

Clark College student works her dream job



Jeni Banceu now reporting for the *Columbian Newspaper* (*photo courtesy of Annika Larman*)

If you read the *Columbian*, you may see a familiar byline: that of Clark College student Jeni Banceu. As reported in that newspaper, she is the first Clark College student to work at the *Columbian* as a paid news intern.

The newly endowed Dee Anne Finken internship is a partnership between the *Columbian*, Clark College, and Clark College Foundation. It is named for Clark's former journalism professor, who served as academic advisor to the college's student news publication, *The Independent*, before retiring in 2018. Her successor, Beth Slovic, organized the campaign and raised money to create the paid internship for the summer.

"We liked Jeni's can-do attitude and maturity, and her story about the homeless person living in the RV [published in *The*

Independent in June 2018] was in my opinion a great read for a beginning journalist," *Columbian* Editor Craig Brown wrote in an email.

Banceu's stories are regularly appearing in the *Columbian*. "I feel so lucky to have been chosen for the Dee Ann Finken Internship," she said. "I look forward to writing as much as I can and gaining new skills. I also look forward to getting to know our amazing local journalists."

Banceu will return to Clark College in fall quarter serving as editor-in-chief of *The Independent* (nicknamed "The Indy").

Donations to the Finken Internship fund can be made by going to foundation's website at www.clarkcollegefoundation.org.

Also kudos to *The Independent* for its most recent journalism award.

The news magazine and website won first place in the "sweeps" category of the annual contest hosted by the Pacific Northwest Association of Journalism Educators. That means individual Indy journalists won first, second, and third place more than did students from any other Oregon or Washington college that entered.

The Indy is recognized as a top community college news publication in the nation, having received numerous regional and national awards.

A night of triumphs



A record 835 students participated in Clark College's 83rd Commencement Ceremony. *Clark College/Nick Bremer*

"Hola, soy Denisse, hoy sere su enfermera," read the elaborate script on the top of Denisse

Zuniga-Ibarra's graduation cap, below a cluster of silk flowers. Or, in

English: *"Hello, I'm Denisse, today I'll be your nurse."*

Zuniga-Ibarra was one of 835 graduates waiting in line to enter Sleep Country Amphitheater for Clark College's 2019 commencement ceremony—and each one, it seemed, had their own story to tell of perseverance and triumph.



Dennise Zuniga-Ibarra, far left, with Estefania Tran and Osmara Robles, all nursing graduates. Clark College/Jenny Shadley

"Graduation, to me, means a new job, a new beginning, making my parents proud and giving back to my community," said Zuniga-Ibarra, who was receiving her Associate in Arts degree in Nursing.

Almost 2,500 degrees and certificates were conferred on graduates in the 2018-2019 academic year—a record number for the college. It included the first graduates of the Clark's new Cuisine Management program, as well as of the college's Bachelor of Applied Science in Applied Management (BASAM) degree program.



Bachelor of Applied Science in Applied Management graduates holding a photo collage of their classmate Debbie Terry. *Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

For the BASAM graduates, the event was bittersweet—one member of their cohort, Debbie Terry, died before she could receive her degree. Her classmates held a poster with pictures of her as they waited in the white robes reserved for bachelor's-degree graduates. During the ceremony, Terry's daughter, Melanie Carter, would be the first person to cross the stage, receiving her mother's degree post-humously.



Amanda Rath was one of 126 students earning their high school diploma or GED this year. *Clark College/Hannah Erickson*

Family featured strongly in many graduates' stories. For Amanda Rath, this night wasn't about making her parents proud, but rather, her own four children, aged 3 to 13. All of them would be watching their mother walk across the stage to receive her high school diploma, which she earned through the college's Transitional Studies department.

"I want to provide something more for my children to see in the future—something more than just working at a call center," said the single mother, who works full-time and is already enrolled to begin the pre-nursing program at Clark. "I knew that started with pursuing an education."



Brian Ford Jr. graduated with an Applied Technology degree in Diesel Technology. *Clark College/Nick Bremer*

Like Rath, Brian Ford Jr. had balanced work, life, and school responsibilities. He was graduating with an Associate in Applied Technology degree in Diesel Technology. "It's been a long journey—three years," he said. "I had two kids while I was in school. I worked full-time. But I made it. It's the biggest accomplishment of my life and I'm so happy to get to this day."



