

# Analyzing the American Dream



On Thursday, October 6, Clark College will host a panel discussion about the rise in income inequality and the widening opportunity gap.

*Income Inequality: Is the American Dream at Risk?* takes place at 6 p.m. in Foster Auditorium on Clark's main campus. An opening reception will begin at 5:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Four Clark College faculty from diverse disciplines will offer their expertise on the topic in a discussion that stems from the ideas set forth in a *New York Times* bestseller, *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis* by Robert D. Putnam. Discussion topics will include increasing disparity in income, the shrinking middle class, and the lack of opportunity for many Americans.

"The idea of attaining success through merit and achieving the

so-called American Dream is more difficult than ever,” said economics instructor Patricia Atkinson, who will be one of the panelists. “Statistics show that the middle class is shrinking at an alarming rate and there are fewer and fewer opportunities to get ahead in our current economy.”

Panelists are economics instructor Patricia Atkinson, political science professor Michael Ceriello, women’s studies professor Kushlani de Soyza, and sociology professor Dr. Don Ludwig. The discussion will be moderated by Dave Kosloski, professor of Communications Studies and former Speech and Debate coach for Clark’s award-winning debate team. Biographies of each panelist are listed below.

Clark College is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver. Driving directions and parking maps are available at [www.clark.edu/maps](http://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.

## **About the Panelists**

**Patricia Atkinson** has been an Economics professor at Clark College since 2008. She holds degrees from Marist College and Portland State University and is currently studying for her doctorate in education at Washington State University-Vancouver. Professor Atkinson’s research focuses on macroeconomics, economic growth and income inequality in the U.S.

**Dr. Don Ludwig** has been a professor of Sociology at Clark College since 2007. He holds degrees from Rutgers University, Princeton Theological Seminary and Whitworth University and earned his doctoral degree from Portland State University and the International University for Graduate Studies. Professor Ludwig’s research has focused on social change and transformational leadership as well as the equitable support

systems for disadvantaged youth.

**Kushlani de Soyza** has been a professor of Women's Studies at Clark College since 2008. A former newspaper editor, reporter, and radio producer, she holds degrees from the University of Cincinnati, Portland State University and Oregon State University. Her areas of interest in feminist theory include media and representation as well as exploring theories of race and racialization. Most recently she has been involved with Clark College's growing Learning Community Program.

**Michael Ceriello** has been a professor of Political Science at Clark College since 2007. In addition to providing political commentary for newspaper, radio, and television outlets in Minnesota, Oregon, and Washington, he also served as the director of Clark College's award-winning Model United Nations program from 2008-2011. Professor Ceriello holds degrees from the University of California at Santa Barbara and Western Washington University. His areas of interest include American national government and public policy.

**Dave Kosloski** has been a professor of Communication Studies at Clark College for the past 19 years. He served as Clark College's Director of Speech and Debate from 1998 until 2015; the program earned top honors among all Northwest community colleges for 14 of those years. He is currently serving his fifth term as chair of the Curriculum Committee.

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## **STEM is Silver**



Clark College's new STEM Building has a LEED Silver certification. Here are a few environmentally friendly aspects of the building and its construction:

- The building is cooled by water pumped from the local wellfield through a campuswide hydronics (water-based heating and cooling) system. This same water is used to heat the building with help from high-efficiency gas boilers, then is circulated back to irrigate the campus landscaping. This creates a "closed circuit," where the water is continually pumped from, and then returned to, the land—a system that eliminates waste and reduces energy costs.
- Bike lockers on the lower level and a shower on the first floor encourage bike commuting.
- Bottle-filling stations on each floor allow students and visitors to eschew single-use bottled beverages in favor of reusable drink containers.
- The windows of south wall are made of double-paned glass

filled with Argon gas and coated with a low-E value film to reduce the light and heat load. Additionally, metal sunshades block the higher sun during the hotter days of summer, but allow the lowered sun in winter to strike the glass directly and increase available natural lighting and heat. The sunshades also reflect light up into the corridors to reduce the need for artificial lighting during the day.

- Almost 99 percent of the construction waste was recycled.

*Photo: Clark College/Hannah Erickson*

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## A look into the future



The STEM Building opened for classes at the beginning of the

2016 fall quarter. *Photo: Clark College/Wei Zhuang*

Shortly before Clark College's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Building opened for classes at the beginning of the 2016 fall quarter, Clark College Construction Project Manager Jim Watkins stood on its north plaza and pointed out a few hidden features to a group of visitors.

