

## President's Report February, 2008

On Friday February 1<sup>st</sup>, while leading and *multi-tasking during* our monthly Oregon Presidents' Council meeting, I received an email from Carol Goerges, our Human Resource Director, informing me that our Classified Staff had voted in favor of ratification our of recently negotiated contract. Letting out an audible sigh of relief, I immediately thought to myself how so many others at our college would be equally relieved at this information. These months of negotiation have had their impact not just on those directly involved in the negotiations, but also on all the Classified Staff and on all the rest of us as well, and so I am grateful for this resolution, for those who have worked so hard to help us find it, and for all of us who have encouraged and supported the process toward this positive conclusion.

A few updates on other important happenings this past month:

### Jerome Campus Redevelopment Project Funding

- Today (February 4<sup>th</sup>) was the first day of the February 2008 Legislative Session and, while recent concerns about the economy can lead some to shy away from investments in our future, we remain optimistic about our prospects for receiving an additional \$4 million in capital construction support from our State legislature. Our project has solid support from our own three legislators, as well as from many of our House and Senate leadership and, most recently, from the Oregon Community College Students Association (OCCSA). Quoting from an article written by our student, Melody Dyer, who was one of our representative at last week's State OCCSA meeting,

*As a student body representative, I had the opportunity recently to attend an OCCSA meeting, accompanied by Student Body President Josh Cooper. . . The meeting soon got down to business, and as I scoped out the agenda I was surprised and pleased to see that Clatsop Community College was one of the top priorities under New Business. These people were aware of the hardships and obstacles we were facing here at Clatsop concerning our need for fuller funding to realize the building of a safer, more accessible, student-centered campus. Here were students who were making it their prerogative to care and take care of us. . . A motion was made to make lobbying on behalf of Clatsop Community College top priority. Members of OCCSA will be meeting at the State Capitol building very soon, lobbying for support, and acting as representatives on our behalf.*

A complete copy of Melody's article is included with this report.

- We continue to work with ShoreBank and representatives from the State Department of Administrative Services (DAS) on the details of using \$7.5 million of the capital construction money we already have to leverage approximately \$2.5 million in New Market Tax Credits (NMTC). As ShoreBank President John Berdes has explained, the NMTC program involves a complex series of steps that make it possible for a tax-exempt entity like Clatsop Community College to benefit from tax credits and we are making steady, albeit slow, progress.

- While we have had to postpone until January 2009 our filing for a FEMA grant for the seismic stabilization work associated with the Towler Hall restoration, we are working with both the County and City of Astoria to make sure the required FEMA Disaster Mitigation Plan is completed by this summer and approved in time for us to file that grant application. I believe everyone involved understands the importance of this plan, not just to the college's efforts to receive grant funds but also to our ability as a County to respond to the needs of our community when such as disaster strikes.
- We have contracted with Mike Morgan and Kitty Paino to lead our grant writing efforts in support of the Jerome Campus Redevelopment Project and, to date, we have over \$1.5 million in grant applications submitted. While we have not yet received any definite responses to these grant requests, we have been encouraged by a number of these Foundations to be optimistic.

### Alternative High School

I have had a number of planning meetings regarding the development of an Alternative High School for Clatsop County and believe we are beginning to "flesh out" some of the details of how this school might look and work in our communities. In addition to the support already expressed by all five Clatsop County school districts, Jim Mabbott, Superintendent of the Northwest Regional Educational Services District (NWRESD), has let me know that the ESD is ready to help and support us in a variety of direct and indirect ways, including even the possibility of providing facilities that we could lease for this Alternative High School. We anticipate that the curriculum would be very similar to the "Gateway" approach used by Portland CC - but could also be broadened to include other alternate programs - Career/Technical, Students w/ Children, etc. It is also possible that NWRESD could redirect services it now provides to the individual school districts to provide the specialized educational and support services that an Alternative High School student might need and we as a college are not equipped to provide (perhaps child care and other ancillary services too!). Like the Gateway program at PCC, probably about 1/2 of the program would be made up of existing college courses (articulated, dual credit) so students who graduate from the Alternative High School would not only gain a high school diploma but would also earn about a year of college credit as well. There are a lot more details yet to be worked out but the work to date is very encouraging and I believe this County-wide approach to alternative education affords us our best opportunity to serve a population that frequently escapes our more traditional attempts to help.

### Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), and Economic Development

Last week Rick Gardner and I had the opportunity to discuss our proposed SBDC plan and Clatsop Economic Development Resources (CEDR) with Senator Betsy Johnson. Describing CEDR, our mission, stakeholders/partners, deliverables, and proposed "one stop" model, and our plan of hosting a new "regional" SBDC through Col-Pac (Columbia-Pacific Rural Economic Development Agency) with SBDC-funded business counselors resident with the local economic development organizations (e.g., CEDR), Senator Johnson asked a lot of very good questions and came away with a good understanding of CEDR, the Regional SBDC, our plan and challenges we face. Equally important, Rick Gardner and I came away from our meeting with Betsy with the

confidence that she believes we have an excellent model and that she is committed to helping in any way she can to ensure our success.

So much is happening at Clatsop Community College these days that I can hardly keep up with it... and I am grateful that, in many ways, I don't need to. Thanks to many gifted and committed staff, Classified Staff, Administration, Managers, and Faculty, our work is a shared work – and our progress and our successes are shared as well.

Thanks to you for the role you too play in our successes!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Greg'. The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Greg