Board of Trustees Chair Jane Jacobsen addresses the class of 2019. *Clark College/Nick Bremer*

Once the bagpipes started and the lines of robed figures filed into the amphitheater, the moments of triumph continued.

“Keep going,” Trustee

Chair Jane Jacobsen told the graduates in her remarks during the ceremony. “This world needs you.”

Jacobsen also pointed out that this ceremony would be the last one to be presided over by Clark College President Bob Knight, who

announced in January announce that he would be retiring after 13 years as the college’s president. She thanked him for his service.



Student speaker Soukaina Ouahhabi. *Clark College/Nick Bremer*

Student speaker Soukaina Ouahhabi spoke of the challenges she had faced as a non-native English speaker studying computer science who also worked full-time. “Sometimes, I would have to choose which I needed to do most: eat, sleep or do homework,” she said. “Because I only had time to do one of them. I’m sure many of you can relate.”

Still, Ouahhabi said, she kept her focus on achieving her goals. “My desire to reach my goals was stronger than the struggles I faced and has pushed me to be the strong, smart woman I am today,” she said, to a roar of applause from her classmates.



Vita Blanco learns she is the 2019 recipient of the Community College Presidents' Scholarship. *Clark College/Nick Bremer*
There was also applause for the award recipients announced during the ceremony. This included the 2018-2019 Exceptional Faculty Award winners, as well as the 2019-2020 Community College Presidents' Scholarship, which was given to Esmeralda "Vita" Blanco. Another finalist for the scholarship, Anastasiya Kozlovska, received a \$1,000 scholarship as well.



Keynote speaker Julianna Marler with President Bob Knight.
Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Keynote speaker Julianna Marler, who is a Clark College alumna, spoke of her journey from being the daughter of Hungarian immigrants to the first female CEO of the Port of Vancouver USA. “Clark College was a foundation of my business knowledge,” she said, adding that even some of her electives, like psychology, wound up being unexpectedly useful in management. “I wouldn’t have guessed it at the time, but those lessons would turn out to serve me well.”

As Knight concluded the ceremony, he told the graduates, “We are excited to think of the ways in which you will change the world. And we are glad to know that Clark College will always hold a special place in your

hearts.”

More photos can be viewed on our Flickr page.

Clark College announces new Interim President



Dr. Sandra Fowler-Hill

The Clark College Board of Trustees voted unanimously tonight to offer the interim college presidency to Dr. Sandra A. Fowler-Hill.

She has accepted, pending completion of contract negotiations. The decision was made at a special board meeting Tuesday June 25 following a two-month process led by the Board of Trustees with support from a national search firm.

The successful candidate was selected after a series of interviews with

faculty, staff, students, and trustees, as well as a collegewide open forum. "We received many comments through the process, which were all taken into consideration as we made our deliberations," said Trustee Paul Speer. "We had three excellent candidates and we think Dr. Fowler-Hill will be a tremendous asset to our college during this year of transition."

Dr. Sandra A.

Fowler-Hill is an experienced leader in higher education, having served as President of Portland Community College's Rock Creek Campus from 2014 to 2018.

She has also served as Vice President of Instruction at Everett Community College and Dean for Student Learning at Cascadia Community College. She began

her career at Olympic College, where she worked for 19 years, beginning as

program manager of Women's Programs, then moving into a tenured faculty position

before being named to the position of Dean for Social Science and Humanities. Since

retiring from PCC Rock Creek, she has served as a consultant for the

Association of Community College Trustees. She earned her bachelor's degree in

Applied Behavioral Science from George Williams College in Downers Grove,

Illinois; her master's degree in Human Development Counseling from the

University of Illinois at Springfield; and her doctorate degree in Community

College Leadership from Oregon State University.

Retiring

President Bob Knight will meet with the incoming President to help with the transition, both before and after his planned retirement date of July 15, 2019.

“We are grateful to Bob Knight for his leadership. This marks a major milestone in Clark’s history. By appointing an interim president for the year, the college and the community will have ample time to recruit, screen, interview and interact with candidates for the permanent position,” said Speer. “We want this to be a robust, inclusive and transparent process.”

To

read more about the presidential search process and next steps go to www.clark.edu/presidential-search.

