

Clark College announces new Trustee



Cristhian A. Canseco Juarez. *Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

Governor Jay Inslee has appointed Cristhian A. Canseco Juarez to the Clark College Board of Trustees. Canseco Juarez is a first-generation college graduate, as well as an immigrant and an alumnus of Washington State University Vancouver. He is deeply involved in community service in Vancouver, providing resources for those who have historically been under-represented.

“I’m honored to join the Clark College Board to support students and our community,” said Canseco Juarez. “I want to give back to this community and do my part to help create a more inclusive, equitable and enriching environment for students and their families.”

Canseco Juarez currently serves on the Board of Directors for

Lighthouse Community Credit Union. He serves as treasurer for the Southwest Washington LULAC Council and he volunteers as a council member at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. He also participated in last year's Clark College Presidential Search Committee.

Canseco Juarez earned his Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Washington State University Vancouver and graduated from Hudson's Bay High School in Vancouver. He and his family have lived in Vancouver for 25 years, having emigrated from Mexico to the United States in 1991.

He begins his term on January 1, 2021 and is filling the position vacated by outgoing trustee Jada Rupley. Rupley was first appointed to the Board in 2010 and has served two five-year terms. She has served in a variety of roles in Washington's education system over the past 25 years: as a teacher, psychologist, principal, and associate superintendent. She is currently the Superintendent of the Clackamas Education Service District in Oregon.

"Jada has provided a depth and breadth of education experience that has been invaluable to Clark College," said Rekah Strong, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "We are grateful for her work on the board, her expertise, and her passion for helping students succeed."

The Board of Trustees consists of five members appointed by the Governor of Washington. Members serve five-year terms and must live in the college's service district. The Board is responsible for strategic planning; development and approval of college policies; and approval and oversight of the operating budget.

Sharing their stories



Clockwise from top left, Nathan Webster, Rashida Willard, Tyler Monk, and Erykah Weems spoke during an online public forum called “Listen to Learn & Lead: Stories from our Black Community.” Photo courtesy of VanTalks.

Two members of the Clark College community shared their experiences of being Black in Vancouver during a public online event held on July 30. Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion **Rashida Willard** and marketing professor **Nathan Webster** were among four speakers who told their stories during “Listen to Learn & Lead: Stories from our Black Community.”

The event was co-presented by VanTalks, Vancouver’s version of TED Talks that inspire change, ideas and innovation, and by Ready to Rise, which supports students of color and first-generation college students.

The other two featured speakers were Tyler Monk, Clark County director of Ready to Rise, and Erykah Weems, who grew up in Vancouver and recently graduated from Central Washington

University. She is passionate about supporting and elevating the voices of girls and young women of color who have been impacted by adverse childhood experiences.

At the start of the forum, emcee Monk reminded the audience: "We have four Black folks sharing our experience. We do not speak for all Black folks."

Nathan Webster

Webster, who grew up in Vancouver and graduated from Mountain View High School, talked about how it felt growing up in a sea of white people. During his presentation, he shared class photos in which he is the only Black person.

"I've always been that ink spot in that bottle of milk," he said. "I don't see enough Black males in leadership roles in Vancouver. Can we show some love to our Black males? So many of my students at Clark have never had a Black male teacher until they took my class."

Webster also addressed how he feels being a Black male during an era when police brutality toward Black males is rampant. Too often, white people encounter a law-abiding Black male who is doing nothing illegal and minding his own business, but the white person calls the police.

He said, "White folks, please don't be scared of Black men. I don't want to be an endangered species."

Rashida Willard

Willard says she grew up in pre-gentrified Northeast Portland in a close-knit Black community that included "cookouts, church ladies and aunties sitting on the porch watching out." Later, she and her husband and their growing family were priced out of their Portland community. After moving to Vancouver, where housing prices were more affordable, she

started looking around for other Blacks and asked herself: "Where are they?"

Willard spoke about the need to pay attention to her actions and words in Vancouver's stores, medical offices, restaurants and her workplace. She talked out her internal monologue when she's in a store: Keep your hands out of your pockets or people will think you're stealing. Her list of "don'ts" was long and included paying attention to her clothing and hair.

She told a story about a time she was grocery shopping when a white stranger asked her to control her child. The woman was pointing to someone else's Black child.

She told the audience, "I don't own all the Black kids in Vancouver!"

On another trip to the grocery store, the cashier asked Willard whether she was going to use her EBT card to pay for her groceries. Willard told the audience that she doubted the cashier asked white shoppers that same question.

After many negative encounters in Vancouver, she said, "I started to wonder where I belong."

She spoke about the need for more local leaders who are not white: "In Vancouver students need to see people of color in leadership positions."

During the Q&A after the presentations, an audience member asked: What's the biggest mistake white allies make?

Willard answered: "Be an ally when the cameras aren't rolling. True allyship is what you are doing when nobody is watching."

