

# Teaching accessibility



Bruce Elgort

Clark College computer technology instructor Bruce Elgort recently received grants from the national organizations Teach Access and the Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology (PEAT), as well as the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), to incorporate accessibility principles into computer science curriculum.

Elgort was just one of 13 faculty members across the nation to receive this grant and the only instructor from a community college to do so. He plans to use the funds to enhance his current curriculum so that it expands its teaching of Universal Design principles.

“We teach accessibility in our HTML classes—you know, ‘add a description to all your images so people using screen-reader technology know what they are,’” Elgort said. “It’s time to start taking accessibility further. It’s time to create forms for people with cognitive disabilities, or physical disabilities that go beyond visual impairment.”

The topic is deeply personal for Elgort, who is visually impaired himself. “I am a user of accessibility,” he said. “I am someone who is challenged as a user of technology.”

Funded by Teach Access and PEAT, the Teach Access Curriculum Development Award totals \$5,000. The SBCTC is matching that grant with an additional \$5,000. Elgort plans to use the funds to develop curriculum enhancements over the summer, and have them ready to share with other faculty in the fall.

“We’re extremely fortunate to have a faculty member like Bruce working at Clark College. His strong commitment to ensuring

everyone can use technology is commendable. With the Teach Access and PEAT grant, which SBCTC is matching, Bruce can impact an entire industry by making sure future web developers are equipped to develop accessible technology as soon as they enter the field,” said Jess Thompson, program administrator for accessible technology initiatives at SBCTC.

## **About Bruce Elgort**

Bruce Elgort began his career as an electrical engineer and then moved into the world of enterprise information technology. He was responsible for designing and developing collaborative computing solutions to serve global businesses. Elgort also started one of the largest open-source communities for IBM’s Collaboration Software division. He is a popular speaker at conferences and industry events. As an entrepreneur, he created the award-winning IdeaJam idea-management software. Elgort began teaching at Clark College in 2013 and has earned the college’s prestigious Exceptional Faculty Award in 2014 and 2018.

## **About Clark College**

Located in Vancouver’s Central Park and serving more than 12,000 students per quarter, Clark College is Southwest Washington’s oldest public institution of higher education. The college currently offers classes at two satellite locations: one on the Washington State University Vancouver campus and one in the Columbia Tech Center in East Vancouver. Additionally, its Economic & Community Development program is housed in the Columbia Bank building in downtown Vancouver.

## **About Teach Access**

Teach Access is a unique collaboration among members of higher education, the technology industry and advocates for accessibility, with a shared goal of making technology broadly accessible by infusing accessibility into higher education,

with enhanced training and collaborations with people with disabilities. Teach Access includes members from leading tech companies, academic institutions and disability advocacy organizations and other non-profit institutions. Teach Access operates as a fiscal sponsorship fund at the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF). To learn more visit [teachaccess.org](http://teachaccess.org) or email [info@teachaccess.org](mailto:info@teachaccess.org).

## **About the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges**

The Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges is led by a governor-appointed board and provides leadership, advocacy, and coordination for Washington's system of 34 public community and technical colleges. Each year, about 374,000 students train for the workforce, prepare to transfer to a university, gain basic math and English skills, or pursue continuing education.

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## **A student leader with community roots**




Grace Moe is congratulated by President Bob Knight at the 2018 Commencement ceremony.

This year's recipient of the Community College Presidents' Award in Honor of Val Ogden was Grace Moe, who graduated with an Associate of Arts transfer degree. "She has shown an exemplary work ethic, participating in student government and

volunteering with community organizations while maintaining a high GPA,” said Clark College President Robert K. Knight in announcing the scholarship during the college’s 2018 Commencement ceremony.

Moe came to Clark College through the Running Start program, which allows high school students to earn college credit. A first-generation college student, Moe has excelled at Clark, serving as the president of the Associated Students of Clark College (student government) and earning a cumulative GPA of 3.82. In addition, she has volunteered with Friends of Trees, the Clark County Food Bank, and New Heights Church.

Moe, 17, says that this scholarship will allow her to  complete her bachelor’s degree in finance and marketing in two years, when she will be 19 years old; because her parents are unable to financially contribute to her college tuition, without the scholarship she would have had to attend WSUV part-time in order to earn enough to cover the costs. After earning her bachelor’s degree, she intends to spend a year volunteering with her church before beginning a career at a local business.

“My roots are definitely ingrained in this area,” said Moe, who has lived in Vancouver her whole life. “I plan to give back to the community that raised me, by working in the area so that I can continue to volunteer and serve for Vancouver.”

Because Moe was already sitting on stage during the Commencement ceremony in her capacity as ASCC president, Knight invited her to the podium as he announced the scholarship. “You’ve been a wonderful leader and I know we’re going to hear a lot more about you,” he said.

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley.*

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# Exceptional faculty



The 2018 Exceptional Faculty Award recipients are: computer technology instructor Bruce Elgort; English as a Second Language professor Sara Gallow; music professor Richard Inouye; mathematics professor Dr. Kanchan Mathur; and addiction counselor education instructor Don Wissusik.

During the 2018 Commencement ceremony, President Robert K. Knight announced the names of the recipients of the 2018 Clark College Exceptional Faculty Awards. The awards are presented annually to full-time and part-time faculty members. Nominations can be submitted by Clark College students, faculty, classified employees, administrators, alumni, Board members, and Foundation directors.

The awards are made possible through an endowed trust fund established by the Washington State Legislature and the Clark College Exceptional Faculty Endowment Fund, which was established in 1993. That fund provides recognition of exemplary work performance, positive impact on students, professional commitment, and other contributions to the college.

