

All smiles



Every member of Clark College's 2019 dental hygiene graduating class passed all six of their board exams. *Photo courtesy of Kristi Taylor.*

Clark College's dental hygiene program has long had plenty to smile about: its high-quality teaching facilities, its status as the college's first bachelor's degree program, and its important work providing dental hygiene care in the community.

Recently, the program's faculty received news to make their smiles even brighter: Every student in their 2019 graduating class passed all six of their board exams.

The exams are extremely rigorous, and a 100 percent pass rate is remarkable. The exams include:

- The National Board Exam (an 8-hour written exam)
- The Restorative Exam (placement and finishing of amalgam [silver] and composite [white]) fillings
- The Anesthesia Written Exam

- The Anesthesia Clinical Exam (accurately administer the 2 most difficult injections on a patient)
- Hygiene Clinical Exam (thoroughly remove tenacious calculus [tartar] from a patient's teeth with severe periodontitis [gum disease])
- The Ethical Board exam

"These are six different high-stakes exams that test the students' knowledge and skills," wrote Dean of Business and Health Sciences Brenda Walstead in an email to the college community. "Thank you to an extremely dedicated and talented group of faculty and staff for working endless hours to prepare the students to pass each of these exams, obtain their licenses, and go to work."

Clark College student works her dream job



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

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

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

"We liked Jeni's can-do attitude and maturity, and her story about the homeless person living in the RV [published in *The Independent* in June 2018] was in my opinion a great read for a beginning journalist," *Columbian* Editor Craig Brown wrote in an email.

Banceu's stories are regularly appearing in the *Columbian*. "I

feel so lucky to have been chosen for the Dee Ann Finken Internship," she said. "I look forward to writing as much as I can and gaining new skills. I also look forward to getting to know our amazing local journalists."

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

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

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

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

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

A night of triumphs



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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



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

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



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

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

"Keep going," Trustee

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

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

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



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

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

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



Vita Blanco learns she is the 2019 recipient of the Community College Presidents' Scholarship. *Clark College/Nick Bremer*

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



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

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

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

hearts.”

More photos can be viewed on our Flickr page.

Showcasing student creativity



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

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

Clark College's main campus.

