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Keyser named College president Hakanson successor takes over July 1

By Shelley Ball
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Clackamas Community College's Board of Directors ended their presidential search by choosing Dr. John S. Keyser, vice president for instruction at Linn-Benton Community College in Albany, to be College president.

Keyser, 40, was one of three final candidates to be interviewed a second time by the Board on campus between April 1-3 before a decision was made. The other two finalists, Dr. Kenneth J. Minnaert from South Puget Sound Community College was on campus April 1, Dr. Marvin W. Weiss from Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colo. was on campus April 3 and Keyser on April 2.

"It took us about until 11 (at night)," Bonnie Robertson, chairperson of the Board said of the time it took for them to decide between the three finalists. Board members met after the April 3 interview in the evening and stayed until a decision was reached. The selection of Keyser was announced April 4. Earlier that morning, Keyser signed a contract.

Although Robertson said choosing a new president was difficult because the finalists were all qualified, she said the most important qualification to the Board was the new president be able to "work well with the community and the College."

"We think he's (Keyser) an



JOHN S. KEYSER (center), Clackamas Community College's new president reads statement at the College, and Chairperson of at April 5 press conference on campus. Also at the College's Board of Directors Bonnie Robertson (right), who has been serving as interim president at the College, and Dean of Instruction Lyle Robertson (left).

Photo by Joel Miller

excellent leader and will do a very good job for the school. We obviously felt he was the best person for the job, and will be an asset to the internal and external community," Robertson said.

Following the Board's announcement, a press conference was held April 5 in room CC 101 of the Community Center to introduce the new president. At the conference Keyser expressed excitement at being chosen the fourth president to serve the College.

"This College has a wonderful tradition of delivering

quality education through its lower-division transfer programs, its vocational/technical programs and its community-based programs and services. I applaud all those College and community people who are responsible for developing and maintaining this tradition," he said.

Also present at the conference were several College deans, Robertson and Dean of Instruction Lyle Reese, who has been serving as interim president every since former president Dr. John W. Hakanson retired Dec. 31 after serving 16 years in that position.

Reese said he was "delighted with the choice" the Board made.

Although he won't take command on campus until July 1, Keyser said he will "try to do as much preparation as I can" in the months ahead. "I think I'll do a lot of listening," he added in regards to learning about the focus of the College.

Keyser's educational background includes holding a doctorate in community college administration and a master's degree in college student personnel administration

at the University of Colorado.

He has been vice president at Linn-Benton since 1982, but has previously served as dean of student relations at Mount Hood Community College and has held administrative positions at Western Wyoming College, Mesa College in Colorado and the University of Colorado.

Keyser currently lives in Wilsonville with his wife Marilynne. They have two children, a daughter, Amber, who lives with them and a son, Brandon, who attends high school in Hawaii.

One of the things that impresses Keyser about the College is that it is in a "very exciting" area. Located in Clackamas County, an area which Keyser sees as having economic growth potential in the future, he said he realizes the importance of working with business and industry in the hope the College can benefit.

"I share the Board's deep sense of responsibility to protect the public's investment and to deliver efficient and effective educational programs and services. We all have a vested interest in developing the human resource of Clackamas County.

"We need to be a strong, willing and flexible partner with business, industry, government, schools and other groups where vitality depends on the training, growth and development of people," Keyser said.

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