

Education candidate perceives lack of coordination between government and community colleges

By Cyndi Bacon
Of The Print



'Community colleges are the real hope for the future in education ...'

There is a general lack of coordination between state government and community college presidents and student body officers, according to Sen. Fred Heard (D-Klamath Falls).

Heard, candidate for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, visited the College last Thursday in an attempt to reflect his views on legislation and education.

"Let's open up that governmental door so education can give and receive input," Heard said. "We're (educators) being killed because our message isn't getting through."

As manager of one of the state's largest non-partisan departments, the superintendent of public instruction oversees kindergarten through twelfth grade and community colleges.

"There's a general lack of knowledge as to what the superintendent of public instruction has to do with community colleges," Heard said.

"Community Colleges are the real hope for the future in education," he said.

Heard's opponents are incumbent Verne Duncan and Dr. Ruth McFarland, professor in biological sciences at Mt. Hood Community College, Gresham.

An assistant professor at Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) in Klamath Falls, Heard also taught at Klamath Falls Union High School. He has been in Oregon legislature for ten years and senate majority leader in the past two legislative sessions.

Heard is also concerned with issues other than at the community college level such as the minimal equivalency program. This is a three and one-half year old competency testing program affecting high school graduates, beginning with this year's graduating class.

"The program has been botched up tremendously," Heard said. "We'll be lucky if we're not in court by the end of the year."

"When you turn teachers into bookkeepers and see a program that is in shambles all over the state, I think you have to look at how legitimate that program is," he said.

Establishing a statewide reading improvement program, which will help those districts doing a good job in reading instruction maintain their programs and provide financial assistance to those that have trouble, is another concern of Heard's.

A concept Heard supports is to make lifelong learning and community school programs more available to all citizens throughout their lifetime. He opposes mandatory retirement.

Heard has sponsored and supported such legislation as the open meetings law, legislative review of administrative rules, the homeowner and renter property tax relief program, merger of the Fish Commission and Wildlife Commission, modernization of Oregon's school finance system, the State's community corrections program and zero base budgeting.

A tour of the campus, including the Confidence Clinic, science complex, the John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center, and speaking to small groups of students and faculty were Heard's activities for the day.

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Photo by Lorraine Stratton

Library offers recording systems for students

In the past, the library was a place to go and read and study. Now it is a place to listen and study.

Books and magazines are among the items at the library but the staff also have records and are getting tape cassettes to go with new record players.

The recorder systems have AM/FM radio, cassette player, recording mike and record changer as well as two cassette players and six headsets.

The sonic stereoheadphones are now available for use on the record players in the listening centers. One listening center is located on a table by the reference books and the other is in a room by the records.

Students can escape midterm studies or the winter weather listening to some of the records the library has available. There

are records in all areas including classical, opera, jazz and rock.

Students in music classes or band may appreciate the fact that six headsets can be used on a record player at the same time, so students can study with a group of classmates.

If six students wish to listen together, all they have to do is check out a listening station at the front desk. Each station has six holes to plug the headsets into. The sound is only in the headsets and they may listen to the radio, records, or tapes.

At the present time, there are no cassette tapes but there are "record request" forms at the desk.

"We would like suggestions. Requests can be made for music, spoken series on personal development or self help anything

they are interested in," said Margaret Charters, librarian.

The Milk Creek Little School in Mulino, which is a private school, currently has an exhibit of drawings and weavings on display in the library.

"We hope to have the Milk Creek Little School weavings

and other exhibits for the College open house the first week of spring term," Charters said.

A photo exhibit will also be on display beginning this week. The photographers are Pat Odeno and Bob Moravec and the photographs are of the Teton Mountains in Wyoming.

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