

# A smart investment



Clark College student Cindy Nguyen hopes to become an ultrasound technician.

“I’ve always wanted to go to college,” says Clark student Cindy Nguyen. Even so—and despite her excellent grades—Nguyen acknowledges that college has its challenges.

“When you come to college, you need to learn to study more efficiently than you did in high school,” says the 19-year-old. “And there’s the money thing: tuition, and then textbooks are really expensive, like \$200 a quarter.”

Like almost three-quarters of Clark’s student body, Nguyen is a first-generation college student. Her mother, a nail technician, and her father, who installs hardwood flooring, never had the chance to attend college in their native Vietnam. Paying for college for their children (Nguyen’s older

sister, who also attended Clark, is now a social worker, and her younger sister is still in middle school) is a financial challenge for them—but one they have decided is worth the sacrifice.

“They’re really supportive,” says Nguyen. “They’re willing to do anything for me to pursue my education, because they never had that opportunity.”

Being able to attend Clark has helped significantly in reducing the cost of college for the Nguyen family, who have lived in Vancouver since the 1990s. Nguyen is able to save on housing by staying with her parents while completing her prerequisites at Clark before transferring to a farther-away institution to complete her degree in ultrasound technology. Furthermore, she has received support from scholarships made possible by generous donors to the Clark College Foundation.

“That’s been really helpful,” she says. “It’s relieved the financial burden. Without the scholarships, I would have to get a job to support myself in college. This way, I can just concentrate on my studies. I’m so focused on what I’m doing.”

Every year, Clark College Foundation supports the college’s students with tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships, many of which are funded by Clark alumni who remember being struggling students themselves.

Nguyen says having total strangers investing in her education gives her a sense of responsibility to make that investment worthwhile. “It’s really motivating,” she says. “Their way of helping me has allowed me to enable myself, achieve an education, and hopefully support other people one day. I see myself working at a hospital and helping people as an ultrasound technician. That’s my dream. So what I’m learning right now, I’m going to give back to them—and I’m going to help support my parents, too.”

*Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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## A part of the family



Professor Veronica Brock

“This is where I grew up,” says Professor Veronica Brock from her office in O’Connell Sports Complex on Clark’s main campus. “My dad was a professor here, teaching physics and astronomy. I was a student here. I grew up with ‘Penguin blood,’ as we like to say.”

Brock, who recently marked 20 years of teaching at Clark, didn’t intend to follow in her father’s footsteps. After graduating from East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania with a Master of Science degree in cardiac rehabilitation and

primary prevention, she remained on the East Coast working in cardiac rehabilitation. But gradually she began to realize that she didn't love the clinical aspects of her work as much as she did teaching patients about their health.

"I've always just followed my heart when it came to career and jobs," Brock says. "Every job I got, I'd say, 'Oh, I like this aspect of the job—let's do more of that.' When I worked in cardiac rehab, I realized my favorite part of my job was the educational element."

Brock began teaching health and physical education, and when she decided to move back to the Pacific Northwest, taking a position at Clark seemed like a natural fit. "It was a good match for my heart, with this job's teaching and learning focus," she says. "And I love the idea that, as an open enrollment institution, we provide an opportunity to everybody. That's such a cool idea: If you want an education, you can get an education."

Brock—who teaches health, physical education, fitness trainer, and health and physical education classes—says she loves seeing the changes her students make as they learn to develop new approaches toward their own health.

"In our curriculum, we don't just want students to change their behavior during the class," she says. "We want to teach lasting change, and that requires motivation. Motivation is two things: importance and confidence. You have to be able to define why it's important for you to be doing this, and you have to be able to believe you can do it. If you don't have motivation, you're probably not going to stick with any exercise or health practice long-term."

Brock's certainly shown long-term motivation to make Clark a stronger institution. She has invested much of herself into Clark—professionally, personally, and financially. She has served on numerous committees, including the Healthy Penguin

Nation Committee to promote employee health, and is a regular donor to the Clark College Foundation.

Brock says she began donating to the Foundation when her two children, now teenagers, were enrolled in the college's Child & Family Studies program as preschoolers, making her family third-generation Penguins.

"My kids are the amazing people they are today because of that program," she says. "So that really prompted me to give—I could see the program needed support."

Since then, Brock has donated regularly to the Foundation, which supports capital improvements to the college as well as scholarships and programs to promote academic excellence.

