

President's Report

November 2007

Last evening I watched Boston Red Socks with the World Series in a 4-to-0 sweep over the Colorado Rockies. To be honest, I'm not much of a baseball fan and I seldom watch television of any kind, but my son has moved back in with us and watching the game was, for me at least, some good "father & son time" together.

Making the connections we need to make – or want to make – frequently require adjustments and accommodations on our part. In my home life this means watching a sports event that I would otherwise ignore. In the work life I share with others at Clatsop Community College, it means adjusting some of the ways in which we do our work in order to do a better job of bringing educational opportunity to all those it is our Mission to serve. It is because of this that I am especially pleased that our Adult Education and Family Literacy (AEFL) program has recently received a grant from the Autzen Foundation that enables us to provide an on-site English language (ESL) class at the Emerald Heights housing complex on the east side of Astoria. Making post-secondary educational available to all our citizens involves more than just opening our doors – in this case it involves going to THEIR doors and making the education THEY need available in a place and at a time that fits THEIR lives.

Much about how we "do" post-secondary education in our future will need to reflect this way of thinking. Access for our students cannot be just an open door, but must involve the development of a "pathway" – actually, many pathways – consisting of financial support, basic skills development, re-entry support services, coursework that meets their needs not just in content but in logistics, as well as a myriad of other accommodations that create effective connections between people and success.

Who are these people for whom it is our Mission to provide "open access to high quality learning opportunities"? As a community college, they are primarily the people of our region, our county, our community – and they are ALL the people of our community. And, in order for us to reach this State's educational attainment goal of "40-40-20" – that 20% of our people have a minimum of a high school diploma, 40% have a minimum of a 2-year college degree of certificate, and the remaining 40% have the minimum of a 4-year college degree by the year 2025 – **at least 80% of our county's people will need to have completed at least a 2-year college education.** Currently, liberal estimates indicate that only about 85% of our people graduate from high school (approximately 67% from public high school) and, of them, only about 70% go on to college (in Clatsop County, about 2/3^{rds} of these go to

community college). Of these, only about 60% complete a degree. This means that, **while our goal is for 80% of our people to have a 2- or 4-year degree, currently only about 35% of our people are reaching that goal!**

Over the next few months, the State Board of Education, State Board of Higher Education, Department of Education, CCWD, OCCA, Presidents' Council, and each of our individual community colleges will be discussing and then formulating ideas for how we can work to reach this 40-40-20 goal. We will be having our own discussions here at Clatsop CC, and it is my hope that this President's Report, together with the accompanying reports from OUS and CWD, can serve as an introduction to this important work. The "Community Conversations" that we are beginning with this November Board Meeting are also a part of this work.

Access is a Core Value for community colleges in general and for Clatsop Community College in particular. Creating real access for the 45% of our population who need to but currently are not completing a post-secondary degree will require many adjustments and accommodations on our part – not to mention a considerable increase in our capacity. Changes at the local level which, in turn, inform and impact changes at the State level... and I look forward to working with you, our faculty and staff, and our community on discovering, developing, and implementing these changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Hamann". The signature is stylized with a large initial "G" and a loop at the end.

Greg Hamann