

# The Weekly News: Week 21



## This week

Thanks to everyone who participated in forums this past week with Dr. Chris Hill, AACC Coach, on Guided Pathways. She recognized the extraordinary work that has been done on Guided Pathways by the faculty and student services staff as well as the improvements we can make in communication and decision-making. She will be providing us with a summary of her observations and recommendations. I'll look forward to sharing her report with you.

I stopped by the STEM building last week and was wowed by the Computer Science and Engineering students. I got to see learning in action with the students presenting ideas for their year-long projects. Walking through the lobby I chatted with students explaining their ideas for software applications, drones, robots, power systems, games, internet-of-things and online services. I can't wait to see the results of their work later in the year.

## Winter Social

You are all invited to the Winter Social **Tuesday, December 10**, at Gaiser Student Center. The reception begins at 2:00 p.m. and the program begins around 2:30 p.m.

As is the tradition, we will honor our Clark College employees who have retired in 2019. I am looking forward to carrying on this Penguin Nation tradition.

# Supporting students during Finals Week

This will be my first Finals Week at Clark College—and the first for many of our students as well. It can be a time of stress for them. They may try to read their notes as they're walking through the parking lots; they may show up in unconventional spaces (like an unoccupied conference room) as they try to study in peace; they may forget to eat. Let's all offer them a little extra dose of grace and patience as they navigate this important milestone in their education.

Speaking of which, the college is offering help for their *next* milestone: There's an open lab held most of this week to provide one-on-one assistance to students trying to enroll on ctcLink for next term. Located in APH 210, its hours are:

- December 9 and 10, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- December 11, 9:00 a.m. – noon

## Time to nominate outstanding employees

A new award for 2020 is the **Clark College Administrative and Exempt Excellence Award** honoring two Exempt staff members who contribute in significant ways toward building a positive climate, inclusive environment, and improving the quality of life at Clark. Submissions can be made by filling out the online submission form by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 13.**

## 'Tis the season

You may have seen or heard recent news reports of this season's first confirmed measles case in Clark County. Last

January, when Clark County Public Health announced an official outbreak, college employees were asked to locate their immunization records in case a confirmed case at the college led to CCPH instituting an exclusion protocol. It's probably a good idea to once again make sure you know where those records are—just in case. Not sure if you have your immunization records? For those of you visiting childhood homes during Winter Break, they often wind up in a back drawer or old photo album. And if you were vaccinated here in the state of Washington, chances are that your records are available online. Staff at the Counseling and Health Center have very kindly volunteered to help any student or employee find their records through the state's online database. They are located in HSC 124. Let's all help to keep each other healthy and safe this winter!

## **Lace up those sneakers!**

Before coming to Clark, I knew that Penguins *marched*, but I had no idea how many of them *ran* as well! Every March, a "Clark Penguins" team participates in Portland's Shamrock Run. To register for the event, visit the [2020 Shamrock Run Registration Page](#); this link will automatically identify you as part of Clark Penguins when you register. To find out more about this event, contact Haley Tucker in Event Services, who is organizing this year's team.

## **Progress on ctcLink**

Now that ctcLink has been up and running for a month, the college is starting to leverage its functionality. One great example of this is the "academic advisement reports" being created for every certificate and degree at the college. These will take the place of the myriad program worksheets, educational plans, Degree Audits, etc. that people have used to map and track students' program progression—creating a

single source of truth for students, faculty, and staff alike. As of this week, we now have academic advisement reports created for 31 of the college's programs—including the Big One, the Associate in Arts – DTA degree (by far the most common degree that our students earn). Kudos to everyone in Credentials, Advising and the Office of Instruction for their work on this monumental task!

## **Great things have been happening across the college—congratulations!**

Congratulations to **mechatronics professor Chris Lewis** on being awarded \$603,397 for equipment purchases approved in the grant application for the Semiconductor and Electronics Manufacturing Technician Career Preparation and Launch program funded by the SBCTC through a capital budget appropriation

Congratulations to **the Nursing Faculty and Jennifer Obbard, Associate Dean-Health Sciences**, on the approval for continuing ACEN accreditation. I received a letter from a former colleague who is now the Director of Nursing Education for the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission announcing the approval and thanking the program for their continued commitment to quality nursing education in Washington State.

Congratulations to **Dr. Jacob Funk, Director of Choral Activities**, and **Shelly Williams, Program Coordinator for Music**, on a very successful Choral Festival. I recently received a letter from one of the adjudicators who noted, "I was struck by several positive aspects during the festival: the careful and thorough organization of the festival; the visible good nature of all the student helpers involved; and the star quality of the lynchpin of the day, Ms. Shelly Williams, the sine qua non of the Department, who was everywhere to solve all the little things that are bound to come up at events of this kind. Clark College should be very proud of this event."

# Looking forward to next week

Next week are Final Exams and Winter Registration for new students. As students and faculty prepare for Winter Break, I know our Enrollment Services team will be working hard to get students ready for Winter Term.

I am looking forward to hosting some new members of our community from my old neighborhood with a tour of the college with the Foundation staff and introducing them to the great programs at Clark. I'm also excited about recognizing our retirees at the Holiday Retiree Reception on Tuesday. I hope I can catch a glimpse of the Christmas ships from the riverfront this week before I leave for the Washington Association of Community and Technical College Presidents meeting on Thursday.

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# The Weekly News: Week 20



## This week

Welcome back from the holidays! I hope you had time to rest and enjoy time with friends and family. I enjoyed volunteering delivering Meals on Wheels in Hillsboro with my husband and finalizing plans for my daughter's wedding in January. It was wonderful having 4 days to spend with family.

This morning our student leaders hosted Washington State

Legislators at the Clark College annual legislative breakfast. They talked to our elected officials about their priorities, specifically college accessibility and affordability. We have a strong ASCC leadership team this year, and they were excellent representatives of our college students.

Also today, we are meeting with our AACC Guided Pathways coach, Dr. Chris Hill. She is on campus today and tomorrow to review our work to date and assist us in moving this important work forward. Dr. Hill will be meeting with the Guided Pathways Core Leadership Team; Pillar 1, 2, 3 and 4 Teams; Board of Trustees; faculty; students; and professional development teams to learn more about our progress and plans for implementing Guided Pathways. Everyone is invited to attend the College Debrief at the conclusion of her two-day visit on Tuesday at 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in GHL 213.

## **Career Launch at Clark College**

Our Mechatronics Program has been endorsed as a Career Launch Program by the SBCTC. This is exciting news for several reasons.

- It formally acknowledges our partnership with SEH America to provide students with real work experience while pursuing their AA degree.
- It also opens the door for state grants to provide

equipment for  
the program.

- It provides incentives for additional businesses to participate in the Career Launch program.

A formal announcement will be made next week. I wanted to give you advance notice of this great news. It signals a new chapter in our partnerships with local employers.

I want to acknowledge the work of Mohammed Maraee, who has brought the Center of Excellence for Semiconductors and Electronic Manufacturing to Southwest Washington. He is working closely with Clark College and area employers to build these important relationships.

