

Four finalists named in presidential search



Dr. Karin Edwards, Dr. Joaquin Martinez, Dr. Lamata Mitchell, and Dr. Sara Thompson Tweedy

The Clark College Board of Trustees has announced the completion of a major step in selecting the next Clark College President. The trustees selected four finalists Wednesday, December 18, at its monthly public meeting. The board acted on the recommendations made by the search advisory committee that conducted interviews with ten semi-finalists last week.

“It’s a milestone in our search and a moment to celebrate,” said Board Trustee Paul Speer. “The Search Advisory Committee has accomplished its task in finding Clark College four outstanding candidates. I thank them for their excellent and collaborative work.”

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 as it began its recruitment process in September with the assistance of a national search firm, Gold Hill Associates. The Search Advisory Committee comprised of community leaders, college employees and students then reviewed the applications and narrowed the field to ten semi-finalists. Last week, the committee interviewed all ten candidates and made their recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

“This was a great process to be part of,” said Al Schauer, a committee member and business leader. “I appreciated the robust discussions and ultimately, the strong consensus within the committee that Clark College has four outstanding candidates to choose from.”

“This has been an inclusive search with multiple perspectives represented in the process,” added Eric Merrill, Clark College Foundation Board Chair and member of the President Selection Committee. “This is a critical leadership position for the college and our community. It’s exciting to see high-caliber candidates who want to serve as our next college president.”

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.

Current Interim President Dr. Sandra Fowler-Hill was hired in June 2019 to lead the college through the transition. She was not a candidate for the permanent position. Fowler-Hill stepped in when former college president Bob Knight retired last summer.

“Having an interim president has allowed the college and the community this important time to carefully consider who will lead the college into the next decade,” said Speer. “Dr. Fowler-Hill has provided key leadership at a critical time and will help the onboarding process with our next President.”

More information about the ongoing search process can be found at www.clark.edu/presidential-search.

**The time is now to register
for Winter**



The finals have all been handed in and students are enjoying some much-deserved rest during Winter Break, but here at Clark College staff are busy getting ready for Winter Term, which begins January 6.

There are plenty of exciting classes to look forward to, including:

- The Small World Initiative (BIOL 105), a collaboration with Yale University that teaches Clark College students to search for potential new strains of antibiotics
- A wide selection of fine arts classes, including Metal Arts, Ceramics, and Graphic Design
- Business courses like Small Business Management, Introduction to e-Business, and Introduction to International Business

It's not too late for new students to get started at Clark. Visit our new students page to learn how to begin 2020 by getting on the path to a new career.

For continuing students, the time is now to register for the next term. Need to talk with Advising or other student services during Winter Break? We're open all December long!

Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Three decades of music



Don Appert. *Photo: Tom Seeman.*

On Wednesday, December 4, the award-winning Clark College Orchestra will present its fall concert as part of the 2019-2020 season celebrating the 30th anniversary of Dr. Donald Appert as Clark College Music Director/Conductor. 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. in the auditorium of Skyview High School in Vancouver. 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>.

About Dr. Donald Appert

Dr. Donald Appert has appeared as a guest conductor in Japan, Australia, Central America, and throughout Europe. In Italy *La'ovadese* wrote, "... the performance of the 'Serenade in C Major' of Tchaikovsky, under the exceptional direction of Appert, was in such a style that it brought out the elegance and grace of the melodic lines with Mozartian inspiration." *Giornale di Sicilla* praised his interpretation of Nielsen's First Symphony as "lyrical with an airy freshness," and his conducting as "precise, painstakingly accurate, and diligent." In the United States, he has appeared as a guest conductor of the Vancouver (Washington) Symphony, the University of Texas – Arlington Symphony Orchestra, the Eastern Washington University Symphony Orchestra, and the University of Central Arkansas Symphony.

As one of only five musicians chosen, Dr. Appert received the 2015 Honored Artists of The American Prize for "individuals who have proven themselves to be musicians of sustained excellence over a number of seasons." Adding to this

distinctive honor is his 2011 The American Prize in Orchestral Programming – Vytautas Marijosius Memorial Award for his work with the Oregon Sinfonietta.

Dr. Appert was awarded the 2015 ASCAPPLUS Award in recognition of his performances in Italy and the United States. His awards in previous years were for performances in Romania, Qatar, Europe, Central America, Japan, and the United States. Dr. Appert is the recipient of the 2014 Clark County Arts Commission Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award, and in 2009, he received the Washington Community College Humanities Association Exemplary Status Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Humanities.

