforts, but also can open doors to new possibilities.

More information about Stephen Hayes is available at www.gf.org/fellows/all-fellows/stephen-hayes/ and at his website, www.stephenhayes.net.

Another Top 10 for the Indy



Members of the Clark College Independent staff show off their Associated Collegiate Press award. *Photo: Bradley Wilson*

Clark College's student-run newspaper, *The Independent*, again placed in the Top 10 in a national contest of two-year colleges, earning fourth place in the annual Best of Show competition in Long Beach, California.

The award from the Associated Collegiate Press honored overall excellence among teams of students who attended the Midwinter National College Journalism Convention on March 1-4.

The *Indy*, which is funded by the Associated Students of Clark College, has taken home this award for several years under the direction of former student-media advisor Dee Anne Finken. Finken retired in January but oversaw the publication of the Oct. 18, 2017 edition that judges singled out for national recognition.

The *Indy* won fourth place in 2017, as well.

“Receiving this award for the second year in a row really brought home how much my staff have invested in this program,” said Riley Clarke, editor-in-chief. “It’s been a year full of change, and I couldn’t be more proud to work with such dedicated, passionate people.”

This article was contributed by Beth Slovic.

Would you, could you buy a book?



King Elementary students enjoy their new books in 2015, donated through the Clark College Bookstore's annual book drive.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know," wrote Theodor Geisel (aka "Dr. Seuss"). "The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." It is with this idea in mind that Clark College has chosen Vancouver's King Elementary School as the beneficiary of its tenth annual book drive, which runs Feb. 12-28.

Over the past nine years, the Clark College Bookstore has helped provide more than 1,100 books to local kindergartners. This year's book selection is Dr. Seuss' *Green Eggs and Ham*, a favorite among children for six decades. Geisel wrote the book in 1960 after a publisher dared him to write a children's story using no more than 50 words.

The community is invited to help purchase 85 copies of the Dr.

Seuss classic to be given to kindergartners at King Elementary on Read Across America Day (March 2), a celebration to commemorate Geisel's birthday. Books will be read aloud to students by volunteers from the Clark College Bookstore.

Research has shown that having age-appropriate books in the home promotes literacy in children. But according to the National Center for Children in Poverty, two-thirds of children from low-income families lack access to books. Clark College Bookstore Manager Monica Knowles, who has helped organize the book drive for many years, says that she often hears from her volunteers that this gift was the only book a kindergartner owned.

Copies of the selected Dr. Seuss books are available for purchase and donation Feb. 12-28 for \$6.85 each (plus tax). Each book will include a nameplate with the donor's name. Donors will be able to purchase books at the Bookstore or online via the Bookstore's website at www.clarkbookstore.com, making it quick and convenient to participate in the book drive.

The Clark College Bookstore is located in Gaiser Hall on the northern end of Clark's main campus. Clark College is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver. Driving directions and parking maps are available at www.clark.edu/maps. Information about the bookstore is available at www.clarkbookstore.com. For additional information, contact Monica Knowles at the Clark College Bookstore at 360-992-2904.

Fall sports roundup



The 2017 Penguins volleyball team had its best season in program history. *Photo: Clark College Athletic Department.*

As fall quarter comes to a close, Clark's Athletic Department has much to take pride in from the concluding sports season. More than one fall sports teams had their best performance in team history, and many made into the championships for the Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC). Individual team reports are below:

Women's Soccer

Women's Soccer carried over their success from the 2016 season, extending their South Region dominance, finishing 11-0-1 in conference and 13-3-1 overall. The women reached the NWAC semi-finals after defeating Whatcom 6-1 at home in their quarterfinal game.

The semi-final game was played in Seattle against Highline Community College. Clark would score first and go into half-

time with a 1-0 lead. Highline answered in both the 60:00 minute and the 67:00 minute, taking over the lead. Freshman Sarah Teubner tied the game in the 86:00 minute, propelling the Penguins into what would be two high-energy extra periods. The extra periods would conclude with both teams still tied 2-2, forcing penalty kicks.

The Penguins ultimately fell to Highline in penalty kicks, 4-3. Highline would go on to win the NWAC title. Clark's third-place championship finish is the best in program history.

Forward Facienne Graham was voted South Region MVP and teammates Rylee MacDonald, Sarah Teubner, Maddison Maffeo, and Maggie Higgins received All-Star recognition.

Teubner finished the season second in the NWAC for assists, with 13. Graham finished fourth in the NWAC for points with 40, and fifth in assists with 10. Goal-keeper Higgins finished second in the NWAC for save percentage, with .864.