This year's Exceptional Faculty members are:

- Bruce Elgort, computer technology instructor
- Sara Gallow, English as a Second Language professor
- Richard Inouye, music professor
- Dr. Kanchan Mathur, mathematics professor
- Don Wissusik, addiction counselor education instructor

## Bruce Elgort



If there is one word to describe computer technology instructor Bruce Elgort, it is probably “connected.” He stays connected to his students through email, social media, and online tools. “Never in the history of teaching has a professor been more available to his students,” raved one student in their nomination.

Elgort is also connected to local industry through his long career in tech, which includes high-level positions at major companies like Sharp and Underwriters Laboratories, as well as launching his own successful software company. And he creates connections in his community, regularly attending (and sometimes speaking at) conferences and inviting others to come with him. “I can’t count the number of events I’ve attended because Bruce posted something on Slack or Facebook—or gave me a digital nudge saying, ‘You should go to this!’” wrote another student.

Small wonder, then, that Elgort has gathered a significant fan base at Clark since beginning to teach here in 2012. Indeed, this is his second time winning an Exceptional Faculty Award at the college; the first time was in 2013. Elgort says that, since then, he’s become involved in numerous Clark committees and initiatives. In other words, he’s become more, well, *connected* to Clark—and clearly Clark is all the stronger for it.

## Sara Gallow



When Sara Gallow began her teaching career, she imagined it would be a way to travel the globe. But one day, while teaching English in Japan, she read a newspaper article about a program in the U.S. teaching English to immigrants and refugees; instantly, she realized that was what she wanted to

do. Within a year, she was living in Portland and teaching ESL (English as a Second Language) at area colleges, including Clark.

Clearly, it was the right fit: Gallow was hired full-time in 1999 and has been here ever since. Currently, she serves as chair of the Transitional Studies division and has been described as the division's "consistency, vision, driving force, and backbone." Under her leadership, Transitional Studies has redesigned all of its ESL and basic education courses, as well as developed a new program serving inmates in the Clark County Jail.

Throughout her career, however, Gallow's first love remains teaching. "My students teach me strength, persistence, and humility," she says. "I've had doctors, lawyers, teachers, engineers, and musicians in my classes. I've had students who weren't able to finish elementary school and others who have escaped war. All of them came to this country for a better life, and for one quarter they trusted me to teach them English and help them reach their goals—it's truly an honor to be their teacher."

## **Richard Inouye**

✖ It's hard to imagine Clark College's exemplary concert band and jazz ensemble without their fearless band leader, music professor Richard Inouye. Since 2007, Inouye, who is retiring this June, has not only led the band but also raised its musical reputation in order to recruit top notch student musicians to attend Clark. Additionally, he has directed Clark's annual Jazz Festival, which has grown to attract more than 50 middle and high school bands from around the region.

Inouye has a long professional career in music, beginning with teaching band in Colorado public schools and followed by a 20-year career in the United States Air Force Academy Band as a saxophonist, music director, and band leader. He also served

on the music performance faculty at The Colorado College for eight years before moving to Vancouver to begin teaching at Clark.

“Although Rich can come across as stern and direct, he’s also got a soft heart, often coaching and mentoring students on his own time and with his own resources,” wrote one nominator. “He believes in giving students second chances, within parameters designed to help them become successful.”

“He wants us all to be responsible, of course, but he will lend a hand whenever needed,” wrote one student. “He continues to push us to be the best we can be—in band and outside of band.”

## **Dr. Kanchan Mathur**

✖ “I enjoy everything about math,” says mathematics professor Dr. Kanchan Mathur. “The clarity of thought it brings, the seemingly unrelated quantities that come together in a beautiful formula, the numerous applications of it, the elegant proofs of theorems, the history behind some of the most important developments—and, well, numbers in general.”

Dr. Mathur is all too aware, however, that not all her students feel the same way. “Math should not be intimidating, but it is, sadly,” she says. A tenured professor at Clark since 2008, she helps students overcome their math hurdles by making herself available outside of the classroom for one-on-one help with tricky concepts—and with other challenges they face.

“In addition to her dedication to our students’ academic success, she also genuinely care about their well-being,” wrote one nominator, point out that Dr. Mathur stocks a variety of snacks in the Mathematics Department office for hungry students.

In addition to her teaching duties, Dr. Mathur has served as



the Mathematics Department's scheduler. She also works with local schools to hold several math competitions and to get young students excited about mathematics and higher education. And she's teamed up with other math faculty on many of the department's math-themed events, like its annual Pi Day celebration and its "Read a Math Book to your Child" campaign on Bring Your Child to Work Day.

## Donald Wissusik

✖ For almost two decades, Donald Wissusik has made the long commute to Vancouver from Newberg, Oregon, to teach evening classes to students in Clark's Addiction Counselor Education (ACED) program. That he has done so on top of his full-time job as a clinical services manager in addiction medicine for Kaiser Permanente speaks to his dedication to teaching.

"The wisdom from his many years of experience, along with his gentle and kind demeanor, makes him very approachable and makes us students feel valued," wrote one nominator. "Don has made a huge impact on me, and I will carry his words of wisdom with me into my professional career."

Wissusik's own career is coming to a close, as he is retiring from Clark this year. (He retired from Kaiser in 2016.) But his legacy will continue at Clark through his many years as a volunteer on the ACED's advisory committee, which helps ensure the program's outcomes match employers' needs.

"I am very honored and amazed to receive this award," Wissusik says. "I have tried to be guided by being mindful of how I wanted to be mentored when I started this career over 40 years ago."

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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# Welcome, professors!



On May 7, a reception was held in Gaiser Student Center to welcome the nine newest members of the tenured faculty at Clark College. Glenna Afflerbaugh (dental hygiene), Patricia Atkinson (economics), Caron Ford (career and academic preparation), Rebecca Herman (dental hygiene), Yusufu Kamara (economics), Donald Ludwig (sociology), Laura Nagel (library), Robert Weston (mathematics), and Tess Yevka (psychology) were all granted tenure during the Clark College Board of Trustees meeting on March 14.