As a member of ASCAP, most of Dr. Appert's compositions have been performed throughout the world. A recent work, *Concerto for Cello and Orchestra*, commissioned by and for Jeffrey Butler of the Houston Symphony, had its world première to great applause on June 17, 2018, with Mr. Butler as soloist and the Clark College Orchestra accompanying him.

Clark College named Best for Vets



Clark College employees serve cake at the opening of the Veterans Resource Center in 2014.

Clark College has been named a 2020 Best for Vets college in the Career and Technical College category by *Military Times*.

For 10 years, *Military Times* has conducted an extensive, editorially independent, objective study evaluating the many factors that help make colleges and universities a good fit for service members, military veterans, and their families. The final rankings for 2020 can be found here. More details about the rankings can be found on militarytimes.com.

“This is the third year in a row that Clark College has been recognized as a Best for Vets college,” said Clark College Veterans Resource Center Interim Manager Dave Daly. “I think it speaks to the systems we’ve built to support our student veterans and ensure that they are successful in their transition from military to academic life.”

Opened in 2014, the Veterans Resource

Center offers student veterans a wide range of services and resources, from free tutoring to help accessing GI Bill benefits.

The space includes couches for socializing with fellow veterans, computer labs, shelves and racks of free textbooks and clothing, and staff who can help

connect student veterans with resources or just listen to their experiences

without judgment. Additionally, the center has partnered with Clark College

Dental Hygiene and the American Legion Post 176 to provide subsidized dental care to student veterans.

Currently, 304 Clark College students identify as veterans.

Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

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.

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.

Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Clark College Theatre begins season with “A Bright New Boise”



Clark College Theatre starts its 2019-2020 season with *A Bright New Boise* by Samuel D. Hunter.

Winner of the 2011 Obie Award for Playwriting and nominated for a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play, *A Bright New Boise* is a darkly funny examination of American religion set in the staff room of an Idaho Hobby Lobby. Will, who has fled his

rural hometown after a scandal at his Evangelical church, comes to the Hobby Lobby, not only for employment, but also to rekindle a relationship with Alex, his brooding teenage son. Alex works there along with Leroy, his adopted brother and protector, and Anna, a hapless young woman who reads bland fiction but hopes for dramatic endings. As their manager, foul-mouthed Pauline, tries ceaselessly to find order (and profit) in the chaos of small business, these lost souls of the Hobby Lobby confront an unyielding world through the beige-tinted impossibility of modern faith.

This production's cast includes: E Andres Houseman as Will, Linda Owsley as Pauline, Corinne Stephens as Anna, Keegan Harrison as Leroy, and Brenden Kinnee as Alex. The show is directed by Mark Owsley.

This show contains adult themes, language, and content.

Show Dates: November 15, 16, 21, 22, and 23. All show times are at 7:30 p.m. in the Decker Theatre, Frost Arts Center, on Clark College's main campus. Maps and directions are available at www.clark.edu/maps.

Ticket Information: Students (with ID) \$10; Alumni (with membership) \$10; Senior Citizens \$12; General Admission \$15.

Tickets may be purchased online at http://www.clarkbookstore.com/site_theatre.asp, or call 360-992-2815.

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

Columbia Writers Series presents "The Female Gaze"



The Clark College Columbia Writers Series kicks off its 2019-2020 season with "The Female Gaze" with 2019 National Book Awards Fiction Longlisters **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 Penguin Union Building (PUB) room 161 on Clark College's main campus.

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.

Kali Fajardo-Anstine is from Denver, Colorado. Her fiction has appeared in *The American Scholar*, *Boston Review*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *The Idaho Review*, *Southwestern American Literature*, and elsewhere. Kali has received fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, and Hedgebrook. She received her MFA from the University of Wyoming and has lived across the country, from Durango, Colorado, to Key West, Florida.

Born in Lubbock, Texas, **Kimberly King Parsons** received her MFA from Columbia University. Her fiction has been published in *The Paris Review*, *Best Small Fictions 2017*, *Black Warrior Review*, *No Tokens*, *Ninth Letter*, and *The Kenyon Review*, among others.

The Columbia Writers Series was launched at Clark College in 1988, bringing local, national and international authors to

the college and the region. After "The Female Gaze," this year's lineup will continue with the writer Terese Mailhot on Monday, January 27; the poet Ilya Kaminsky will read during spring term.