Men's Soccer

Men's Soccer found themselves in the playoffs this season following a 4-4-2 conference record and 4-8-2 overall record. The South Region saw an evenly talented pool of teams throughout the season, with playoff positions being decided in the final games of the conference season. Clark secured their third-place finish, which put them on the road up to Tacoma for their playoff game.

Clark fell to Tacoma 3-0, with all of Tacoma's goals coming in the last 17 minutes of the game. Freshman forward Eric Hernandez-Tavera received South Region MVP and teammates Colton Mannhalter, Kento Oudomphong, Vladimir Romano, and Miguel Martin received All-Star recognition.

Volleyball

Volleyball finished their season with the best record in school history: 34-8 overall, 11-3 in conference. With the top three spots in the South Region being up for grabs until the final matches of conference play, the Penguins secured the third-place position heading into the NWAC tournament.

Clark defeated three NWAC opponents before falling to Chemeketa, 1-3, in the double-elimination tournament. They faced Bellevue in the elimination game, after defeating them 3-1 during the second-round of the tournament.

The Penguins finished the first set in dominant fashion, defeating the Bulldogs 25-9. The Bulldogs answered in the second set 25-18, forcing a third set. The final set appeared evenly matched, but Bellevue ultimately defeated the Penguins 15-11. Clark would finish their season with a third-place standing in the conference.

Freshman Dalaney Tuholski finished fourth in the NWAC in kills with 374. Freshman Mary Schorn finished fourth in digs per set with 4.71 and fifth in digs with 518. Freshman Olivia White finished second in the NWAC in blocks per set with 1.30.

Men's Cross Country

Men's Cross-Country finished the South region in third place. Sophomore Sam Andersen finished fifth with a time of 27.43; right behind him was freshman teammate Jarod Hulsizer, at 27.47. Freshman Javier Tavera finished sixteenth with 30.13 and freshman Jose Cruz-Solis finished thirty-fourth with a time of 33.293.

The South Region meet was held at Umpqua Community College in what turned out to be a competitive course involving multiple hills for the athletes to climb.

The NWAC championship meet was held in Lacey, Washington, on the campus of St. Martin's University. The men finished fourth with seven runners completing the course. Freshman Jarod Hulsizer finished sixth with a time of 27:41.50, earning All-American status as a Top Seven finisher.

Women's Cross Country

Women's Cross-Country saw much success at the end of their season. They finished in second place at the South Region meet, with four runners finishing in the top ten. Freshman Lizzye Rybalka finished third with a time of 21.37 and freshman Natalia Urutiaga finished fifth, 22.00. Sophomore Aislynn Hansen finished ninth, 23.04, and freshman Lulu Meksheneva finished tenth, 23.15.

The women would carry that success into the NWAC championship meet, finishing in fourth, only two points behind the third-place finishing team. Urutiaga finished the course fifth, earning All-American status. Rybalka would finish ninth, followed by Hansen in fourteenth.

Coming up: Basketball

With the conclusion of the fall sports season, both men's and women's basketball programs are in the middle of their non-conference schedule. The men will be hosting an NWAC crossover tournament December 15-17, which will include a round-robin tournament with Centralia, Olympic, and Spokane. Both the teams will open their conference play in January, with their first home conference opponent, Lane, coming into town on Saturday, January 6, at 2:00 p.m. (4:00 p.m. for the women's game).

For all upcoming schedule and events, visit www.clarkpenguins.com

A whole new menu



On Tuesday, November 28, Clark College will launch a new era in the region's culinary scene as it hosts the ribbon-cutting ceremony for its Tod and Maxine McClaskey Culinary Institute.

The modern, 20,615-square-foot facility provides a variety of fast, fresh, and healthy dining options for students, faculty, staff, and the community. The space features three kiosks, a full-service baking retail store and barista bar, and grab-and-go items. Next year, a fourth kiosk and student-run restaurant will open. The space also offers indoor and outdoor seating.

The McClaskey Culinary Institute is also home to the college's completely redesigned Cuisine Management and Baking and Pastry

Arts programs, which restarted this fall after years on hiatus. The design of the space allows visitors to see and interact with students, bringing food preparation and learning to the whole college.

“We are so excited to be opening the McClaskey Culinary Institute and bringing food service back to the college,” said Genevieve Howard, dean of Workforce, Professional & Technical Education. “The institute provides education for students, nutritious meals for students, and a great place for the community to come in and be part of Clark College.”

The McClaskey Culinary Institute will officially open to the public with the ribbon-cutting ceremony, which is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and will include a thank-you to donors, cooking and baking demonstrations, and tours of the \$10.5 million facility. The event is free and open to the public.

