

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](https://www.militarytimes.com/rankings). More details about the rankings can be found on [militarytimes.com](https://www.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.

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Jackson, Mississippi 39209
Email: preston@goldhillassociates.com
Web: <http://collegepresidentsearch.com>*

Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Educating for the Seventh Generation



On Friday, Nov. 1, Clark College welcomes the community as it hosts “Educating for the Seventh Generation,” a celebration of Indigenous cultures.

The event will begin at 5:00 p.m. with free food and refreshments. At 5:15 p.m., dancers from the Ke Kukui Foundation will perform. At 5:45 p.m., there will be a welcoming address and the presentation of the

Dreamcatcher Scholarship, which supports a Clark College student of Indigenous ancestry. Grand Entry for a powwow will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by an Aztec performance at 6:15 p.m. The colors will retire at 10:00 p.m. Informational tables and vendors selling Native arts and crafts will also be at the event.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held in the Gaiser Student Center on Clark College'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. 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.

This is the 10th year that Clark College has coordinated and hosted an event in honor of Native American Heritage Month. It is one of four signature events hosted by the college annually to celebrate diverse cultures. According to organizers, "Educating for the Seventh Generation" references "our responsibility to teach the future Seventh Generation to maintain our resources, traditions and customs. It is the way of caring and preserving for the Seventh Generation, which is a true sustainable practice."

Information about this event is online at www.clark.edu/cc/native-american. Information about Native American Heritage Month is available at <http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/about/index.html>. Images from the 2018 celebration are available via Clark's Flickr album at https://www.flickr.com/photos/clark_college/albums/72157699995239382.

Clark College celebrates ten years at Columbia Tech

Business and community leaders joined Clark College on Monday, October 14 for a Vancouver Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting to celebrate a milestone. Clark College first opened Columbia Tech Center in east Clark County in fall 2009.

Responding to feedback from employers and residents in East Vancouver, the college refreshed its offerings at Columbia Tech Center to be a hub for business and technical education.

“Columbia Tech Center is today a bustling campus on the east side with a wide range of programs available to our students. We are grateful for the community’s support over the years and renew our commitment to serving the community in a way that best meets their needs.”

Clark College Interim President Sandra Fowler-Hill



ASCC President Evans Kaame and Clark College Interim President Sandra Fowler-Hill

The college has worked to create a series of course offerings this fall that will allow students to pursue career-oriented higher education in subjects that include business, information technology, computer support, and project management—all without having to travel to the college's main campus near downtown Vancouver. Most classes are scheduled to run just two days a week (Tuesday and Thursday), allowing students to plan their studies around work and/or life obligations.

We are committed to offering business classes at Columbia Tech to provide our students viable pathways forward to earning the new skills that they need to be successful—whether that be a single course, a certificate or a degree.”

Professor Adnan Hamideh, Division Chair, Clark College Business Administration Department

Hamideh is also preparing to create a business degree path for office administration, he said. The school already offers accounting, marketing, management and business administration. About 7,000 full-time students take business classes at Clark College he said.

Additionally, Clark College Economic and Community Development, which provides non-credit continuing education and customized training, has relocated to the Columbia Tech Center location.

Last month, ECD moved its business classes from a leased space in downtown Vancouver to the Columbia Tech Center, said Kevin Witte, vice president of the program. The move was in part a way to help the college save money, but it also moved students

closer to some of the city's larger employers, including WaferTech.

Witte said participating employers include Boeing Co, and they request specific skills for students to learn, which the college incorporates into its training.



Business leaders take a tour of Clark College's Mechatronics program at
Clark College Columbia Tech Center

Business and community leaders toured the college's nationally recognized Mechatronics lab. The engineering program focuses on both electrical and mechanical systems. It is a foundational training program for advanced manufacturing.

Graduates earn an average of \$88,000 as mechatronics engineers and 100 percent of Clark's graduates are finding jobs in their chosen field.

The college has also expanded the range of class offerings serving Running Start students, a popular state program that allows high school students to earn college credit, tuition-free, while still in high school. The expanded offerings provide more opportunities for families with children attending high schools in the eastern portion of the college's service district, which covers Camas, Washougal, and parts of the Columbia Gorge.

ASCC President Evans Kaame spoke to the business leaders and elected officials thanking them for their support of Clark College students over the years.

"Because you care, students at Clark have opportunities to succeed. Our students are better prepared to go out and do great things."

ASCC President Evans Kaame



ASCC President Evans Kaame and Vancouver Chamber of Commerce staff

**Presidential search open
houses**



Clark College reached out for community and college input on the selection of the next college President this past week. The search firm, Gold Hill Associates, held an open house as one source of input on what the job profile should include. The profile will be used as the job description during the recruitment process, which begins formally later this month.

There is no formal presentation. “We want this to be a conversation around the priorities of the community and the college,” said Clark College Trustee Paul Speer. “Specifically, we have three questions. (1) What do people see as the biggest **opportunities** for Clark College over the next decade? (2) What do people see as the biggest **challenges** for Clark over the next decade? (3) What do people think are the most **important qualifications** for our new president?”

Clark College will soon announce the formation of its Presidential Search Advisory Committee comprised of college students, staff, faculty and community leaders who, with an equity lens, will assist in the search process. They attended equity training sessions Friday, October 11th as their first

order of business. They will help formalize the job description to be released later this month.

The Board of Trustees are responsible for the hiring of the next college president. They anticipate a final decision by February 2020. For more information about the process please go to www.clark.edu/presidential-search.

All

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

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For questions regarding community involvement and the process itself, please email presidentalsearch@clark.edu