She added, "If you're a white person called out by a person of color, listen to them. Believe Black folks."

The event is viewable on the VanTalks YouTube channel.

Exceptional Faculty Awards



The 2020 Exceptional Faculty Award recipients are, *clockwise from top left*, Dr. Don Appert, Adam Coleman, Molly Lampros, Ken Luchini, Tom Stevenson, and Lauren Zavrel.

Six outstanding members of Clark College's faculty have been recognized for their contributions to the college with a 2020 Clark College Exceptional Faculty Award.

These 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. Traditionally, they are announced during Commencement; because this year's ceremony was online and abbreviated due to the COVID-19 outbreak, they were announced at a later date.

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. Don Appert
- Adam Coleman
- Molly Lampros
- Ken Luchini
- Thomas Stevenson
- Lauren Zavrel

Dr. Don Appert, professor of music



Dr. Don Appert

Dr. Don Appert just celebrated his 30th anniversary of teaching music at Clark College. The director of the Clark College Orchestra and head of the Music Department, Appert has earned many awards over his career, including the prestigious American Prize, the ASCAP Plus, and the Clark County Arts Commission Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award.

“He doesn't just ‘talk the talk,’” wrote one student in nominating Appert. “He truly embodies everything he teaches

his students, from being punctual for class to practicing his instrument every day. He puts his students before himself and goes out of his way to create the best learning experience. He expects a lot from his students, but expects even more from himself.”

Appert earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music, specializing in trombone, from the New England Conservatory. He earned his doctorate in orchestral conducting from the University of Kansas. In addition to his 30 years at Clark College, he has teaching experience at Centre College in Kentucky and at Hampton University in Virginia. As a member of ASCAP, most of Dr. Appert’s compositions have been performed throughout the world. He has appeared as a guest conductor in Japan, Australia, Central America, and throughout Europe. In the United States, he has appeared as a guest conductor of the Vancouver (Washington) Symphony, the University of Texas – Arlington Symphony Orchestra, the Eastern Washington University Symphony Orchestra, and the University of Central Arkansas Symphony.

Adam Coleman, professor of computer technology



Adam Coleman

Adam Coleman’s connection to Clark College goes back to his own student years, when he earned his associate degree with a

double major in Data Networking and Computer Networking from the college. He then went on to get his bachelor's degree in Computer Technology at Eastern Washington University. He worked at SEH-America before returning to Clark College to teach, and in 2014 was named a tenured member of the college's computer technology faculty.

Coleman has been active in serving on college committees and creating partnerships with local organizations geared toward helping people build careers. He was central in developing and implementing new courses designed to help students earn their Microsoft Technology Associate certification. An avid bike rider, Coleman represented the college in the American Diabetes Association's annual Tour de Cure for years.

"Professor Coleman has been there for me since the beginning of my degree," wrote one student in nominating Coleman. "He has always been attentive. He will sit down with me and work through questions or concerns. He pushes on. He keeps going no matter what."

Molly Lampros, professor of communication studies



Molly Lampros

Molly Lampros joined Clark College's communication studies faculty in 2010, and over the past decade she has taught classes including Introduction to Mass Media, Interpersonal

Communications, and Small Group Communications. She has also given her energy and expertise to enrich the college beyond her classes, serving as a Phi Theta Kappa faculty advisor, giving presentations to colleagues on how to support students in the classroom, serving on scholarship and awards committees, and serving as a faculty mentor for student interns. Additionally, she has worked to create an Open Educational Resource for her classes—essentially, a free textbook that reduces expenses for her students. She is also certified in eLearning and Quality Matters.

“She’s fun, upbeat and always brings such a positive energy into class,” wrote one student in a nomination for Lampros. “She knows how to engage a class and make people want to participate, and she makes everyone feel included and heard. She makes you excited to come to class.”

Lampros earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in communication studies and psychology and her Master of Science degree in communication studies and conflict resolution from Portland State University. She earned her Master of Arts in Teaching in English language education from Pacific University. In addition to her decade of teaching at Clark College, she has teaching experience at Portland State University and the Oregon Institute of Technology. She also gets to put her communications expertise to work in a practical environment as co-owner of the Helvetia Tavern in Hillsboro, Oregon.

Ken Luchini, professor of mechatronics



Ken Luchini

Kenneth Luchini earned his associate degree in industrial electronics from Diablo Valley College in California. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in industrial electronics and computer technology from California State University Chico, and completed Master Studies in instructional processes in vocational education at the University of California Berkeley Extension. His work experience includes more than two decades as an electrical engineer, as well as 10 years as an electronics technician and eight years as a full-time college vocational education instructor in electronics and industrial automation.

Luchini earned tenure at Clark College in 2016. At the college, he serves as the faculty advisor for the MechaNerds, a student club devoted to mechatronics. He was also co-principal investigator for the Clark College Rural Access Mechatronics Program (RAMP), a program that developed “hybrid” (combination online and face-to-face) curriculum to serve rural portions of the college’s service district through a grant from the National Science Foundation’s Advanced Technological Education program.

“The amount of one-on-one time he provides is amazing,” wrote a student. “While he is inexhaustible in the classroom, that is not where his day ends. He’s always available after hours for discussion/clarification, and prides himself on getting you the right (or best!) answer.”

Thomas Stevenson, professor of communication studies



Tom Stevenson

Thomas Stevenson has taught in the Communication Studies department of Clark College since 2010, teaching classes that include Interpersonal Communication, Small Group Communication, and Public Speaking. Before he began teaching, he had a long career as a newspaper reporter and editor.

A graduate of Portland State University, Stevenson earned a Bachelor's Degree in Community Development (with additional focus on Communication Studies) and a Master's Degree in Communication Studies (with additional focus on Conflict Resolution), both with honors. In addition to his decade at Clark, he has teaching experience at Portland State University, Portland Community College, and Chemeketa Community College.

"I became a much better communicator after I attended both Interpersonal Communication and Small Group Communication classes from Tom," wrote one student in nomination Stevenson. "His enthusiasm and compassion have a huge impact on students. I am grateful for the conflict-resolving skills I've gained to deal when I work in a group and use these skills in my family. Using perception-checking has helped me understand how to solve misunderstandings and conflicts."

Lauren Zavrel, professor of adult basic education at Larch Corrections Center



Lauren Zavrel

While academia is full of highly specialized fields, Lauren Zavrel has built a career path that might be considered unusual even by the standards of higher education: For the past decade, she has taught in correctional facilities. She has served on the faculty of Clark College's Adult Basic Education program at Larch Corrections Center since 2016, earning praise from her students for her inclusive, supportive teaching style.

"Ms. Z treats us as students first, not inmates," wrote one student in their nomination. "She works with you on an individual level. She has a lot of respect for cultural differences and is aware of how cultural differences might play out in the classroom. She is accepting of all backgrounds. She actively recruits and hires Teacher Assistants from different backgrounds so that her students see themselves reflected in teacher's assistants."

Zavrel first discovered a love of teaching as a motorcycle safety instructor and began her academic teaching career in English as a Second Language. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Romance languages and her Graduate Certificate in

nonprofit management from the University of Oregon and her Master of Education degree in adult and higher education from Oregon State University. In addition to her time at Clark, she has teaching experience with Lane Community College, Lane County Adult Corrections, Clackamas Community College, Clackamas County Jail, the American Red Cross, and Team Oregon Motorcycle Safety Program. At Larch, Zavrel helped develop the first-ever tutoring program in a correctional facility to be certified by the College Reading and Learning Association. She also saw a record number of inmates earn their GEDs in the 2019-2020 academic year.

Clark's All-Washington Academic Team



Julisse Hopmann and Kellie Langston
Congratulations to Clark College
students **Julisse Hopmann** and **Kellie Langston**, who were named
to the 2020 All-Washington Academic Team. The students were
recognized for their achievement during the June 10 Board of
Trustees meeting.

Julisse Hopmann is earning her Associate of Applied Science
degree in Business Administration with a Certificate of
Proficiency in business management. She expects to graduate
Winter 2021. Running Start student Kellie Langston graduated
from Clark College in June with her high school diploma and
her Associate of Arts degree. *Read more about Julisse and
Kellie below.*

Julisse Hopmann

Sometimes we find ourselves in over our heads—treading water
and about to go under. But then a stranger comes along at just
the right moment and pulls us to safety. Four years ago,
when Julisse Hopmann was a 25-year-old diner waitress, a
customer pulled her from the brink and changed her life.

Julisse explains, “During that period of my life, I was
drinking heavily. I wanted help, but I didn’t feel I could get
the help I needed.”

An astute customer approached Julisse, pressed a card into her
hand, and told her she had turned her own life around through
a 12-step program.

“She probably could smell the liquor coming from my pores,”
Julisse recalls. “She gave me her card and said she could help
me. Sometime later, [I had] one really bad night when I was
drinking so much that I didn’t think I was going to wake
up, and I didn’t want to wake up. But I did wake up—so I
called her that morning and asked her to help me.”

Julisse says, "My life was one big struggle, but at age 25, I turned my life around. That was my second chance. My redemption. Now I ask myself how I can be a beacon of hope."

Today she juggles her classes at Clark, cares for her 3-year-old son, and helps others through her involvement with a 12-step recovery program.

"I try to help others the way I was helped," she says. "Some people just need to get to 12-step meetings. Some people need resources. Alcohol and addiction come with other issues, including mental health issues."

Before her alcohol addiction and recovery, she ran away from home and joined the carnival when she was 18. She had always wanted to travel. Shortly after earning her high school diploma via Clark's Running Start program, she told her parents she was joining a friend and going on the road to work at a carnival, Funtastic Traveling Shows.

"My parents told me they'd do anything they could to stop me," Julisse recalls. "So, I left a note on the kitchen counter and left in the middle of the night. I caught up with the carnival at the rest stop near Battle Ground. I left everything behind."

For six seasons she traveled with the carnival to state and county fairs throughout Washington and Oregon. She discovered she enjoyed the work and was good with people and at business management. The carnival owner, Ron Burbach, who had earned a business degree at Portland State University, saw something in Julisse and gave her increasing responsibilities. She started out making cotton candy, but by the time she left, she was managing a burger stand and two cotton candy stands.

She recalls the 80-year-old carnival owner telling her, "This carnival is my dream. You need to go back to school and find your own dream."

She doesn't have any regrets about joining the carnival. "I picked up a lot of useful skills: leadership, communication, working with people, learning how to handle stress, working long hours," she says. "When people tell me starting your own company is hard work, I know I can do it."

Five years after leaving the carnival, she's following Burback's advice. She's back at Clark College and pulling straight A's. She's been a Clark student before. She completed her high school diploma as a Running Start student in 2009. After she left the carnival, she enrolled at Clark but didn't stay. "I wasn't in the right mental space to take care of myself," she says. "My drinking picked up. I got depressed. I couldn't do it."

Julisse grew up on Larch Mountain near Hockinson, "way out in the sticks," she says. "I was always in the woods. Nature is healing for me."

After she graduates from Clark, her career goal is to combine her love of nature with her desire to help people struggling with addiction to find connection.

"I get a lot of personal connection from a 12-step program. Everybody needs connection," she says. "My goal is to start a nonprofit naturopathic clinic to help people with addictions to connect with each other and with nature."

Kellie Langston

If there's a volunteer project to be done, Kellie Langston is likely rolling up her sleeves. During COVID-19 quarantine, the 17-year-old volunteer helped distribute meals to the students at Hearthwood Elementary, where her mother is a teacher.

Kellie has faced multiple challenges: coping with her parents' divorce, abuse, toxic households, and going back and

forth between two families. As a result, she struggled with mental health issues. She chose to use that struggle to guide her volunteerism. During her first two years at Mountain View High School, she volunteered with her school's chapter of Youth Suicide Prevention Program, which trains youth to recognize the signs, risks, and triggers of suicide and how to get help.

"I wanted to use my story to help other students realize that they aren't alone," she says. "I know how someone with suicidal thoughts feels. Students pay more attention when it's a peer speaking rather than an adult."

Kellie served as the club's co-president her freshman and sophomore years. She and fellow club members wrote inspirational chalk messages on the school's walkways and opened doors for and greeted students when they arrived at school to help them feel welcome and connected.

But what Kellie enjoyed most about being involved in the club was speaking to more than 50 classes and leading discussions about youth suicide, mental illness, stressors, helpful hotlines and how students could find extra support when they needed it. "Presenting helped me deal with my own mental health problems and my trials and tribulations," she says. "It was powerful and rewarding."

Kellie was invited to participate in a KATU News town hall on youth mental health along with other teen volunteers with youth mental health programs. She had her turn on the air answering students' questions.

During her junior year, Kellie became a full-time Running Start student. She joined Phi Theta Kappa and volunteered for service projects including distributing Thanksgiving meals to more than 100 Clark students in need.

In the fall Langston plans to continue her studies at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. If the campus isn't open for

face-to-face instruction due to COVID-19 restrictions, she says she likely will stay home in Washougal and take her courses online. She plans to pursue a degree in education or perhaps business entrepreneurship.

“My dream job is to be a writer and a public speaker,” Kellie says. “I hope to inspire youth to overcome their own obstacles.”

About the All-Washington Academic Team

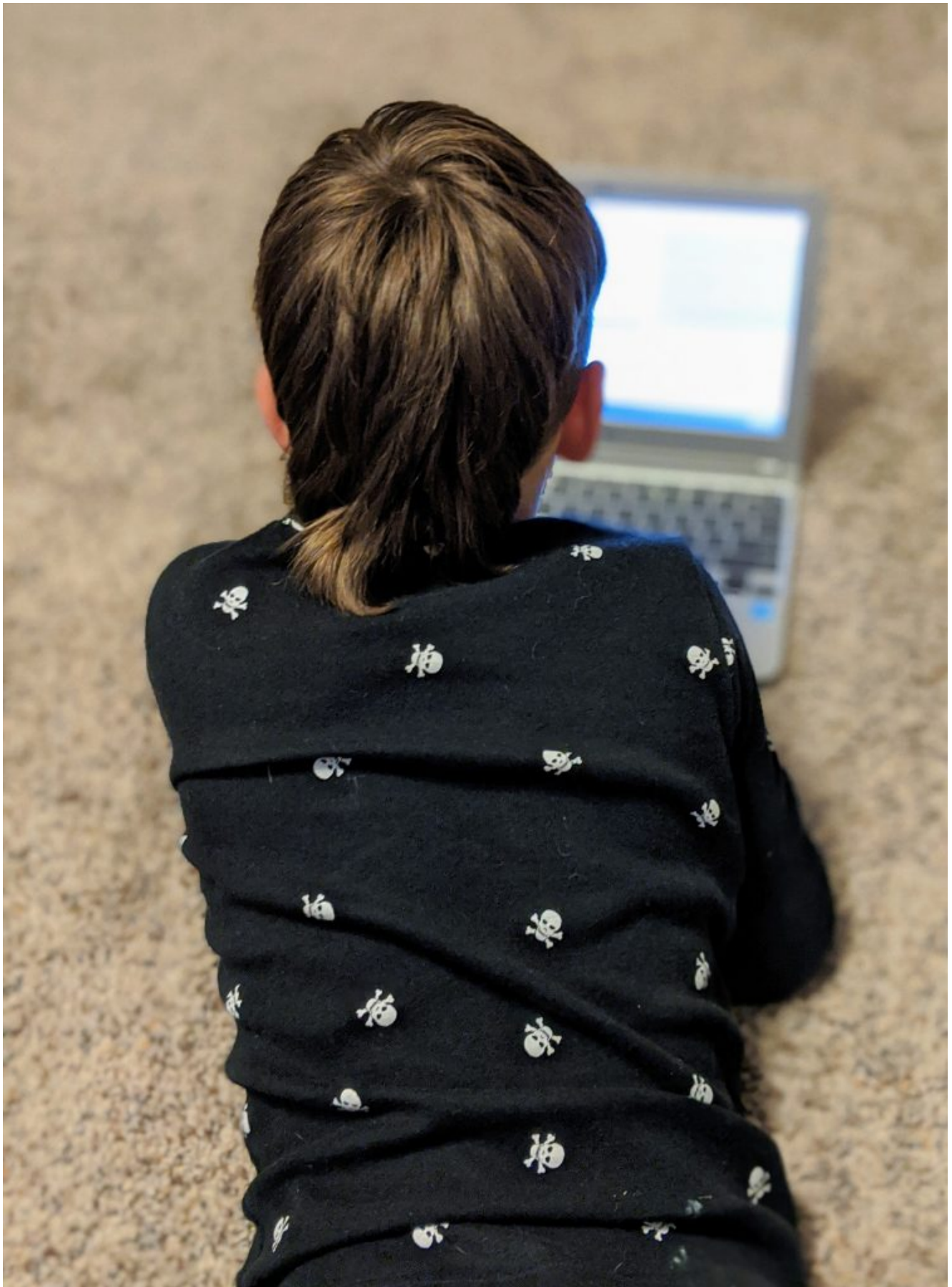
In all, 65 students from Washington’s community and technical colleges were named to this year’s All-Washington Academic Team. Traditionally, students are honored at a reception at South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia in late March, but this year, the COVID-19 outbreak canceled the event.

The All-Washington Academic Team is a program of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year college. It recognizes academic achievers in the state’s community and technical colleges who have demonstrated a commitment to scholastic achievement and service to their college and community. To qualify for the team, students must participate in PTK and fulfill other competitive criteria.

Each All-Washington Academic member receives a Phi Theta Kappa medallion and a \$250 scholarship from KeyBank. The top-qualifying students also will receive scholarships from Washington State Employees Credit Union and the Washington State Association of College Trustees. Additionally, students who choose to attend Washington State four-year colleges and universities are eligible to receive additional scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$12,000.

Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

A Little Penguin's view of quarantine



Clark 24/7 has been reaching out to members of the college community to learn how they're coping with, and adapting to, life during the COVID-19 pandemic. Here, we share an interview

conducted by Dean of Student Affairs Cath Busha and Counseling and Health Center Professor Dr. Bevyn Rowland with Busha's 7-year-old son, Oliver. Busha and Rowland are both still working remotely from home, while Oliver is now completing second grade online.

"We appreciated this chance to talk with him about these issues as a check-in," Busha said. Their conversation reflects many of the emotions and logistics being experienced by members of the Clark College family—not just staff and faculty, but also the 25 percent of Clark students who have dependent children.

Busha & Rowland: Why have we been working from home and why have you been learning from home?

Oliver: Because of the COVID-19 going on. If we went to work and school, we could get sick and get other people sick, especially older people. and they could die.

B&R: How do you feel about COVID-19?

O: I feel 'hassed'—like happy and sad together. I'm happy because I get to have more time with my parents, and I'm sad because I don't get time with my friends. I only get time with my friends on Google Hangouts.

B&R: How has it been to be home with us?

O: Great! Because I get more time with my parents, which is great because my parents are some of the best parents you could ask for, and I get to watch *Star Wars* movies.

B&R: What are some things you've done since we've all been working and learning from home together?

O: I've put on magic shows, I created an alarm system with a safe that I've turned into a time capsule and buried; I will open it in one month. I also camped on the trampoline and read *Mr. Wolf's Class* and *New Kid*. I've made apple hand pies, caramel corn, and soft pretzels. Also, some nights at 8

p.m. we howl to show support for first responders.

B&R: What are some frustrating things about being home?

O: That I don't get to see my friends. I also miss Pizza Day at school. Seesaw [an online learning tool used by elementary schools] can be hard. My teacher posts a bunch of things. I finish one, and then I have like six more to do. It can be tiring.

B&R: What advice do you have for other kids who are at home?

O: Stay home, stay safe, have fun.

B&R: What advice do you have for parents?

O: Stay home, stay safe, and spend as much time with your kids as you can.

Welcome, Professors!



Cuisine professor Aaron Guerra, seen here at the beginning of fall term, was one of eight faculty members to receive tenure on March 11, 2020.

Eight outstanding educators are the newest members of the tenured faculty at Clark College. Rhea Becke (career and academic preparation), Chris Boucher (diesel technology), Amy Laurel Bratton (communication studies), Alison R. Dolder (professional baking and pastry arts), Becky Engel (American Sign Language), R. Earl Frederick Jr. (cuisine), Aaron Guerra (cuisine), and Dr. Nick Macias (computer science and engineering) were all granted tenure during the Clark College Board of Trustees meeting on March 11. They will be honored at a college reception in fall 2020.

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

tenure review committee evaluations, student evaluations, supervisory evaluations, and peer evaluations. The final decision to award or withhold tenure rests with the Board of Trustees.

About the faculty members

Rhea Becke, Career and Academic Preparation

Rhea Becke holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry and molecular biology from Marquette University and a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from University of Alaska Southeast. Before entering the teaching profession, she worked at the Juneau Alliance for Mental Health. She has experience teaching in public schools in both Alaska and Oregon, teaching English in Japan, teaching chemistry at Clark College, and teaching pre-college courses at both Mt. Hood Community College and Clark College.

Becke joined the faculty of Clark College in 2012. She currently serves as lead instructor for her department's Math Applications course, a member of the Transitional Studies Standards Committee, and the Transitional Studies' liaison to the Mathematics Department. Additionally, she is part of the first cohort of the college's BUILD program, a yearlong employee development program providing intensive training in power, privilege, and inequity.

Rhea Becke described her teaching philosophy in the following terms: "My classroom is a learning community where students come as they are to actively engage with math in contextualized situations in order to become critical thinkers and problem solvers."

Chris Boucher, Diesel Technology

Chris Boucher earned his associate degree in diesel technology from Bates Technical College in Tacoma, Washington. He also studied criminal justice at Santa Rosa College in Santa Rosa, California. He has industry-specific work experience at Peterson Caterpillar, Cummins Northwest, Pacific Detroit Diesel, Cummins Intermountain, and Smith Detroit Diesel.

“My teaching philosophy is fairly straightforward, in that I believe we learn by doing,” said Boucher. “Putting our hands on a task forces our mind to focus on the task at hand. As a teacher you must also demonstrate credibility to the student, which will reinforce their confidence in your qualifications. If the student doubts your experience, it will reduce your effectiveness.”

Amy Laurel Bratton, Communication Studies

Amy Laurel Bratton graduated summa cum laude from the University of Memphis with a bachelor's degree in communication studies. She earned her master's degree in communication from Portland State University. Her teaching experience includes Portland State University, Portland Community College, and Clark College, as well as being a certified yoga instructor who trains other yoga instructors in public speaking and communication skills.

Bratton joined Clark College in 2005 as an adjunct and began a full-time position in 2011. She served as facilitator of the college's Service and Leadership in the Community (SLIC) Club and is currently active in assessment work at the departmental and program level. She regularly engages in professional development opportunities at the college, especially on the topics of eLearning education and power, privilege, and inequity.

“My teaching philosophy highlights the play between theory and practice,” Bratton said. “I encourage students to discover new communication concepts and to see how these concepts apply to their daily lives. As an educator, I am continually inspired by the opportunity to empower community college students with their own communication skills.”

Alison R. Dolder, Professional Baking and Pastry Arts

Alison R. Dolder is an alumna of Clark College, where she earned her associate degree in baking management. She has a long professional career in the baking industry, including positions at multiple bakeries in Massachusetts and New Hampshire as well as the award-winning Pearl Bakery in Portland, Oregon.

Since joining the faculty at Clark College, Dolder has become active in the local community, participating on the Fort Vancouver High School Advisory Committee and teaching cooking and baking skills at the Boys and Girls Club of Vancouver. In 2015, she was received the college’s prestigious Exceptional Faculty Award.

Dolder says she strives to “engage, encourage, and support” her students: “I try to get the students excited about what they are learning and encourage them to dig right in and get their hands wet. I observe their learning styles and tailor my instruction to suit each students’ style.”

Becky Engel, American Sign Language

Becky Engel holds a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology from Oregon State University and a Master of Education degree in Deaf education from Western Oregon University. Prior to joining Clark College as an ASL instructor, she taught at the Washington School for the Deaf.

Since coming to Clark College, Engel has served as the advisor to the ASL/Signing Penguins student club, ASL Advisory Committee for Southwest Washington high schools, a judge for the Washington School for the Deaf's Flying Hands ASL Literature Competition, the Emergency Building Coordinator Committee, and the Social Equity Task Force. Additionally, she participated in the creation of the college's 2015-2020 Social Equity Plan and is a member of the first cohort of the college's BUILD program, a yearlong employee development program providing intensive training in power, privilege, and inequity. In 2017, she received the college's prestigious Exceptional Faculty Award.

"Due to my background in Deaf Education, I'm fortunate to have experience working with students from a wide background," said Engel. "As a result, I adapt my teaching style to fit students' needs. I am always willing to stop, circle back, and try a different teaching approach, knowing the other students would most likely benefit as well."

R. Earl Frederick Jr., Cuisine Management

R. Earl Frederick Jr. earned his Associate in Applied Science degree in culinary arts from Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island, his Associate in Applied Science degree in baking and pastry arts from the Oregon Culinary Institute, and his Bachelor of Science in business administration from Warner Pacific College in Oregon. A Certified Executive Chef through the American Culinary Federation, he has held chef positions in the culinary services of Walt Disney World, Club Med, Job Corps, Nike, and Intel.

Since coming to Clark College, Frederick has helped launch the college's Cuisine Management program and provided input on the design of its new McClaskey Culinary Institute. He serves as

the program's ServSafe Certified Instructor and Registered Proctor, ensuring students meet the rigorous requirements of this national food-safety program.

"I lead by example and lecture from facts," Frederick said. "I tell my students that you'll receive exactly what you put into the class. My motto: Don't talk about it, *be* about it!"

Aaron Guerra, Cuisine Management

Aaron Guerra has decades of experience as an executive chef, instructor, and education and restaurant consultant. After graduating from the Western Culinary Institute with an associate degree in culinary arts, he worked as an executive chef at Portland's Harvest Grill and The Restaurant at the Historic Reserve in Vancouver, Washington. He was nominated for the American Culinary Federation's "Chef of the Year" in 2007, 2011, and 2014, and was named ACF Pro Chef Oregon's Chef of the Year in 2014. His teaching experience includes Le Cordon Bleu/Western Culinary Institute in Portland, Oregon; Northwest Culinary Institute in Vancouver, Washington; and Clark College.

At Clark, Guerra helped launch the college's Cuisine Management program and provided input on the design of its new McClaskey Culinary Institute. He serves as department chair and is active in his community, founding a nonprofit called the Culinary Champions for Charity that raises money for local organizations. He also participates in a national group of leaders in higher education called the Deans and Directors Retreat.

"My teaching philosophy and approach is simple," said Guerra. "I am a conduit of my experience, skills and knowledge from 30 years of being a chef to my students, fellow instructors and campus. My job is to help prepare the next generation of cooks and chefs and to help make myself, my coworkers and those I interact with on campus better with

every opportunity.”

Dr. Nick Macias, Computer Science & Engineering

Dr. Nick Macias earned both a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering and a master’s degree in computer science from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.; a master’s degree in mathematics from Duke University in Durham, North Carolina; and a doctorate degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic University. Along with his industry-specific work experience in both the private sector and as a civil

servant, he has teaching experience at Duke, George Washington, Virginia Tech, Northwest Academy, Portland State University, Washington State University, and Clark College.

Dr. Macias joined Clark College in 2011. Within his department, he is actively involved in Guided Pathways, course assessment, community outreach, and student advising. He serves as faculty advisor for the Computer Science and Engineering Club; outside of Clark College, he volunteers with the Regional Arts and Culture Council. In 2017, he earned Clark College’s prestigious Exceptional Faculty Award.

“I believe learning happens through the search for answers, so I teach by raising questions in the material, in the subject, in ourselves,” said Dr. Macias. “I encourage students to make and embrace mistakes, as these raise the exact questions best suited to one’s own learning.”

Clark College announces new president



Dr. Karin Edwards

Today Clark College marked a major milestone when its Board of Trustees announced its selection of Dr. Karin Edwards to be the college's next president.