I want to thank our team at Clark—Julie Robertson, Genevieve Howard, Armetta Burney, Sachi Horback, and the mechatronics faculty—for your work in responding to industry and moving this important initiative forward.

## **Presidential Search Milestone**

On November 25, the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, having reviewed 65 applications, selected ten semifinalists to be considered as our college's next president!

The next step will be confidential semifinalist video interviews conducted by the Search Advisory Committee during the second week of December.

Three or four finalist candidates will then be advanced to the

Board of Trustees for their approval at their December meeting.

During January, approved finalists will participate in constituent panel interviews and public forums at Clark College. Evaluation visits to finalists' colleges will also take place in January.

It is expected that the Board of Trustees will make their selection by the end of February 2020, and that our new President will begin onboarding in the summer of 2020 in preparation for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Thank you everyone who is supporting this important work for the College, our students, staff and community. More information on Clark's presidential search can be found at [www.clark.edu/presidential-search](http://www.clark.edu/presidential-search).

## Grant Awards

Clark College was awarded **\$100,000** from SBCTC to expand access to the college's Student Emergency Grant Program.

This funding is \$50,000 per year for two years, starting January 2020.

This funding provides monetary assistance to students experiencing unforeseen emergencies or situations that affect the student's ability to attend classes (e.g., paying for food, transportation, childcare, or other goods or services needed in order for the student to continue attending



classes). This funding will provide low-barrier access for students (with no income restrictions), even if they do not meet the traditional definition of a “high-need” student. To date, Clark College has awarded over \$44,000 in emergency grant assistance, and this additional funding will allow the program to prevent even more students from dropping out due to financial emergencies.

The Emergency Grant fund includes support from Clark County Community Action Fund Grant, SBCTC Student Emergency Assistance Grant, and Clark College Foundation. Combined, these funds provide approximately \$100,000 each year to support our students! Starting in January, all Emergency Grants will be administered through the Financial Wellness Program in Student Affairs.

Thank you to the team who helped write the grant: Julie Robertson, Kevin Thomas, Edie Blakely, Selena Castro and Cath Busha. Well done!

## **Concerts this week**

**The Clark College Orchestra Fall Concert** is set for Wednesday evening at 7:30pm on December 4. Our congratulations to Dr. Donald Appert: This is his 30th anniversary leading the orchestra. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Skyview High School Auditorium, 1300 NW 139th St., Vancouver. Free Admission.

**The Clark College Women’s Choral Ensemble and Chorale**, under the direction of Dr. Jacob Funk, will perform their Fall

Concert on Thursday,  
December 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the Vancouver First United  
Methodist Church, 401 E.  
33rd St, Vancouver. A second concert is scheduled for  
Saturday, December 7 at  
7:00 p.m., also at Vancouver First United Methodist Church.  
Admission to both  
concerts is free.

**The Clark College Concert Band**, under the direction of  
Dr. Doug Harris, will perform “Fanfares & Dances” on Friday,  
December 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Durst Theatre of the Vancouver  
School of Arts  
and Academics, 3101 Main St. Free admission.

I want to thank everyone in the Clark College Music Department  
for their talents and time in creating memorable moments for  
our students and  
our audience. Congratulations!

## Giving Tuesday

Tomorrow is Giving Tuesday – a global generosity movement  
encouraging people to contribute time and treasure to their  
favorite charities. As a reminder, we have an employee giving  
campaign at Clark College supporting students through the  
Foundation.

You can choose where and how your gift is used. There is a  
match  
program ongoing for the Penguin Pantry. A generous donor has  
committed to a  
\$5,000 match for the pantry if we reach our goal of 220 donors  
who make a gift  
of \$10 or more by June 18, 2020. You can  
make a gift here any time.

However you choose to observe Giving Tuesday, I appreciate all

the ways you support our students at Clark College.

## Next week for your planning

You are all invited to the Winter Social **Tuesday December 10, 2019** at Gaiser Student Center. The reception begins at 2:00 p.m. and the program begins around 2:30 p.m.

As is the tradition, we will honor our Clark College employees who have retired in 2019. I am looking forward to carrying on this Penguin Nation tradition.

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## The Weekly News: Week 18



### National Honors

Clark College has been named a 2020 Best for Vets college in the Career and Technical College category by *Military Times*—just one of 19 colleges across the nation to receive this designation. It's the third year in a row Clark has earned Best for Vets status. Kudos to everyone in the Veterans Resource Center, as well as everyone across the college who helps support our student veterans!

### New VP of DEI named

Please join me in congratulating Rashida Willard, who has accepted the appointment as the new Vice President for

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Clark College. This is an important milestone for the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and a positive leap forward for the college in supporting our staff, faculty and students.

Rashida stepped into the role as interim 17 months ago while still the Director of Operations and Risk Management in Administrative Services. She has taken on additional responsibilities in service to the college and she has earned the respect of her peers, our students, and the community as a strong and effective leader.

During this interim period, she has created and developed structures, spaces, and programs to help remove barriers for students and she's leading the effort to create a culturally competent campus to help students succeed. She is deeply invested in this work and passionate about creating inclusive, safe, and welcoming environments where *all* students have maximum opportunities to succeed.

Rashida holds a master's degree in Business Administration, a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, and an associate degree in Organizational Dynamics. She is currently attending Concordia University, pursuing a doctorate in Education with a concentration in Professional Leadership, Inquiry and Transformation.

Under Rashida's leadership, the ODEI team has built good momentum, developing new initiatives and programs that will

help our college  
move forward.

Please join me in congratulating and thanking Rashida for accepting this role.

## **Penguin Power!**

We did it, Penguins! We won the Walktober challenge between Clark College, Lower Columbia College, and WSU Vancouver. Our 68 Walktober participants averaged 9,694 steps during the month of October, winning us a trophy and bragging rights. Special shout-outs to our top Penguin walkers:

- 1st place: Sydney Brahmavar  
(Environmental Science) – 843,756 steps
- 2nd place: Aaron McPherson  
(Facilities Services) – 826,264 steps
- 3rd place: Travis Kibota  
(Biology) – 720,732 steps
- Departmental winner:  
Environmental Science, with an average daily total of 27,218 steps

... And, of course, to Interim Director of Talent Acquisition and Development Vanessa Neal, who led our Walktober efforts. I invite all Walktober participants to join Vanessa, Oswald, and myself at noon on November 20 at the Japanese Friendship Garden (or inside O'Connell if it's raining) for a group photo with our fabulous trophy.

# Kudos to the STEM Team

Thanks to dozens of STEM Unit students, staff, and faculty volunteers who hosted the Elementary Science Olympiad on Saturday, in conjunction with the Southwest Washington Science Olympiad (WSO). Eighteen teams of third-through-fifth graders from throughout Southwest Washington participated, representing 14 schools from 8 school districts, with a total 270 students. The challenging and motivating events of WSO align with Washington State Learning Standards. The events throughout the day were designed to enhance and strengthen both science content and processing skills.

And, thanks to the Clark College Surveying and Geomatics Department, in conjunction with the United States Forest Service, for hosting Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Day on Friday. GIS is a scientific framework for gathering, analyzing and visualizing geographic data to help us make better decisions. GIS Day included a number of speakers, displays, and interactive geospatial activities.

