

## President's Report September, 2008

### *Celebrating 50 Years of Service – Building for 50 Years More!*

At Clatsop Community College, every September is marked by the annual preparations for a new academic year and, in many ways, this September is no different from the ones before – classroom and laboratory set-ups, student registrations and advising, new faculty and staff orientation, and Opening Day In-Service planning are all in the works. But this year, something else IS different... very different!

This year, OUR College is celebrating a half-century of service to our Clatsop County community and at the same time breaking ground on a long-awaited capital construction project that will provide us with the physical foundation for continuing to serve for the half-century to come. This year of 2008-09 serves as a unique vantage point from which we can look both into our past AND our future and be very proud of what we see.

We are the oldest community college in Oregon, attesting to the importance that the people of our community placed on post-secondary education before others in the State recognized its value, and this has not changed over the 50 years that our county's citizens have continued to support us with their resources and their attendance. As we read our copies of our Golden Anniversary publication that chronicles our first 50 years as a college, and as we gather on October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> with all those who, as students or employees or BOTH, form the human history that is our past, I will encourage us to be mindful of the Native American phrase "All My Relations" by which we will call into memory and express our gratitude to all those who have gone before us and made this year possible.

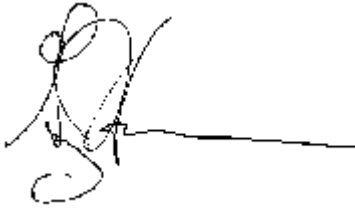
At the same time, as we gather on October 11<sup>th</sup> to break ground on the \$27 million Jerome Campus Redevelopment Project that will FINALLY resolve the facilities quality and access issues that have troubled us for years, I will encourage us to be mindful of the many – both inside and outside Clatsop County – who have considered our Mission worth supporting and who, by their contributions of time and talents and money, have given us a foundation for the 50 years of service to come.

Either way you look at it – forward or back – we as Clatsop Community College have reason to be grateful, and reason to be proud. Celebrating 50 years of service and building for 50 years more!

But, no matter how broad and historical our perspective, the focus of our vision and our work has been and always will be our students. And so, even with all the other historic events of this season, the most important event to us will again be the first day of classes, when our students rejoin us and we are again reminded of the Mission that ties all our years past and all our years to come to this present year in which we have a unique opportunity to help this year's students achieve their full potential by providing them with the education and the skills they need to thrive.

Our Vision statement states that we are ***"Continuously Building an Educational Community that Encourages Learning and Achievement"*** and, in our 50<sup>th</sup> year, perhaps it is especially true that this is who we are and this is what we are doing.

Thank you for being a part of it!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hamann', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Greg Hamann