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

2019 Art Student Annual Award Recipients

Best in Show and

Most Ambitious

Stevie Hale, *"New Mythology"*

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

Best Drawing

John Gasaway, *"Bling"*

Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore and Collage Art Supply

Best Ceramics

Shirley Morgan, *"Boh, Of Course"*

Sponsored by Georgie's Ceramics

Ceramics, 2nd Place

Jessica Joner, *"Peonies"*

Sponsored by Clay Art Center

Ceramics, 3rd Place

Stephanie Bowen, *"Enlightened"*

Sponsored by Georgie's Ceramics

Best Graphic Design

Michael Fulgaro, *"Visit Northwest"*

Sponsored by Artist and Craftsman Art Supply

Best Metal Art

Channa Smith, *"Ready to Potlatch"*

Sponsored by MESA at Clark

Best Painting

Danielle Truckey, *"Portrait of a Girl"*

Sponsored by Gamblin Paints

Painting, 2nd place

Jewel Indino, *"Abstract Figure"*

Sponsored by Liquitext Paint Company

Painting, 3rd place

Katie Hyland, *"Listening In"*

Sponsored by Golden Paint Company

Best Photography

Keyanna Owen, *"Untitled"*

Sponsored by ProPhoto

Best Photography, Darkroom

Michelle Berg, *"Big Picture"*

Sponsored by Blue Moon Camera

Best Photography, Digital

Avalon Guerra, *"Window Pane"*

Sponsored by ProPhoto

Photography Award of Distinction

T.J. West, *"Homeowrk"*

Sponsored by Blue Sky Gallery

Best Video

Hayley Estep, *"Woman Not Product"*

Sponsored by Northwest Film Center

Merit Award

Sage Makela, *"Album Covers"*

Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore

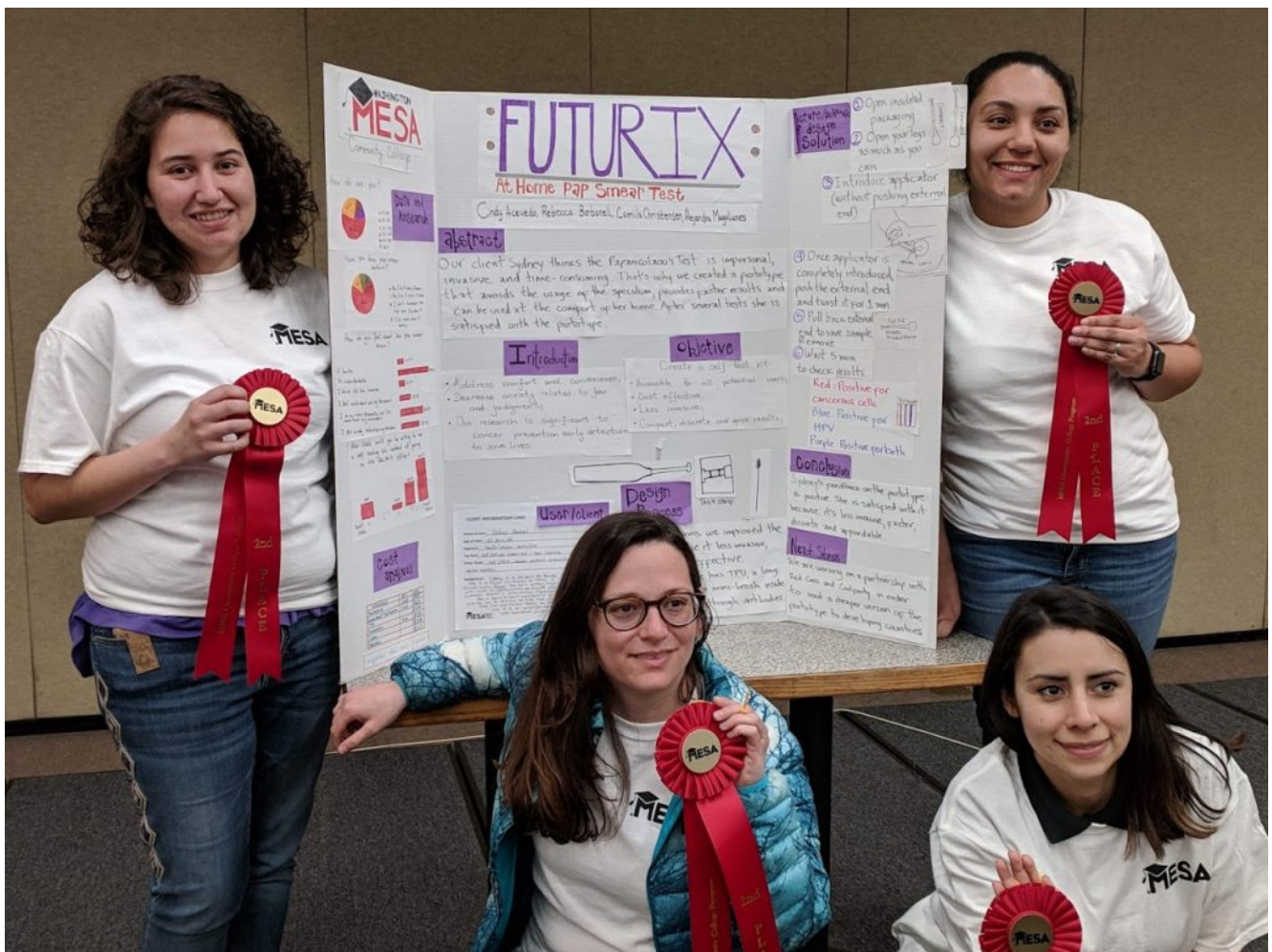
Award of Distinction

Don Anderson, *"A Man Has Many Moods"*

Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore

Photo: Nick Bremer/Clark College

MESA students engineer possibilities



Clark student Alejandra Magallanes, far left, was part of a group that won second place in a competition for human-based engineering solutions at a recent MESA conference.