Watkins pointed to the lines marking the poured concrete that make up the plaza floor. "The smaller squares around the perimeter are in 1-meter increments, while the large squares are 3-by-4 meter and 4-by-4 meter blocks," he said. "That way, if a physics class is doing experiments where they need to measure the flight of a projectile or something, it's easy for them to gauge how far it's traveled."



Structural elements like heating pipes were deliberately left exposed to serve as teaching tools for engineering students. *Photo: Clark College/Wei*

Throughout the building's 70,000 square feet, details abound that reflect and strengthen its purpose. Structural elements—including heating equipment, water pipes, and earthquake-proof concrete—have been left visible deliberately to serve as teaching tools for engineering students. Decorative touches, like the “STEM” laser-carved into the metal stair railings and the ceramic-tile periodic table inlaid into the second-story floor, remind visitors what's studied here. And that column of glass that rises from above the front entry doors to the top of the building's airy lobby? It's actually a 44-foot high, 4-foot square drop tower, where dropped objects can be filmed with a high-speed digital camera in experiments by engineering or physics students.

While the building opened to students on September 19 for fall classes, an official ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for October 3.

“I am so excited to see students enthusiastically learning in the new STEM Building on the first day of the new academic year,” said Dean of STEM Peter Williams regarding the opening. “The STEM Building is a beautiful, technologically advanced educational facility that perfectly supports academic excellence, one of the core themes of Clark College's strategic plan. It is ideal for students who may not know how exciting and interesting science can be, and hopefully provides a starting point for a career in a STEM field, one of the fastest growing job fields in the country.”

The new, LEED Silver-certified building—the largest ever built on Clark's main campus—holds nine classrooms, twelve labs (including some spaces that serve as both), two conference rooms, 16 student areas of various sizes, and 41 offices. It will house much of Clark's engineering, chemistry, biology, and physics departments. The first new instructional building to be built on the main campus since 1994, it was paid for

primarily through Washington State capital funding, supplemented with generous donations to the Clark College Foundation to make up for a budget gap in the project's \$40 million cost created when the state reduced its contribution due to the economic recession.



Learning extends outside the STEM Building, with multiple outdoor classroom/study areas set along the south wall. *Photo: Clark College/Hannah Erickson*

The building offers many new opportunities for Clark students. A six-table cadaver lab includes operating-room LED lighting and a high-definition camera that allows even those students who aren't at the dissection table to see anatomy and procedures clearly on two large plasma screens. Clark College is one of only four community colleges in Washington to have a cadaver lab, and this new lab greatly expands the number of students able to take the perpetually waitlisted Anatomy and Physiology classes that are required for a number of health-related degrees.

Additionally, a Collaboratorium sits at the heart of the building's main floor. This high-tech "makerspace" is filled with tools and machinery to allow students—and possibly community members, in the future—to create their own designs. Watkins showed visitors the large double doors facing out to



the north plaza. “We designed this so you could bring a truck-size project through here if you wanted to,” he said. “We didn’t want our engineering students to feel limited as to the projects they could take on.”

According to the Washington Student Achievement Council, Washington State has the third-highest concentration of STEM-related jobs in the United States—but up to 40,000 of those jobs may go unfilled by 2017, in large part due to a lack of qualified applicants with the appropriate training.

“I am so impressed and excited by the possibilities this new building brings to the college,” said Clark College President Bob Knight. “Clearly, STEM is going to be very important to this region’s economy, and we are proud to be able to offer state-of-the-art training and education in this field, continuing a legacy of excellence that stretches more than 80 years.”

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## **Clark kicks off a new year**



Monday, September 19 marked the start of the 2016 fall quarter at Clark College. A highlight of opening day was seeing progress on the college's initiative to encourage more students to attend full-time (12 credits or more). Forty-eight percent of non-Running Start, and 74% of Running Start students, attended Clark full-time. These statistics are important because studies show that students who are enrolled full-time are more likely to graduate and to do so in a shorter amount of time.

While official numbers are not available until after the 10th day of class, the day began with 12,099 students enrolled, statistically even with last year's enrollment numbers.

While enrollment was flat overall, some specific segments saw increases. Running Start, which allows high school students to earn college credits tuition-free, saw its enrollment rise by 11 percent from its fall 2015 numbers to 2,445 students. Clark College's Office of Planning & Effectiveness estimates that families of Clark Running Start students saved a combined \$7.1

million in college tuition during the previous academic year. Elearning (or online) courses grew this year by 15 percent, with more than 4,400 students taking advantage of those courses.

