

College moving ahead in serving handicapped

Clackamas Community College is "noticeably ahead" of other academic institutions in meeting the requirements of a new federal rights law regarding services for handicapped persons, according to College representatives who attended a recent workshop on the legislation.

Judy Peabody, project director for the disadvantaged and handicapped at the College, said "several activities are already underway" here to better serve handicapped students.

The College was represented

Study examines student services

The Clackamas Community College Handicapped Self-Evaluation Committee, composed of students and staff, has completed its study of services for handicapped students at the College.

The study was conducted to find out if the College is complying with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which says that no handicapped person should, because of a handicap, be discriminated against under any program receiving federal funds.

at the workshop by John Hakanson, College president; Len Monroe, dean of student services; Don Fisher, planning officer; Judy Smith, coordinator of the College RSVP program, and Judy Peabody.

The workshop, to help post-secondary educators understand the new handicapped civil rights act, was sponsored by Project HEATH. "It was aimed at clearing up misconceptions concerning this recent federal legislation," Peabody said, "as well as pointing out vague areas of the law yet to be reconciled."

The committee is now seeking final input, suggestions, comments and criticisms of its tentative copy before making a more formal and complete copy of the study results.

An advisory committee of students and staff is now being formed to oversee the program being developed and to make sure it is meeting the needs of students. The committee also will evaluate what is being done to meet federal regulations. Nominations are now open for members.

Peabody said the legislation, formally called Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, states that "no person shall be discriminated against on the basis of handicap in the areas of academics, employment or access to public buildings. The law includes a timeline for compliance, Peabody added.

Peabody said more detailed information about the legislation will be provided to the College staff in the coming weeks.

Peabody said several activities are already underway at Clackamas regarding College compliance with the legislation. "These include the appointment of a compliance officer, the completion of a campus-wide self-evaluation, the beginning of an advisory committee as a next step toward implementation, advanced work on improved campus accessibility and barrier removal," she said.

In addition, she said, Dr. Hakanson has been appointed president of the Association of Colleges of the Columbia Encouraging Special Services to the Handicapped Persons.

"Those of us who attended this conference were pleased to detect that our College is noticeably ahead of other institutions in meeting the challenge of this law," Peabody added.



Photo by Kelly Laughlin

Handicapped students like Susan Bowles, pictured above, will find going to school easier after the College complies with the Handicap Civil Rights Law.

Crisis line to serve all needs

By Don Ives

The Print

A forty-eight year old man sat alone watching television in his dirty apartment. His life had once held promise, now it was gone. He lost his marriage two years before, his job yesterday. Amongst the trash on the beer stained carpet lay a loaded 22 caliber revolver. Picking it up, he fired five shots into the television screen. Then, placing it against his own head he fired the final shot that ended his life.

A sixteen-year-old was driving aimlessly down the highway with an undecided destiny. He was both homeless and friendless. His last dollar had been spent on gas, night was approaching with no place to sleep. He hadn't eaten a meal in days. He thought of calling his parents, but finally decided against it. They wouldn't understand. In a fit of loneliness and depression, he suddenly accelerated and swerved towards the guard rail. A second later he was gone, destined for eternity.

A nineteen-year-old college girl sat alone in her room. Her boyfriend had just called. They wouldn't be seeing each other again, he didn't say why. He was all that she had lived for in the past two years. She had devoted all of her time to him, she had no other real friends.

She felt worthless and alone. Her body rocked with sobs as she pulled open her dresser drawer. Beneath the clothes lay a jar full of sleeping pills. Beside the pills lay a small piece of paper, with the words "Crisis Line" scrawled across it. She hesitated a moment, then picked up the receiver and began to dial. A calm female voice answered on the first ring. . . "Clackamas County Crisis Line." Twenty minutes later she hung up the phone -

with a new lease on life. These situations, although purely fictional, show a clear reflection of reality. The Clackamas County Crisis Line is a new volunteer program designed to help people in any kind of crisis, large or small.

According to Cathy Rode, Crisis Line Coordinator, the program provides a "general problem line" for people in trouble. The idea is certainly a good one. But, Rode said, there is a drastic shortage of

volunteers to work on the line at present.

In order for the Crisis Line to work effectively, it should be available to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The program, which began operation last Thursday, is now providing service from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. Without more volunteers, they will be forced to stay at this level.

"Volunteers are not expected to have experience," Rode said. "We are just looking for

good listeners with a positive attitude about life."

Volunteers will be trained to react to virtually any kind of emergency, calmly and efficiently. Training sessions in suicide, rape, child abuse, domestic violence, drug abuse and alcohol abuse will be provided.

Students who are interested in saving lives and serving others in their community should contact Rode at the Community Action Center, 655-8640.

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