About Clark College

Located

in Vancouver’s Central Park and serving up to 12,000 students per quarter,

Clark College is Southwest Washington’s largest public institution of higher

education. The college currently offers classes at two satellite locations: one

on the Washington State University Vancouver campus and one in the Columbia

Tech Center in East Vancouver. Additionally, its Economic & Community

Development program is housed in the Columbia Bank building in downtown

Vancouver.

Exceptional Faculty



The 2018-2019 Exceptional Faculty Award recipients are, *clockwise from top left*, Dr. Karl Bailey, Nadine Fattaleh, Deena Godwin, Erin Staples, Malcolm McCay, and Zachary Grant. During the 2019 Commencement ceremony, President Robert K. Knight announced the names of the recipients of the 2019 Clark College Exceptional Faculty Awards. The awards are presented annually to full-time and part-time faculty members. Nominations can be submitted by Clark College students, faculty, classified employees, administrators, alumni, Board members, and Foundation directors.

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

exemplary work performance, positive impact on students, professional commitment, and other contributions to the college.

This year's Exceptional Faculty members are:

Dr. Karl Bailey, Chemistry



Dr. Karl Bailey

Dr. Karl Bailey has taught chemistry at Clark College for the past 13 years. He served as chair of the chemistry department from 2012 to 2016 and has had a key leadership role in the college's implementation of the Guided Pathways model of higher education, which works to eliminate "achievement gaps" between different populations of students.

Dr. Bailey holds a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from California Polytechnic State University and a doctorate in chemistry from the University of California, Davis. In addition to his tenure at Clark, he has taught at Everett Community College and the Florida Institute of Technology, as well as at both his alma maters.

"Dr. B continuously shows that he supports his students and will do anything to help them succeed," wrote one student. "He has offered to help outside of office hours. ... I'm a single mom fighting to succeed, and he has been there during two quarters, doing everything he can to accommodate any hardships, within reason. Teachers like him leave marks on your academic heart."

Nadine Fattaleh, Chemistry



Nadine Fattaleh

Nadine Fattaleh has taught chemistry at Clark College since 2002 and currently serves at the head of the chemistry department. She earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Scripps College in Claremont, California, and her master's degree in chemistry from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Fattaleh is a member of the leadership team of the Pacific Northwest Green Chemistry Network. At Clark College, her primary teaching responsibilities are in general and organic chemistry, where she has implemented green chemistry lab experiments.

"Having taken a year of college-level chemistry before, I walked into Nadine's class nervous because the classes I had taken in the past made no sense to me or anyone else in the class," wrote one student in their nomination. "It turns out, though, that some educators can teach these complex concepts in a way that actually makes sense to students. Nadine sets us up for successful careers in science."

This is Fattaleh's second time earning the Exceptional Faculty Award, which she also won in 2010.

Deena Godwin, Communication Studies



Deena Godwin

Deena Godwin has taught communications courses at Clark College since 2001. She currently serves as chair of the communications and humanities division, and served as interim dean of the college's BEECH (Basic Education, English, Communication and Humanities) unit for two years. Over her time at Clark, she has contributed to the college community in many ways, including as advisor for the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, chair of the Associate of Arts Advisory Committee, and facilitator for many Teaching and Learning Center workshops providing professional development to Clark College employees.

Godwin earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in organizational communication from Dana College in Nebraska and her Master of Science degree in communication studies and journalism from South Dakota State University.

One student wrote in her nomination that Godwin helped her not only during class, but also after the class was over by writing her a letter of recommendation. "She not only wrote me a personalized letter, but she filled out recommender forms for five colleges for me—all of which I got into," she wrote.

Zachary Grant,

Libraries



Zachary Grant

Zachary Grant's career at Clark College Libraries began in 2005, when he interned at Cannell Library as part of his coursework to complete his master's degree in library science from Emporia State University. He was hired into a tenure-track position at the college in 2006.

At Clark, Grant serves on the Emergency Management Planning Committee and has been active in the college's work toward implementing the Guided Pathways model of higher education, which is focused on eliminating the "achievement gap" between different populations of students. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Oregon State University.

Grant earns praise from colleagues for his patience and care when helping students find reliable sources for their research projects. One faculty member wrote in a nomination, "He is so concerned that the library be equally accessible to all that he began studying American Sign Language in order to be able to better communicate with Deaf students."