"I like putting my money toward solving problems," Brock says. "Education is a solution; if you educate the world, the world can change. It's a very direct way to say, 'I believe in what I'm doing and I believe in our students.'"

*Read Veronica Brock's Top 10 Tips for a Healthy Lifestyle.*

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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## **Demolition Begins Near Main Campus**



Demolition work will begin the week of March 30 on the corner of Fourth Plain Blvd. and Fort Vancouver Way on the northwest end of Clark College's main campus. The buildings and the property being demolished are owned by Clark College Foundation.

The future of the corner will have several phases. After the demolition, some of the space will be converted into parking, which will help to offset parking losses due to the construction of the college's new 70,000 square-foot STEM building and remodeling of a culinary facility on the Clark College campus.

Long term, the corner of Fourth Plain Blvd. and Fort Vancouver Way is part of the Facilities Master Plan at the college and many options are under consideration. One option is for the foundation or college to partner with a developer to develop the property, but the location currently has no funding identified for any project or specific use.

The demolition will run through approximately April 3, 2015.

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## Foundation Ensures a Bright Future



Clark students and Oswald reveal the total amount raised for Clark's Ensuring A Bright Future fundraising campaign during a campus celebration September 30.

A burst of sunshine lit up the stage on September 30 as Clark College students lined up to reveal the final amount raised for the college's five-year Ensuring a Bright Future fundraising campaign. More than 150 guests were in attendance as the Columbia River High School marching band, bedecked in black and gold uniforms and high-crowned shakos, made their way up the campus' mall and positioned themselves behind the

line of students holding blank placards.

Clark College Foundation President/CEO Lisa Gibert and Clark College President Bob Knight called out the numbers, one at a time, as students turned their placards to reveal another digit in the figure. When it was done, the band's drums pounded, the horns blew, and the crowd erupted in cheers to see \$26,593,789 raised for student success at Clark.

"The Ensuring a Bright Future Campaign has been instrumental in bridging the challenges facing our community," said Gibert. "The funds raised have made it possible to offer relevant and accessible education and training for people in tandem with industry workforce needs."

The festivities were a culmination of five years of fundraising spearheaded by Clark College Foundation. More than 4,000 donors contributed to the successful campaign that included raising money for scholarships, programs, facilities, endowments and faculty development.

Rain dampened the lawns as the afternoon celebration began, but didn't dampen the spirits of the people who gathered under large, peaked carnival tents to explore interactive demonstrations at a variety of tables. There were microbes in Petri dishes being tested for antibiotic properties, mini-catapults made with tongue depressors and cotton balls, body composition testing, network cable making, and more. Guest also enjoyed complimentary hot dogs, rice-and-vegetable bowls, and sweet desserts such as funnel cupcakes and strawberry shortcake cups.

Bryce Ruppe, a business major at Clark, stood at the microphone to describe how Clark's faculty are invested in his success. He also thanked the foundation and the audience for supporting him financially through a scholarship.

"Having access to scholarships is life-changing," said Ruppe. "It's great comfort for me to receive a scholarship that helps



relieve the pressure of paying bills while I'm in college. Thank you so much for helping me."

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## **STEM groundbreaking draws a happy crowd**



Clark student Audreyana Foster; Dena Horton, representing U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell; Vancouver Mayor Tim Leavitt; Clark County Commissioner Edward Barnes; Lisa Gibert, president/CEO of Clark College Foundation; and Clark President Bob Knight shovel the ceremonial dirt at the STEM building groundbreaking.

A burst of rain accompanied Clark's Pep Band as they played

Pharrell Williams' "Happy" before a crowd of about 60 people on Tuesday afternoon during Clark College's official groundbreaking of its science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) building.

In speaking about why STEM education is critical to the region, Clark College President Bob Knight was joined by Vancouver Mayor Tim Leavitt; Dena Horton, representing U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell; and Clark student Audreyana Foster.

"When completed, this project will continue to help us do what we have done for over 80 years: train and educate those who will lead Vancouver and the region forward," said Knight during the September 30 event. "At more than 70,000 square feet, the facility will be the largest single classroom building on campus. The final investment in Clark will exceed \$41 million, between state funds and those provided by Clark College Foundation for equipment."