Other highlights for the quarter:

- This is the first quarter that classes are offered in Clark's new, state-of-the-art STEM Building, which will have its ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 3.
- This quarter sees a 67% increase from fall 2015 in students enrolled in apprentice programs. Additionally, Clark's Transitional Studies is offering a new pre-apprenticeship program designed to help adults enter the trades. The one-quarter class costs just \$25, making it an accessible entry point for people seeking a new career.
- Students have begun enrolling for prerequisites to prepare for entry into Clark's new Bachelor of Applied Science in Applied Management This will be the second bachelor's degree offered by Clark.

## **About Clark College**

Located in Vancouver's Central Park and serving up to 12,500 students per quarter, Clark College is Washington State's second-largest single-campus, for-credit community college. 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.

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# Outstanding Employees



President Knight congratulates Linda Healy, *left*, and Vanessa Meyer on receiving the 2016 Exceptional Classified Staff Award.

Opening Day on Sept. 12 marked several celebrations of employee contributions to the college. Employees were recognized for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years of service to the college. Four employees—Facilities Services Maintenance Mechanic Michael Conder, ITS Specialist David Sims, Business Professor Patti Serrano, and eLearning ITS Specialist Scott Coffie—earned recognition for 35 years of service to the college.

Additionally, the recipients of the annual Exceptional Faculty Awards and quarterly Classified Staff Excellence Awards were

recognized. The faculty awards are announced at Commencement and the quarterly Classified staff awards are announced each quarter. Additionally, two Classified Excellence Award recipients were announced to be recipients of the annual Exceptional Classified Staff Awards: Linda Healy and Vanessa Meyer.

Six Clark College employees received Presidential Coins during Opening Day. Introduced in 2007 by President Bob Knight, the coin is given to faculty and staff members who provide exemplary service to Clark students, the college and the community. The honorees are decided by the president and are kept secret until the names are announced—generally on Opening Day in the fall or during the annual State of the College address. The newest coin recipients are:



Prof. Adnan Hamideh at Opening Day.

### **Adnan Hamideh**

Originally joining Clark College in 2001 as a temporary business instructor, Dr. Hamideh received tenure in 2005 and now serves as the division chair of the Business Department. He holds a Doctorate of Education from Portland State University. President Knight called Dr. Hamideh a “tireless proponent” of the new Bachelor of Applied Science in Applied Management degree that Clark will begin offering this academic year. In addition, Dr. Hamideh has led the development of the Business Core classes that help students prepare for business

majors.



Rebecca Kleiva  
receives a  
Presidential  
Coin.

## **Rebecca Kleiva**

After graduating from Clark College in 2010, Kleiva was hired as a program coordinator in Eligibility Programs (now Workforce Education). She was promoted to her current position of program specialist in 2011. In this position, she has managed the Worker Retraining Financial Aid program, which helps support students as they transition into new career paths, and developed partnerships and strategies that have helped the program exceed its target enrollment every year.

“She has consistently performed her job duties with the highest degree of integrity and professionalism,” said President Knight. “She is an innovative thinker who continues to evaluate how she can improve processes and procedures to better serve her students. ... Her knowledge and eagerness to learn things that are outside of her normal job responsibilities help to ensure that the customer service that she provides to the public, community partners, co-workers and students is exemplary.”



Felisciana Peralta  
receives a Presidential  
Coin.

### **Felisciana Peralta**

Felisciana “Felis” Peralta joined Clark College in 2008 as a Multicultural Retention Manager and was recently promoted to Director of the Office of Diversity and Equity.

“In her eight years at the college, she has been a strong advocate and partner on issues related to diversity and social justice, helping to create and support a supportive learning environment for our students,” said President Knight. “She is a champion of equity and inclusion and has played a vital role in the development of the college’s Diversity Plan, Social Equity Plan, and Diversity Center.”

Peralta sits on the Cultural Pluralism Committee, Academic Early Warning Committee, and the Incident Response Team at Clark. On the state level, she has been a leader of the Multicultural Student Services Directors’ Council and its annual Students of Color Conference. In June, she received the 2016 Val Joshua Award, recognizing her leadership in working towards eliminating racism and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all people.



Brenda Shular receives a Presidential Coin.

## **Brenda Shular**

Brenda Shular graduated from Clark College in 1996 and was hired the following year as a purchasing assistant. She currently serves as a procurement and supply specialist in the college's Office of Purchasing and Central Services.