**Malcolm Mccay,
Economics**



Malcolm McCay

Malcolm McCay did not come to teaching until after a 20-plus year career spent working in the energy and public-utility fields, primarily providing policy and legislative analysis. In 2007, he retired from Portland General Electric, where he had served as a federal policy specialist. In 2010, he began volunteering as a tutor at Clark College, where his skill and depth of knowledge led to an offer to teach classes.

McCay earned his bachelor's degree in economics from Humboldt State University in Arcata, California, and his master's degree, also in economics, from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

One student wrote in their nomination that McCay "makes everyone feel important," adding, "His teaching style really makes you start looking at the world and the history of the world in a different light. He brings to the subject a lot of examples of the effects of economics on our world and community."

Erin Staples, Health and Physical Education



Erin Staples

Erin Staples has taught health and physical education classes at Clark College since 2009. She has been active at Clark as a faculty academic advisor, a faculty advisor to a student club, and participant in the Curriculum and eLearning committees. She also volunteers with the YWCA SafeChoice Domestic Violence Program.

Staples earned her Bachelor of Science degree in hospitality management from the University of North Texas and her Master of Public Health in health education/healthy promotion from Portland State University. Additionally, in 2018 she earned a graduate certificate in diversity, social justice, and inclusion, which she used to revise the curriculum for a new Multicultural Health course, as well as her existing Women's Health course.

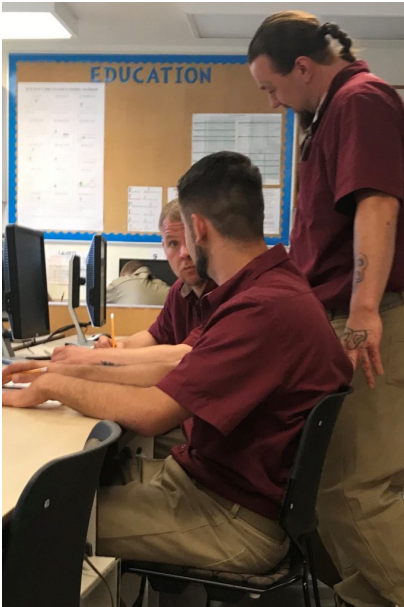
It was taking that latter class that prompted many students to nominate Staples for this award. One wrote, "Erin is absolutely amazing! She does a wonderful job at making every student feel comfortable in her class without judgment." Another wrote, "This instructor has taught me more about myself and helped guide me toward a better understanding of the world than any other previous instructor."

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Creating new futures at Larch



Antonio Ibarra poses for a picture taken by Clark College instructor Lauren Zavrel to commemorate his passing his GED certification. He was one of 50 Larch Corrections Center inmates to pass his GED in the 2018-2019 academic year. Every year, just a day or two before Clark College's commencement ceremony, Clark College President Bob Knight and other college leaders attend a smaller ceremony at Larch Corrections Center to celebrate graduates of the college's GED preparation program there. This year, they will have plenty to celebrate: Not only did the program see a record number of students pass the GED during the 2018-2019 academic year, but in May its tutoring program became the first prison-based tutoring program to be certified by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA).



Left to right, Jakkob McCallin, Howard Seaworth, and Timothy Tipton have all earned their GED certification through a program run by Clark College at Larch Corrections Center.

Fifty students passed their GED certification test this academic year—four more than the previous record of 46. For these students, passing their GED not only provides them with an important credential—the equivalent of a high school diploma—but it also gives them a sense of accomplishment and self-worth that can help them pursue better paths in their lives after their release from prison.

Larch inmates who become tutors through Clark College's program also gain marketable skills and work experience. Having the program be certified by the CRLA adds legitimacy to that experience.

According to findings published in the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, inmates who participated in correctional education programs are 28 percent less likely to commit new crimes, compared to inmates who didn't.

The program was featured on the front page of the June 9 issue of *The Columbian*.

Photos: Clark College/Kelly Love

Showcasing student creativity



On May 22, Archer Gallery was filled with visitors for the opening of the 2019 Art Student Annual Exhibition. This event showcases the best artwork produced by Clark art students in the past academic year. Students compete not only for a spot in the show, but also for awards sponsored by local businesses and organizations.

The exhibition is on display through June 15. Archer Gallery is open 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, and noon to 5:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The gallery is located in the lower level of the Penguin Union Building on Clark College's main campus.

Additional photos of the show are available on our Flickr page.