Also, congratulations to STEM Dean Peter Williams on his recent presentation with Dr. Carli Schiffner, SBCTC Deputy Executive Director of Education, and Dr. Gita Bangera, Dean of the RISE Learning Center at Bellevue College, on "Scaling Up Classroom Undergraduate Research Experiences Statewide"

at the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)

Transforming STEM Higher Education conference in Chicago, Illinois.

## Time to nominate outstanding employees

There are three employee award programs now accepting nominations. I hope you will look around you and decide to make a nomination: the Lora Whitfield Social Equity Award, the quarterly Classified Excellence Award, and the Exceptional Administrative Exempt Award.

The Lora Whitfield Social Equity Award honors a member of the Clark College community that has demonstrated a sustained commitment to advancing equity. Award recipients will receive a plaque along with \$1,000 funded by the Clark College Foundation. This award will be presented at Opening Day before the beginning of fall quarter each year. This 2020 inaugural year, the award will be announced during State of the College in winter quarter.

For 2020, nominations should be submitted by **November 29** for the Executive Cabinet to review and select an award winner by State of the College in January.

Please nominate a Clark College Employee by visiting the Lora Whitfield Social Equity Award page and fill out the **online submission form**.

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.

Also, nominations are being accepted for outstanding **Classified employee** at Clark 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. The deadline is **5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 22**. For questions, contact Vanessa Neal, [vneal@clark.edu](mailto:vneal@clark.edu) in Human Resources.

And, a new award for 2020 is the **Clark College Administrator and Exempt Excellence Award** honoring two Exempt staff members who contribute in significant ways toward building a positive climate, inclusive environment, and improving the quality of life at Clark has been created. Submissions can be made by filling out the online submission form by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 13**. For questions, contact Lisa Wolfson, [lwolfson@clark.edu](mailto:lwolfson@clark.edu) in the Office of the President.

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Exemplary Work Performance



- Excellence in work performance
- Makes a significant impact on the College (give examples of involvement, attitude, helpfulness, etc.).
- Contributes and demonstrates commitment to the College's mission and core values.
- Initiative and Collaboration
  - Positive interaction and engagement with all community partners (faculty, staff, students and the public)
  - Exhibits respect for fellow workers and students
- Special Achievements or Contributions to the College Community
  - Initiates or actively participates in projects for the betterment of the college community
  - Serves in leadership roles with campus groups/committees and/or external college partners
  - Displays consistent interest in and active support of diversity; seeks and promotes interaction with and between groups with differing ideologies, cultures, socioeconomic status, etc.

Recipients of this award will receive a glass plaque and \$1,000 funded through an anonymous donor's contributions to the Clark College Foundation. These awards will typically be announced on Open Day before the beginning of fall quarter each year. This inaugural year (2019-2020), the awards will be presented at the State of the College address during winter quarter.

To be eligible, the nominees must be a current full-time Administrative employee who has been in their current position for more than twelve (12) months. Members of the President's Executive Cabinet are not eligible to be nominated.

## **Congratulations, Dr. Donald Appert**

The award-winning Clark College Orchestra will present its Fall concert as part of the 2019-20 season celebrating the 30th anniversary of Music Director/Conductor Donald Appert on Wednesday, December 4 at Skyview High School.

This all-orchestral extravaganza will include *La Valse* by Maurice Ravel, *Nuages* and *Fêtes* from Claude Debussy's *Nocturnes*, and Josef Suk's *Symphony No. 1 in E minor*. The performance is at 7:30 p.m. and admission is free and open to the public. Donations to the Orchestra General Fund will be accepted at the door.

For complete information about all the Clark College Music Department concerts including the orchestra, concert band, jazz ensemble, and choirs, please see <http://www.clark.edu/campus-life/arts-events/music/music-concerts>.

We are fortunate to have such treasures at Clark College.

# Student Enrollment

Clark College began registering students for Winter quarter this past week for priority registration. While Clark's ctcLink Project Management team works to provide access to queries that will help manage enrollment, I ask for your patience. Planning and Effectiveness is working to redevelop our enrollment management tools in Tableau to be available to all during winter quarter.

## 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 and looking ahead

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 all the staff that I've seen across the campus in Finance, HR, Student Services, Instruction, Planning and Effectiveness, and IT who have been problem-solving throughout the week. Change is hard, and this has been exhausting and frustrating work. 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!

This next week I look forward to my first quarterly meeting between the WSUV Executive Team and Clark College Executive Team. The following day the Clark College Executive Team is participating in a daylong retreat with Dr. Kathy Obear, continuing to work on improving ourselves as a team.

Congratulations to the Penguin Men and Women who are running the NWAC Cross Country Championship in Lacey today (Monday, November 18). Go Penguins!!

I will be in Seattle the remainder of the week with Shanda Haluapo, Associate Vice President of Planning and

Effectiveness and Clark College Accreditation Liaison Officer, at the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities Annual Conference on Student Success, where I look forward to learning more about the new Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards for 2020. I plan to stay in Seattle for the weekend to have an early holiday with my family.

This coming weekend will be a busy one on campus, with performances of “A Bright New Boise” in the Decker Theatre in Frost Arts Center Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m.; Men’s and Women’s Basketball games in O’Connell Sports Complex; and the Clark College Jazz Band, under the direction of Dr. Doug Harris, presenting its “A Salute to the Big Bands” on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Gaiser Student Center.

And just because Walktober is over, that doesn’t mean we Penguins should stop being active: Get ready for the Fall Free Fun Run and Walk next Tuesday, November 26, at 1:15 p.m. in front of the Cannell Library. Registration is free and starts at 1:00 pm.

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## 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:

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- 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!

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## The Weekly News: Week 16



### Well done, Clark College!

It's Day Five of the ctcLink conversion, and I'm so proud of our ctcLink team that has put in such long days this week to help the college through the transition. This has been a herculean task requiring patience, perseverance, flexibility, creativity, humor and grace. Please, as you see them, join me in thanking them for their

extraordinary work:

- Susan Maxwell, myClark ctcLink Project Director
- Sabra Sand, Director of Business Services and Financial Management Pillar Lead
- Miranda Saari, Associate Dean of Enrollment Services and Registrar and Campus Solution Pillar Lead
- Guisela Eberle, Human Resources Assistant Director and Human Capital Management Pillar Lead
- Genevieve Howard, Associate Vice President of Instruction and Instructional Lead
- Andy Barsotti, Director of Data Services and ITS Lead
- Tanya Kerr, ctcLink Internal Controls and Business Analyst (Campus Solutions and Financial Management)
- Jennifer Ward, Program Manager for myClark ctcLink
- Shanda Haluapo, Associate Vice President of Planning and Effectiveness and myClark ctcLink Executive Sponsor

This really is a team sport. I thank everyone who has made this our No. 1 priority this week. I know it's been consuming. The long-term benefits to our staff and our employees will be significant.