"She is a rock-solid employee who manages an enormous amount of orders in Purchasing in a timely way and with great customer service," said President Knight. "She's played a key role in getting the STEM Building orders processed in time to ensure furniture and equipment is ready for the building's opening."



Mike Silva receives a Presidential Coin.

## **Mike Silva**

Mike Silva graduated from Clark College in 2001 and was hired



as a computer maintenance technician later that same year. He was promoted to an Information Technology Systems Specialist in 2002 and now serves as the supervisor of the Multimedia Department.

Last year, Silva led a collegewide effort to redesign the college's standard classroom technology configuration. Working with faculty and staff, he developed a new design that not only provides additional teaching tools for faculty, but saves nearly \$10,000 per classroom in equipment costs. He has also been part of the effort to make the college's new STEM Building ready for students and faculty.

"Over the past 14 years, he has been in a variety of technical roles providing outstanding customer service and a calm, reassuring voice able to solve the thorniest technical problems," President Knight said. "As the labs supervisor, he hired and mentored hundreds of student workers, preparing many for jobs and life after their graduation from Clark College. In mentoring these students, he clearly demonstrates that we all have a role to play in student success. ... He is an outstanding supervisor, technician, and friend to many on campus."



Prof. Caleb White receives a

## **Caleb White**

Caleb White joined Clark College as a tenure-track welding instructor in 2013 and received tenure in 2016. He holds an associate degree in automotive and diesel technology from Universal Technical Institute and previously worked at Christensen Yachts, where he helped build some of the biggest luxury yachts in the world.

“He has not been at the college for a long time, but he has already made an impact,” said President Knight.

White has worked to redesign the welding curriculum to include more hands-on learning that can be translated directly into the workplace. Each quarter, his students use their skills to create a project. Projects have included aluminum stools for students to use in the welding lab, a large pressure vessel that can be used on job sites, and an aluminum fishing boat that was a star attraction of the college’s display at the 2016 Clark County Fair.

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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## **Leadership in diversity**



Roslyn Leon  
Guerrero

Clark College Administrative Assistant Roslyn “Roz” Monique Leon Guerrero was recently appointed by Gov. Jay Inslee to the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA).

Leon Guerrero, who is of Chamorro descent, was born and raised on the island of Saipan, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). She has more than 15 years of experience working in education, with community organizations and outreach to Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) both on the islands and in Southwest Washington. Originally hired in Clark’s Office of Instruction in 2010, she currently works in the Office of Diversity and Equity where she monitors, manages, and supports the Diversity Center and the office’s leadership. She also does outreach, recruitment, and retention of AAPIs. She is the advisor of the Asian Pacific Islanders Club that leads events, education, and outreach for AAPIs at Clark College and the greater Clark County community.

Leon Guerrero works with many organizations and boards in Southwest Washington focusing on AAPIs. She is a standing member of the Faculty and Staff of Color Conference Planning Committee (a statewide committee composed of representatives from all Washington colleges) and a Washington Public Employees Association steward representative for Clark College. In 2015, she completed the Social Justice Leadership Institute, an institute designed for individuals working in higher education in Washington to hone skills, build community, and network with other higher-education professionals.

“Being appointed to the Commission on Asian Pacific America Affairs is an honor and privilege,” says Leon Guerrero. “This will actually benefit Clark College in outreaching to diverse populations. My goals while on the commission are as follows: to be the voice and advocate for equitable services for AAPIs

in health, education, safety, etc.; to do outreach and educate AAPIs of Washington on the resources available to them; to represent and call out barriers and systemic challenges for AAPIs in Washington; and to work collaboratively with the other commissioners to support AAPIs in Southwest Washington.”

Leon Guerrero is not the first employee from Clark’s Office of Diversity and Equity to sit on a Washington State commission. Last year, Diversity Outreach Manager Dolly England was appointed to the Commission on African American Affairs, and Program Specialist Rosalba Pitkin served on the Commission on Hispanic Affairs for two terms.

Founded in 1972, the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs has an advisory board made up of twelve Governor-appointed commissioners representing the state’s diverse Asian Pacific American communities. Commissioners advise the Governor and state agencies on issues that concern APA communities. Commissioner terms are for three years.

*Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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## **Clark College goes to the Fair**



Oswald greets visitors to the 2016 Clark County Fair.

In keeping with this year's Clark County Fair Theme of "Science Fun," Clark College is offering a host of family-friendly, hands-on activities promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

Clark students, staff, and faculty will lead demonstrations every day of the fair, which runs from August 5-14. Clark College was invited to participate in this year's theme to highlight the college's highly regarded STEM programs, as well as the opening of its new STEM building this fall.

