

Winter Welcome Week 2024



Welcome Week kicked off on Monday, January 8 with the first day of winter term and for the first back-to-school day of 2024. A popular feature of Welcome Week is the staffing of information tables set inside buildings all around campus with helpful volunteer staff answering students' questions, helping them find their classes, and offering campus maps. The tabling to assist students would not be possible without so many staff and faculty volunteering their time to help Clark students.

Just as in fall term, parking lots were crowded as thousands of students returned to classrooms and labs across the main campus, at the Clark College Building at Washington State University Vancouver, and Clark's Columbia Tech Center after winter break.

Unlike the beginning of fall term, when the weather invited students outside, students gathered indoors to greet friends and catch up before dashing off to their next class.

Student Involvement Fair

Later in the first week, Gaiser Hall's Student Center bustled with activity as students, staff, and faculty gathered for Clark's Winter Beach Party Involvement & Financial Wellness Fair in the Gaiser Hall Student Center on January 11. Students stopped at the tables that filled the hall to ask questions and to learn more about the college's support services, student clubs, and programs.

Clark College wants to ensure students know about and can access wrap-around services, including Penguin Pantry, Disability Support Services, Counseling and Health Center, and more. The Student Involvement Fair, which is held during the first week of every quarter, is an excellent way for

students—particularly new students—to learn more about these programs, services, and opportunities.

Students had the opportunity to learn more about the college's student clubs, programs, on-campus jobs, and college and community resources. Students also connected with peers with shared interests—from learning Spanish to building a rocket to drawing comics, and more.

To promote a fun atmosphere, students lined up for free fruit smoothies and snow cones.



At Clark's **ASCC student government** table, student leaders answered students' questions and shared information about getting involved with student government. Read about ASCC [here](#).

Students stopped by the **Activities Programming Board** table to learn about upcoming opportunities to connect with fellow students—including Bingo, movies, trivia games, free pizza, and more. Read about APB [here](#).

At the **Spanish Club** table, students learned about opportunities to participate in field trips to learn more about the Spanish language as well as immersing themselves in Hispanic culture.

At the **Model United Nations Club** table, students learned about the opportunities to participate in mock UN representations and delegations.

At the **Columbia Writers Series** table, students learned about the literary series and an upcoming opportunity to meet Anis Mojgani, the poet laureate of Oregon, on February 13. Learn more about CWS [here](#).



Students and graduates who have had their work published in

The Iceberg, the art department's annual student comics anthology, offered copies of the 2023 Iceberg as well as several past issues. They encouraged artists and writers to submit their work for the 2024 Iceberg. The deadline is May 1 for the 2023 Iceberg comics anthology that will be distributed in October.

At the **Korean Culture Club** table, students saw traditional clothing and learned what the club offers: K-Pop, K-Dramas, Korean food, history, and more. The club kicked off the year with a dance event. Next, club members are organizing a Lunar New Year celebration in February.

Several students crowded around the **Clark Aerospace Club** table to chat with aerospace club students to learn more about opportunities to help build a rocket. Behind them, their "Little Penguin" rocket they designed and built last academic year reached toward the sky. Over the summer, some of the students competed in the world's largest intercollegiate rocket competition in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

An increasing number of students have been requesting food assistance from the **Penguin Pantry**. But many students are not aware of a plethora of other food pantries offering food assistance. Students stopped by the **Clark County Food Bank** table to talk with volunteers who provided a comprehensive list of free food pantries available throughout Clark County.

A student thanked the food bank volunteer, accepted the printed list of food resources, and tucked it into his backpack.

Photos: Clark College/Susan Parrish