Tenure is awarded by the college's Board of Trustees based on professional excellence and outstanding abilities in their disciplines. The granting of tenure is based on the recommendations of tenure review committees to the vice president of instruction, which are then forwarded to the president, who presents a final recommendation to the Board of Trustees. Recommendations are based on self-evaluations, tenure review committee evaluations, student evaluations, supervisory evaluations, and peer evaluations. The final decision to award or withhold tenure rests with the Board of Trustees.

# About the faculty members

## Glenna Afflerbaugh

✖ Glenna Afflerbaugh graduated from Clark College's dental hygiene program with an associate degree. She received a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene degree from Eastern Washington University and a Master of Education degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University. She has worked as a dental hygienist in private practice and began teaching at Clark in 1994. She has served as senior lead clinical instructor in Clark's dental hygiene program since 2015.

At Clark, Afflerbaugh coordinates mock board exams for senior dental hygiene students; she also mentors and advises students as they move through the dental hygiene program. She also serves on the Dental Hygiene Advisory Committee.

"My teaching approach is to lead with integrity, and provide a learner-centered environment in which trusting, supportive, and synergistic relationships allow individuals to grow, become empowered, and accomplish their goals," said Afflerbaugh.

## Patricia Atkinson

Patricia Atkinson earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in economics from Marist College and Portland State University, respectively. She has taught at Clark College since 2008, and has previous teaching experience at Portland State University and other community colleges in the Portland-Vancouver metro region. ✖

At Clark, Atkinson serves as Lead Economics instructor and sits on the Bachelor of Applied Science in Applied Business task force. She co-hosts weekly brown-bag lunches where students are invited to discuss different economic topics, and

also serves as advisor to the college's Chess Club.

"As an economics instructor, I try to create community in the classroom and connect economics to students' everyday life," Atkison said of her teaching philosophy.

## **Caron Ford**

✖ Caron Ford received her bachelor's degree in English Literature from San Francisco State University. She earned her English Teaching Credential and Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from California State University Bakersfield. She has previous teaching experience at South High School in Bakersfield, California, and has worked at Clark College since 2009.

At Clark, Ford serves as I-BEST Lead Teacher for the Department of Career and Academic Preparation (CAP), as the curriculum developer for CAP English, and as the Transitional Studies CAP representative in the college's work to adopt a Guided Pathways model of higher education.

"I approach teaching from a learning perspective, and I approach curriculum from a student perspective," said Ford. "I want my students to see themselves in what they read and what they write so they can effectively engage in, challenge, and change the world."

## **Rebecca Herman**

Rebecca Herman graduated from Clark College's dental hygiene program with an associate degree. She completed a bachelor's degree in Business Management and Communication, as well as a Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction, at Concordia University. ✖

Herman has previous work experience as a clinical dental hygienist for many years. She has also taught at Mt. Hood Community College. She began teaching at Clark College as an

adjunct instructor in 1994. At Clark, Herman advises and mentors students as well as new faculty. She serves on the Dental Hygiene Advisory Committee and regularly contributes to work and initiatives within her department.

“My approach to teaching is to focus on student learning and retention,” said Herman. “I also believe a learner-centered environment is best for the students to achieve outcomes.”

## **Dr. Yusufu Kamara**

✖ Dr. Yusufu Kamara earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Economics with honors from the University of Sierra Leone. After being awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, he earned his master’s and doctorate degrees in Economics from the University of Kansas. He has previous teaching experience at Avila University, Baker University, Neosho County Community College, and the University of Kansas (all of which are located in Kansas). He began teaching at Clark College in 2015.

Dr. Kamara sit on the International Education Committee at Clark college, and has helped to plan the college’s annual International Education Day. He also serves as a faculty advisor to the college’s Harambee Black Student Union.

“I always strive to create an interactive and inclusive class environment, providing the opportunity for students from all backgrounds to participate in collaborative problem solving, engage in constructive class discussions, and to relate the issues discussed to their communities and beyond,” said Dr. Kamara. “I focus on developing the critical thinking skills students need understand and apply the basic principles we cover in class.”

## **Dr. Don Ludwig**

Dr. Don Ludwig earned his associate degree from Spokane ✖

Community College and his bachelor's degree from Whitworth University. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Master of Social Work degree from Rutgers University. He holds doctorate degrees from both the New York-based International University for Graduate Studies and from Portland State University.

At Clark, Dr. Ludwig has served as the Faculty Assessment Liaison and Sociology Department Lead; a Guided Pathways faculty liaison; and the Clark Representative to The Democracy Commitment, a non-partisan national program to promote civics at community colleges. He has participated in both the I-BEST and Learning Communities and the Integrative Faculty Learning Community. He also served as a faculty panelist during a 2015 discussion on economic inequality.

"Teaching and learning should be committed to social justice and equity in all things and all ways," said Dr. Ludwig. "The best question you can ask my students on any day is, 'What are you learning today, why is that important, and what are you doing about it?'"


## **Laura Nagel**

✖ Laura Nagel earned her Bachelor of Arts degrees in Sociology and Art History from Pacific Lutheran University. She earned her Master of Arts in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin Madison. Before coming to Clark, she worked as a librarian at Linn-Benton Community College.

Since coming to Clark in 2015, she has served on the Library Leadership Team, as the Collection Development Lead, and as the Business and Health Sciences Liaison. She also served as project director for the college's 2016 hosting of a traveling exhibit called "Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness."

In discussing her philosophy toward education, Nagel quoted the librarian James Elmborg, saying, “I tell students that it is my job to work with them to find, evaluate, and use information to ‘ask and answer questions that matter to them and to the world around them.’”