2019 Art Student Annual Award Recipients

Best in Show and Most Ambitious

Stevie Hale, *"New Mythology"*

Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore and the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art

Best Drawing

John Gasaway, *"Bling"*

Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore and Collage Art Supply

Best Ceramics

Shirley Morgan, *"Boh, Of Course"*

Sponsored by Georgie's Ceramics

Ceramics, 2nd Place

Jessica Joner, *"Peonies"*

Sponsored by Clay Art Center

Ceramics, 3rd Place

Stephanie Bowen, *"Enlightened"*

Sponsored by Georgie's Ceramics

Best Graphic Design

Michael Fulgaro, *"Visit Northwest"*

Sponsored by Artist and Craftsman Art Supply

Best Metal Art

Channa Smith, *"Ready to Potlatch"*

Sponsored by MESA at Clark

Best Painting

Danielle Truckey, *"Portrait of a Girl"*

Sponsored by Gamblin Paints

Painting, 2nd place

Jewel Indino, "Abstract Figure"
Sponsored by Liquitext Paint Company

Painting, 3rd place
Katie Hyland, "Listening In"
Sponsored by Golden Paint Company

Best Photography
Keyanna Owen, "Untitled"
Sponsored by ProPhoto

Best Photography, Darkroom
Michelle Berg, "Big Picture"
Sponsored by Blue Moon Camera

Best Photography, Digital
Avalon Guerra, "Window Pane"
Sponsored by ProPhoto

Photography Award of Distinction
T.J. West, "Homeowrk"
Sponsored by Blue Sky Gallery

Best Video
Hayley Estep, "Woman Not Product"
Sponsored by Northwest Film Center

Merit Award
Sage Makela, "Album Covers"
Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore

Award of Distinction
Don Anderson, "A Man Has Many Moods"
Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore

Photo: Nick Bremer/Clark College

Presidential search firm selected



Clark College has selected Gold Hill Associates to assist the Board of Trustees in identifying and recruiting a new president for Clark College.

Clark College President Robert K. Knight has announced he plans to retire August 31 at the end of the 2018-2019 academic year. He has served as college president for 13 years, helping Clark College expand and grow both in its programs and locations. Clark College is the largest community college in Southwest Washington and one of the largest community colleges in the state of Washington.

“For more than a decade President Knight has provided stability and vision helping the college grow, adapt and serve its community,” said Paul Speer, board trustee. Speer and board vice chair Jane Jacobson are co-leading the board’s recruitment and selection process. “This is an important moment for Clark College. We are looking for the right person for the next chapter of the college,” said Speer. “The board is fully committed to conducting an equitable, inclusive and transparent national search. Gold Hill Associates will be a good partner in the process.”

Gold Hill

Associates was selected following a competitive bid process. Its CEO, Dr. Preston Pulliams, has worked in a variety of higher education leadership roles for 25 years. From 2004-2013, he served as District President at Portland Community College. Gold Hill has made successful placements at more than 20 colleges in the Pacific Northwest.

Gold Hill

Associates will also assist the board in identifying and recruiting an interim president for Clark College.

The interim

president is expected to serve beginning August 2019 for a one-year period allowing sufficient time for the permanent presidential search. The interim

will not be considered as a candidate for the permanent position.

“The presidential search will also be assisted by a Presidential Search Advisory Committee including representatives from the college and external community,” said Speer. “We look forward to updating and receiving feedback from the community as we move forward.”

All interested applicants must contact Gold Hill Associates directly. To contact Gold Hill Associates or learn more about the presidential selection process, visit Clark College’s website: www.clark.edu/presidential-search.

Commencement ceremony to be held on June 20



Graduates lining up at the 2018 Commencement Ceremony

On Thursday, June 20, Clark College will honor its 83rd graduating class at the 2019 Clark College Commencement ceremony. The ceremony will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the Sunlight Supply Amphitheater. The keynote speaker is Julianna Marler, CEO of the Port of Vancouver USA (see full bio below).

More than 700 students are expected to participate in the ceremony, celebrating the completion of their bachelor's degree, associate degree, certificate, and/or high school diploma or equivalency.

The ceremony also will include the announcement of 2018-2019 Community College President's Award.

This annual scholarship is given to a Clark College graduate who is transferring to a degree program at Washington State University

Vancouver (WSUV) and who demonstrated leadership potential, a commitment to community service, and academic achievement. The scholarship award provides full-time tuition and is renewable for one additional year, essentially providing full tuition to complete a bachelor's degree.