“Opening the Tod and Maxine McClaskey Culinary Institute is the realization of many years of effort on the part of the college and our community partners,” said Clark College President Bob Knight. “It will not only help us to prepare our students for jobs in the food and hospitality industries, but also establish Southwest Washington as a hub of culinary innovation. It is also the only public culinary program within 120 miles.”

For more information about food service and hours, visit www.clark.edu/cc/dining.

Photo: Clark College/Wei Zhuang

Welcome, professors!



Top row, *left to right*: Dr. Lindsay Christopher, Michael Ludwig, Brian McVay, Alexis Nelson. Second row: Toby Peterson, Mary Ellen Pierce, and Lora Whitfield

Seven outstanding educators are the newest members of the tenured faculty at Clark College. Dr. Lindsay Christopher (English), Michael Ludwig (dental hygiene), Brian McVay (welding), Alexis Nelson (English), Tobias Peterson (English), Mary Ellen Pierce (nursing), and Lora Whitfield (early childhood education) were all granted tenure during the Clark College Board of Trustees meeting on March 14.

Tenure is awarded by the college's Board of Trustees based on professional excellence and outstanding abilities in their disciplines. The granting of tenure is based on the recommendations of tenure review committees to the vice president of instruction, which are then forwarded to the president, who presents a final recommendation to the Board of Trustees. Recommendations are based on self-evaluations, tenure review committee evaluations, student evaluations, supervisory evaluations, and peer evaluations. The final decision to award or withhold tenure rests with the Board of Trustees.

"Tenure is a landmark moment—both in the careers of the individual faculty members, as well as in the history of the college as a whole," said Dr. Tim Cook, Vice President of Instruction. "These faculty members will become a crucial part of the college's community and will help shape its curriculum and character for years to come. I look forward to seeing these talented and passionate educators contribute to Clark's collective legacy."

About the faculty members

Dr. Lindsay Christopher



Dr. Lindsay Christopher holds bachelor's and master's degrees in English from Mercyhurst College and University of Buffalo, respectively. She earned her Ph.D. in Literary Studies from the University of Denver. Her teaching experience includes the

University of Denver, Arapahoe Community College, and Clark College.

At Clark, Dr. Christopher has participated in college-wide initiatives focused on integrative learning; power, privilege, and inequity; open education resources; and the college's "common read" book and theme. She leads the English Department's literature and technical writing work groups and has also taught "Introduction to Clark College," a course designed to help new Clark College students succeed at the college.

"At the core of my teaching practice is the conviction that when students engage in active inquiry in a diverse curriculum that honors their experience, they begin their journeys to becoming powerful thinkers and creators, innovative leaders, and dynamic citizens," said Dr. Christopher.

Michael Ludwig



Michael Ludwig is a Clark College alumnus, having received his Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene from the college in 1997. He also holds a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene from Eastern Washington University and is completing his Master of Education degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University.

Ludwig has 16 years of professional experience as a dental hygienist in private practice and 14 years of teaching experience at Clark College. He currently serves as the Lead

Restorative Instructor in the college's Dental Hygiene program.

"Students learn in a variety of ways," said Ludwig. "My approach is to utilize a variety of teaching methods to reach as many students as possible in an organized manner while providing clear goals and expectations."

Brian McVay



Brian McVay is also a Clark alumnus, having attended Clark's welding program before going on to a four-year ironworker apprenticeship. He has work experience as an ironworker, a quality assurance inspector at Cascade General Shipyard, and as an ultrasound operator for nondestructive testing. McVay, who has taught at Clark for three years, is a Certified Welding Inspector and a Washington Association of Building Officials (WABO) Test Examiner.

At Clark, McVay helps advise future students and gives tours of the welding program. He is the faculty advisor of the Clark College Welding Club and administers WABO weld testing. He is also active in outreach work to regional industry to assess its needs.

McVay says his teaching philosophy involves showing the real-world applications of lesson material and making sure students understand the material thoroughly.

Alexis Nelson



Alexis Nelson earned her bachelor's degree in English from the University of California at Santa Barbara and her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing with a nonfiction emphasis from Portland State University. She has teaching experience at both PSU and at Clark.

At Clark, Nelson has served as co-director of the Columbia Writers Series and has grown it from an annual to a quarterly event. She also founded Subtext, the college's annual literary festival, and serves as co-advisor for the college's creative writing club.

"My approach to teaching is hands-on and student-centered, with an emphasis on group discussion, workshopping of student writing, and learning to read as writers," said Nelson.