Information

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

This

event is held on Clark College's main campus at 1933 Ft. Vancouver Way. Directions

and maps are available online. Individuals

who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in

this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services (DSS)

Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP). The DSS office is located in room

013 in Clark's Penguin Union Building.

Women's soccer heads to tournament



Sophomore Hannah Eakins takes a shot on the goal in the Penguins' win during a September 2019 game against Southwestern Oregon.

The Clark College women's soccer team concluded their 2019 regular season on Saturday, October 26. With the 3-1 win over Clackamas, the Penguins went undefeated in Southern Region play.

This continues a near-historic winning streak for Penguin women's soccer: They have now gone 64 league games without a loss, dating back to October 17, 2014. With this win, the team has claimed their fourth NWAC Southern Region title in a row and have earned a bye for the first round of the conference tournament.

The Penguins are set to host the NWAC quarterfinal round at Kim Christensen Field on Clark College's main campus at noon on Saturday, November 9. They will be host to the winner of the Tacoma Community College vs. Columbia Basin Community College game, to be held on Wednesday, November 6 at 1:00 p.m.

Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Clark College takes next step in hiring new president



Community and college representatives selected to screen and recommend finalists for the next Clark College President. Community and college representatives have come together to form a Presidential Search Advisory Committee at Clark College. Their job will be to screen applicants and recommend presidential candidate finalists to the Clark College Board of Trustees.

The committee met for the first time on October 11 to review the process, participate in implicit bias training, and discuss the job description for the next president. The composition of the committee is outlined in Clark College policy 610.025. It includes community leaders as well as college students, staff and faculty.

- **Heather Adams**, Clark College staff
- **Christhian Canseco**, Account Manager ESCO Corporation

- **Justin Flint**, ASCC student leader
- **Tanisha Harris**, CASA Program Specialist YWCA Clark County
- **Jane Jacobsen**, Clark College Board of Trustees Chair
- **Evans Kaame**, ASCC student President
- **Catharine Keane**, Clark College staff
- **Tanya Kerr**, Clark College staff
- **Eric Merrill**, Clark College Foundation Board Chair
- **Dannie Nordsiden**, Automotive Technology Instructor
- **Danielle Plessner**, Clark College staff
- **Donivee Randall-Jones**, Professor of Nursing
- **Suzanne Southerland**, Professor of Communication Studies
- **Al Schauer**, Founder PointNorth Consulting
- **Paul Speer**, Clark College Board of Trustees Presidential Search Lead
- **Brian Taylor**, Industrial Sales Manager Siemens
- **Vicki Sovold-Prendergast**, Mount Pleasant School District Superintendent
- **Dr. Siri Wickramaratne**, Geography Instructor
- **Rashida Willard**, Clark College Office Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The committee's work is supported by non-voting members Dr. Preston Pulliams, CEO of Gold Hill Associates, and Stephanie Weldy, Interim Executive Assistant to the Board of Trustees.

"Diverse community involvement is key to a transparent, equitable and inclusive process," said Paul Speer, search lead and member of the Clark College Board of Trustees. "This is a moment in history for Clark College. Our next president will shape the future of the college supporting our students, community, faculty and staff."

The Board of Trustees, with assistance from the committee, has now approved the job description which is posted and being distributed nationwide. It can be found at <https://collegepresidentsearch.com/searches/>.

Preston Pulliams of Gold Hill Associates is conducting the candidate search. In early October, he held two open houses and conducted numerous individual interviews to get input on the college's opportunities, challenges and hopes for a new president over the next decade.

The Search Advisory Committee will meet again in early November to participate in an equity in hiring workshop.

Candidate applications are due mid November. The Committee will review the qualifying applications and select semi-finalists by late November.

The Board of Trustees plans to approve finalists in December, providing sufficient time to have the candidates visit Clark College in January for interviews, community and college forums. The Board plans to announce the new president in February 2020.

"It's the most important work we will do as a board of trustees," said Speer.

For more information about community involvement, please go to www.clark.edu/presidential-search or email presidentalsearch@clark.edu.

All interested candidates should contact Gold Hill Associates for questions regarding the application process or inquiries.

*Preston Pulliams, President and Owner, Gold Hill Associates
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Email: preston@goldhillassociates.com
Web: <http://collegepresidentsearch.com>*

Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley