

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

College mourns loss



Lora Whitfield, *second from left*, celebrates receiving tenure in 2017 with her Early Childhood Education colleagues Debi Jenkins, Michelle Mallory, and Sarah Theberge. Whitfield passed away in July 2019.

Clark College lost a beloved member of their community on July 9, when early childhood education professor Lora Whitfield passed away.

“She was kind, warm, and supportive of those around her,” said Vice President of Instruction Sachi Horback.

Whitfield’s connection to Clark went back to her own days as a student, when she attended the college to earn her associate degree in early childhood education in 2002. Whitfield went on to have a successful career in the field, working for both the Southwest Washington Child Care Consortium and Albina Early Head Start. She earned her master’s degree in human development with a specialization in early childhood education and bicultural development from Pacific Oaks College in Seattle.



Lora Whitfield, *second from right*, stands with students and colleagues at this year's Commencement. *Photo courtesy of Rashida Willard.*

In 2014, Whitfield returned to Clark College to teach. She received tenure in 2017. At the time, she offered this statement on her teaching philosophy: "As an educator, I am committed to treating each individual with respect. I believe respect is paramount in creating environments that promote students' ideas, passions, and interest in a meaningful and organically wholesome way. I strive to provide settings where everyone can share their ideas without bias and be included in all aspects of learning."



Lora Whitfield, right, celebrates at Commencement with Interim Associate Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Rashida Willard. *Photo courtesy of Rashida Willard.*

Whitfield, who identified as Afro-Caribbean, was the second Black woman to receive tenure at Clark College. She actively worked to create networks of support for colleagues and students of color, participating in both the statewide Cross-Institution Faculty of Color Mentorship Program and Clark's Black Employees United Employee Resource Group. "She was an absolute joy to be around," recalled Interim Associate Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Rashida Willard. "She had a hilarious sense of humor and always made her work family laugh."

In addition to her work fostering inclusion, she was an active leader in her field, participating in the Clark College Early Childhood Advisory Council, the Early Childhood Teacher Preparation Council, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

On his last day as president of Clark College before his retirement, Bob Knight recalled his memories of Whitfield. "Because Lora began as a student at Clark College, she could relate very closely to the student experience," he wrote in a July 15 email to all college employees. "This made her a gifted instructor. She made Clark College a better place."

Services for Professor Whitfield have been scheduled for Saturday, July 20, with a viewing between 9:30 am and 10:00 am. The service will be from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The location will be at City Harvest Church at 8100 NW 9th Street, Vancouver, WA 98665. Funeral information will be on the Terry Family Funeral Home website.

Clark College announces new Interim President



Dr. Sandra Fowler-Hill

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

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

Trustees with support from a national search firm.

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

Dr. Sandra A. Fowler-Hill is an experienced leader in higher education, having served as President of Portland Community College's Rock Creek Campus from 2014 to 2018. She has also served as Vice President of Instruction at Everett Community College and Dean for Student Learning at Cascadia Community College. She began her career at Olympic College, where she worked for 19 years, beginning as program manager of Women's Programs, then moving into a tenured faculty position before being named to the position of Dean for Social Science and Humanities. Since retiring from PCC Rock Creek, she has served as a consultant for the Association of Community College Trustees. She earned her bachelor's degree in Applied Behavioral Science from George Williams College in Downers Grove, Illinois; her master's degree in Human Development Counseling

from the
University of Illinois at Springfield; and her doctorate
degree in Community
College Leadership from Oregon State University.

Retiring

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

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

To

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

About Clark College

Located

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

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

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

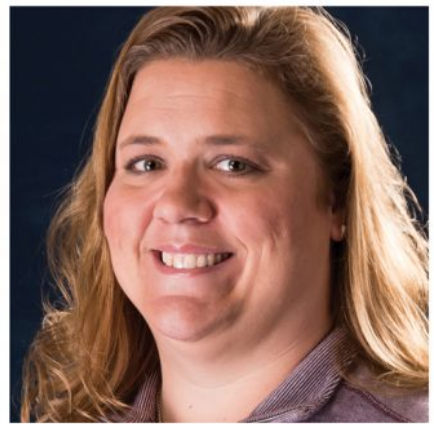
on the Washington State University Vancouver campus and one in
the Columbia

Tech Center in East Vancouver. Additionally, its Economic &

Community

Development program is housed in the Columbia Bank building in downtown Vancouver.

Exceptional Faculty



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

members, and Foundation directors.

The awards are made possible through an endowed trust fund established by the Washington State Legislature and the Clark College Exceptional Faculty Endowment Fund, which was established in 1993. That fund provides recognition of exemplary work performance, positive impact on students, professional commitment, and other contributions to the college.

This year's Exceptional Faculty members are:

Dr. Karl Bailey, Chemistry



Dr. Karl Bailey

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

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

"Dr. B continuously shows that he supports his students and

will do anything to help them succeed,” wrote one student. “He has offered to help outside of office hours. ... I’m a single mom fighting to succeed, and he has been there during two quarters, doing everything he can to accommodate any hardships, within reason. Teachers like him leave marks on your academic heart.”

Nadine Fattaleh, Chemistry



Nadine Fattaleh

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

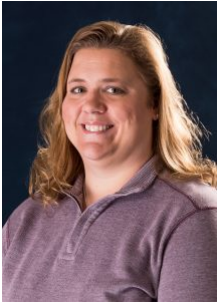
Fattaleh is a member of the leadership team of the Pacific Northwest Green Chemistry Network. At Clark College, her primary teaching responsibilities are in general and organic chemistry, where she has implemented green chemistry lab experiments.

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

up for successful careers in science.”

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

Deena Godwin, Communication Studies



Deena Godwin

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

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

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

Zachary Grant, Libraries



Zachary Grant

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

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

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

Malcolm Mccay, Economics



Malcolm McCay

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

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

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

Erin Staples, Health and Physical Education



Erin Staples

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

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

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

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Presidential search firm selected



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

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

“For more than a decade President Knight has provided stability and vision helping the college grow, adapt and serve its community,” said Paul Speer, board trustee. Speer and board vice chair Jane Jacobson are co-leading the board’s recruitment and selection process. “This is an important moment for Clark

College. We are looking for the right person for the next chapter of the college,” said Speer.

“The board is fully committed to conducting an equitable, inclusive and transparent national search. Gold Hill Associates will be a good partner in the process.”

Gold Hill

Associates was selected following a competitive bid process. Its CEO, Dr.

Preston Pulliams, has worked in a variety of higher education leadership roles

for 25 years. From 2004-2013, he served as District President at Portland

Community College. Gold Hill has made successful placements at more than 20

colleges in the Pacific Northwest.

Gold Hill

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

The interim

president is expected to serve beginning August 2019 for a one-year period

allowing sufficient time for the permanent presidential search. The interim

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

“The presidential

search will also be assisted by a Presidential Search Advisory Committee

including representatives from the college and external community,” said

Speer. “We look forward to updating and receiving feedback from the community as we move forward.”

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

Honoring she-roes



On March 7, while people around the world prepared to

celebrate

International Women's Day the next day, members of the local community gathered in Gaiser Student Center to honor five women's contributions to Southwest Washington at the 2019 Iris Awards.

Guests enjoyed refreshments and light fare provided by Beaches Restaurant as they celebrated the honorees. Ceremonies began with a greeting from Clark College President Bob Knight, after which the evening was turned over to emcee Colleen Boccia, chief marketing officer of Columbia Credit Union. Boccia introduced speeches by both the honorees and their nominators.

This year's Iris Award recipients were:

- Ann Fischer, founder of the Healthy Equitable Living Project
- Stacey Graham, president of the Humane Society for Southwest Washington
- Maureen Montague, executive director of Columbia Springs
- Rekah Strong, executive director of Educational Opportunities for Children and Families
- Lynn Valenter, vice chancellor for finance and operations at Washington State University Vancouver

This annual ceremony has a long tradition in this community. The event began in 1985 as a photography exhibit during Women's History Week, which later developed into a larger awards program and ceremony known as the Southwest Washington Women of Achievement Awards. In 2012, the event was reintroduced as the Iris Awards with the same core mission: honoring the women

of Southwest Washington for their outstanding contributions in the categories of public, private, philanthropic, and civic service.

