

Helping Our Community



Sarah Weinberger and Edie Blakley of Clark College Career Services accept an award from the Clark College Food Bank on behalf of the college.

Clark College was recognized for volunteering more than 400 hours at the Clark County Food Bank on Monday, June 9, during the food bank's Volunteer Appreciation Night.

Clark has a long relationship with the food bank, which provides bulk food to 29 different food pantries and meal sites throughout the county. Students and employees have donated time to the food bank through the college's Volunteer & Service-Learning program and its Service & Leadership in the Community program, as well as through Communication Studies and Human Development classes.

Present to accept the award on behalf of the college were Edie Blakley, Director of Career Services, and Sarah Weinberger, also of Career Services. The food bank presented them with an engraved cutting board, which will be displayed at the food bank's facility in northeast Vancouver, and with a paper certificate, which will be displayed in the Career Services

office at Clark.

Slideshow: Helping Crestline Turn the Page

Monday, March 3, four Clark College Bookstore employees visited Crestline Elementary School's temporary location, which was created after the school was destroyed in a fire last year. Their mission: To distribute to the school's kindergarten and first-grade students the 190 copies of the Dr. Seuss classic *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* that the Bookstore had gathered through its annual Seuss-a-Palooza book drive. They also read the book aloud to classrooms as part of Read Across America Day.

"The best part of the event is always seeing the look on the children's faces when you hand them a book and tell them that it is their very own to keep and take home to share with their family and friends," said Bookstore buyer Kaina Barba, who visited Crestline with his colleagues Michael Owenby, Ashley Anderson, and Michal Neubauer. Indeed, many children gasped when they received their books, peppering the Bookstore staff with questions like "how did you get all these books here?" and "I really get to take this book home?"

"The children were absolutely thrilled to receive books of their own," said Crestline Budget Secretary Lori Boyd. "Many of our students come from homes where there is not extra money to purchase books, and having their very own, brand-new book to keep is a special treat."

In addition to the Bookstore's Crestline visit, 56 Clark students participated in Read Across America Day by reading to

children at Harney and Fruit Valley elementary schools through Clark's Volunteer & Service Learning program.

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Banking on Student Success



Roger Hinshaw, Bank of America's president in Oregon and Southwest Washington, and Monique Barton, senior VP of corporate social responsibility, at the bank's offices in Portland. In July, they presented a \$15,000 gift for Clark College's Volunteer & Service-Learning program.

Bank of America has donated \$15,000 to Clark College's Volunteer & Service-Learning program to prepare more than 1,000 students with valuable on-the-job training. The funding will assist with community partnerships and program expenses.

The Volunteer & Service-Learning program places students in more than 100 community nonprofits and governmental organizations, including American Red Cross, Boys and Girls Clubs, Columbia Springs, Habitat Store, and Hazel Dell Community Garden. Students receive experience that promotes their personal growth and contributes to their understanding of course material.

For example, Clark students have volunteered to build homes with Evergreen Habitat for Humanity; students taking Spanish have read bilingual versions of children's books at local elementary schools as a service-learning component of their classes. These experiences not only enrich the students' education, they can give students the real-world work experience that can lead to paying jobs.

The Bank of America grant will boost the resources for such major events as Career Days, which needs more than 100 volunteers to operate successfully. It will also allow the program to offer more service-learning opportunities; elevate awareness of career- and service-learning; and finalize new relationships with local businesses. Additionally, Bank of America employees will volunteer their own time to participate in Career Days and to educate students about personal finance.

Clark College President Robert K. Knight said the college's primary goal is to improve the rate of post-secondary completion. "As a result of the alignment with Bank of America, Clark anticipates students will receive high-quality work history experiences—particularly for students with little or no previous work experience—through service learning and community engagement experiences, and opportunities for civic and community engagement, career exploration, life and soft-

skill development," he said.

"Providing grants to local nonprofit organizations that support career readiness is part of Bank of America's broader effort to help create economically vibrant communities," said Roger Hinshaw, Bank of America's president in Oregon and Southwest Washington. "As part of that, we're proud to support Clark College's Career Service-Learning Program, which helps prepare college students to enter the workforce and, in turn, support our local economy."

Clark's Career Services department, which oversees the Volunteer & Service-Learning program, has a history of aligning college classroom learning with current community needs; promoting personal growth of college students through reflection about self, society and the future; combining experiential with academic instruction to focus on critical thinking and civic responsibility; and organizing on- and off-campus events that provide quality service opportunities for Clark College students, faculty and staff.