Dr. Edwards comes to Clark College with an impressive history of leadership, including her current position as Campus President of Portland Community College Cascade. (Full bio listed below.)

"Dr. Edwards is an incredible leader," said Trustee Paul Speer. "Her ability to help close achievement gaps between student populations, her work in equity, her work in partnerships in workforce development, and her previous experience in a presidential role were certainly very influential in the board's decision. When you look at her track record and at the information we gained during the

course of this process, what you'll find is an individual who is incredibly aligned with our stated values and the needs of our college over the coming decade."

Today's announcement is the culmination of a rigorous search process that began last summer following the retirement of President Bob Knight. Working with a national search firm, the Board of Trustees was able to attract 65 applicants from across the country who were reviewed by a Search Advisory Committee composed of college employees, community members, and other key stakeholders. The committee narrowed the field down to a limited number of finalists. Three finalists visited the college for interviews and open forums, and trustees visited their respective campuses as well.

The Board of Trustees made the final selection based on the position profile, personal interviews, and a review of the data and recommendations gathered from the committee and from student and community forums held with each candidate on the Clark College campus. More information about the search process is available on the college's Presidential Search web pages.

"Clark College Foundation has assisted Clark College with philanthropy for nearly five decades, helping the college align with the needs of Southwest Washington's businesses and organizations while making college possible for those who face barriers to higher education," said Eric Merrill, chair of Clark College Foundation's Board of Directors. "We are committed to working with the new president and introducing her to vital community partners in order to sustain Clark College's future."

Dr. Edwards will be the college's 15th leader in its 87-year history.

Dr. Edwards says she is excited to step into her new role, the exact date of which is still being determined along with other

hiring details. "I have a full heart today, she said. "I'm excited to begin a new chapter as President of Clark College and grateful to everyone at Portland Community College who has walked with me these past six years. We have a great deal to be proud of, developing programs and support services that help our students succeed."

Dr. Sandra Fowler-Hill, who has served as Interim President during the 2019-2020 academic year as the college conducted the presidential search, said she will continue in her current role until Dr. Edwards is able to join the college in summer 2020 and will help with the onboarding process.

About Dr. Karin Edwards

Dr. Karin

Edwards' 36-year career at community colleges spans roles from Admissions

Counselor to Campus President. Since July 2014, she has served as president of

Portland Community College's Cascade Campus. In that role, her responsibilities

at PCC Cascade include supervising the advanced manufacturing programs at PCC's

Swan Island Trades Center, a 20,000-square-foot facility housing the college's

Apprenticeship and Trades department, as well as PCC's Maritime Welding

Training Center at Swan Island, which trains welding students and has MOAs with

Vigor Industrial.

Her community

service includes serving on the board of directors of Portland

Community

Reinvestment Initiatives and on the advisory board of the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs, as well as being an active member of the Partners in Diversity Leadership Council and the Oregon Presidents Council of the Oregon Community College Association.

Dr. Edwards

earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology and her master's degree in Higher Education Administration at State University of New York at Albany, and her doctorate degree in Educational Leadership at Johnson and Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island.

About Clark College

Located

in Vancouver's Central Park and serving up to 11,500 students per quarter, Clark College is Southwest Washington's oldest 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.

Three decades of music



Don Appert. *Photo: Tom Seeman.*

On Wednesday, December 4, the award-winning Clark College Orchestra will present its fall concert as part of the 2019-2020 season celebrating the 30th anniversary of Dr. Donald Appert as Clark College Music Director/Conductor. This all-orchestral extravaganza will include *La Valse* by Maurice Ravel, *Nuages* and *Fêtes* from Claude Debussy's *Nocturnes*, and Josef Suk's *Symphony No. 1 in E Minor*.

The performance is at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Skyview High School in Vancouver. Admission is free and open to the public. Donations to the Orchestra General Fund will be accepted at the door.

For

complete information about all the Clark College Music Department concerts including the orchestra, concert band, jazz ensemble, and choirs, please see <http://www.clark.edu/campus-life/arts-events/music/music-concerts>.

About Dr. Donald Appert

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

As one of only five musicians chosen, Dr. Appert received the 2015 Honored Artists of The American Prize for "individuals who have proven themselves to be musicians of sustained excellence over a number of seasons." Adding to this distinctive honor is his 2011 The American Prize in Orchestral Programming – Vytautas Marijosius Memorial Award for his work with the Oregon Sinfonietta.

Dr. Appert was awarded the 2015 ASCAPLUS Award in recognition of his performances in Italy and the United States. His awards in previous years were for performances in Romania, Qatar, Europe, Central America, Japan, and the United States. Dr. Appert is the recipient of the 2014 Clark County Arts

Commission Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award, and in 2009, he received the Washington Community College Humanities Association Exemplary Status Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Humanities.

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

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