Ann Fischer



Ann Fischer and Diane Irby

The evening got off to an emotional start when Diane Irby took to the podium to describe her experience being a client of the Healthy Equitable Living Project, which Ann Fischer runs and founded.

“The pantry has fed my body quite well,” she said. “But the pure unselfish love [Ann] provided me has fed my soul and my heart and was something I didn’t even know I was starving for.

“The pantry keeps me alive,” Irby continued, facing Fischer directly, “but you make me want to *stay* alive.”

Fischer embraced Irby before beginning her own remarks, which centered on the work that HELP does providing food to families in need at

14 different schools. She spoke about the importance of not just providing people with food and assistance, but doing so in a way that allows them choice and dignity, mentioning how HELP sets up its food pantry so that clients can “shop” for the groceries they prefer instead of receiving a pre-made box. Fischer also thanked the many volunteers and partners that support HELP, including Clark College nursing students who volunteered to provide clients with education on hygiene and first aid.

Fischer also made clear that it was not just the clients who benefited from HELP, but she herself found inspiration and motivation from the work. “The biggest gift you can give yourself is helping other people,” she said.

Stacey Graham



Stacey Graham and Debra Hentz

The next honoree of the evening was Stacey Graham, president of the Humane Society for Southwest Washington. Before coming to HSSW, Graham had a long career that encompassed work in the Oregon State Legislature, national public relations and advertising agencies, the United Way of Columbia-Willamette, and First Independent Bank. When she joined HSSW in 2013, she was charged with raising the level of awareness and visibility of the Humane Society in the local community and animal welfare industry; and dramatically increasing the save rate of the animals in care. Under her leadership, HSSW launched a five-year, \$6 million capital campaign. In 2018, HSSW was named the Best Nonprofit in Clark County.

"I've been a volunteer with HSSW for 20 years," said nominator Debra Hentz. "One thing you see with people at humane societies is they say, 'We want to focus on the animals.' Stacey really focused on the people and building them up."

Graham admitted that she wasn't a born animal-lover. "I didn't grow up with animals," she said. "The first time I walked into the kennels, I was scared to death—that's how I learned I was afraid of dogs. But I walked those kennels every day, and I learned to love dogs."

Graham noted that caring about animals is part of caring about humanity, and noted that HSSW donated pet food to pantries like Ann

Fischer's. "We know how much animals mean to people," she said. "We know they will give food to their animals before they feed themselves. So we're hanging in there with you."

Maureen Montague



Maureen Montague and Heidi Johnson Bixby

The next award presented was the H-RoC Iris Award, a special category created in 2017 to honor women in the community who have promoted civil discourse, teamwork, collaboration, and cooperation. H-RoC, a non-partisan political action committee dedicated to the advancement of elected and appointed female leaders in Southwest Washington, sponsors this annual award.

H-RoC member (and 2016 Iris Award recipient) Heidi Johnson Bixby introduced honoree Maureen Montague. Montague currently serves as the

executive director of Columbia Springs, an environmental education nonprofit and protected urban natural area on the Old Evergreen Highway in Vancouver. Previous to this position, she was the co-founder and eventual executive director of North Bank Artists.

Johnson Bixby described Montague as “the first to raise her hand to volunteer” and someone with a gift for collaboration and community-building.

Like most of the night’s honorees, Montague said she learned the value of community service from her family. She recalled watching her grandmother sewing a quilt with fellow church members to donate to a recently widowed woman to keep her warm during the winter, and feeling “the kindness of that good deed in my heart.”

“Community service, to me, means collective kindness,” she said. “These things add up. ... I’m blessed to live in Clark County, where so many people seem to understand this.”

Rekah Strong



Jada Rupley and Rekah Strong

The next honoree of the night was also nominated by a former honoree. Jada Rupley, 2004 Women of Achievement Award recipient, introduced Rekah Strong by noting that they currently served together on the Clark College Board of Trustees. She praised Strong for her dedication to the community, saying, "Thank you for being a gentle teacher, thank you for being a fierce advocate, and thank you for changing our community."

Strong is executive director of Educational Opportunities for Children and Families. Prior to that position, she served in leadership roles at the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette and at Clark County. Along with her work on the Clark College Board of Trustees, she serves on Clark County's Developmental Disability Advisory Board and is a former board member of We Reign Youth Foundation and Southwest Washington Chapter Red Cross.

