

# The Weekly News: Week 17



## Veterans Day

Thank you to our student and employee Veterans who have served our country. We have 304 Veterans enrolled at Clark College this fall. I'm so proud of our Veterans Resource Center that is available to help veterans and their dependents get connected with the resources and networks of support available to them at Clark College and in the local community. The Center provides welcoming staff, mentoring from other student veterans, and tools to succeed academically and personally including subsidized dental care, a Books for Vets program, and tutoring.

## ctcLink Success

Congratulations and thank you to our amazing ctcLink team!

89% of our staff have now activated their accounts. 47% of our students and 55% of our faculty have activated their accounts. Here's a helpful link for students with step-by-step instructions on how to activate their new accounts. The timing is important because registration starts this week with eligible student veterans, and continues in waves through next week.

It's the beginning of the third week and while we've made tremendous progress, and there is still considerable work to be done. **I ask for your continued patience** right now.

Staff are not able to respond to requests because they are very busy making sure the information is correct in ctcLink. It's hard on everyone. Our staff want to respond to questions and yet they don't have the bandwidth at this moment.

Thank you for your continued patience and let's give grace to one another in every way possible, knowing everyone is doing the best they can.

## **Congratulations, Athletic Director Laura LeMasters!**

What great news to see that our own Laura LeMasters has accepted the position of athletic director at Clark College. Laura joined Clark College as assistant athletic director in 2016 and most recently served as interim athletic director since June. She has a master's degree in Kinesiology with an option in Sport Management from California State University – Long Beach and a bachelor's degree in Sport Management with an emphasis in Communication from WSU Pullman.

Laura brings a wealth of experience in student success, college athletics, marketing, operations, and recreation from her prior roles at Occidental College, Central Wyoming College, and Lewis & Clark College. Laura is a strong student advocate and has played an important role in ensuring our compliance with state, federal and NWAC regulations. Laura is committed to continuing our focus on academic and athletic excellence in our athletic department.

## **Go Penguins!**

I watched the Clark College women's soccer team play hard on Saturday in the rain. The No. 4- ranked Penguins were upset by Tacoma Community College for the NWAC quarterfinal round. It was a tough ending, but much respect to Tacoma and best of luck going forward. Clark Penguins finished the season 11-4-1. Congratulations to our Penguins! You make us proud.

# Time for nominations

Do you know of an outstanding Classified employee at Clark? Have you been looking for a meaningful way to say “thank you” to that person who has gone above and beyond in their service to you, your department or the college community? Now is your chance to acknowledge that special person.

We are pleased to announce that nominations are being accepted for the **2019 Fall Quarter Award**. Please continue reading for more information. Submissions can be made by filling out the **online submission form**. Please only submit a nomination for the current quarter.

Nominations will be reviewed by the Classified Staff Awards Committee and will be evaluated entirely on the basis of the information submitted on the nomination form. The deadline is **5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 22, 2019**. For questions, contact Vanessa Neal, [vneal@clark.edu](mailto:vneal@clark.edu) in Human Resources.

# Student enrollment

Each week I'd like to share with you enrollment facts that paint a picture of our student body.

Under the Guided Pathways model, all new, degree-seeking students entering fall 2019 identified their Program of Study, under the six Areas of Study. Here are the paths our students have chosen:

- 16% Creative & Communication Arts
- 17% Business & Entrepreneurship
- 27% Healthcare & Biosciences
- 3% Advanced Manufacturing & Mechanical
- 13% Public Service, Society, & Education
- 23% Science, Technology, & Engineering

We'll continue to work on program mapping and other vital

tools within the framework of Guided Pathways to help our students choose their path and stay on the path. Thank you to the Guided Pathways team for all you do.

## Open Enrollment for employees

It's that time – a chance to review and make changes to your public employee benefits. Open enrollment ends Saturday, November 30. To make changes go to *My Account* on the PEBB website. If you have questions about your benefits or account, please contact one of our benefits team members:

- Thao Schmidt, [tschmidt@clark.edu](mailto:tschmidt@clark.edu), ext. 2628
- Amy Harrington, [aharrington@clark.edu](mailto:aharrington@clark.edu), ext. 2325
- Guisela Eberle, [geberle@clark.edu](mailto:geberle@clark.edu), ext. 2119

## Reflections from this past week

This past week I joined Dr. Sachi Horback and Mohammed Maraee, Associate Director of the Southwest Washington Center of Excellence for Semiconductors and Electronics Manufacturers, at Portland Community College's Swan Island Center to discuss with PCC leadership opportunities to collaborate to meet our regional workforce needs in welding. I enjoyed the McClaskey Culinary Institute's Tapas Fiesta Bar with the Executive Council last Tuesday. It was delicious! I loved hearing from the students about how they prepared the creative menu selections. I continued my listening tour with a tour of some of the WPTE Programs. Thanks to Interim Dean Armetta Burney and the amazing faculty in Welding, Machining, and Diesel who shared the exciting work they are doing in these areas. I joined Rashida Willard at the Vancouver Education Diversity and Inclusion Committee to discuss with community leaders how we can partner to "grow our own" systemically non-dominant K-12 teachers. It was an interesting discussion with PSU Dean of Education, Dr. Marvin Lynn, sharing information about the Portland Teachers Program that has been a leader in this work

for over 30 years. I ended the week with two of our Board of Trustees (Chair Jacobsen and Trustee Bennett) at the statewide Association of College Trustees Legislative Action Committee and Fall Conference in Seattle and was sorry to miss Bingo for Vets Thursday evening.

This week I am looking forward to meeting with the newly formed Clark College Community Equity Council, celebrating November birthdays with you, meeting the President of WSU at the WSUV Advisory Council, and recognizing the ctcLink team at the Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday evening.

Once again, I want to share my appreciation for the Clark ctcLink team, who have done an amazing job throughout the goLive conversion. I am inspired by the dedication of the leadership team and the problem-solving that I've seen across the campus in Finance, HR, Student Services, Instruction, Planning and Effectiveness, and IT throughout the week. Change is hard, and this amazing team has risen to the challenge. The whole state community college system has been watching us to see how this is done. Congratulations again, Penguin Nation. You've got this!