The Sunlight

Supply Amphitheater is located at 17200 NE Delfel Road in Ridgefield, Wash.

Tickets are not required to attend. Anyone needing accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark

College's Disability Support Services Office at (360) 992-2314 or (360)

991-0901 (VP), prior to the event. For more information visit www.clark.edu/cc/commencement.

About Julianna Marler



Julianna Marler

Julianna Marler is the CEO of the Port of Vancouver USA. Prior to her appointment, she served as the port's Chief Financial and Administrative Officer. Marler is the first female CEO in the port's 105-year history and one of just a handful of female port CEOs in the U.S.

Prior to joining the port in 2008, Marler worked at the City of Vancouver for nine years, where she served as the procurement services manager. Recipient of a 2018 Iris Award – an award honoring women of achievement in Southwest Washington – Marler engages in ongoing activities to encourage and support women in leadership positions.

Marler is a Vancouver Rotary Club member and serves on the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Greater Portland Inc Board of Directors, American Association of Port Authorities Board of Directors, and the Washington State University Vancouver Advisory Council. She was recently appointed to the Association of Washington Business Board of Directors.

A native of Vancouver, Marler attended Clark College and received her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Washington State University Vancouver.

Clark College Theatre ends season with “Proof”



Clark College Theatre finishes its 2018-2019 season with *Proof* by David Auburn.

Winner of the 2001 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award for Best Play, *Proof* is an emotional examination of the relationship between genius and mental illness. On the eve of her twenty-fifth birthday, Catherine, a troubled young woman, has spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father, a famous mathematician. Now, following his death, she must deal with her own volatile emotions; the arrival of her estranged sister, Claire; and the attentions of Hal, a former student of her father who hopes to find valuable work in the 103 notebooks that her father left behind. Over the long weekend that follows, a burgeoning romance and the discovery of a mysterious notebook draw Catherine into the most difficult problem of all: How much of her father's madness—or

genius—will she inherit?

This production's cast includes: Kelli English as Catherine; Patti Tipton as Claire; Ryan Larson as Hal; Dan Haggerty as Robert. The director is Zak Campbell.

This show contains adult themes, language, and content.

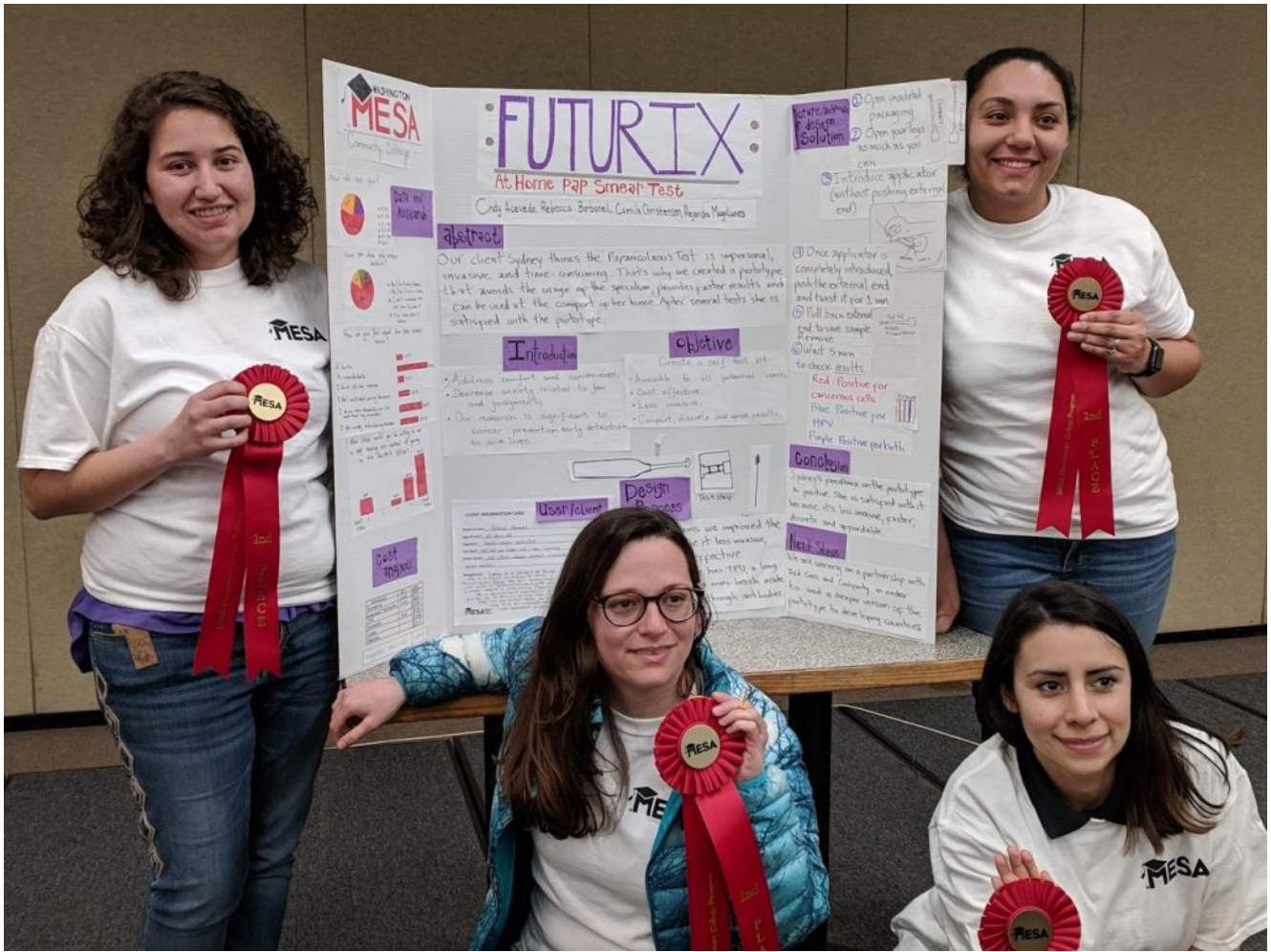
View additional photos of "Proof" on Flickr.