Leavitt spoke about the economic advantages of having citizens trained for highly skilled and family-wage jobs such as in the STEM field. Cantwell's message outlined the state's commitment to education and jobs growth and her excitement about watching the building evolve over the next 20 months of construction.

Foster, a mechanical engineering student who began her studies at Clark when she was a teenager through Clark's Running Start program, said the college's faculty have opened up a new world for her.



Clark College's pep band played through the rain during the STEM Building groundbreaking.

"I have learned how things function in the world outside of the classroom," she said. "And though not all of the lessons have been enjoyable, Clark College's STEM program has provided me a safe learning environment that has helped me to learn in spite of my mistakes."

Knight, Leavitt, Horton, and Foster were then joined by Clark College Foundation President/CEO Lisa Gibert and Clark County Commissioner Edward Barnes to shovel the ceremonial dirt of the groundbreaking. The sun shone through the cloud breaks, and cheers erupted from the crowd. Knight thanked the guests for their continued belief in Clark College and for all that they do to enrich the Southwest Washington community.

Construction is underway at the Fort Vancouver Way site and is expected to be completed in February 2016. Currently, the building is slated to open by the summer of 2016, according to college officials.

*A version of this article originally appeared on the Clark College Foundation website.*

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## **Connect the Numbers on 9/30**



The community is invited to help Clark College celebrate the successful completion of the “Ensuring a Bright Future” fundraising campaign on September 30 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Andersen Fountain on the main campus of Clark

College. The family-friendly celebration will include carnival-inspired games and food, as well as presentations by Clark students from a variety of academic fields and at least one big surprise.

When the Clark College Foundation launched the “Ensuring a Bright Future” campaign five years ago, it set its fundraising goal at \$20 million. As has been previously announced, that goal was surpassed—a remarkable feat at any time, but especially during one of the worst economic downturns within living memory, and a testament to the important role Clark College plays in supporting its community. During the September 30 celebration, attendees will learn exactly how much the campaign raised.

The “Ensuring a Bright Future” campaign was launched in 2010 by the Clark College Foundation with the goal of raising \$20 million to help support Clark College in key areas that had been identified by the college, the Clark College Foundation, and the community. The Clark College Foundation is the separate philanthropic arm of Clark College with the mission of supporting student success and providing funds for program excellence at the college.

This event is free and open to the public. Andersen Fountain is located to the south of Gaiser Hall.

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# A Bright Evening for Clark College Foundation



Clark College student Petya Grozeva sings “At Last” to start the evening’s performances.

A multimillion-dollar gift of land, a matching grant for STEM, and a prestigious Presidential Award bestowed to a regional trust—these were all on the menu this year at Savoring Excellence, Clark College’s annual donor appreciation dinner and program.

President Robert K. Knight announced a \$3.1 million gift of land from the Boschma family as the location of Clark’s next satellite campus during the May 21 event. When combined with

private and state funding, the transaction consists of a \$5.67 million land purchase by Clark College Foundation. The new campus will be located in Ridgefield, Wash., on 59.24 acres.

Knight said that future students and the North County community will reap the greatest benefits of the Boschma family gift.

“For our students, the door of opportunity and access will be opened wider. For the city of Ridgefield, this announcement is monumental,” he said. “Once built, the North County campus will be known as Clark College at Boschma Farms.”

Lisa Gibert, president and CEO of Clark College Foundation, who was instrumental in securing the gift and brokering the land purchase, said the gift sets the tone for the future of North County.

“This type of partnership demonstrates the overwhelming generosity that people of Southwest Washington have for Clark. Making education more accessible for people in the region means greater prosperity for the residents and a brighter economic future,” she said.

## **Meyer Memorial Trust**



Clark College student Saeed Nasser sings “Bawadaak”

In addition to the land gift news, Gibert announced that Clark

College Foundation received a \$400,000 matching grant from Meyer Memorial Trust to outfit the college's upcoming science technology engineering and mathematics (STEM) building with equipment and furnishings.

Economists predict that there will be 18,700 STEM jobs in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties by the year 2021. To meet the demand, Clark is poised to be a regional leader in STEM education and job training. The college will break ground on a new public/private-financed STEM building this summer. The more than 70,000 square-foot facility will house many of Clark's STEM programs at its campus on Fort Vancouver Way. When completed in 2016, the center will serve in partnership with industry and other educational institutions to foster exploration, interactive learning and innovative teaching techniques for women and men.