All activities take place in the college's exhibit area in South Hall 1 and are free with fair admission. Scheduled events include:

### **Teeth and Technology**

The Clark College Dental Hygiene program demonstrates modern ultrasonic methods of removing tartar or calculus from teeth. *Fri, Aug. 5: 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. –*

*noon, 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.*

### **Science Fun with the N.E.R.D. Girls**

Clark College's N.E.R.D. (Not Even Remotely Dorky) Girls, a student club focused on getting younger students interested in engineering, lead hands-on activities like building balloon-powered pinwheels and demonstrating Newton's third law of motion. *Sat, Aug. 6: 11:30 – noon, 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.*

### **Pharmacy Innovations**

Learn about new, high-tech ways of compounding pharmaceuticals from Clark College Pharmacy Technician faculty. *Sun, Aug. 7: 11:30 – noon, 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Fri, Aug. 12: 11:30 a.m. – noon.*

### **The Science of Sourdough**

Learn all about fermentation when Clark College baking instructor Alison Dolder explains how sourdough is made. Try some delicious sourdough pancakes and take home a little sourdough starter of your own. *Mon, Aug. 8: 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Sat, Aug. 13: 11:30 – noon, 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.*

### **POKE-A-MAN!**

Faculty from the Clark College Phlebotomy program will demonstrate how to draw blood from a model arm. Participants can use a centrifuge to make their own aliquots from imitation blood and plasma. *Tues, Aug. 9: 11:30 a.m. – noon, 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.*

### **Simulation Technology and Nursing Education**

Meet the "Sims," the lifelike automatons used by Clark College nursing students in the college's state-of-the-art simulation lab to practice procedures ranging from tracheotomy to childbirth. *Wed, Aug. 10: 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. – noon, 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Sun, Aug. 14: 11:30 a.m. – noon.*

Additionally, visitors can test their dexterity at the college's Automotive Technology installation and view STEM-related student projects, including an aluminum boat created by some of the college's welding students. The college also will have staff available during the fair to answer questions about available programs, GED courses, Running Start, financial aid, and more. Staff also will be available to assist current students with registering for fall classes, looking up records, and other student support needs—and Clark's lovable mascot, Oswald the Penguin, will be present many afternoons and evenings for photos with children.

For those interested in attending Clark, the \$25.00 application fee will be waived for the first 50 applicants each day who apply at the fair. Current students and alumni and students will be able to stop by the booth for special giveaways and drawings for prizes.

For more information, visit [www.clark.edu/cc/fair](http://www.clark.edu/cc/fair) and follow Clark College on social media.

*Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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**Clark                    offers                    second  
bachelor's degree**



Clark College received approval last week from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), the college's regional accrediting body, to offer and begin the Applied Management baccalaureate program in January 2017. The college received approval earlier this year from the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC).

The Bachelor of Applied Science in Applied Management (BASAM) is a two-year, career-oriented degree that combines technical, academic, and professional management courses. The 90-credit program prepares technically skilled graduates—those with an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) or Associate in Applied Technology (AAT) degree—to enter their respective career fields with a bachelor's degree that provides the managerial knowledge and expertise to meet industry demand. Sample courses include Foundations of Management, Social Media in Business, Organizational Communication, Organizational Behavior, Operations and Logistics, and Applied Management Internship.



“This program is ideal for students with an AAS or AAT degree who are looking to move ahead in their careers, take on managerial positions in their organizations, or have the skills to operate their own businesses,” said Patti Serrano, BASAM Program Director and professor at Clark College. “We have heard the demands from local businesses for this program, as well as from working adults who are seeking a bachelor’s program that fits with their schedules.”

Clark College is now accepting applications for students interested in joining the first program cohort. The cohort is limited to 35 students, and classes will begin January 2017. Courses will be offered through online, hybrid, and face-to-face evening formats.

For more information or to apply, contact Patti Serrano at 360-992-2178 or [pserrano@clark.edu](mailto:pserrano@clark.edu). Information is also available online at [www.clark.edu/cc/basam](http://www.clark.edu/cc/basam).

### **About Clark College**

Located in Vancouver’s Central Park and serving up to 14,000 students per quarter, Clark College is Washington State’s second largest single-campus, for-credit community college. 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 Corporate & Continuing Education program is housed in the Columbia Bank building in downtown Vancouver.

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# **An investment in students’**

# financial futures



Judy Starr, director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at Clark College Foundation, center, receives a check from David Reiter, senior vice president and private client manager for Bank of America, and Jessica Hewitt, vice president of Enterprise Business & Community Engagement for Bank of America.

