

...e graduates than any other department

GED program 'low key' but successful

...hough it is keeping low key the Adult Education/General Educational Development (ABE/GED) program at Clackamas Community College is perhaps the most successful program at the college.

...GED will have over 100 graduates at June 10 graduation ceremonies at Clackamas. That's more graduates than any other department, according to Dave Simpkins, department chairman of ABE/GED.

...basic skills in math and English of those graduating from this program are comparable to or better than those of students graduating from ordinary high schools, said Simpkins. "Some college transcripts tell me with surprise that one of the best students was in our program."

...ABE program is for those adults who are below grade school levels and need those skills necessary to enter the job market.

...the GED program takes over and the student gain skills equivalent to a high school education.

...130 day students and 350 night students range in age from 16 to 55 with 50 percent of these reading at an eighth grade level or below. They are in the program because they dropped out of high school or junior high school and now must get education so they can successfully enter the job market.

...Most of our students are federal, state or agency clients," said Simpkins. "They are here to get basic skills to qualify for the job market or to enter vocational training. Most of them go into occupational

And most of those interested in occupational skills continue at CCC.

"A higher percentage of our graduates go to Clackamas than graduates who attend other schools in the district," said Simpkins. "We've had transfers from other programs who think most highly of Clackamas and continue here also."

The ABE/GED program has a high degree of success, even though most of its students have failed at one thing or another and come from bad school experiences.

"I would say that with those students under 17 we succeed with 50 to 55 percent of them, with 17-year-olds we succeed with 75 to 80 percent and with those 18 and over 90 percent," said Simpkins, "and these are all people who have failed elsewhere."

The programs concentrate on teaching students basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic. They learn math through algebra and geometry, English grammar and spelling and a core of principles, concepts and terms in literature, social studies and science.

ABE/GED has been in operation for 12 years and was started by Helen Myers, who held classes in basements, churches or wherever she could get space. The college picked it up in 1969 and it has been funded since then like any other program at the school with added Federal funding.

"The federal funds are used to pay students' tuition which would be the same as any other college student. Not having these funds would prohibit most of these people from taking advantage of the pro-

gram," said Simpkins.

"We're nothing more than a country school with all the emphasis placed on reading, writing and arithmetic," he said. "We also give lots of individual attention and place most of our emphasis on reading because how can a person learn anything if he can't read."

Tufts leaving

Marlene Tufts, a psychology instructor at Clackamas Community College, will be leaving this August for a year in Hawaii.

She has been teaching at CCC since 1969, and will take a leave of absence for her stay in Hawaii, then return to teaching at CCC in the fall of 1978.

Tufts is going to start on her doctorate at the University of Hawaii. She received her masters at Sacramento State University in California. Specializing in physiological psychology, Tufts will be studying sex and gender.

Her husband and two daughters will be going with her. "They're almost more enthused than I am about going. I prefer Oregon weather, because I just get sunburned. I just plan to work a lot and learn a lot," said Tufts.

Tufts' first priority on the sabbatical list is to get half of her salary paid while she's gone. "I'm sure I'll learn more to benefit Clackamas students," said Tufts.

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