Clark's MESA program is still in its first year, but already it's providing new opportunities for student success.

MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) is a national program dedicated to encouraging under-represented populations to succeed in STEM fields. At Clark, this includes a dedicated

space for studying and creating community, as well as opportunities for mentorship, assistance with books and fees, and conference participation.

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

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



Mai Lee Xiong, *far left*, collaborated on a concept for a medical-translation app at a recent MESA conference.

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

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

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

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

Clark's MESA program is located in the STEM Building rooms 206/208 and is open Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.,

Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. More information about the program is available online at www.clark.edu/cc/mesa.

Photos: Clark College/Ellen Harju

Discovering their potential at Clark



Angela Kyle and Heather Leasure

On March 21, two outstanding students represented Clark College at the 23rd annual All-Washington Academic Team ceremony, honoring 59 students from Washington state for their academic excellence and community service.

Top students from 33 of Washington state's community and

technical colleges were honored at the annual ceremony, which was held at South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia; each received a medal and a \$250 scholarship from KeyBank and became eligible for additional scholarships from private sponsors as well as transfer scholarships from four-year colleges and universities. Angela Kyle was also awarded a \$750 scholarship from WSECU. Gov. Jay Inslee, who served as keynote speaker at the event, presented a signed proclamation declaring March 21, 2019 to be All-Washington Academic Team Day.

The All-Washington Academic Team is a program of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges. Earlier this month, Alpha Sigma Phi was awarded the highest honor of Most Distinguished Chapter in the Greater Northwest Region, along with four other awards.

This year's Clark College All-Washington Academic Team members share many things in common: They both came to Clark in their 30s, after many years away from school; both are members of the college's Entrepreneur Club; and both have found confidence in their capabilities through their achievement at Clark. Below is a bit about their stories.

Angela Kyle



After graduating from high school, Angela Kyle went straight to a state university, intent upon becoming a teacher. But when she became pregnant with her first child, Kyle dropped out and put her educational plans on hold. It was only when all four of her children were in school that Kyle felt she could focus on her own goals again. She enrolled at Clark College in 2016.

Kyle, now 41, said her experience at Clark was dramatically different from what she experienced at a large state university. "At university, they're so focused on academics," she said. "You're kind of on your own. But at Clark College, they're focused on the student as a whole. It's so hands-on. Even online instructors share resources with us, from the Penguin Pantry to tutoring."

Kyle has taken a mix of face-to-face and online classes to balance her schoolwork, volunteer work, and family obligations. She is on track to graduate this June with both a transfer Associate of Arts and an Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration. She is also dual-enrolled in Central Washington University's online program, working on a bachelor's degree in social science/interdisciplinary studies with a minor in accessibility studies.

Kyle's responsibilities extend beyond her academics. She currently works as a Student Ambassador; serves as social media coordinator for the college's Entrepreneur Club and as president of Clark's Phi Theta Kappa chapter; and volunteers for both her local PTA and the All-American Girl Scholarship Program—all while maintaining a 3.63 GPA. While her work has been challenging, Kyle said she was inspired to keep going to be a role model to her children.

"They see me, and college isn't scary," she said. "My oldest son is at Clark now too, through Running Start. None of my kids see college as unattainable."

Kyle wants to spread that message beyond her family. She plans to become a college advisor so that she can support other students—especially those, like herself, who are the first in their families to attend college.

“My whole journey has prepared me for this career,” she says. “I’ve been all the kinds of student: I’ve been the freshman in a dorm straight out of high school, I’ve been the older student with a family coming back to school. Wherever a student might be coming from, I can relate to every part of the path they might be on ... and hopefully make their journey a little shorter than mine was.”

Heather Leasure



Heather Leasure was sitting in the audience at her cousin’s graduation when the thought struck her: She should go to college herself. “My cousin is 11 years younger than me, and I felt embarrassed that she was getting her bachelor’s degree and I didn’t even have an associate,” she recalled. “So I came home and enrolled in summer quarter.”