Tobias Peterson



Tobias Peterson holds bachelor degrees in both Spanish Literature and English from the University of Texas at Austin. He earned a Master of Arts in English from George Mason University and a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing with a focus on poetry from Texas State University. Peterson has teaching experience at Austin Community College, Texas State University, Portland State University, Clackamas Community College, and Clark College.

At Clark, Peterson has served on numerous college-wide committees and task forces, including Planning and Accreditation, Program Improvement Process, Teaching and Learning, Opening Day Planning, Strategic Plan Development, Credit for Prior Learning, and Title III Grant. He serves as the evidence chair for the Academic Excellence Core Council and is the former co-chair of the Outcomes Assessment Committee. Within the English Department, he serves on the Creative Writing and the Technical and Professional Writing committees. He also helps coordinate the annual Clark Crossings Reading Series.

Peterson described his approach to teaching as “outcomes-focused and project-driven. I see my role as a ‘guide on the side,’ to inspire, enable, and empower my students to meet learning goals in applied settings and through practical application.”

Mary Ellen Pierce



Mary Ellen Pierce earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Alaska and her Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Phoenix. She has 35 years of work experience as a registered nurse working in a variety of settings, including hospitals, post-acute care, community-based care, and legal nurse and health care consulting. She has extensive experience in nursing administration, as well as four years of experience as a nurse educator.

At Clark, Pierce serves on the Academic Standards and Program Improvement Process committees, as well as numerous departmental committees. She is also an active member of the college’s Guided Pathways faculty team, which is tasked with planning Clark’s transition to this successful, structured model of higher education.

“I believe in dynamic teaching that engages students in the learning process, challenges them to think, question, and use their ‘nursing voices’ to promote optimal patient care and best practice,” Pierce said. “I believe learning is an ongoing process that serves to enhance and strengthen each person’s skills and abilities and that inclusive collaboration and mutual respect are key components of positive growth, both individually and collectively.”

Lora Whitfield



Lora Whitfield is a Clark College alumna, having earned her Associate in Applied Science in Early Childhood Education in 2002. She earned her Master of Arts in Human Development with a specialization in Early Childhood Education and Bi-Cultural Development from Pacific Oaks College. Whitfield has work experience at Albina Early Head Start in Portland, Ore., and at the Southwest Washington Child Care Consortium.

During her time teaching at Clark, Whitfield has served on the Clark College Early Childhood Advisory Committee, the Early Childhood Teacher Preparation Council, the State Board Faculty of Color Mentorship Program, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

“As an educator, I am committed to treating each individual with respect,” Whitfield said. “I believe respect is paramount in creating environments that promote students’ ideas, passions, and interests in a meaningful and organic way. I strive to provide settings where everyone can share their ideas without bias and be included in all aspects of learning.”

Addition on June 14: Kay Cook



Math professor Kate Cook was granted tenure during the Clark College Board of Trustees meeting on June 14.

Cook earned her bachelor's degree in mathematics and education at Principia College in Illinois and her master's degree in mathematics at California State University, East Bay. She has previous teaching experience at Portland Community College and began teaching at Clark as an adjunct in 2008.

Cook's involvement at Clark includes leading the Core to College Grant team, serving as the course coordinator for statistics courses in the Mathematics Department, and presenting mathematics worksheet ideas at local and national conferences.

"I try to meet the student at their level and encourage them forward to new confidence and ability in math," said Cook, who lives in Vancouver. "I've found that a bit of humor helps make that rocky path more enjoyable."

Clark College relaunches Culinary programs



The Tod and Maxine McClaskey Culinary Institute will improve students' access to food on campus and provide a state-of-the-art training center for the culinary arts.

Clark College is excited to announce the launch of the new Cuisine Management and Professional Bakery and Pastry Arts programs. After four years of developing an updated curriculum and modernizing the existing kitchens and dining spaces, the new Tod and Maxine McClaskey Culinary Institute will welcome its first class of students in the fall of 2017.

The college is hosting two free informational sessions for prospective students interested in the culinary programs on Thursday, February 23 and Monday, March 6. Both sessions will be held at 6 p.m. in PUB 161 on Clark's main campus. Maps and directions are available at www.clark.edu/maps.

Thanks to a \$4 million gift from The Tod and Maxine McClaskey Family Foundation, Clark was able to transform its existing facility into a state-of-the-art teaching and dining establishment. The new building will create a community space on campus that highlights the growing influence of food on our culture and also provides students with real-world experience in a production kitchen, retail bakery, full-service dining room, and variety of food kiosks. All services will be open to Clark's community and the general public.