We also have student resources you can help share with students as they log onto their new and improved MyClark. It's vitally important they're in the system by next week. Registration for winter term starts next Friday. Thank you to our faculty, our staff, our Student

Ambassadors, and Tech Hub crew for helping students make the jump onto our new platform.

## Well Done, Penguins Soccer Team!

Congratulations to our amazing Clark College women's soccer team! They concluded their 2019 regular season on Saturday, October 26. They have gone 64 league games without a loss, dating back to October 2014; claimed their fourth Southern Region title in a row; and have earned a bye for the first round of the NWAC soccer tournament.

We are set to host the NWAC quarterfinal round at Kim Christensen Field at noon on Saturday, November 9. We will be host to the winner of the Tacoma CC vs. Columbia Basin CC game set for next week. You will be hearing more about showing your Penguin spirit with a new cool scarf that will be available soon. Go Penguins!!

## Columbia Writers Series next week

This looks like an interesting lunchtime event next Thursday on campus: The Clark College Columbia Writers Series kicks off its 2019-2020 season with "The Female Gaze" featuring 2019 National Book Awards Fiction long-listers **Kali Fajardo-Anstine** (*Sabrina*

& *Corina*) and **Kimberly King Parsons** (*Black Light*).

This event, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Thursday,

November 7, from noon to 2:00 p.m. in PUB 161.

The event includes a reading and discussion on building buzz around debut short story collections and highlighting the many faces of contemporary female identity in literature. It will feature brief readings, a moderated conversation, and question-and-answer session followed by a book signing.

“The Female Gaze” is presented by the **National Book Foundation** and **Clark College** in a new partnership. Information about the Columbia

Writers Series is available at [www.clark.edu/cc/cws](http://www.clark.edu/cc/cws).

## Reflections from this past week

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!

Thanks, Oswald, for stopping by in your “penguin burger” costume to share some treats with us

yesterday. I enjoyed seeing some very creative costumes as I walked across the campus yesterday.

I'm looking forward to celebrating Indigenous cultures at our Annual POWWOW tonight with the Dreamcatcher Scholarship recognition and Grand Entry with drummers and dancers. It should be a great way to end the week.

Finally, I've walked 152,926 steps this Walktober around the college and on the weekends in my neighborhood. Don't forget to turn in your steps to [vneal@clark.edu](mailto:vneal@clark.edu) to help Clark win the Walktober Challenge. Keep on walking, Penguin Nation!

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## The Weekly News: Week 15



### CtcLink: It's here!

ctcLink went successfully live at 7:30am this morning. Yahooo!

Kudos to the entire ctcLink team for making this a success. I especially want to acknowledge myClark ctcLink Steering Team members who have led this extraordinary effort over the past five years:

- Susan Maxwell, myClark ctcLink Project Director
- Sabra Sand, Director of Business Services

and Financial Management Pillar Lead

- Miranda Saari, Associate Dean of Enrollment Services and Registrar and Campus Solution Pillar Lead
- Guisela Eberle, Human Resources Assistant Director and Human Capital Management Pillar Lead
- Genevieve Howard, Associate Vice President of Instruction and Instructional Lead
- Andy Barsotti, Director of Data Services and ITS Lead
- Tanya Kerr, ctcLink Internal Controls and Business Analyst (Campus Solutions and Financial Management)
- Jennifer Ward, Program Manager for myClark ctcLink
- Shanda Haluapo, Associate Vice President of Planning and Effectiveness and myClark ctcLink Executive Sponsor

In addition to over 30 staff and managers who spent this weekend validating data to assure the transition was successful.

Thank you ALL!

I'm

so proud to be part of the Clark team. **We've got this!!!**

I

am grateful to the entire ctcLink team who have been walking us through this

major undertaking along with SBCTC team. I want to affirm something that Shanda

Haluapo said last week in her email to you. She acknowledged that this week

will be full of rewards and challenges as we learn to do our work differently.

She reminded us to have compassion and patience with ourselves and those around

us, because we all do the best we can do.

We'll have access to the PeopleSoft system starting tomorrow, October 29. You will get an email with the link and instructions on how to log into the system. People from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) will be here to help support us in the transition. We have resources to support your transition. Please review the employee resources.

We also have student resources you can help share with students.

## **Penguin Pantry Growing**

I enjoyed attending the second anniversary open house at the Clark College Penguin Pantry.

It provides students with a safe, comfortable place to get something to eat, pick up a necessity, and connect with additional resources and services such as counseling, public benefits, community food banks and other resources. There's a great article in the Indy this month about the pantry and its growth on the campus. Thanks to student reporter Sandra Fachiol for the story: "Clark's food pantry strives to reduce student hunger."

Also a very special thank you to the Penguin Pantry program assistant, Estancia Cota. As the Penguin Pantry founding staff member, she is passionate about holistically meeting students' needs and understands the



larger role that the Penguin Pantry plays in success, retention and completion. Her work and commitment to the Penguin Pantry makes a positive difference in the lives of our students. Here's the link to find out more about how you can help and how you can help connect our students with the Penguin Pantry. Estancia and student/volunteer Megaera Jarvis presented at the Board of Trustees meeting that evening on the impact the pantry has made on our students who are experiencing food insecurity.

## Enrollment Update

From the first day of fall quarter to census day, 281 students left the college, representing more than 100 FTES. A quarter (25%) of these students were dropped for nonpayment. The students who left were more likely to be low income, employed, first generation, and students of color. How can we, as a college, work together to support these students before they silently leave?

## Employee Giving Campaign

There are many ways to support students with your time, effort and resources. Just a reminder the Foundation has launched its annual Employee

Giving Campaign. You can choose where your donation goes and you can help make sure we get a \$5,000 corporate match for Penguin Pantry.

Visit the foundation's Employee Giving website for more details and to make your secure online donation: [www.clarkcollegefoundation.org/campaign/ways-to-give/employee-giving](http://www.clarkcollegefoundation.org/campaign/ways-to-give/employee-giving)

As an added incentive, the department with the highest giving participation will win a catered meal from Clark College Foundation.

You also have an opportunity to give to the Phi Theta Kappa Thanksgiving Basket Fundraiser. Each year the Penguin community is asked to make cash donations to help buy items for a Thanksgiving dinner for our students in need. The dinner includes a 10-14 pound turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, yams, green beans, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls, and a pie. Cash and check donations can be accepted at the Cashier's Office until Friday, November 22. This year's goal is to raise \$3,000 to provide 100 Thanksgiving dinners, with your help.

## Reflections from

# this past week

This past week was filled with inspiring presentations and learning about Clark. At the Students with Disabilities

Luncheon, Alyssa Voyles shared her personal journey and inspired us all with her courage.

At the Board of Trustees work session we heard four students who were nominated to represent Clark College for the

Washington Transforming Lives Award. Jorge Maravilla was selected by the Board

to represent Clark College. His journey as a student began 2015 in the High

School 21+ program and he earned a Certificate of Proficiency in Supervisory

Management. He shared a very moving story of how his life has been transformed

by attending Clark College.

In addition, the Board of Trustees heard from two amazing faculty about their recent sabbaticals at their work session.