At Clark, Leasure discovered she had leadership and academic strengths she had never recognized within herself. As president of the college’s Entrepreneur Club, she helped start a new event at Clark called Pitch Fest, where budding student

entrepreneurs could bring their start-up ideas and compete for a chance at the \$25,000 grand prize offered at the University of Washington's Business Plan Competition. She serves as public relations officer of the college's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and volunteers as a precinct commission officer in her neighborhood—all while maintaining a 3.82 GPA.

In her first year at Clark, Leasure was struck a terrible blow that could have derailed her promising start to college: The store where she worked closed and she was laid off. "Financial aid has been the biggest support service for me, because without them I would not have been able to continue attending," she said.

Leasure said that she remains committed to continuing her education because she wants a more stable economic future. "I'm 36 and have worked since I was 15 in jobs that I had no future in," she said. "What motivates me is the will to be better and to do better."

Leasure credited her mother as another motivating force in my life. "She didn't graduate from high school, but she went back later in life and got her GED and an associate degree," she said. "She is very proud that I returned to school after such a long break and have really come into my own."

Soon, Leasure's mother—and maybe her cousin too—will have another graduation ceremony to attend: Leasure is on track to graduate this June with a transfer Associate of Arts degree. And she doesn't plan to stop there: She's planning to transfer to Washington State University Vancouver and earn her bachelor's degree in business management.

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Helping student parents



Clark College recently received a \$496,800 grant to help low-income parents pursue higher education.

The grant, which will be disbursed over four years, comes from the U.S. Department of Education's CCAMPIS (Child Care Access Means Parents in School) program. The bulk of it will be used to subsidize child care in the college's Child and Family Studies program for Pell Grant-eligible student-parents. About one-quarter of Clark students have dependent children, and 43 percent are low-income.

"We are thrilled to be able to take this step forward in serving our student-parents with the CCAMPIS Student Parent Support Program," said Clark College Child & Family Studies Director Michele Volk. "We know that child care can be a barrier for many people who would like to go to college, so having safe, high-quality, and affordable early-childhood care

and education right here on campus can help these students succeed and create brighter futures for their whole families.”

According to the Institute for Women’s Policy Research, only 33 percent of students with children complete a degree or certificate within six years; for single mothers, the rate is 28 percent. One study showed that student-parents who used their college’s on-campus child care services were more than three times as likely to graduate on time as those who did not. At a time when many colleges across the country are shutting down their child-care centers, this grant will allow Clark College to expand its services to more students.

Founded during World War II as a parents’ cooperative, Clark College’s Child & Family Studies program has evolved into a full-scale child care center providing care to children ages 12 months to 5 years. Serving more than 123 families per quarter, it also serves as a learning lab for the college’s Early Childhood Education program.

Student parents can receive CCAMPIS-funded subsidies through an application process and could begin receiving subsidized child care as soon as the beginning of winter quarter on January 7. CFS hopes to serve 40 student families during the first year of the grant.

Students helping students



Members of Phi Theta Kappa get ready to distribute Thanksgiving groceries to students in 2016.

Every year, members of Clark College's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society collect money to pay for grocery baskets so that Clark students in need can have all the supplies to make Thanksgiving dinner for their families. This year, they have collected the names of 100 students who could use help this holiday.

Each basket costs about \$25 and includes a 12-14 pound turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, yams, green beans, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls, and a pie.

PTK is asking for donations from the community to help cover the cost of these baskets. Donors may contribute by dropping off monetary donations to the Cashier's Office in Gaiser Hall or by calling the Cashier's Office at 360-992-2177. Either way, be sure to mention the account code "VB." Donations need

to be received by Monday, November 19 at 5:00 p.m.

Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society of two-year colleges.

Photo: Clark College/Hannah Erickson

This article contributed by Alpha Sigma Phi, Clark College's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa

Student art on display



The 2018 Student Art Annual comprises approximately 150 student artworks.