Strong spoke about her experiences as a young child attending political events with her grandmother and mother, drawing with crayons and not entirely understanding why she was there, but even so learning the importance of public engagement. “What my grandmother was doing for me was pouring into me, and creating a template for me that would come full circle in my life,” she said.

Strong also noted a theme that arose from her experiences: “Small yesses can have huge outcomes.” As examples, she offered the time she said yes to an employee who needed to bring her baby to work, which led to a program that served a dozen employees and became a model for other workplaces. Another “small yes” was agreeing to speak at an open forum about Clark County’s system of governance, which in turn led to her becoming part of the work group that changed the county’s Freeholder process and expanded the Clark County Council.

Strong also recounted providing her own children with crayons as she took them to public meetings—and how, years later, her daughter would volunteer to visit the State Capitol to advocate for others.

“You never know the ultimate outcome of modeling for others, of pouring into other people, and all those small yesses,” she said.

Lynn Valenter



Lynn Valenter and Renee Bartocci

The final honoree of the night was Lynn Valenter, vice chancellor for finance and operations at Washington State University Vancouver.

Valenter, who began her career at WSUV more than 20 years ago, now leads a range of functions including budget and accounting, capital planning, facilities operations, human resources, public safety, and dining services.

Valenter was introduced by WSUV Chief of Staff Renee Bartocci, who expressed her appreciation for her colleague's work ethic and enthusiasm. "She's there to be a partner, to bounce ideas off of, and to ask the hard questions," Bartocci said. "And she's really good at it."

Valenter thanked her family for supporting her work—both in her career and as a volunteer—acknowledging the difficulty

women face when they try to manage the obligations of their families with those of their workplaces and communities. “For many, many years, the daily prayer was for balance,” she said. Even so, she said the balancing act was worth it.

“I believe each of us finds satisfaction when we make a difference,” she said. “That can be in your family, in your work, and in your community.”

To view more photos from the event visit our [Flickr page](#).

Presidential Coins



Employee Development Manager Vanessa Neal shows off her Presidential Coin.

Since 2007, Clark College President Bob Knight has presented Presidential Coins to faculty, staff, and community members to honor their exemplary service to the college and the community. In 2016, President Knight expanded the coins' recipients to include exemplary supporters of the college. 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 in January.

Six Clark College employees received Presidential Coins during the 2019 State of the College address on January 17.

Eben Ayers



Left to right: Damon Grady, *Campus Security Officer*, Mike See, *Director of Security and Safety*, Eben Ayers, *Campus Security Officer*, and Chris Layfield, *Security and Safety Secretary Senior*.

Eben Ayers first began working for Clark College as an intern in the Security department while he was in high school. Starting in 2004, he worked in part-time positions at the college until becoming a full-time security officer in 2012. Since then, Ayers has developed into the Security department's primary training officer for all new-hire parking enforcement and security personnel.

"He is well-known throughout the college for being approachable, responsive, and caring," said Knight.

Ayers's professionalism and compassion has been recognized by the local community. In October 2017, he was featured in an article published jointly by *The Independent* and *The Columbian* that illustrated his strong work ethic and commitment to serving the Clark community.

Randy Broberg



For the past four years, Randy Broberg has been a volunteer tutor in the Veterans Resource Center. As a veteran himself, having served in the Navy in the late 1960s, Broberg is known for being willing to offer whatever help and support the student veterans need to be successful.

“He drives from Portland to volunteer four or five days a week, for seven hours a day, sometimes coming in as early as 6 a.m. to help students prepare for exams or go over troublesome homework,” said Knight.

His students describe him as patient, supportive, encouraging, and having a great sense of humor while being able to lend a sympathetic ear when needed.

Karen Hagen



Foundation CEO Lisa Gibert and Board Members cheer on Karen Hagen.

Karen Hagen has been a Clark College employee since 1994. Beginning as a receptionist, she has worked her way through several positions including database management, facilities maintenance, IT oversight, and departmental historian. Hagen currently works as the Accounting & IT Manager for the Clark College Foundation, where she is the longest-tenured employee.

“Her attention to detail, her pleasant personality, and her overwhelming commitment to Clark College and its mission make Karen a dedicated and exemplary employee,” said Knight.