Jill Darley-Vanis and Erin Staples each shared their sabbatical experience and

the projects that were a result of having time to dive deep into a subject. I

was inspired to hear the impact of their projects on teaching and learning at

Clark. And, Samuel May-Varas was the Faculty Speaker with welding/machining

student, Gloria Razinski, at this month's Board of Trustees meeting, presenting

on the Welding I-BEST Program.

I wrapped up the week continuing my  
“Listening Tour” at the CLASS Unit meeting. I appreciated  
hearing their passion  
for serving students in the Library, Tutoring, and TLC, and  
everyone’s candor  
in sharing the challenges they are facing.

I was honored speak at the Foundation  
Scholarship Reception. The O’Connell Sports Center was filled  
with donors,  
event sponsors, scholarship recipients and their support team,  
families and  
loved ones celebrating our students who are on promising  
pathways. Talented  
Clark musicians (Colin Hunt, Ian Engelsman and Riley Lyons)  
entertained the  
group and ASCC President Evans Kaame shared his extraordinary  
journey to Clark  
College.

Finally, I’ve walked 120,971 steps this Walktober around the  
college and on the weekends in my neighborhood. Keep on  
walking, Penguin Nation!

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## The Weekly News: Week 14

### Reflections from this past week



Last  
week I had the opportunity to meet with our Nursing faculty,  
Associate Dean of

Health Sciences, Dean of Business & Health Sciences, and Vice President of Instruction to learn more about the Nursing Program and the Clark College building at WSUV. Shortly after our meeting, we received confirmation of the Clark College Nursing Program's continued accreditation with Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). Congratulations to everyone in our Nursing program for receiving the largest window of time regarding the next site visit (2019-2027) and for being recognized by ACEN for "Achievement of Quality and Excellence in Nursing Education."

We celebrated Clark College at Columbia Tech Center's 10th anniversary last week, and I was inspired by remarks made by Clark College Associated Student President Evans Kaame. Thank you to the instructors, staff and students at Columbia Tech Center who helped host a fun 10-year anniversary party. Attendees were able to tour the building and get a glimpse of the learning that happens there in Mechatronics, Business, and Economic & Community Development classes. We joined with the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce to hold a ribbon cutting. Thanks to all who helped. Read more about the event in this *Columbian* article.

I

was honored receive gifts this week on behalf of Clark College from Vancouver's sister city of Joyo, Japan, presented by Nami Inoue, a faculty member in our Japanese language program who grew up in Joyo. And, thanks to all who stopped by for a cupcake to celebrate your birthday in October. I look forward to celebrating the months ahead!

I just returned from attending the 50th annual Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Leadership Congress in San Francisco with Board Chair Jane Jacobsen and Trustee Jada Rupley along with 1,850 trustees, presidents, staff, and other community college stakeholders. Throughout the conference we promoted the Clark College President Search.

I was inspired by the words of ACCT Chair Connie Hornbeck: "All of higher education and industry is changing at a breakneck pace. Community colleges lie at the nexus of both. We in this room are charged with sustaining the community college sector no matter what changes come... We can't predict, but we can and must be as prepared as possible, as nimble as possible, to keep our institutions strong for our students."

Keynote speaker Barry Posner focused on the key leadership practices trustees and others need to manage these complex times. Co-author of the

book *Leadership*

*in Higher Education*, Posner focused on five key strategies based on

research involving 150,000 college and university leaders, ranging from

modeling and inspiring a shared vision to upending existing processes, leading

from the heart, and enabling others to act.

Leaders

of three state community college systems emphasized the importance of local

leadership in navigating a challenging landscape that includes declining state

support and growing student needs. I enjoyed learning along with our trustees

about best practices in presidential searches, recruiting, and onboarding from

other colleges.

## All voices needed

Today is the last day to fill out the **Clark College 2019 Climate Survey**. The deadline is tonight at 5:00 p.m.

This is so important to our work at Clark

College. The Board of Trustees has identified improving the college climate and

employee morale as one of its priorities. Your input is critical to the

process. This year we have added incentive: Everyone who submits a survey has

the option sign up to win one of three \$50 gift certificates to Amazon. Please

note that your responses on the Clark College Climate Survey will NOT be

connected to your name if you wish to enter the drawing.

# ctcLink – one week away

Please take a minute to get your new your new ctcLink ID (open in Chrome) and get a sneak peek into the ctcLink PeopleSoft testing environment using a Clark College computer at one of the campuses or using a VPN. To get into the ctcLink PeopleSoft testing environment you will use your new ctcLink ID and preset password. Your password is your last name – capitalize the first letter only – and add the @ sign at the end, e.g., Fowlerhill@ is my password.

As for training? Some people have inadvertently deleted or declined the invitation for the SBCTC Canvas training. If you did that, please contact Jennifer Ward or call her extension at 2077 so she can reregister you. Thank you!

We are confident the result will be a positive for students and employees; far more user friendly and efficient. But we recognize change presents challenges.

I want to call out the sustained efforts of everyone on the ctcLink team led by Project Manager Susan Maxwell and Associate Vice President of Planning and Effectiveness Shanda Haluapo. Shanda's next update for us is Wednesday this week: Please watch for them as they contain vitally important



information about  
our process now underway!

## ctcLink and our students

All student online systems are unavailable as of October 17 through October 30 while the college upgrades to the state's new software system.

Our messaging to students? "Please bear with us as we work to improve your online experience. You'll be signing into the new improved My Clark on October 31. In the meantime, if you need assistance with student services, we are here for you."

- **In person:** Stop by the Information Desk in Gaiser Hall.
- **By phone:** Call 360-992-2107
- **By email:** Contact [registration@clark.edu](mailto:registration@clark.edu)

What do students need to know? On October 31, they need to go to [myclark.edu](http://myclark.edu). Once they sign in, they will be given a **new ctcLink ID. They need to write it down.** It will be needed to log in to access their information.

Here's the great news for students: The **new and improved MyClark** will offer a simple, easy pathway for students to register for classes, apply for financial aid, request unofficial transcripts, and use the schedule planner at Clark College.

# Clarks supports for students

The

Counseling and Health Center is continuing their support groups this fall term!

Please feel free to share the information below with any students you think would benefit.

- **Running Start Support Group**

- Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., October 16 – November 20 at the Counseling and Health Center, HSC 124. This is a space to connect with other Running Start students navigating the complicated worlds of family, high school, and college.

- **Parent Support Group**

- Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., October 16 – November 20 at the Counseling and Health Center, HSC 124. This is an ongoing support group for students balancing school, life, and parenting.

Both

groups are facilitated by CHC counselors Beth VanBuecken and Valentina

Pishchanskaya-Cayanan. Students can contact Valentina at **vcayanan@clark.edu** to sign up, or with any

questions. As always, the Counseling and Health Center provides free mental

health counseling and low-cost health services to Clark students. Appointments

can be made by calling 360-992-2614, or by email at **chc@clark.edu**.

# Penguin Pantry turns two!

You

are all invited to the Penguin Pantry second anniversary open house on **Wednesday,**

**October 24,** from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. I want to encourage everyone to

bring a donation of canned or boxed food to the open house. As you probably

know, demand for food resources has increased significantly on campus. It may

be that word is getting out among students about this vital resource. Thank you

to everyone who supports it. The Penguin Pantry is in the Science Building

(SCI) in Room 101.