Approximately 150 works of art by 93 Clark College students

are on display at this year's Student Art Show in Archer Gallery. Clark College art faculty narrowed down from an original pool of about 400 submissions. Artist Victor Maldonado made the final adjudication of awards. Maldonado is Inclusion Specialist and Professor of Art at the Pacific Northwest College of Art and was part of Clark College's Art Talk series earlier this academic year.

The show runs through June 16. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Friday through Saturday 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. Archer Gallery is located in the lower level of the Penguin Union Building on Clark College's main campus.

2018 Art Student Annual Award Recipients

Best in Show

Joanna Lafayette, *"Sad Jo"*

Sponsored by Artist and Craftsman Supply and Dengerink Art Supply

Award of Excellence

Bryce Van Patten, *"Emma"*

Sponsored by Dick Blick Art Supply

Award of Excellence

Stephanie Hale, *"Inner Machinations"*

Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore

Award of Excellence

Emily Clark, *"Re-define Woman"*

Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore

Award of Merit

Albina Kokhanevich, *"Self-portrait"*

Sponsored by Collage Art Supply

Best Ceramics

Channa Smith, *"Reconciliation of the Ancestors"*

Sponsored by Clay Art Center

Ceramics Award of Excellence

Sara Brandt, *"Vase"*

Sponsored by Georgie's Ceramics

Ceramics Award of Distinction

Eric Burres, *"Stellar Rust"*

Sponsored by Georgie's Ceramics

Ceramics Award of Merit

Chiara Marcy, *"Light Beyond the Breaking Point"*

Sponsored by Georgie's Ceramics

Best Photography Award

Lexi Dufault, *"Tomorrow Looking Into Today"*

Sponsored by Pro Photo

Photography Award of Excellence

Tricia Davis-Payne, *"Windows"*

Sponsored by Pro Photo

Photography Award of Excellence

Gwenn McGill, *"Hidden Memories"*

Sponsored by Blue Moon Camera

Photography Award of Excellence

Cy'aira Shotwell, *"Disconnect"*

Sponsored by Blue Sky Gallery

Best Metal Arts

Ray Bennett, *"Mask"*

Sponsored by Handley's Rock and Jewelry Supply

Best Welded Sculpture

Scott Kemper, *"Love Blossoms"*

Sponsored by the Clark Welding department

Welded Sculpture Award of Excellence

Ashley Kemper, *"A Bowl in a Garden"*

Sponsored by the Clark Welding department

Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley. For more photos from the show, see our Flickr album.

All-Washington Academic Team



Clark College Vice President of Instruction Dr. Tim Cook with 2018 All-Washington Academic Team members Madysen Saucedo and Carlos Hunt.

On March 22, three outstanding students represented Clark College at the 23rd annual All-Washington Academic Team ceremony, honoring 78 students from Washington State for their academic excellence and community service.

The All-Washington Academic Team is a program of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges. Top students from each of Washington state's 34 community and technical colleges were honored at the annual ceremony, which was held at South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia; each received a medal and a \$250 scholarship from KeyBank, and will become eligible for additional transfer scholarships from in-state colleges and universities.

The three Clark College team members are:

Carlos Hunt

After many years of working in construction, Carlos Hunt realized that he wanted to find work that was less physically taxing and more intellectually stimulating. Since coming to Clark College, he has developed an interest in social justice and public administration. "I want to help people in an empowering way which inspires them to share whatever talent they have with others," he says.



Diane
Hurst

Diane Hurst

After many years of staying home with her children to home-school them, Diane Hurst came to Clark College to learn skills that would help her financially support herself and her family. She is now completing an Associate of Fine Arts degree in Graphic Design, which she says allows her to explore her creativity. Outside of school, she volunteers at her church and is working on marketing her own line of greeting cards.

Madysen Saucedo

Madysen Saucedo was 15 years old when she began taking classes at Clark College through Running Start. While it was an adjustment to sit in classrooms with students older than her own parents, she says she has appreciated the academic challenge she experienced at Clark. She plans to transfer to Arizona State University, where she will continue studying

mathematics to pursue her goal of becoming an actuary—and becoming the first person in her family to graduate from college.