Meyer Memorial Trust, funded through the estate of Fred G. Meyer, founder of the Fred Meyer supermarket chain, invests in people, ideas and efforts that deliver significant social benefit to Oregon and Clark County, Wash., through inspiring, innovating, partnering and leading to improve the quality of life in those regions.

## **Community Foundation for Southwest Washington**

Also during the Savoring Excellence celebration, Gibert noted that a \$25,000 grant from the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington was awarded to Clark to benefit the college's Pathways program. The grant will assist in helping break cycles of poverty through access to education, literacy training, mentoring and career services.

## **Murdock Charitable Trust**



Clark College student Chris Crosland plays “Tears of the East”

Sandwiched between song and musical instrument performances by Clark students, Gibert presented her Presidential Award for Excellence during the event. M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, which provided \$250,000 to Clark College in 2013 for new dental equipment, received the accolade. The money purchased modern technology to ensure student access to current advances in the industry and meet federal privacy regulations.

“The grant allows Clark’s nationally recognized Dental Hygiene program to meet rapidly changing technology advancements in the profession. Students must be trained in the use of modern tools in order for them to secure jobs. M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust is also directly affecting the wellness of residents in Southwest Washington because Clark students care for hundreds of underserved patients each year,” said Gibert.

The Firstenburg Family Dental Hygiene Education & Care Center opened earlier this year after undergoing renovations, adding paperless charting software and updating its digital radiography area. The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust grant enabled the college to purchase instructional cameras, workstation computers, radiology computers, patient privacy materials and vacuum systems.

Savoring Excellence is a yearly event presented by the Clark College Foundation to honor major contributors to the programs



and students of Clark College.

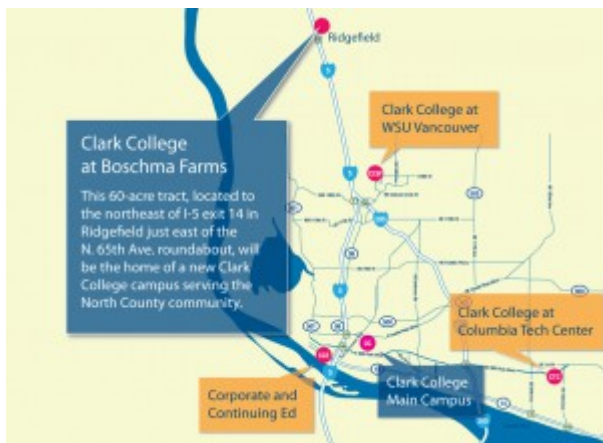
See more images from the event on our Flickr page.

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

*Video: Clark College/Nick Bremer-Korb*

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## Clark College receives \$730K land gift



Clark College has received a second land gift in as many weeks—for a total of more than \$3.85 million in gifts—which when combined with private and state funding, will be the location for a future Clark campus in Ridgefield, Wash.

A \$731,549 gift of land from Ridgefield East 1 Associates, LLC in addition to a May announcement of a \$3.12 million land gift from the Boschma family, will have a long-lasting effect for the region, including expanding access to education.

Lisa Gibert, president/CEO of Clark College Foundation, who was instrumental in securing both gifts and brokering the land purchases, praised the Ridgefield East gift as the ideal location for an entrance to Clark's upcoming campus. "These 10 acres will be the gateway to Clark College at Boschma Farms," she said. "In the years to come, we will work with the city of Ridgefield to encourage retailers such as eateries and coffee houses to open shops, making it an attractive entryway for a vibrant new campus."

Clark College will benefit by the acquisition of the new property through the combined generosity of Ridgefield East 1 Associates, LLC, the Boschma family and the charitable support of Clark County residents, Clark College alumni, philanthropic supporters, trusts and foundations.

The Ridgefield East transaction consists of a \$1.99 million purchase price by the Clark College Foundation, accompanied by a \$731,549 land donation—providing a total of 10.28 acres for the future expansion of Clark College. Once built, the North County campus will be known as Clark College at Boschma Farms.

