

Career Connect Sparks Creativity



Jose Solis an award-winning designer, scenic/mural artist, and sign and model railroad background painter, *right*, meets with students to discuss a career in the arts.

On May 28, Clark's students tapped into their creative potential at the bi-quarterly Career Connect event, held at Connell Library. This series invites local businesses to campus to showcase career opportunities across Clark's many fields of study. This time, the spotlight was focused on Creative and Communication Arts.

When students stepped into the library, they were greeted by a vibrant mix of storytellers, broadcasters, artists, and publishers. Representatives from KOIN 6 News, Hazy Dell Press, StorySpark Collective, the Regional Arts & Culture Council, and award-winning artist Jose Solis offered insight into the diverse and dynamic world of creative careers.

For some students, the path forward is already clear. For others, events like this are a chance to make connections and explore their options.

"Sometimes, you've just got to try something," said Renee Yama from Hazy Dell Press, a Portland-based children's book publisher. "Ask yourself—are you enjoying it?"

That willingness to seek out opportunities was at the heart of the event. Students moved from table to table, having real conversations with professionals who have turned their passion into a profession. It was about making connections, asking questions, and imagining possibilities.

"These vendors have that lived experience, so students can see viable pathways through these discussions," said Michael Caldwell, Career Advisor at Clark.

Student Success Coaches and Career Advisors were also on hand to offer guidance, reminding students that they aren't navigating their futures alone. While Career Services primarily supports current students, resources and events like Career Connect are also open to alumni and other community members.

Held twice per quarter, Career Connect rotates through the areas of study at Clark, such as STEM, Healthcare, and Business and Entrepreneurship. Each event features between 5-10 vendors tailored to that field, giving students a chance to engage with industry professionals in a casual setting that's welcoming and intentionally small-scale.



April Pereira from StorySpark Collective.



Stephanie Leeper from Clark College Career Connected Learning.



Renee Yama, *right*, from Hazy Dell Press.



Representative from KOIN 6 News.



Aaron Campbell from Clark College Career Advising.

Learn More

Explore resources and upcoming events through Clark College's Career Services at <https://www.clark.edu/enroll/careers/>.