

People offered chance to 'Take Charge'

By J. Dana Haynes
Of The Print

"We see this as the number one problem in Clackamas County," Lee Fawcett, assistant dean of student aid, said.

The problem to which Fawcett referred is unemployment. Approximately 14,000 people are without work in this county, which is about 10 percent of the populace.

Next Saturday, April 16, Clackamas Community College will attempt to do something to alleviate this problem. The College is hosting Take Charge Day, a series of events from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. that are aimed at providing options for the unemployed citizens of the metropolitan area.

"We don't want people to come here thinking they're going to get a job and solve all their problems," Fawcett said. "They won't find that here, but it will help."

There will be four main programs in the day's activities. These programs, called tracks, include:

--Focus on people who are unemployed for the first time in years. These people have often had jobs for decades and suddenly find themselves unemployed. For this group, Take Charge Day will look at job hunting skills, such as resume writing, interview skills, and how to present oneself to a prospective employer.

--Focus on people who have never held a job. This track is one toward which the College normally works. Teaching job skills has always been a major role of the community college system, Fawcett said.

--Focus on people who are thinking of becoming self-employed. There are many marketable skills which a person may practice at home. To demonstrate the point, the College has invited self-employed people to come and show their skills in the Randall Hall gym during the lunch break. Guests will talk about such at-home work as babysitting, freelance writing, small-engine repair and house-sitting.

--Focus on families which have gone from two income to one income. The main thrust of this track will be on budgeting techniques and teaching families to live on less. Such skills as how to repair your own appliances and how to live on a set budget will be discussed.

Several different departments from around the College are participating in Take Charge Day. Fawcett is coordinating these departments, which include the Career Development and Job Placement Center, which is in charge of corraling the more than 100 volunteers who will be needed, Public Information Office, which is in charge of advertising for the event, and Police Sciences department, whose students will help direct traffic.

People wishing to volunteer for any of the two hour shifts can contact Placement Officer Marv Thornley at ext. 213. Thornley pointed out that many volunteers will be needed to handle such tasks as registration, guiding registrants, serving coffee and lunch and generally assisting in the workshops.

"I've seen more people pitching in and trying to help with this thing than any other



MARV THORNLEY IS looking for more than 100 volunteers to help at Take Charge Day, April 16. The day is a series of events that is aimed to provide options for unemployed people in the Metropolitan area.

Photo by Russ McMillen

project we've worked on," Fawcett said.

There will be 80 separate workshops that day, as well as representatives from the various small businesses in Clackamas County and 35 agencies, including CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) and Adult and Family Services.

"We're trying to find options to simply going out and looking for work," Kevin McMurdo, public relations officer said. McMurdo also said

the College is expecting 500 to 800 people to attend the day-long event. He pointed out that one need not be unemployed to sign up for the workshops.

The idea for Take Charge Day did not originate at the College, McMurdo explained. Several small colleges have had similar events, often called Move Ahead Days.

Fawcett and other representatives from Clackamas Community College talked to several school administrations about their Move Ahead Days.

Fawcett said one main problem found with those other programs was the lack of follow through.

"For the next 10 years or so, there will be more people looking for work than there will be jobs," Fawcett said. "So this is not just a one day thing. If people think of this as a one-time effort, then they won't expect it to help."

Providing work skills has always been of prime importance for community colleges, Fawcett feels. "The College tries to stay on top of job trends and tries to provide the kind of training that is needed," he said.

However, that is not always as easily done as said. As the state cuts back funding, and the College's ability to raise funds via property taxes is threatened by the recession, job skill programs are often in peril of losing their funding. "We're better able to change with the times than other institutions," Fawcett said. "For that reason, we're used to being more responsive to the public."

Child care will be provided during Take Charge Day, and a free lunch will be served to participants and volunteers. In keeping with the fourth track, which focuses on budget keeping, the lunch will be nutritious and inexpensive, McMurdo said. The food has been donated by local grocery stores.

The Cabin Fever Moonshine Band will play during lunch. The band features Bob Misley, chairperson of education and study skills, and plays bluegrass fiddling music.

"We truly think that this will be a tremendous help to the county," Fawcett said.

Reede appointed to job center

By Jenni Weber
Of The Print

The Oregon Employment Division recently placed a job service representative in the Job Placement Center at Clackamas Community College. "The Program is designed to help place students and residents from the surrounding areas in jobs," Terry Reede, the newly-placed representative of the program said.

"Job orders are called in to the Oregon City Employment office, and I get a new updated list of the jobs available in the area every day," Reede said.

A microfilm file of jobs is sent from the Portland employment office with possible jobs from all over the state, as well as parts of Washington.

"The government job placement program is not new to the educational system. It has been in service at both Mt. Hood and Chemeketa Community Colleges for three to five years. I've only been here (the College) about three weeks so there hasn't really

been any great demand for the service yet," Reede said.

The program will not show a success rate for at least another month. "I know how many people I send out on interviews; but not how many get hired," he said.

Money for the program comes from state funds, so a fee is not charged for the service. When a person requests the service of Reede, he will interview the job candidate to find out for what type of job the

person will be best qualified. Reede checks his lists to find out if a job is open which they would be able to take.

If so, Reede then calls the Oregon City office to see if the job is still open. If the job is, Reede will then call the possible employer to introduce the applicant and set up an interview. If there is not a job available for the applicant, the jobs list should be checked every day until employment is found, Reede said.



NEW OREGON EMPLOYMENT Division representative Terry Reede helps place.

Photo by Duane Hiersche

The Print & Rhapsody

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