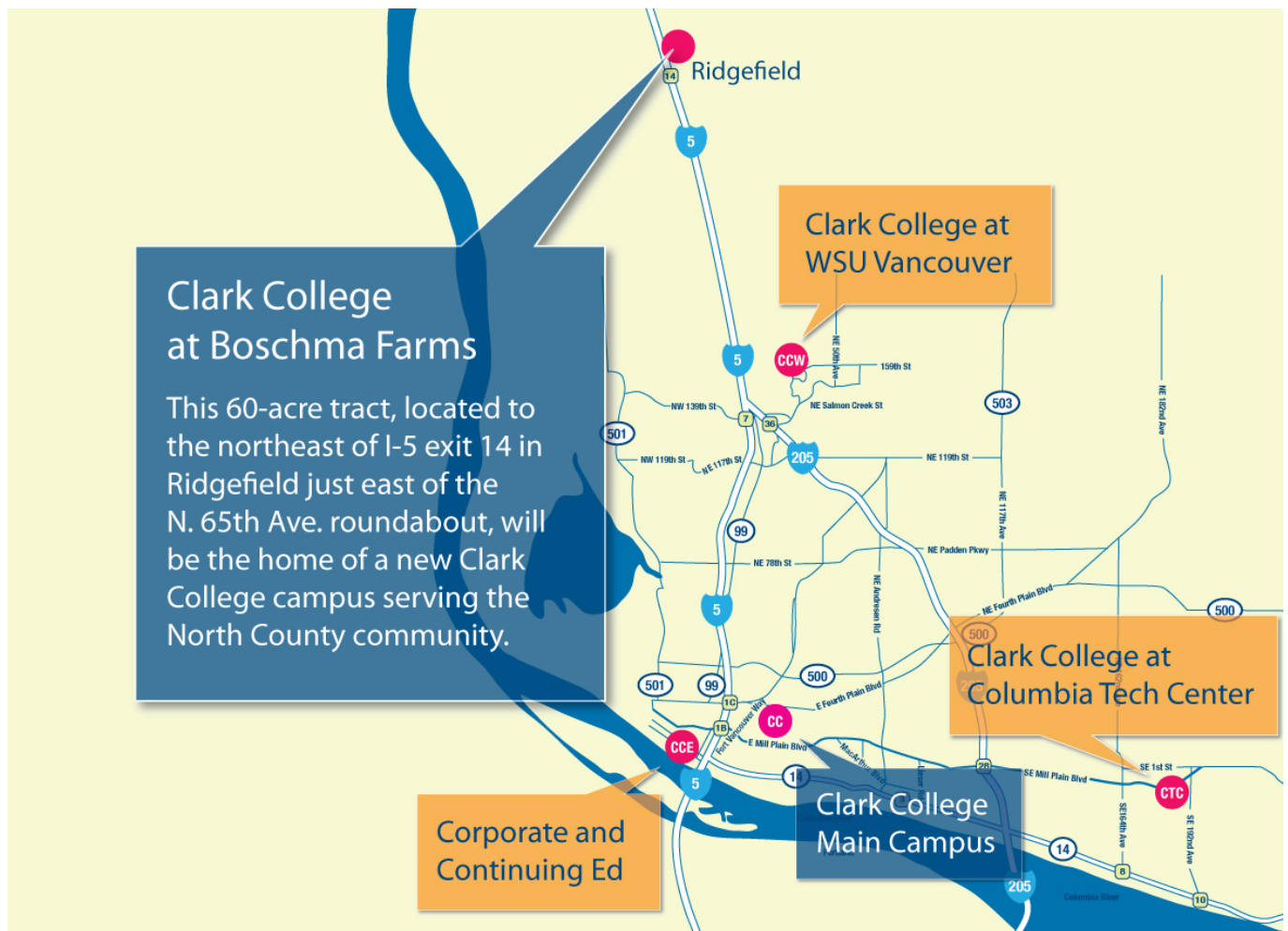
The land is adjacent to the 59.24 acres that was partially gifted from the Boschma Family, LLC and purchased by Clark College Foundation in May. The Ridgefield East property is located on the east side of N. 65th Avenue. It is east of Interstate 5 and Pioneer Street. The address is 264 N. 65th Avenue, Ridgefield, Wash.

The gifts and acquisitions represent a long-term visionary chapter for the growth anticipated at Clark College. The college's 2007 Facilities Master Plan identified North County as an area where the college could fulfill its mission of providing access to an underserved area of the service district. The Washington Legislature approved the project concept in 2009.

Recently, the Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges prioritized building projects for the upcoming biennium. Though no money has been allocated yet, funding for design and building has received a green light.