"This new facility will provide an immediate positive impact for both the college community and the culinary programs," said Dr. Tim Cook, Vice President of Instruction at Clark College. "We are able to provide students with career-focused, affordable culinary education at a time when many other local programs are closing their doors. When the institute opens, it will be the only public culinary program within 120 miles."

Clark culinary students can choose between two modern, competitive programs: Cuisine or Professional Baking and Pastry Arts. In both programs, students learn classic techniques, kitchen fundamentals, and real-world skills, and then combine that knowledge with practical experience in high-volume food production.

One-year certificate programs and a two-year associate degree will be offered. Additionally, students interested in four-year degrees can advance their culinary careers with Clark College's Bachelor of Applied Science in Applied Management degree program—or take advantage of transfer partnership agreements the college has forged with both the Cascadia Technical Academy and Washington State University Vancouver.

"There is a growing demand for culinary and hospitality professionals in this region," said Aaron Guerra, executive chef instructor and head of the culinary arts department. "The culinary landscape is shifting and Clark College is well suited to face the changing industry because we're not afraid

to do things differently.”

Individuals who are interested in learning more about the Cuisine and Professional Baking and Pastry Arts programs, but are unable to attend either informational session, may visit www.clark.edu/cc/culinary.

Education for all



Gov. Jay Inslee visits with children in the Oliva Family Early Learning Center.

Governor Jay Inslee stopped by Clark College on Jan. 24 to tour the Oliva Family Early Learning Center and learn about the college’s approach to early learning.

Inslee had a chance to tour the 5,000 square-foot building, which features large windows and many natural elements in a space that comprises a toddler classroom, a preschool classroom, an industrial kitchen, and a spacious family meeting area warmed by a stone fireplace.

It was in that family room that a small group of staff, parents, and students gathered with Inslee to share what makes Clark's Child and Family Services (CFS) program special, including the focus on experiential education for children, the workforce training for students studying Early Childhood Education (ECE), and the unusual level of parental involvement.

Parents whose children are enrolled in the CFS program attend parenting classes each quarter. "The parent credit is very unique," said Michele Volk, Director of Child and Family Services. "Families are the first and best teachers for young people."

Lisa Trisler attended Clark's CFS program as a child and later enrolled her own daughter, Laurel, in the program. "As a part of my daughter's education, I participated in the classroom, I was involved with her teachers, and I gained additional knowledge as a parent," said Trisler. "I was pulled right into her education. We wouldn't have had this experience in a traditional preschool setting."



Gov. Jay Inslee gives a commemorative coin from his last inauguration to Laurel Trisler while Laurel's mother, Lisa, observes, in the building that her family helped fund.

Her family so appreciated their experience that Trisler's parents, Jan and Steve Oliva, donated funding to help make the new Early Learning Center a reality. The state of Washington provided \$1 million for the project on the condition that the college raise matching funds. The Olivas' gift allowed the project to move forward.

"We are proud of our public-private partnership," said Dr. Tim Cook, Vice President of Instruction. The program may need to reach out to more private donors in the future: While the Oliva Center is considered a model child care facility for the region, much of the Child & Family Studies program is still housed in older buildings that will need to be replaced.

Inslee expressed his plans to fund early childhood education through the state budget and emphasized the importance of making an early investment in Washington's youth, noting that there is a legal imperative as well as a social one for investing in education—namely, the recent McCleary Decision on Public Education Funding and Reform, which ordered state lawmakers to fully fund public schools through the state budget and address disparities between districts.

“The McCleary decision doesn't include early childhood, but we think it is vital,” said Inslee who has stated in the past that he considers early learning an important part of closing the opportunity gap. In 2015, Inslee helped pass the Early Start Act, which raised standards for early learning facilities statewide.

Inslee's visit to Clark concluded with a tour of classrooms led by current ECE student Miranda Malagon and a look the Little Penguins Garden outdoor play area. Clark's CFS program places an emphasis on outdoor learning and is one of the few preschool programs with a dedicated outdoor teacher.

Summer Brown, Clark College Counseling & Health Center employee and parent of 2-year-old twins enrolled in CFS, sees the value of CFS in both her own life and the community: “My children are taught by teachers of 30 years. Former graduates go on to be teachers themselves. There is a continuous effort to keep people involved in the community.

“My kids have really benefitted,” said Brown.

To view more photos of the Governor's visit, please visit: https://www.flickr.com/photos/clark_college/albums/72157679608103825

Photos: Clark College/Nick Bremer