## **Robert Weston**

Robert Weston earned his bachelor’s degree in Mathematics  from Oregon State University and his master’s degree in Mathematics from The City College of New York. His work history includes teaching mathematics at numerous institutions in both New York City and Portland for 10 years, working as an instructional designer for an online college, and serving as a consultant on education projects through his own small business.

At Clark, Weston serves on the Guided Pathways Steering Committee and is developing a co-requisite remediation version of MATH 105.

“Student understanding of mathematics is developed by well-designed experiences that challenge students in a supportive environment,” said Weston in describing his teaching philosophy. “In order to meet these challenges students should be supported in developing effective study habits, organization skills, and healthy attitudes towards learning.”

## **Tess Yevka**

Tess Yevka earned her bachelor’s degree from Marylhurst University and her master’s degree in Counseling from Portland State University. Her previous teaching experience includes Carrington College, Marylhurst University, and Mt. Hood Community College. She has additional work experience as a counselor in private practice and as a community educator working in child-abuse prevention.

At Clark, Yevka serves as a member of the Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee and the Faculty Development Subcommittee. She assists other faculty members in setting up and conducting online classes as well as in creating accessible teaching materials. Additionally, she is involved in the Vancouver community as a certified Long Term Care Ombudsman.

“My teaching philosophy is to make it real,” said Yevka. “By anchoring the content of a course in the context of daily life, students learn real-world application. Being able to see the relevance of material, and have the opportunity to apply it, increases interest and participation.”

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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## A rousing coda



Members of the Clark College Jazz Band watch for a cue from Band Director Rich Inouye during their performance at the 56th Annual Clark College Jazz Festival.

Every year during the last weekend of January, the Clark



College Jazz Festival fills Gaiser Hall with swinging tunes from middle and high school bands. This year was no exception, with a total of 1,116 students from 55 schools flocking to the highly regarded festival—including some from as far away as Alaska.

But among the bright jazz tunes were a few bittersweet notes, for this festival marked the last to be helmed by music professor Richard Inouye.



Prof. Rich Inouye speaks during the 11th and final Clark College Jazz Festival that he will organize.

On Saturday night, at the conclusion of the AAA and AAAA Finals, President Robert Knight got on stage to recognize Inouye for his 11 years of service with Clark College as the Director of Bands. Knight praised his teaching in the classroom, his conducting skills with Concert Band and the Jazz Ensemble, his leadership of the Annual Jazz Festival, and his committee and leadership work across the campus. President Knight presented Richard with a collage canvas print of the colored jazz festival covers which were directed by Inouye during his tenure.

Behind the scenes, Clark students decorated the festival's "green room" with some of their favorite "Richisms," including, "Own it, fix it," "Results, not excuses," "You set the tone," and "Rhythmic resistance."

The 56th Annual Clark College Jazz Festival's Dale Beacock Memorial Sweepstakes trophy was awarded to Mead High School Jazz Band I from Spokane, Washington. Other honorees included:

## **Thursday Middle School Silver Division jazz ensemble finals results:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Jane Addams Middle School, Seattle, WA
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Beaumont Middle School, Portland, OR
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Chief Umtuch Middle School Advanced, Battle Ground, WA

Blue Division Judge's Award – Chief Umtuch Middle School Advanced, Battle Ground, WA

## **Outstanding Middle School Jazz Musician certificates were presented to:**

- Parker Bruning – Hockinson Middle School, Hockinson, WA
- Adam Haunreiter – Hockinson Middle School, Hockinson, WA
- Connor Cuff – Liberty Middle School, Camas, WA
- Deitrich Vu – Liberty Middle School, Camas, WA
- Tai Beaulieu – Liberty Middle School, Camas, WA
- Mireia Pujol – Liberty Middle School, Camas, WA
- Mason Calaway – Wahluke Middle School, Mattawa, WA
- Isaac Moroshan – Laurin Middle School, Vancouver, WA
- Justus Jones – Carmichael Middle School, Richland, WA
- Shelby McCombs – Pleasant Valley Middle School, Vancouver, WA
- Dominic Mendoza – Chief Umtuch Middle School, Battle Ground, WA
- Reagan Speakman – Skyridge Middle School, Camas, WA
- Grady McHenry – Tukes Valley Middle School, Battle Ground, WA
- Chris Moore – Beaumont Middle School, Portland, OR
- Nate Moore – Beaumont Middle School, Portland, OR
- Parker Casazza – Jane Addams Middle School, Seattle, WA
- Lacy George – Jane Addams Middle School, Seattle, WA

# **Friday, January 26, 2018 A and AA division high school jazz ensemble finals results:**

## **A Division:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Northwinds High School, Port Angeles, WA
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Petersburg High School, Petersburg, AK
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Woodland High School, Woodland, Wa

Outstanding high school musician awards for the A Division were presented to:

- Jesse Weaver – Douglas High School, Winston, OR
- Noah Pratton – Mcloughlin High School, Milton Freewater, OR
- Ciaran Healey – University Prep, Seattle, WA
- Ursula Sargent – University Prep, Seattle, WA
- Adam Kennedy – Northwinds High School, Port Angeles, WA
- Tristan Lowman – Northwinds High School, Port Angeles, WA
- Isaac Hall – Woodland School District, Woodland, WA

## **AA Division:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Hockinson High School, Hockinson, WA
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Mead High School, Spokane, WA
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Mt. Spokane High School, Spokane, WA

Outstanding high school musician awards for the AA Division were presented to:

- Kara Stella – RA Long High School, Longview, WA
- Saunder Borst – Mt. Spokane High School, Spokane, WA
- Elaine Scott – Mead High School, Spokane, WA
- Meggie Rodewald – Mead High School, Spokane, WA

