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Administration supports Nursing department seeks accreditation

By Shelley Ball
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Clackamas Community College's nursing program is now receiving support from the administration to pursue National League for Nursing

(NLN) accreditation for the first time since the program was established.

Pat Krumm, nursing department chairperson said the department is in the process of seeking outside funding by ex-

amining grant sources. She also said the College's 80 students enrolled in nursing programs are supportive of NLN accreditation, and are currently in the process of meeting to prepare to circulate a petition calling for the accreditation.

All nursing programs in the state must be accredited by the Oregon State Board of Nursing in order to meet the required minimum standards of excellence. Although Krumm said the state board maintains good standards, she said having NLN accreditation assures that the same standards of excellence are being measured across the nation in programs that have the accreditation.

Krumm explained that students transferring from schools like the College to obtain bachelor's degrees will have an easier time doing so if they come from a school that has NLN accreditation, because then there would be no question concerning standards of excellence.

While there has been no actual case of students being discriminated against in Oregon schools because of not having the accreditation, Krumm said the possibility is there. This possibility could become greater in the future should the current trend to raise the entry level for nursing to the requirement of a bachelor's degree become a reality.

Students who go through two-year associate degree programs, and pass the state board licensing exam to become Registered Nurses (RN) may also have some difficulty obtaining a job, as well as students who become Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) without NLN accreditation.

For example, two recent graduates of the College had some trouble transferring to Hawaii to take their state exams and go to work because they did not have NLN accreditation, Krumm said. She

explained that the Hawaii State Board of Nursing decided to take a closer look at the students' qualifications because of the absence of NLN accreditation.

"The students on campus become concerned; they become concerned about why we're (College) not NLN accredited. We're the only program in the Metro area not NLN accredited," Krumm said. Out of all the community colleges in Oregon, only five have NLN accreditation: Chemeketa, Lane, Linn-Benton, Mt. Hood and Portland.

Support for NLN accreditation is not new to the College, as Krumm said the nursing department has in the past requested funds to apply for accreditation, and nursing students have written letters and circulated petitions to no avail until now.

The sum of \$10,000 has been requested by the department for accreditation pro-

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FETCH THE CAP - two-year-old Doberman Fenda displays trick taught her by taking owner Bill Bachman's cap in her mouth while in mid-leap. Fenda has been trained by Bachman to fetch hunting birds for him as well.

Photo by Joel Miller

High schoolers put to the test in campus competition Feb. 28

This year will be the sixth that the Clackamas Regional Skills Competition will be held at Clackamas Community College.

On Feb. 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. about 300 students will be on campus testing their knowledge in a variety of

academic and vocational areas.

Students from 17 local high schools will race against the clock and each other in a number of contests measuring skills in electronics, auto mechanics, journalism, welding, drafting and other

disciplines.

Individual winners will receive tuition waivers at Clackamas Community College, and team members will vie for medals and certificates.

For more information about the competition, call 657-8400, ext. 440.

What's inside

Prince puts Tacoma Dome audience into tizzy

Students climb walls via mountain climbing class

Men Cagers face do-or-die game with Walla Walla Sunday

