

# Out-of-work seniors receive employment help

By Doug Vaughan  
Of The Print

Local citizens and businessmen are urged by Senior Job Center Director Jean Sullivan to call in all job openings in her quest to get citizens over 50 years of age employment.

The program is three years old and is located in the Orchard Center at Clackamas Community College. Sullivan is the head of the program that

was started three years ago by Susan Hill through the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

"Everyone who is 50 or older and is a resident in Clackamas County is eligible," Sullivan said. "We deal with two types of people. There are retired people who are bored and looking for something to do, and there are people who have been laid off because their company went broke for one reason or another."

The Center has been a success, Sullivan felt, and the recent publicity they have received from two local television stations and a newspaper have increased their business drastically.

"It (the publicity) has brought on business like you would not believe," the director said. "We have had over 200 new applicants, but do not have that many jobs called in." Sullivan felt that it is very

hard to get full time jobs for their registrants. They often have to settle for temporary or part-time jobs.

"A lot of the jobs we get are from homeowners who need construction-type work done—electricity, plumbing, painting," Sullivan said. "We can usually keep the craftsmen pretty busy."

For women, Sullivan said, the majority of the jobs that are called in to the Center are homemaking type work. Most of these deal with cleaning or care of a child or an elder. She also added that they get some clerical jobs, but not as many as she would like.

"We get some business and clerical jobs, and are hoping that we can get more," Sullivan said. "The trend is toward more of that kind of job."

The response to the program has been growing each month Sullivan felt. She said that most of the awareness of the Center has come from word of mouth.

"I think people call here because we have outstanding workers," she said. "We have people who have exceptionally good backgrounds."

The only initial qualification necessary to be a registrant is that the person be 50 years or older and a resident of Clackamas County.

"They usually call and we give a brief screening over the phone to make sure they meet all the qualifications," Sullivan said. "We send them a registration form, which they are to fill out and send back."

"We then set up an inter-

view and try to match them up with a job as best we can," Sullivan said. "We screen them very closely."

Sullivan tries to be very "up front" with the registrants on their job opportunities.

"We try to talk to them in to doing some of the jobs that are available," the program director said. "If they only want to do a certain type of job then they will have to wait until that kind of job comes along."

The program has been successful in both the registrant's point of view and the employer's. Last month Sullivan said around 500 jobs were called in and filled.

"I feel there is a great need for this. If times get tougher, I feel it will be even more beneficial," Sullivan said. "Social Security, with today's prices, is not enough to support an older couple. If the economy picks up we are hoping that people over 50 can keep their jobs."

The Center is growing by the day, and Sullivan is looking for new ways in which the Center can broaden.

"We are working on a program that would help meet the psychological needs of these same people," Sullivan said. "I am working with another person on this, and hopefully we can do some things to make these people feel good about themselves when they go back into the job market."

Another addition the Center is looking into is a lending library of tools for registrants. A person could borrow certain tools to perform jobs.



SENIOR JOB DIRECTOR, Jean Sullivan, discusses with George Duncan about possible job opportunities.

Photo by Duane Hiersche

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## Skills contest deemed success

By Dianna Hardy  
Of The Print

The Student Skills Contest that took place last Thursday, March 4, drew an estimated 1500 students from Clackamas County, and other surrounding areas such as Tillamook and Clatsop counties. The competition was sponsored by the FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) and Educational Services. The events ranged from auto mechanics, computers, and mathematics to journalism, job hunting skills and business.

Clackamas Community College, in cooperation with the Educations Services District had several classes canceled for the day to allow room for the contest to take place. Students from various schools attending the competition, including Molalla, Canby, Estacada, and Rex Putnam, to name a few. Students competed for individual and team trophies. "Most of the students were seniors," Bob Wynia, Assistant to Dean of Instructional Services, said. "Most were sophomores, with a small sprinkling of freshmen."

The contest was deemed a success by the large number of people who attended this year.

Team trophies were presented as was a one-term scholarship to the College. Among other prizes was merchandise from

the drafting department donated to the contest by members from that department.



ONE OF MANY STUDENTS who participated in Clackamas Community Colleges skills competition held last Thursday.

Photo by Troy Maben

Clackamas Community College