- Kaylin Woods – Mead High School, Spokane, WA
- Grant Hobbs – Columbia River High School, Columbia River, WA
- Cade Lilley – Fife High School, Tacoma, WA
- Kaelyn White – Battle Ground High School, Battle Ground, WA
- Emily Johnson – Washougal High School, Washougal, WA
- Jack Broer – Hockinson High School, Hockinson, WA
- Riley Lyons – Hockinson High School, Hockinson, WA
- Erik Hawkins – Hockinson High School, Hockinson, WA
- Zeke Dodson – Hockinson High School, Hockinson, WA

## **Saturday, January 27, 2018 AAA and AAAA division high school jazz ensemble finals results:**

### **AAA Division:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Mead High School Jazz I, Spokane, WA
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Prairie High School, Brush Prairie, WA
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Mt. Spokane High School Jazz I, Spokane, WA

Outstanding high school musician awards for the AAA Division were presented to:

- Ashton Hemming – Battle Ground High School, Battle Ground, WA
- Dominic Mendoza – Battle Ground High School, Battle Ground, WA
- Jacob Khawaja – Lakeridge High School, Lake Oswego, OR
- Penelope Tharp – Lakeridge High School, Lake Oswego, OR
- Isaac Ford – Kelso High School, Kelso, WA
- Tony Brence – Prairie High School, Brush Prairie, WA
- Ericka Mecham – Prairie High School, Brush Prairie, WA
- Josh DeQuiroz – Mountain View High School, Vancouver, WA
- Ricky Gagliardi – Mead High School, Spokane, WA

- Connor Brennan – Mt. Spokane High School, Spokane, WA
- Chris Ramirez – VSAA Focus, Vancouver, WA

## **AAAA Division:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Bothell High School Jazz I, Bothell, WA
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Battle Ground High School Advanced, Battle Ground, WA
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Lake Stevens High School, Lake Stevens, WA

Outstanding high school musician awards for the AAAA Division were presented to:

- Justin Foley – Heritage High School, Vancouver, WA
- Amy Boedigheimer – Heritage High School, Vancouver, WA
- Mairead Rising – Glacier Peak High School, Snohomish, WA
- Galin Hebert – Glacier Peak High School, Snohomish, WA
- Hannah Whitlow – West Salem High School, Salem, OR
- Cameron Roche – West Salem High School, Salem, OR
- Anthony Bolden – West Salem High School, Salem, OR
- Mario Esquivel – Chiawana High School, Pasco, WA
- Benito Ramirez – Chiawana High School, Pasco, WA
- Gabe Aldape – Lake Stevens High School, Lake Stevens, WA
- Manuel Aldape – Lake Stevens High School, Lake Stevens, WA
- Chase Williams – Union High School, Camas, WA
- Sean Grimm – Union High School, Camas, WA
- Gary Hobbs – Union High School, Camas, WA
- Gabe Bradley – Mountain View High School, Vancouver, WA
- Nick McClatchey – Bothell High School, Bothell, WA
- Preston Lee – Bothell High School, Bothell, WA
- Laney Pham – Battle Ground High School, Battle Ground, WA
- Shane Walz – Battle Ground High School, Battle Ground, WA

*Shelly Williams contributed this article. Photos: Clark*

## Presidential Coins



Sen. Al Bauer receives a presidential coin from President Knight at the 2018 State of the College Address.

Clark College President Bob Knight presented Presidential Coins to two Clark College employees and one Clark College alumnus during his 2018 State of the College address on January 18. They were:



Rachele Bakic

## Rachele Bakic

Rachele Bakic began at Clark in 2012 as the program manager for the Health e-Workforce Consortium Grant. She accepted the position of Interim Director of Academic Services in September 2014. In 2015, she was named the Associate Dean of Instructional Operations, a role that involves overseeing many aspects of the college's curriculum and programs. Knight said Bakic played "an integral role" on the college's Curriculum Committee, Instructional Planning Team, and the Outcomes Assessment Committee, all of which help realize the college's academic strategy and ensure that classes meet the needs of students. He also noted her work on the Academic Calendar

Committee and other groups around campus.



Armetta Burney

## Armetta Burney

Armetta Burney has served as Director of Workforce Education Services (previously called Eligibility Services) at Clark College for five years. In that role, she has led the expansion of several programs serving students. The Basic Food, Employment, and Training Program (which provides federal funding for students facing barriers to education) served fewer than 20 students per quarter when Burney began her career at Clark; now it serves more than 300. Similarly, she expanded the Passport to College program, which provides incentives to students for reaching specific academic milestones. She oversaw changes to the way the Opportunity Grant was administered, which led to student retention rising from 76 percent to 84 percent. And she launched an Emergency Grant program for students in crisis.

“She is committed to ensuring that she and her staff meet students where they are, and providing students with the support they need to be successful,” Knight said.

## Sen. Al Bauer

While former Washington State Senator Al Bauer is not a Clark College employee, he has a long and personal connection to the college, beginning when he first began taking classes here in 1948 after being laid off from a cannery job. Bauer has said that he expected Clark to refuse to admit him, and that the college’s wholehearted welcome helped him to believe in his own capabilities. Bauer left Clark to join the Navy, but

returned after his service to continue his education. He eventually earned a master's degree in education and taught in area schools for more than 20 years. His political career included nine years as a Washington State Representative and two decades as a state senator, during which time he earned the moniker of "the education senator." A staunch advocate for the institution that gave him his start in higher education, Bauer's significance to the college was made clear in 1988 when a building on the main campus was dedicated to him.

"Thank you for being who you are, being the leader that you are, and for caring about students as the education senator," said President Knight in presenting the coin to Sen. Bauer.