The population in the area has continued to expand. Clark College believes that once facilities and programs are available on a North County campus, students from the northern region of Clark and South region of Cowlitz counties will utilize this location for their educational needs and career advancement.

# North County Location Announced



Clark College announced today the purchase of land that will become the location of a new campus serving the northern portion of the college's service district.

The purchase was made possible with the strong partnership of the Clark College Foundation, which finalized the purchase of nearly 60 acres through a generous \$3.1 million gift from the Boschma Family LLC. Additionally, the foundation will pay \$6 million for the land. The acreage is located in Ridgefield on the east side of North 65th Avenue, north of Pioneer Street

and northeast of the Interstate 5 and Pioneer Street interchange.

The leadership gift from the Boschma family was key in being able to move forward on this project. In making the more than \$3.1 million gift, Hank and Bernice Boschma said they were excited to be a part of expanding educational opportunities for students in the region, including first-generation and immigrant students.

In April, the Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges prioritized building projects for the upcoming biennium. According to that prioritization, the North County Campus building will receive design funding in the 2017-2019 budget, and likely receive construction funding in the 2019-2021 budget.

The gift and acquisition help realize the long-term vision for the growth anticipated at Clark College. The college's 2007 Facilities Master Plan identified North County as a growth area based on projections from regional economists, and the most recent update of the Facilities Master Plan reinforced the need for a facility in this part of Clark's service area.

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## **Launching a New Appreciation for STEM**



Pam Peiper, a member of U.S. Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler's staff, gets some hands-on practice with DNA testing.

Flanked by a pair of three-story-high yachts, more than 150 people gathered inside the Christensen Shipyards warehouse in Vancouver to have their DNA tested and taste hot ice cream during an interactive event that demonstrated how Clark College is preparing students for jobs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Clark College Foundation, in partnership with Christensen Shipyards, held the special event on the evening of March 15. The gathering showed local businesspeople how Clark matches the community's workforce needs with training, education and internships in STEM.



Biology instructor Ryan Kustusch describes Clark's participation in Yale University's Small World Initiative, in which students do research that could help discover new antibiotics.

Jim and Kelly Maul, from the Vancouver environmental engineering firm Maul, Foster & Alongi Inc., stood transfixed as Clark engineering student Jesse Bosdell described how a water clock worked and that the clocks were part of a campus-wide competition.

"You've got to put the fun into science and engineering first, and then the passion will come later," said Jim Maul. His wife, Kelly, said she was "fired up to go back to school" after seeing the student demonstrations.

The couple has two daughters whom they hope to steer toward a STEM education. Clark is on their list of higher education options.

Guest Tim Kraft, a civil engineer and principal at the water resources company Otak Inc., said Clark College offers critical programs that aren't available at other community colleges. "I see what Clark does, and it's impressive," said Kraft, who mentors youth with interests in science and engineering in the Southwest Washington area.

Clark College President Robert K. Knight addressed the guests by acknowledging the regional businesses present and how in partnership, they drive the region's economic prosperity. "It's vitally important that the community and Clark College work together to provide an educated workforce to meet the 17,000 jobs that regional economists predict will require education in STEM by 2015," he said.



The event was part of the Ensuring a Bright Future: Campaign for Clark College. Funds raised during the campaign are aimed at enhancing scholarships, faculty professional development, technology infrastructure, STEM, and dental hygiene education.

Lisa Gibert, president and CEO of Clark College Foundation, said it was exciting to see guests clearly fascinated with the student achievements. "This evening brings me so much pride to showcase the great work Clark is doing and how that education translates to jobs in our region and beyond," she said.



Engineering professor Carol Hsu and Clark student Jessica Molner explain to guests how water clocks work. Molner is a member of Clark's NERD (Not Even Remotely Dorky) Girls, a student club devoted to promoting STEM among women and girls.

Guests had the opportunity to learn about water clocks built with coconuts and bamboo; a rocket that is part of a national NASA competition; software for mass-identifying license plates; the weight distribution of a package of Chips-Ahoy! chocolate chip cookies; DNA sampling; and more.

Some of the business community members represented included Portland Plastics, Corwin Beverage, Wells Fargo Advisors, Columbia Credit Union, Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital, Sterling Bank, Mekos Corporation, Silicon Forest Electronics, and SEH America Inc.

**See more photos on Flickr**

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

*This article originally appeared in a slightly different form on the Clark College Foundation news site.*