

President's Report December 2007

With each year that I am involved with education, those weeks between Thanksgiving and the Winter Holidays seem to be getting shorter and perhaps fewer in number too. Whether student, faculty, or staff, there is a shared sense of too much to do in too little time, and my sense of this is no exception. Perception or reality? You decide.

I am writing this month's report while in Tampa, Florida, attending the annual Association of Educational Services Agencies' (AESAs) in my role as Northwest Regional Educational Services District (NWRESA) Board member, representing higher education. NWRESA provides integral educational support services to all 5 school districts in our county and is proving to be an important partner in a number of important discussions of potential collaborative ventures between these districts and our college. These initiatives include the development of a county-wide alternative high school that could be hosted by our college, and a "Workforce Alliance" program that would bring together the college, area high schools and middle schools, and key area businesses to develop and implement a professional/technical "pathway" that begins in the 8th grade and ends with real employment opportunities right at home in Clatsop County. Another collaborative venture being discussed is the development of a childcare program that would provide childcare services to high school and college students (and perhaps staff too), as well as internships and cooperative work experiences for our Early Childhood Development students. All of these ventures have the potential of moving us toward a more "seamless" and community-based approach to education and, in the process, helps us to better serve the students that we share.

While I was away, our new Vice President for Instruction, Stephen Schoonmaker, and Director of our Health Occupations Programs, Laurie Choate, had the opportunity to meet with OHSU's new president Dr. Joe Robertson. OHSU is a leader in health occupations education not just in Oregon but in all the Northwest and Stephen and Laurie's conversation with President Robertson provided an opportunity for us to consider how closer ties could help us as we work to provide and expand our health occupation education opportunities here in Clatsop County.

Other new or ongoing activities include:

- While the Astor Street Opry Company (home to Shanghaied in Astoria) has chosen to develop new facilities for themselves, we continue to work with the River Theatre on a possible partnership that would make our Performing Arts Center their new home stage and, in the process, re-introducing Theatre to the

community arts programs that are already a part of our presence in the Clatsop County arts community.

- On Wednesday, November 21st, we held an all-day work session at the college, focusing our attention on the “next step” in our Educational Outcomes and Assessment work – the institutional pursuit of our Institutional Student Learning Outcomes (ISLOs). Expanding our thinking about Outcomes beyond the traditional realm of classroom and individual program curriculum, building on the great work already done there by our faculty and now looking at institutional and perhaps even community-wide approaches to this important work, moves us into some un-charted territory and presents us with more than just a few challenges, but the opportunities associated with this broad-based approach to Outcomes attainment are great, and we forge ahead. By the way, the Board’s “Community Conversations” scheduled over this year and in various communities across our county is an important part of this work.
- Last year, the State Board of Education changed the Administrative Rule governing how community colleges are reimbursed for educational services they provide in “Contract Out-of-District” (COD) areas. About half of Columbia County is a COD for Clatsop Community College and we helped develop this change in order to open up new opportunities for us to serve potential students in that area. We are now having some very preliminary conversations with some leaders in Columbia County about how we can better meet their education needs, with a focus on the possibility of our developing and offering on-site classes in that COD.
- We are very far along in our work with Tillamook Community College, our respective economic development entities (the newly formed CEDR here in Clatsop County), and the SBDC (Small Business Development Center) network to develop and implement a region-based SBDC that would bring together the small business development and economic development efforts of three counties (Clatsop, Tillamook, and Columbia) into an integrated network that would strengthen services through information and resource sharing while maintaining independent county programs. Past SBDC Director Rick Gardner has been instrumental in the development of this plan and we are excited about implementation, which is planned for January 2008.
- At the State level, as President of the Oregon President’s Council (OPC), I am working with others to help facilitate strategic conversations in the areas of Accountability, the Educational Enterprise Goal: 40-40-20, and Funding Distribution, helping to develop policy directions that I hope will have a positive impact on our futures, and our student’s futures. This is time-consuming work, but work that I love.
- Finally, we continue to make progress in planning and funding for our Jerome Campus Development Project (JCRP). While the Design Team continues to work out the conceptual framework of the Jerome Campus Master Plan and plan

details for the JCRP itself, I am focusing my energies on leading the effort to leverage the \$15 million we already have for the JCRP into the \$25 million we will need if we are to do to all we need to do in this "first step" toward realization of our Campus Master Plan. FEMA grants, New Market Tax Credits, additional support from the Legislature in February 2008, and other grants and loans will all play a role in this work and, while I will be working to "lead the charge," other community leaders will play (and already are playing) a crucial role in these efforts and your steady and strong support will provide the foundation for our success.

As I finish this Report, I am sitting in the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, hoping to make it back home in time to attend this evening's Clatsop Community College Foundation Donor Reception. An important and long-standing partner with us in our efforts to give every person in Clatsop County access to quality post-secondary education, the Foundation is effective because of the many donors in whose honor this evening's event has been planned. It is an honor and a privilege to have the support of so many people, and it reminds me that the busy-ness that many of us feel in these final weeks of the year is made worthwhile by the students we serve.

Thanks for being an important part of that support, and an important part of our service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hamann'. The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'G' and a cursive 'H'.

Greg Hamann

PS: Of course, much has changed since writing this. Our communities have been hit by a storm, the power of which has not been matched for the past 100 years. In the absence of open roads, electricity and communications, we all did what we could to survive these few days – but we did not do it alone. Both at the college and in our community, people have gone WAY out of their way to make sure we made it through this thing together, as a community. Thanks!