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation recently awarded Clark College a \$20,000 grant to support a full-time financial literacy coach at Clark College. The coach works directly with students to help them stabilize their finances and increase the likelihood of students meeting their economic,

educational, and career goals.

The grant, delivered to Clark College Foundation, provides ongoing support within Clark College's Career Services department for students. Assuring that a full-time financial coach remains on staff allows the college to continue providing workshops, classroom presentations, and individual sessions focusing on how to budget, balance a checkbook, set long-term financial goals, and understand credit cards, credit scores and loan repayments.

"The full-time coach has been highly valuable for our students," said Lisa Gibert, president and CEO of Clark College Foundation. "The coach assisted 64 students in one-on-one sessions over a seven-month period, held 27 different budgeting workshops for scores of other students and conducted specialty workshops for the Veterans Resource Center and the Pathways Center."

Jamie Madison was one of those students. She was ready to graduate from Clark's nursing program in 2015 when unforeseen circumstances led her to withdraw. When she was contemplating a return, she was unsure if she had the resources to do so. She met with Clark's financial literacy coach, Craig Ebersole, who helped her outline her personal finances and discover ways to limit her spending and create a budget.

"I am now confident with my finances and proactively use the resources I have learned about," said Madison, who returned to Clark to finish her degree. "These resources help me through college and prepare me for my career after graduation."

Approximately 54 percent of Clark students come from families living below the poverty level, and 60 percent are unemployed or receive public assistance. Moreover, nearly three-quarters of Clark students are the first generation in their families to attend college.

"Bank of America understands that financial fluency and

empowerment are key drivers for future financial mobility and success,” said David K. Reiter, senior vice president at U.S. Trust Bank of America Private Wealth Management in Vancouver. “That is why we are proud to support Clark College Foundation on this important decision to retain a financial coach. When individuals feel financially secure and are able to achieve their financial goals, communities are made stronger and we all benefit.”

A budgeting course delivered by the financial literacy coach was added to the College 101: College Essentials course last year. All students working toward an Associate of Arts degree are required to complete the course, which introduces students to campus resources, such as campus navigation, technology, tutoring support, and financial aid.

*Text and photo provided by the Clark College Foundation.*

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## **Penguin flies high among Cougars**



Clark alumnus and employee Narek Daniyelyan was named to the WSU Board of Regents. *Photo courtesy of WSU.*

Clark College alumnus and employee Narek Daniyelyan has been appointed by Governor Jay Inslee as the student member of the Washington State University Board of Regents for the 2016-2017 academic year.

“I am excited to have Daniyelyan as our student representative on the regents,” said WSU President Kirk Schulz. “He has an impressive background and will bring a strong student voice to board deliberations. I look forward to working closely with Daniyelyan during my first year as WSU President”

Daniyelyan has a long history of service to institutions of higher learning. During his time at Clark, he was a Student Ambassador, helping to guide new students around the college and supporting Clark events. He graduated from Clark with his Associate of Arts transfer degree from Clark in 2009, but soon returned to the college to work as a recruitment specialist. He currently works in the college’s Office of Instruction as its Education Partnership Manager, engaging with local schools, businesses and other higher education institutions to create and maintain mutually beneficial student partnership agreements. His other past work includes serving as a recreation leader for the City of Vancouver and as an intern with the Clark County Juvenile Court system.

Daniyelyan continued his education after Clark, graduating from WSU Vancouver in 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in Human Development. In 2013 he began his master’s degree studies in public affairs at WSUV.

“Upon graduation, I plan to continue working in higher education and serving students in our community,” said Daniyelyan. “Education has given me an opportunity for social mobility, so I want to help others see their potential and become the best versions of themselves.”

“I am ecstatic to be serving as the Student Regent and am looking forward to representing all WSU students,” Daniyelyan said of his appointment. “During my time as student regent I hope to learn about some of the amazing things that past Student Regents have accomplished, work with current board members on some of the pressing initiatives for the year, and serve as a liaison between students and the board.”

Daniyelyan was elected vice president of the Associated Students of WSU Vancouver and has held a variety of other student leadership positions, including serving as a student ambassador and as director of Leadership Development for ASWSU-Vancouver.

Effective July 1, Daniyelyan’s appointment will run through June 30, 2017. He succeeds current Student Regent Jansen VanderMeulen, of Burlington, Wash.

*This article adapted from the Washington State University news site.*