

President's Report November, 2006

As I write this report, we do not yet know the outcome of the November 7th election. Is Ted Kulongoski still our Governor? Was there a shift of power in either the Congress or the State Legislature? Did the expenditure and/or revenue limitations measures #41 and #48 pass or fail? Did the people of Clatsop County pass the bond for a new college campus? So, not knowing the answers to these questions, I want to instead write something about the themes, or motivations, that I believe will be brought to bear (and revealed) in our answers. I believe that our collective motivations for the way we will vote are perhaps more telling about our future than the vote itself.

In business we are told that “there is no standing still: you’re either moving forward or you’re losing ground.” Something of the same can be said for communities and States such as ours: We’re either building for the future or we’re retreating into the past. The difference between these two perspectives is not just the direction in which we look, but in the motivation for the looking.

Looking forward is rooted in hope. Its foundation is a confidence in the potential for people to work together and create something good – good for all. Looking back is rooted in fear. Its foundation is a worry over what might be lost – especially what might be lost personally. Looking forward is expansive and inclusive. Looking back is narrow and self-defensive.

I think that the way we will have voted on things like Measures 41 and 48, on our representatives at the State and Federal level, and on the community college bond measure will have everything to do with which way we are looking; forward with hope or backward with fear. I want to live in a community, in a State, and in a country, that looks forward with hope. I want to live among people who are willing to contribute, and even take risks, in order to do some good for their children, their neighbors, the town down the road, the people of the State next door, and the people of a country a world away.

Pass or fail, I am proud to be a part of a college that has chosen to look forward with hope – hope for our community and hope for our students – by placing the community college bond measure on the ballot in anticipation that the people of Clatsop County have also chosen to look forward with this same hope. And I am even more proud of our college because I know that, regardless of the outcome of the vote, we will remain committed to serving the educational needs of our students to the best of our ability in whatever facilities and with whatever funding support the people of this County and this State choose to give us.

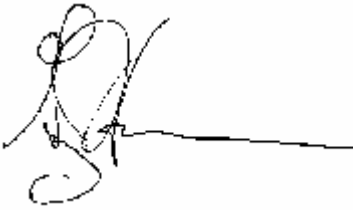
Some important activities at Clatsop Community College this past month.

- On October 31st the Arts& Letters faculty hosted our first Values Conversation, focusing on the value of Caring. Great leadership by these faculty, combined with good attendance, made for a very valuable and enjoyable conversation. Next

Conversation will be held sometime before the Holiday break and will be hosted by Becky Ready (Workforce Training) and others. Faculty, staff, students, and Board members are all invited to attend.

- On Nov 10th at the OSBA Annual State Convention, our Arts & Ideas program will be receiving a “Salute to Success – Programs that Work!” award, recognizing the program’s effectiveness in providing cultural programming for our community. I will be in attendance at the OSBA Convention, giving enthusiastic applause as Lenore Morrison, who coordinates this program, receives this award.
- With the discontinuation of our Bricklayers Apprenticeship Program and the consequent loss of that student enrollment, we are embarking on a new “Enrollment Initiative,” focusing on three main components of our enrollment strategy: 1) traditional student recruitment, 2) non-traditional student recruitment, and 3) student retention (especially focus on the function of advising and other student educational support services). Dean of Students Roger Friesen is leading this initiative to better serve the students and “could be students” of our college, and the progress made will be one of the topics at our January Board Retreat.

Thanks to the Board, Students, Faculty, and Staff of Clatsop Community College for being people of hope.

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

Greg Hamann