President Knight introduced a Presidential Coins at Clark College in 2007. They are given to faculty and staff members who provide exemplary service to Clark students, the college, and the community. In 2016, President Knight expanded the coins' recipients to include exemplary supporters of the college. The honorees are decided by the president and are kept secret until the names are announced—generally on Opening Day in the fall or during the annual State of the College address in January.

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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## Jim Archer, 1942-2017



Long-time art faculty member and gallery director James "Jim" Archer passed away on Tuesday, November 28. He was 75 years



old.

Archer grew up in Vancouver and received his Associate of Arts degree from Clark College before going on to earn his Bachelor of Arts in graphic design from Portland State University and his Master of Fine Arts from Washington State University. Afterward he returned to Clark College to teach. In addition to serving as gallery director, Jim taught art and art history at Clark College for 23 years.

Archer originally became curator of Clark's art gallery in 1982, when it was still located within the Clark College Bookstore and was called the Index Gallery. Successful in attracting well-known Northwest artists, the Index Gallery became known as one the region's top alternative venues for contemporary artists. Archer announced his retirement in 1995. That same year, the gallery—which by then had been relocated to a larger space within Gaiser—was renamed in Archer's honor. It moved to its current location in the lower level of the Penguin Union Building in 2005.

In 2016, Archer donated much of his private art collection to Clark College; selected works from the collection were shown in the gallery that bears his name, in an exhibit called "Archer @ Archer."

Current and retired art faculty joined together to issue the following statement about their colleague's passing:

*It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Jim Archer. Jim was the first director of the Archer Gallery, a position he held from 1982 to 1995. He established the traditions and mission that are central to the Archer Gallery. Under his direction, the gallery quickly gained a regional reputation for exhibiting emerging Northwest artists due to his prescient eye for recognizing young talent. Through the next several decades, significant regional artists could point to their initial exhibition in the*

*Vancouver-Portland metro area at Clark College's Archer (formerly Index) Gallery.*

*Jim was a passionate, sometimes fierce, man with strong opinions. The gallery exists in its present form because of the battles that Jim fought to shape it. All of his strength and determination was needed for his struggle with AIDS. Jim was diagnosed with HIV in 1987 and AIDS in 1994 before medications had been developed to manage the disease. In the winter of 1995 Jim became dangerously ill but survived and became an early successful recipient of the AIDS drug cocktail. The dignity, resolve, and humor with which he handled the treatments and advancing illness was inspiring. He never yielded to his illness and continued to live and enjoy life fully.*

*After his retirement from Clark in 1995, Jim continued to champion young artists: collecting work, visiting studios, and curating exhibits – including “Next/Now” (Littman Gallery, Portland State University) and “Modern Zoo” (St. Johns, Oregon).*

*Jim returned to his own studio work after retirement creating and exhibiting collage and painting on paper. Both his work and his art collection (much of which was donated to Clark College and the Hallie Ford Museum at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon) were featured in “Archer@Archer” in 2016.*

*Jim was a great friend, father to Stephen and Peter Archer, and Grandfather to Isabella (Bella) Archer.*

There will be a memorial service on December 16 at 6:00 p.m. Holladay Park Plaza (1300 NE 16th Ave., Portland, Oregon), the retirement community where Archer lived until shortly before his death. Time and details are still being determined by the family; this article will be updated as details become available. The Archer Gallery is collecting cards and letters to give to the family during the service.

*This article was updated 12/6/17 to reflect the new date of the memorial service. It was updated again on 12/11/17 to include the time of the service.*

*Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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## Outstanding Alumni announced



Six notable Clark College individuals have been selected for top Clark College alumni awards.

The 2017 Outstanding Alumni awardees are Nancy Boyce '08, Mitchell Jackson '93, Debi Jenkins '93, Rujean "Jeanne" Mack '67, and Steve Morasch '87. The Rising Star awardee is Cody Messick '10.



**Nancy Boyce** is a diesel mechanic and owner of the heavy-machine repair business PowerTech Generation, based in Juneau, Alaska. In 2008, she became the first female Caterpillar field mechanic to work in Alaska. She has also taught diesel technology at the University of Alaska Southeast. The *Alaska Journal of Commerce* nominated her as its Top Forty Under 40 Award winner in 2017, and she was one of three finalists for the Association of Equipment Management Professionals Foundation's Technician of the Year Award in 2017.



**Mitchell S. Jackson** is the author of the award-winning novel *The Residue Years*, a creative nonfiction writing professor at New York University, and an adjunct instructor at Columbia University. His second novel, *Survival Math*, will be

published in 2018. Jackson's honors include fellowships from TED, the Lannan Foundation, the BreadLoaf Conference, and the Center for Fiction. He's also a popular national speaker for youth and an advocate for criminal justice reform. Jackson, who grew up in Northeast Portland, presented at Clark's Columbia Writers Series earlier this year.

✖ **Debi Jenkins** has more than 20 years of experience as a developmental life coach, teacher and presenter. Her expertise is in the areas of lifespan development, diversity, equity, inclusion and institutional climate/organizational change. Her business, Share the Flame Consulting LLC, provides a wide range of personal life- and career-coaching strategies. She is a national speaker and author on equity practices, 2016 Oxford Round Table honoree, and 2009 YWCA Women of Achievement recipient. Jenkins is the division chair of Clark College's Behavioral Sciences department and has worked at the college for 25 years.

✖ **Rujean "Jeanne" Mack** is a retired principal and executive director of Vancouver Schools. She is one of the creators of the innovative Help One Student to Succeed (HOSTS) Math Program, which was adopted by educational systems around the country. Mack is also the first executive director of the Vancouver Schools Foundation, where she grew the endowment to \$1 million; the former director of Children's Therapy at the nonprofit Innovative Services NW; and the former director of Youth House, a youth empowerment center developed by the Clark County Department of Community Services.