## Expanding RAVE

For

years, our RAVE alert system has been sending Clark College employees and

students emergency text and email messages whenever the college experienced a

closure, lockdown, etc. I'm pleased to announce that this service has just been

expanded to include families, parents and visitors to Clark College.

Now

everyone can opt in. All they have to do is text the word "Penguins" to the

number 67283.

This

feature is for any Clark Community member (parent, visitor, etc.) who is not

automatically entered into the system.

There

will be a formal rollout for this feature, as well as a new app called RAVE

Guardian, coming soon. In the meantime, please feel free to share the keyword

and number. Thank you to our emergency management team for your work on this.

## Presidential Advisory Committee

I'm excited to announce significant progress in the search for your next college president.

The Presidential

Search Advisory Committee met for the first time Friday, October 11

for an all-day session that included implicit bias training. They worked

through the wording of the position profile and talked about the upcoming

resume screening process. As a result of their work, the Board of Trustees has

approved the position profile, and it's up on the website as active recruitment

begins. Among the members of the committee are Clark College students,

employees, faculty and community representatives. Thank you for serving!

- Co-chairs: Paul Speer, Clark College Board of Trustees Presidential Search Lead
- and Jane Jacobson, Clark College Board of Trustees Chair
- Al Schauer, Founder PointNorth Consulting
- Brian Taylor, Industrial Sales Manager Siemens
- Catharine Keane, Associate Director of Career Services
- Christhian Canseco, Account Manager ESCO Corporation

- Danielle Plessner, Office Of Instruction – Program Support Supv 1
- Dannie Nordsiden, Automotive Technology – Instructor (WPTE)
- Donivee Randall-Jones, Nursing – Professor (BHS)
- Dr. Siri Wickramaratne, Geography – Instructor (S0FA)
- Eric Merrill, Clark College Foundation Board Chair
- Evans Kaame, ASCC President
- Heather Adams, Office Of VP Student Affairs – Administrative Services Manager A
- Justin Flint, ASCC Club Coordinator
- Rashida Willard, Interim AVP of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Suzanne Southerland, Communication Studies – Professor (BEECH) (CCAHE President)
- Tanisha Harris, CASA Program Specialist YWCA Clark County
- Tanya Kerr, CtcLink Internal Controls and Business Analyst
- Vicki Sovold-Prendergast, Mount Pleasant School District Superintendent

## Kudos to faculty

Congratulations to William Goforth, our newly appointed adjunct instructor of Voice! He was one of three finalists chosen on Sunday at the Oregon District Met auditions. On to Seattle for the Northwest Regionals in January.

This week I'm looking forward to attending the Penguin Pantry Open House, as well as the Board of Trustees work session, where they will be hearing sabbatical presentations from two faculty members (Jill Darley-Vanis and

Erin Staples),  
and interviewing four students for the Transforming Lives Award. I'm continuing my Listening Tour with the Library Faculty and WPEA this week, and celebrating our students and donors at the Foundation Scholarship Reception on Friday.

Keep  
walking through this Walktober, Penguin Nation!

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## The Weekly News: Week 13



### Reflections from this past week

I enjoyed meeting many of you this past week and learning more about the great things faculty are doing in your programs as I stopped in at the STEM, BEECH, and WPTE Unit Meetings and the Economics Department Brown Bag. Tuesday evening I welcomed Ridgefield community leaders and donors to the Foundation's "Conversations: Boschma Farms" at Windy Hills Winery. Thanks to Kevin Witte, Sachi Horback, Armetta Burney and Lisa Gibert for sharing the exciting vision for Advanced Manufacturing in North Clark County. I also met with the Foundation staff at their regular monthly meeting and heard about the success of the Alumni Phone-athon and the Promising Pathways Campaign.

Kudos to Lora Jenkins of Workforce Education Services (WES) for coordinating a very successful Foster Care Partnership Event. In my opening remarks, I shared my excitement for the changes in our Passport to College program that expands

eligibility to include more types of foster care. This summer, the state Legislature improved access for unaccompanied homeless youth. Since 2007, Clark has assisted 120 foster youth. Fifteen of them have graduated with degrees and/or certificates.

The former Clark College Community Advisory Committee has been expanded and convened this week as the Equity Advisory Council at Bridgeview Resource Center. Twenty-one leaders in the community have accepted my invitation to meet monthly to build and maintain community connection; inform about what Clark College is doing around diversity efforts; and provide counsel as the college engages in purposeful, institutional-level change that fosters social equity and eliminates systemic disparities among students, faculty and staff.

I appreciate everyone who took time out of your busy schedule to meet with Dr. Preston Pulliums this past week to share your thoughts and ideas about the college and next president. You can follow the Presidential Search process on the Clark Presidential Search website.

## Looking for your voice

We've sent out the 2019 Climate Survey this past week. I encourage everyone to participate. Here is the link: **Clark College 2019 Climate Survey**

This is so important to our work at Clark College. The Board of Trustees has identified improving the college climate and employee morale as one of its priorities. Your input is critical to the process. This year we have added incentive: Everyone who submits a survey has the option sign up to win one of three \$50 gift certificates to Amazon. Please note that your responses on the Clark College Climate Survey will NOT be connected to your name if you wish to enter the drawing.

Shanda Haluapo is happy to answer any questions you may have

about the survey or the process. Thank you for your help!

## ctcLink – countdown 17 days!

I'm interested as to how your trainings are going for ctcLink. We all get to take the employee self-service course to make sure we can submit our time and get paid. As a reminder, SBCTC Canvas sent all of us an email September 30. I clicked "get started" and it took me to the list of courses I need to complete prior to October 28, which is our GoLive date. If you have not received the email, please contact Jennifer Ward.

It's vital that we know our part of using the new system so that we can turn our focus to the students to help them make the transition. Many of us have some contact with students and we can be that helpful resource for them.

What do students need to know? On October 31, they need to go to [myclark.edu](http://myclark.edu). Once they sign in, they will be given a **new ctcLink ID. They need to write it down.** It will be needed to log in to access their information. Here's the great news for students: The **new and improved MyClark** will offer a simple easy pathway for students to register for classes, apply for financial aid, request unofficial transcripts, and use the schedule planner at Clark College.

The October 31 date is important for students to sign in and get their **new ctcLink ID**. If they have questions, you can give them the email [ctcLink@clark.edu](mailto:ctcLink@clark.edu). We'll also have teams set up at Gaiser to walk them through the changes.

Faculty are a tremendous resource in getting the message to students. We appreciate everyone using all our communications tools to help our students navigate the change.



## Exciting Alumni News

The *New York Times* published a story Thursday about ways that states and institutions are expanding access to college. They highlighted one of our own: Vita Blanco, who graduated from Clark College this spring. Here's the link to the story: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/10/education/learning/bulletin-board.html>. I recently had the honor of joining Vita at the same table at the WSUV Scholarship Reception. She is attending classes now at WSU Vancouver and continuing to be engaged as a student leader.

