

NEWS

Three residents vie for Board position

by Heleen Veenstra
Editor

Dr. Alvin Pfahl, the Board candidate from West Linn, holds currently the position of a Real Estate Developer. Before that he was a Regional Coordinator for State Department of Education and Clackamas E.S.D., Administration Supervisor of the West Linn School District, Guidance Teacher, Teacher Intern Supervisor, and a teacher in West Linn. Pfahl also served on the Citizen Advisory Committee for Occupational Education and was one of the people who started the Clackamas Regional Skills Competition.

If you had to describe yourself in one word, what would it be?

Ambitious.

What three things make you the best candidate?

1. Long close association with the college program. 2. Knowing my community and the zone that I would represent as the community college Board member. 3.

I would bring the Board professional planning skills and good group work skills, to arrive at good decisions.



photo by Heleen Veenstra

What is the largest issue facing the college in the next year?

Securing financing a budget, going for a two year serial levy. Personally, I would like to see the college have a tax base, so they have some assured funds from year to year. (However,) I may

have a whole nest full of voters out there which would tell me we don't want the college to have a tax base and if they were a majority I would have to respect their wishes.

What do you feel a student's role in the government of the college should be?

This is from a philosophy I've written a couple of years ago and I still believe in it. "I believe in the involvement of the college faculty and the students. Representatives from each of these bodies should participate in the decision making process. I do believe it is possible to involve faculty and students in the governments of the college without relinquishing the authority of the president by the governing Board." The involvement of students really represents a learning process by which they benefit by being exposed to many sites and issues.

How would you describe the typical Clackamas Community

College student?

I would say the average student at Clackamas Community College would probably be in his/her upper 20's, that he/she has spent some time in the occupational world, realized a need for education to achieve some advancement in employment.

Considering your description how do you think you, as a Board member, can help that student's needs?

As a Board member, strictly in a position, you would not really be in a relationship with students. Now in my particular case when last year I was taking some classes with students in the vocational area I found that I was spending a lot of my class time counseling with students.

What role do you think sports and other student activities and clubs play in a college education?

They are very important in a student's education. These things go on a student's resume

later when they look for work. And the employer looks at "is this student just a student or does he/she have interest in his/her fellow men, does he/she communicate with other people, does he/she work in groups."

Do you feel student input is important?

Yes, by all means, they are the consumers, the customers.

As a Board member, how do you think you can get that input?

There is a student government connection with the administrative government of the campus. I would say that in any case where students do evidence desires and wishes that there should be a follow up around to see if it is a common kind of thing and how common it is.

If you are elected to the position would that be a stepping stone to another office?

It could be, but I don't really have any plans as such, so that would be an accidental thing from my perspective.

Mimi Urbigkeit's, the third Board candidate, current occupation is part-time housewife, and part-time bookkeeper. She has worked part-time as a bookkeeper in her husband's office, Urbigkeit law firm, for 11 years. Urbigkeit has been a librarian and has banking experience. She also does community volunteer work, including "meals on wheels," is on the governor's task force, and serves on the city Library Board.

How would you describe yourself in one word?

Thoughtful.

What three things make you the best candidate?

1. My knowledge of the community, and my involvement with the school district. 2. I am a strong supporter of education. 3. I work well with people.

What do you feel is the

largest issue facing the college in the next year?

Probably the financial squeeze and the need for establishing a Tax Base that the college can depend upon.

What do you feel a student's role should be in the government of the college?

I think if the student's interested in having a voice, they certainly should have a voice. Students frequently have very good ideas. They are not locked in doing things one way, they are eager to explore alternatives.

If you had to describe the typical Clackamas Community College student, what would it be?

I know that the ages range all the way from teenagers to adults up in their years. I would guess that the largest number is pro-

bably post high school. Many of them are preparing to go on to further education. They are taking the first year or two close to home to save cost. Then there are lots of other people who are already in the work force, and they are taking classes part-time for specific goals.

How, as a Board member, would you provide the needs, these students might have?

I think it is a general approach for setting policies, and having some influence over how the college in general is administered.

What role, do you think, sports, student clubs and student activities play in a person's college education?

For many students I think it is a very important role, for some students I don't think they are very interested in that. I think it should be something that is



photo by Heidi Klein

available to students who need that, but I don't think it should be the major trust of the college. I think student activities are very

important to developing individual skills, personal skills, time management, working with people, and certain creative skills.

Do you feel that student input would be important?

Yes, it should be encouraged.

How, as a Board member, could you get that input?

Probably by visiting the campus, by talking to students, my phone number is in the book and I'm accessible to anyone who wants to call and discuss things with me.

Is this a stepping stone to another office?

I don't think this would be a stepping stone to another office. I am just interested in the job. I think the community college is an important resource for our county. I feel the people of the county has invested a major amount in it, and it is worth it.

Henry Pete, one of the three candidates for the Board position, is the Founding President of Rogue Community College, Grants Pass, Oregon. He retired after serving in that position for nine years. Pete has held many positions in Education, including Superintendent of a Grade School, and Vice-Principal of Sandy High School.

If you had to describe yourself in one word, what would it be?

Enterprising.

What three things make you the best qualified?

1. I think the experience. 2. The fact that I have the time to devote to it. 3. I do have the energy and I like to work with people.

What do you feel is the largest issue facing the college in the next year?

To continue to expand the programs and to reach out to all parts of the county. The im-

mediate one of course is to assure that there is a good financial base for the college. Without it, you don't have anything.

What do you feel should be the student's role in the governments of a college?

I think that students should be able to feed in their views into the decision making process. In order to do it the students need to think through the same way an administrator has to. It isn't a question entirely of saying, "I want this and I want that," it is an assumption of responsibility of what it takes to provide those services. I think in a community college especially the student's role is very, very helpful, because the community college has the flexibility to serve students' needs. Some of the other four year colleges and universities may not have that flexibility, but a community college does.

How would you describe the typical Clackamas Community College student?



photo by Heleen Veenstra

I would describe the typical Clackamas Community College as one who is a serious student who knew what they wanted out of the school and would not be satisfied unless they got what they wanted from the school. And that is quite a bit different than some students who go to four year colleges and universities, and don't know what

they're there for in the first place.

What, as a Board member could you do to provide for their needs?

The Board's role is to require the administration to have a plan where the students would have a way to voice grievances. If there was something wrong, that they had some way of saying something about it, and get something done about it.

What role do sports, student activities, and student clubs play in a college education?

I think they are important. Hopefully, college is the mirror of what kind of life people will lead for the rest of their life. I personally believe very, very strongly in the emphasis on the life long sports and activities. I think if they can get a worthwhile start on those in college, then they themselves will be a happier, well adjusted person for the rest of their lives.

Do you feel student input is

important?

I would say so, you can't operate without it.

How would you, as a Board member get that input?

I would charge the administration with developing a structure that provided that. The main thing the Board member should be interested in is that they see the process (administration getting input from students) is taking place.

Would you use the position as a Board member, if elected, as a stepping stone to something else?

Community service is how I see this position. This position is not a stepping stone on to something else. Everybody has a motive for community service, I have some background of experience and talents and would help to make the college a good college, and I want to volunteer that time. I have a real strong commitment to what a college does, and what a college can do, and in any way I can help, I want to do that.

Clackamas Community College