Vanessa Neal

Vanessa Neal, *pictured above*, has been an employee of Clark College since 2016 and has made many positive contributions in that time. As an Employee Development Manager, Neal focuses on providing meaningful, engaging employee development opportunities for staff and enhancing the employee experience. She also co-chairs the Teaching and Learning Days Workgroup.

“She cares deeply about the college community and has a genuine interest in the well-being of those around her,” said Knight. “Not one for surface interactions, she is known for pausing folks to ask, ‘No, how are you *really* doing?’”

Janice Taylor



Since 2006, Janice Taylor has held nearly every staff position in Tutoring Services. She began as a part-time work-study student before becoming a full-time Program Assistant and then Program Manager. For the past 18 months, Taylor has served as Interim Associate Director. She supports college-wide initiatives by serving on committees and work groups, including co-leading the Guided Pathways Pillar 3 group.

Taylor is known for brainstorming creative ways to improve services and provide equitable access to resources to improve student outcomes.

In the words of President Knight, she tracks data “like a bloodhound,” searching out bits of information so Tutoring Services can make informed decisions about how to use resources effectively to support student success.

Bill Raedy



As an adjunct math instructor at Clark College for 20 years, Bill Raedy has helped countless students, but Knight shared one recent story that exemplified Raedy's willingness to go the extra mile for students.

When a student had missed several days of class, Raedy reached out in concern. He learned that this student was a veteran and had been the last living member of his combat team, and he confided that he was contemplating ending his life. Raedy immediately reached out to the Veterans Resource Center. Together they were able to get the student connected to resources and convince him he was safe and welcome at Clark.

"It took a whole team to get this student up on his feet again," said Knight before presenting Raedy with a coin. "But it all started with this one instructor caring enough to reach out to the student and knowing enough to connect him to the right resources on campus."

President Knight announces retirement



President Robert K. Knight

President Robert K. Knight has announced that he plans to retire at the end of the 2018-2019 contract year on August 31.

“On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, I want to thank President Knight for his exemplary service during his 13 years leading Clark College,” said Royce Pollard, chair of the Clark College Board of Trustees. “For more than a decade, he has provided stability and vision that has allowed the college to grow, adapt, and serve its community.”

Knight joined Clark in 2004 as Vice President of Administrative Services. In 2006, he was named acting

president, and a year later was named president. During his tenure, he has overseen many changes at the college, including the opening of its Columbia Tech Center location in 2009, a new STEM Building in 2016, and the development of the college's first three Bachelor of Applied Science degree programs.

Knight publicly announced his retirement on January 18, the day after delivering his annual State of the College address, in which he shared the news of the college's recent successful accreditation process.

President Knight will continue to serve as president until his retirement date.

"While this is a decision that my wife and I have been weighing for some time, I wanted to see the college through its accreditation process before informing trustees and Executive Cabinet," Knight wrote in an email to college employees this morning. "Now that our review is complete and the college has received commendations in six areas, I feel comfortable that I am leaving this institution on firm footing."

Pollard said that the Board of Trustees will begin the work of selecting a replacement for President Knight at a special board meeting to be announced soon.

Read the full text of President Knight's email below:

Dear college community,

As many of you know, I have spent 15 years working at Clark. It has been a privilege and an honor to lead the college for more than a decade, and I am proud of the work we have done together to serve our students and our community.

So it is with mixed emotions that I announce that I will be retiring at the end of my contract year on August 31.

While this is a decision that my wife and I have been weighing for some time, I wanted to see the college through its accreditation process before informing trustees and Executive Cabinet. Now that our review is complete and the college has received commendations in six areas, I feel comfortable that I am leaving this institution on firm footing.

The Board of Trustees will be holding a special meeting, to be announced soon, to begin the process of seeking new leadership for the college. I have the utmost faith in their ability to steward the college safely through this period of transition and to find the right leadership to guide Clark into the future. In the meantime, I am committed to spending the next seven months ensuring that the college continues to work toward fulfilling its mission.

Please know that I will continue to support Clark and be a part of its community, even after I retire. After all, once a member of the Penguin Nation, always a member of the Penguin Nation.

Thank you,

*Bob Knight
President*