## Enrollment News

For fall 2019, almost half of our students (48%) are enrolled in at least one eLearning class – which includes online and hybrid classes. And eLearning classes have a 7 percentage point higher fill rate (91%) compared to face-to-face and web-enhanced classes (84%). Here's a question to consider: "Do our students prefer to take eLearning courses or is a function of convenience in fitting their busy schedules?" It's part of the conversation in the Guided Pathways framework, creating program pathways that schedule courses to meet student needs.

## Meet the candidates

This week you have a chance to meet the Director of Athletics finalists on campus. The forums have been set. Resumes and links to provide feedback will be provided on ClarkNet before each forum. Feedback will be gathered for a 48-hour period for each finalist.

## Anthony Stone

Tuesday, October 15, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. in SHL 214

# Laura LeMasters

Thursday, October 17, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in GHL 213

## Our Great Clark College Staff

If you have three minutes, there is a great new video circulating out in the community that highlights one of our own: **Jennifer Purinton** in the Transitional Studies Department at Clark College. Clark County produced the video to encourage equitable hiring practices under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Jennifer is a great spokesperson for inclusion at Clark – both for what we are doing well *and* what we can do to improve our practices. Thank you, Jennifer!

## Honors for our Alumni Program

Clark College Foundation's Alumni relations program was acknowledged last week as one of the seven best in the country for the last five years. This is a new nationwide initiative by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The metrics consider fundraising, boards, alumni awards programs; quality and types of communications like the foundation's magazine, electronic newsletter, podcasts; affinity programs like the athletics hall of fame and graduation, as well as student-alumni interactions such as career services involvement and mentoring. The foundation hit it out of the park for alumni fundraising—16%—that's the average annual amount raised over the past five years. Compare that to the national average of about 4%. Congratulations!

## Next Week

We have several events next week that I want to make sure you know about. You are all invited.

# Ten year celebration at Columbia Tech

You're invited to join us for a Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting at our Columbia Tech Campus **today 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** The Chamber is helping us celebrate our 10-year anniversary at Columbia Tech Center. The ribbon cutting will be outside (weather permitting) at 3:30 p.m. We'll have light refreshments and we hope to see you there!

## Ready for an emergency?

In the event of a major emergency, it is very possible that we will be our own first responders. On **Thursday, October 17, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.** in PUB 258C, the Emergency Management Planning Committee will hold an Emergency Preparedness Training.

Certified emergency workers will provide this training. We'll learn the top five priorities for our families in case of an emergency, we'll have a chance to make our own emergency kits. Thank you, Jeff Kaliner, for bringing this training to Clark College.

And, Clark College is hosting the Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration **today** on the main campus, **starting at 1:00 p.m.** in Gaiser Student Center – with a panel discussing Missing and Murdered Indigenous People.

I'm also looking forward to seeing the Archer Gallery's new exhibit of the Art Faculty Biennial Exhibition this week and celebrating **October birthdays** with you on Tuesday, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. in the President's Conference Room. I will be traveling to San Francisco to attend the American Community College Trustees Leadership Convention Congress with Trustee Rupley and Chair Jacobsen on Wednesday. We plan to promote the search for the next president and learn more about national issues

facing community colleges.

Keep walking, Penguin Nation! I got in 54,301 steps so far in October. Happy Walktober!

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## The Weekly News: Week 12



### Reflections from last week

As fall quarter moves forward, I hope your classes and programs are going well. We continue to watch enrollment to see the impact on the college of both the economy and the improvements made to our enrollment processes. (Fall to-date totals: 7,350 FTES and 11,446 student headcount.) There continues to be decline based upon this morning's enrollment report of -1% than what we have projected in this year's budget. It is more important than ever to focus our efforts on retention and completion strategies to keep students enrolled who have chosen to study here. I appreciate all the work you are doing to provide our students the supports they need to thrive at Clark.

Recently,  
I joined the Clark Team at the American Association of Community Colleges' Pathways 2.0 Institute (Dr. Sachi Horback, Bill Belden, Shanda

Haluapo, Dr.

Judith Hernandez-Chapar, Jill Darley-Vanis, and Board Chair Jane Jacobsen). We

worked with Dr. Chris Hill (our new Pathways Coach) to address creating a

culture of teaching and learning at Clark. One of the session highlights from

Odessa Community College described the “Caring Side of Guided Pathways”:

creating a culture of caring by interacting with students by name, closely

monitoring student progress, and scheduling one-on-one conferences with

students outside of the classroom. I look forward to supporting a culture of teaching

and learning and moving this important work forward while I am here.

This

past week the Executive Cabinet worked with a consultant to improve how we lead

the college. We had honest conversations on how we lead as a team during this

intense retreat. I look forward to continuing to work with this team of

talented and exceptional individuals to lead Clark College into the future.

I

spent the end of the week with the other college presidents at the Washington

Association of Community & Technical Colleges (WACTC) at Peninsula

College’s beautiful Longhouse, where we discussed the System’s Vision and

Strategic Priorities, ctcLink’s implementation, and the 2020 Supplemental

Capital Budget Request (Clark College's North County Satellite building is No.

5 on the New Appropriations list) among many other topics facing our state system right now.

This

next week I look forward to convening the Clark College Equity Advisory

Council. This includes over 25 community leaders whom I've invited to *"build*

*and maintain community connections; inform about what Clark College is doing*

*around diversity efforts; and have the community provide counsel as the College*

*engages in purposeful, institutional-level change that fosters social equity*

*and eliminates systemic disparities among students, faculty and staff."* I

am continuing my "Listening Tour" by attending unit meetings this fall. The

STEM Unit is up next on my calendar. And, I'll will look forward to an engaging

conversation with donors at the Foundation Conversations event. Finally, I'll

proudly represent Clark College at the WSUV Scholarship Recognition and WSUV Advisory Council this week.

## **ctcLink**

### **– countdown 21 days!**

The

entire state is watching us to successfully goLive. Our most important training

is this week. We're setting aside time on Friday October 11. Clark College will be **closed**

to the public and to internal customers for the day. October 11 is an in-service day for faculty so there will be no classes. You have two options for training.

## **Option One:**

### **In-person training at the Student Center in Gaiser Hall.**

- 8:30 a.m. – fundamentals for all staff
- 9:30 a.m. – fundamentals for all managers
- 10:30 a.m. – financials for anyone who travels or submits expense reports

Please watch for Shanda Haluapo's email this week with details on all the sessions for Friday October 11.

## **Option Two: A self-paced Canvas course**

Access the course via the following link: <https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/it-support/ctclink/ctclink-training-registration.aspx>. (Registration for self-paced courses is available on the right side of the page.)

You should have all received an email from "SBCTC Canvas" for the Fundamentals and Employee Self-Service courses. If you have not received the email, please contact Jennifer Ward.

Faculty

members (any status, as long as you teach a class) will receive an invitation

to complete *CF100: Faculty Self-Service* from SBCTC Canvas.

Questions? Please contact Jennifer Ward.