Show Dates: May 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25. 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.

**MESA students engineer
possibilities**



Clark student Alejandra Magallanes, *far left*, was part of a group that won second place in a competition for human-based engineering solutions at a recent MESA conference. Clark's MESA program is still in its first year, but already it's providing new opportunities for student success.

MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) is a national program dedicated to encouraging under-represented populations to succeed in STEM fields. At Clark, this includes a dedicated space for studying and creating community, as well as opportunities for mentorship, assistance with books and fees, and conference participation.

This March, two Clark MESA students attended the MESA Student Leadership Retreat at Warm Beach Camp in Stanwood, Washington, along with students from 15 other MESA community college programs from Washington and California. Mai Lee Xiong and Alejandra Magallanes were able to participate in activities to boost their professional development and leadership skills.

They also participated in a competition for human-centered design solutions, breaking into groups to identify a problem, interview a potential user of their solution, and prepare a poster and oral presentation to explain it to others.



Mai Lee Xiong, *far left*, collaborated on a concept for a medical-translation app at a recent MESA conference. Xiong's group focused on health care disparities that arise from language barriers between health care providers and patients whose first language is not English. They proposed the development of an app to translate medical information into different languages—one that would include medical terminology not available through tools like Google Translate. The project was a perfect fit for Xiong, who is studying biology and plans to pursue a degree natural medicine after

her bachelor's degree.

Alejandra Magallanes's group also decided to tackle an issue related to healthcare: the availability and convenience of Pap smear exams to detect cervical cancer. They proposed a device that could be used at home to collect a sample of cervical cells. It could be used by people who have difficulty attending doctors' appointments or who may avoid Pap smears because of the uncomfortable nature of the exam—and in doing so, could increase the number of people who receive preventative care. Magallanes' group won second place in the competition, which includes proposals from more than 20 teams.

As with Xiong, Magallanes's project aligned well with her interests; like Xiong, she is studying biology and plans to transfer to a university for her bachelor's degree after graduating from Clark College in 2020.

"This experience really helped show the value of having the MESA program at Clark College," said MESA director Dr. Ellen Harju. "It was wonderful to see these two students be able to work and succeed with their peers in an environment that allowed them to be their authentic selves. I'm excited to see more of our MESA students get the chance for these experiences."

Clark's MESA program is located in the STEM Building rooms 206/208 and is open Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. More information about the program is available online at www.clark.edu/cc/mesa.

Photos: Clark College/Ellen Harju