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**Steve Morasch** is a land-use, real estate, and litigation attorney at Landerholm. He has received awards from the *Wall Street Journal*, *American Jurisprudence*, and *Vancouver Business Journal*. He's the chair of Clark County Planning Commission and has the highest peer-reviewed attorney rating—AV Preeminent. Morasch was part of the Clark Alumni Association Board from 2004 to 2007, and the Alumni Scholarship Endowment Committee from 2005 to 2006.



**Cody Messick** is a doctoral student in physics at Pennsylvania State University and was part of the team that detected the presence of gravitational waves at the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) in Washington state and Louisiana in 2015. He is a current executive committee student member of the American Physical Society's Division of Gravitational Physics. He was a math tutor at Clark, a Physics Days host at University of Washington, and a gravitational wave summer camp organizer at Pennsylvania State University.

Outstanding Alumni Award recipients are chosen for their exemplary service to the community and Clark College, and for personal and professional achievements. The Rising Star Award recognizes alumni who are aged 35 or younger; who deliver exemplary service to the community and to Clark College; and exhibit personal and professional achievements.

The group will be recognized during a luncheon reception on November 1 and at Clark College Foundation's annual donor gala, Savoring Excellence, on November 2. The reception is a collaboration with the alumni association, Clark College, and Clark College Foundation.

*Mitchell Jackson photo by Cole Bennetts; Nancy Boyce photo by*

# Exceptional faculty



During the 2017 Commencement ceremony, President Robert K. Knight announced the names of the recipients of the 2017 Clark College Exceptional Faculty Awards. The awards are presented annually to full-time and part-time faculty members. Nominations can be submitted by Clark College students, faculty, classified employees, administrators, alumni, Board members, and Foundation directors.

The awards are made possible through an endowed trust fund established by the Washington State Legislature and the Clark College Exceptional Faculty Endowment Fund, which was established in 1993. That fund provides recognition of exemplary work performance, positive impact on students, professional commitment, and other contributions to the college.

This year's Exceptional Faculty members are:

- Patricia A. Atkinson, instructor of economics
- Dr. John Caruso, instructor of English
- Becky Engel, instructor of American Sign Language
- Dr. Nicholas Macias, instructor of computer science and engineering
- Brian McVay, professor of welding

# Patricia A. Atkinson, Economics

✖ When Patricia Atkinson was an undergraduate, she was an enthusiastic student—but not a focused one. “I loved all my studies, from history and geography to math and science,” she said.

It was only in her junior year of college, when she took her first economics course—a field that combined aspects of all those disciplines—that Atkinson found her true academic passion.

Today, Atkinson passes that passion on to her students. “She made me enjoy and understand a subject that I disliked and struggled with in the past,” wrote one nominator. “She always would go out of her way to make sure we understood the material by relating it to real-life experiences.”

Another student wrote, “She allowed me to understand and appreciate what college can be. ... Professor Atkinson showed me that college is about learning, engaging, participating, and enhancing your personal capital.”

Atkinson, who has taught at Clark since 2009, is currently a tenure-track instructor at the college. She has also taught at Portland Community College, University of Phoenix, and Portland State University, where she earned her master’s degree in economics. She is currently completing her doctorate degree in education leadership at Washington State University Vancouver.

# Dr. John Caruso, English

Most kids’ first jobs are something along the lines of ✖ babysitting or mowing lawns—John Caruso’s, which he began at age 13, was writing book reviews for the local newspaper. So it’s not all that surprising that he grew up to be an English professor.

“I love learning, and I love helping my students learn,” Caruso said. “When you have an active, alert mind, talking about ideas and language is like playing your favorite sport. I feel blessed to spend my days doing something that I enjoy, and doubly blessed that what I enjoy also improves the lives of my students.”

Students clearly count Caruso as a blessing, too. “John makes everyone want to engage in class activities and discussions,” wrote one nominator. “Even the more shy kids are raising their hands. We all felt safe and valued in his class.”

Caruso said that his own experience as a first-generation college student helps him create a welcoming environment for the diverse student body he teaches at Clark. (He also teaches at Marylhurst University.) He earned his bachelor’s degree at UCLA; his master’s, at California State University Chico; and his doctorate in English at the University of Washington. He has taught English for two decades, and at Clark for the past six years. A frequently published writer of short fiction, Caruso is expecting his first full-length novel, *The Lawn Job*, to be published by Cloud Lodge Books later this year.

## **Becky Engel, American Sign Language**

✖ When students describe Rebecca Engel, they mention her supportiveness, her individual attention, and her flexibility in presenting material in a range of teaching styles.

“I see myself as a chameleon of sorts, always adapting to the different needs and learning styles the students present,” Engel said. “I picked up this skill in my first teaching job in the K-12 system. I had deaf students of all levels, so I was constantly adapting to meet their needs and learning styles.”


Students say they appreciate Engel’s adaptability, as well as



the unique perspective she is able to provide as a Deaf person herself. “Becky strives to teach her classes about Deaf culture and how to interact within the Deaf community,” wrote one nominator. “Not only does she teach ASL, but she also teaches us proper etiquette, what to expect when in a Deaf community event, and other important things that help us learn how to interact with the Deaf community.”

Engel earned her bachelor’s degree from Oregon State University and her Master of Deaf Education from Western Oregon University. She taught at the Washington School for the Deaf before becoming an instructor at Clark College. Currently she is a tenure-track instructor at the college, teaching not only standard language classes but also a course in American Deaf Culture and a special Honors Program language class. She serves on the ASL advisory boards for the Vancouver, Battle Ground, Evergreen, and Camas school districts, as well as on Clark College’s Social Equity Task Force and Emergency Building Coordinator Committee.