## ctcLink and Students

We are sending messages out to students as

to how the changes impact them. I want you to be aware so you can help students

as they navigate through the change. Here's what we're asking them to do these

next few weeks.

- Change their student information (online or in-person) by Thursday, October 17.
- myClark will not be available from Friday, October 18 until Thursday, October 31.
- Learn how to access their new and improved myClark by going to [www.clark.edu/faculty-staff/ctclink/student.php](http://www.clark.edu/faculty-staff/ctclink/student.php).
- Access the new and improved myClark on Thursday, October 31.

Very

important – they can email [ctcLink@clark.edu](mailto:ctcLink@clark.edu)

with questions. Thank you to the teams across campus who are making this their

No. 1 priority to help our students make the transition.

## ctcLink and stress

With this major transition, it's not

uncommon to feel overwhelmed, stressed or anxious. We always want to encourage

you to seek out assistance through our Employee Assistance



Program.

Do you want to know more about how to use your EAP? Here are three upcoming orientation webinars.

<b>October 9, 2019    2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m</b>	<b>Register Now</b>		
<b>November 13, 2019    10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Register Now</b>		
<b>December 11, 2019    10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Register Now</b>		

I encourage you to check out your EAP benefits and collectively we'll keep an eye out on our teams and peers supporting one another.

## President Search

New this week, an opportunity for you to weigh in on the college president search. As you know, I am serving in the interim role for this academic year only. I won't be a candidate for the next president. The search firm (Gold Hill Associates) that is working with our college is looking for input from you as we develop the job description for the president search.

We have an open house underway now (Monday, October 7) until noon in GHL 213. But we also have time set aside Thursday

October 10<sup>t</sup> from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Click here for more information.

We'll have announcements over the next several weeks about the process as it gears up. We'll have

numerous  
opportunities for you to engage and be a part of this process.  
We need all  
voices to be heard. Dr. Preston Pulliums of Gold Hill  
Associates will be on  
campus all week soliciting feedback to inform our process in  
selecting the next  
president.

## Faculty award

Congratulations to Instructor Donna Aase,  
who will receive the Excellence in Teaching Award from the  
Washington  
Association for the Education of Speakers of Other Languages  
at their annual conference coming up this month. Donna  
teaches ESL students. She's been directly involved in the  
curriculum design of  
nearly all Clark's ESL offerings. She's designed an On-Ramp to  
Business class  
for ESL students. She's helped pilot ESL Foundations, Fast  
Track 1, and classes  
in IELP.

I'll share with you a quote from her  
nomination. Colleague Catherine Johnston wrote, *"Perhaps the  
most  
remarkable aspect of all of Donna's achievements and  
contributions is that she  
does all of it with such quiet pride. She is somehow calm yet  
enthusiastic,  
organized yet flexible, and self-confident yet receptive. Her  
dedication to her  
students, colleagues, and profession is unsurpassed. I am  
fortunate to have  
Donna as an outstanding colleague, and I am enthusiastic in  
nominating her for*

*the WAESOL Excellence in Teaching award."* Well said, Catherine, and thank you, Donna, for your exceptional service.

## **B.U.I.L.D Training Program Success**

Thank you everyone at Clark who expressed interest in the B.U.I.L.D Training Program. The response has been overwhelming and positive. It appears we have our first cohort ready to begin the year-long program. That's exciting!

The purpose of the **B.U.I.L.D. Training Program** is to build intercultural competency and equity leadership in Clark College staff, faculty and students. This program will provide power, privilege, and inequity opportunities through listening, learning and practicing social equity, in alignment with Clark College's Strategic and Social Equity Plan.

Thank you to Rashida Willard, Interim AVP of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and your team for developing this new program. It recognizes that we will all make mistakes along the way but we are committed to build culturally humble employees and broaden understanding, intercultural leadership, and development around social equity

## **Clark College Grants**

Your

good work has resulted in three new grants awarded to Clark College. Here are the latest awards.

### **Workforce**

**Education Services** (WES) was awarded **\$75,000** from SBCTC to expand resources to support students in maintaining eligibility for Basic Food Assistance. This funding supports a Community Resource Liaison, located within WES, who provides individualized support to help our community members navigate the public benefits system, including connection to activities to meet public benefits requirements. With almost one-in-five students reporting food insecurity, this program will ensure that students have the support they need to maintain eligibility for basic food assistance.

### **Workforce**

**Education Services** (WES) was awarded **\$706,878** from SBCTC to help remove barriers and provide low-income students with access to education and skills training opportunities. The Basic Food, Employment, & Training (BFET) Program provides students with assistance with tuition, books and mandatory fees; childcare payments; eligibility for federal food benefits, if previously denied; and educational advising and personal support. Serving 556 students during 2018-2019, this program provides individualized support to help students achieve their educational and professional goals.

## **Economic**

**Community Development** (ECD) has been awarded five Job Skills Training Grants to provide specialized training – for a total of **\$238,445**. Providing training in Lean Six Sigma and Quality Management Systems, these grants support ECD's work to provide companies with training for their employees to meet regional workforce needs.

## **Student Job Support**

### **Career**

Services has supported 247 student visits for resume and/or cover letter assistance for student employment in the last two weeks – that's 25 students per day! Thank you for work helping our students be successful in their job application process for student employment. Because of the ctcLink conversion, this process has been condensed into a shorter window of time.

Additionally,

Career Services handled 145 visits for Institutional Hire referrals, and most of those folks requesting more than one referral for each visit. While many students were able to find work-study positions as part of their financial aid package, we are happy to report that 42 students (without financial aid) were hired into on-campus Institutional Hire positions.

# Students at Penguin Pantry

The food you donated to Penguin Pantry at Opening Day is already in students' homes – thank you for your generosity.

Penguin Pantry served 60 students on our first day of classes, September 23.

That's up 25 percent from the average daily visit last year.

It's a powerful reminder of the challenges our students face and our commitment to help them along the way. You may have

seen the story in the Columbian last last week on the rise of homeless students

in Washington State. Here's the link to that story. For me, it underscores for me, the importance of our work in providing resources and

supports for our students. Please remember that you can refer students who are

at risk of becoming homeless to our Homelessness Prevention Program at [www.clark.edu/cc/housinghelp](http://www.clark.edu/cc/housinghelp).

## Walking on Campus

The

Walktober Challenge is underway! Clark College, Lower Columbia College, and

Washington State University Vancouver have challenged one another to see which

school collects the most steps in the month of October. I'm all in! I hope you

will join me in walking on campus and tracking our steps.

HOW: Participants can use a fitness tracker or a mobile app to track steps.

Use the Walktober daily log to indicate how many steps you take each day (you

will submit the log at the end of the challenge). The Walktober log is a fillable form and will calculate your steps as you enter them. For your convenience, the log is attached and is also located on the Walktober Challenge website. Also, all types of physical activity can be converted to steps. View the step equivalency chart on the challenge site or click the attachment.

**PRIZES:** Individual prizes will be awarded to the top three (3) participants with the highest steps! We will also announce the department with the most steps.

**LEARN MORE:** Clark College Walktober Challenge (scroll to the bottom to view frequently asked questions).

Happy  
Walking Penguin Nation!