

## **President's Report September 2006**

### **“Perfect Opportunities”**

If there is such a thing as a “perfect storm,” the confluence of all the ingredients which, when brought together at the right time and in the right way, make for one heck of a meteorological challenge, there must also be such a thing as a “perfect opportunity,” that convergence of events, attitudes, resources, and imagination that make something possible that was not possible before. I believe that, whether the serendipitous result of stars coming into alignment or the fruit of hard labor (or, more likely some combination of these), we in Clatsop County – and at Clatsop Community College – have at this moment just such a “perfect opportunity” to do something great for ourselves and for our future.

Let me list some of what I see as some of the key ingredients to this “perfect opportunity.”

At our college we are blessed with talented and committed faculty who see teaching and learning not just as their job, but as their calling. We also have staff who are committed to student access and success, providing the encouragement, guidance, and support our students need. And renewed energy in programs where our efforts really “hit the pavement” of our communities – programs like Workforce Training, the Small Business Solutions Center, GED, ESL, Upward Bound/Talent Search, and Community Education/Arts & Ideas – are working to make sure that educational opportunity is available to all our communities’ citizens and not just those who traditionally think of themselves as “college-bound.”

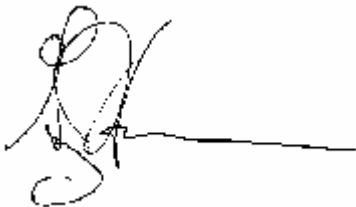
At our college, our efforts are united and guided by a renewed sense of shared purpose, as demonstrated by our new Values, Vision, and Mission statements. Our new Vision statement declares that we are “continuously building an educational community that encourages learning and achievement” and it is in this commitment that we provide one of the most important ingredients for the “perfect opportunity” that is ours to share with our students and with our communities.

And, in our community we are experiencing a new willingness to collaborate – a new opportunity for us to succeed together. In August I had the privilege of being a part of a “Whitewater Institute” where people from the college and Clatsop County school districts got together to think – and experience – new ways in which our educational entities might work together to create new and more effective educational pathways for our students. I believe that at the “institute” we laid a foundation for new partnerships to develop, even as existing partnership programs are growing and expanding – programs like “The Bridge” program that began with Warrenton and the vocational training program that began with Astoria – which now include other districts as well.

We are beginning to see the “perfect opportunities” that come when college, school, city, county, and business work together for a common goal – our common good. We are already seeing that both our students *and* our communities benefit from this collaboration.

And finally, I believe that some of the most important ingredients for this “perfect opportunity” are “in the air” so to speak – a “climate of opportunity.” The more tangible evidences of this “climatic shift” include things like the rapid growth in new construction and in the restoration of the historic. They include the prospect of a new college campus for Clatsop County, as well as new recreational and athletic facilities in Seaside, new infrastructure in Warrenton, new developments at our county fairgrounds, and new public facilities in Gearhart. And all this is a reflection of the more intangible and yet most important climatic feature of this present opportunity – the climate of optimism. We in Clatsop County seem to have a renewed sense of pride and hope about ourselves and this, in turn, is creating a climate that encourages investment in our future.

Opportunity is all about looking forward. Here at Clatsop Community College I believe we are helping to give focus to that forward look, and I am grateful that we are part of a community that is looking forward with us. Together, we have a “perfect opportunity” for us to do something great for ourselves and for our future.

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

Greg Hamann