## **Dr. Nicholas Macias, Computer Science and Engineering**

Dr. Nicholas Macias has had an almost life-long fascination  with computers. He began playing around with programming on the computers at his high school, even though he wasn’t yet old enough to take the school’s computer science classes. “I’d pull people’s code out of the garbage, uncrumple it, type it in, and try to figure out what it did,” he recalls.

That boundless curiosity and enthusiasm is still on display now that he teaches computer science himself. “He’s intensely passionate not just about teaching, but also about learning,” wrote a student in nominating him. “He’s dedicated so much of his life to the work that he loves, and it always shines through.”

Dr. Macias earned his master's degree in computer science from George Washington University and another in mathematics from Duke University. He earned his Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic University. He spent many years as a computer scientist in both government and private enterprise before deciding to focus full-time on teaching. He has taught at Clark since 2011 and has served as a faculty advisor for both the Computer Science and Engineering and the MARS Robotics student clubs.

"Knowing that this award is based in part on student input means so much to me," said Dr. Macias. "I like to believe that I'm helping students, even when I know I'm making them work hard and they'd rather have the weekend free! This award feels like a very big 'Thank You,' and gives me hope that what I'm doing really is making a difference."

## **Brian McVay, Welding**

✖ You could say welding runs in Brian McVay's blood—both his father and stepfather were welders, and his mother worked as a machinist on nuclear submarines. "In the eighth grade, I knew what I wanted to do," he said.

McVay studied welding at Clark College before being accepted into a boilermaker apprenticeship. Later, he returned to Clark for further studies to prepare for an apprenticeship as an ironworker, a job he held for 17 years. "I always came back to Clark," he said, noting that he returned to the college again for management classes later in his career. "Education has been something that I really value. I wake up in the morning looking forward to learning something new that day."

In 2014, he found himself returning to Clark again—this time, to teach. He said he enjoys being able to give back to a place that taught him so much, preparing students for today's industrial jobs.

"I tell my students on the first day of class, 'I don't *give* you a grade. You *earn* your grade,'" he said. "I run my shop like it would be run in the industry."

Students appreciate his "tough love" approach. "Mr. McVay has a very 'let's get it done now' attitude," wrote a nominator. "However, he never teaches us to prioritize the work over safety. ... He pushes us ahead in order to help us achieve more."

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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## Clark College adds to its leadership team

Clark College has recently welcomed several exceptional educational professionals to its leadership team.

New hires and appointments include Dr. Loretta Capeheart as Associate Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Judith Hernandez Chapar as the Director of the Teaching & Learning Center; Brenda Walstead as Dean of Business and Health Sciences; and Jim Wilkins-Luton as Dean of Transitional Studies, English, Communications and Humanities (BEECH).

### Dr. Loretta Capeheart

✖ Dr. Capeheart has a B.A. in psychology from the University of Texas, an M.A. in Sociology from Texas State University, and a Ph.D. in Sociology for Texas Woman's University. She has previous work experience as a faculty member at the University of Idaho and at Northeastern Illinois University, among other institutions. Most recently, she was at the Portland Police

Bureau, where she served as an analyst and as Acting Equity and Diversity Manager. Dr. Capeheart has written about and taught extensively on the subjects of diversity, inclusion, and social justice. She is the author of a book called *Social Justice: Theories, Issues and Movements*.

Clark College President Bob Knight stated: "This position is important to our Strategic Plan and social equity work. As I read the feedback from across the college, it was clear that Dr. Capeheart has the necessary skills and experience to continue the good work that has been started on the college's Social Equity Plan and lead us forward."

## **Dr. Judith Hernández Chapar**

✖ Dr. Hernández Chapar earned a Doctorate of Philosophy in Education from Oregon State University with a focus on Community College Leadership. She also holds degrees in Social Work, Psychology, and Women's Studies. She is currently working on a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at San Diego State University, where she is researching the student engagement patterns of underserved community college students with faculty, as well as community college pathways for underrepresented students in STEM.

Dr. Hernández Chapar is familiar with the Washington state community and technical college system, having worked at both South Puget Sound Community College and at Lower Columbia College. Her work experience includes leading, designing, delivering, and assessing First Year Experience and TRiO programs and curriculum to promote student experiences focused on retention, persistence, and degree completion.

## **Jim Wilkins-Luton**

✖ Jim Wilkins-Luton holds a Master of Arts degree in Literature and Composition from Gonzaga University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in British and American Literature

from Whitworth University. He taught English and lived in Japan for eight years prior to settling in Clark County. Wilkins-Luton has worked for Clark College since 2000, beginning as an adjunct faculty member and earning tenure in 2006.

During his time at Clark, Wilkins-Luton has taught English as a Second Language, pre-college English, and college-level composition and literature classes. He earned Clark's prestigious Exceptional Faculty Award for the 2013-2014 academic year; one student who nominated him for the award wrote, "[He] makes all students completely comfortable in the classroom." Wilkins-Luton has been the interim Dean of BEECH since 2015.

## **Dr. Brenda Walstead**

✖ Dr. Brenda Walstead has worked for Clark College for 21 years, starting as an adjunct instructor in Dental Hygiene. But her history at Clark goes beyond that: She earned her associate degree from Clark before going on to earn a B.S. from Concordia University, an M.S. at Portland State University, and an Ed.D. from Walden University.

During her tenure at Clark, Dr. Walstead has served as the Director of the Dental Hygiene program and led the creation of Clark's two bachelor's degree programs. She served as an Outcomes Assessment Liaison and on numerous collegewide committees. Most recently, she served as Interim Dean of the Business and Health Sciences, and was named to the non-interim position after a nationwide search. Feedback from the college during that hiring process consistently noted her ability to work collaboratively with faculty, staff and administration as well as her knowledge of the Business and Health Science Unit.