

New Assistant Dean of Instruction hired

Rathburn sees job as 'opportunity, challenge'

by Melissa Freels
Co-Editor-in-Chief

"I like being part of things that are changing and growing," said Rene' Rathburn, department chair of alternative programs, who was recently chosen as the Assistant Dean of Instruction of a new division at CCC.

Rathburn sees her new job, which begins July 1, "as a great opportunity and a challenge . . . because of what we have to build." The newly merged division, which doesn't have an official title yet, includes the Learning Resource Center and the Family Resource Center.

The Learning Resource Center includes the library, Instructional Media Services and the Learning Center. The Family Resource Center includes family and human services, and alternative programs.

CCC alternative programs are not new to Rathburn, who came to Clackamas 11 years ago to help establish the Tri-City Alternative Program (TCAP). She also helped start the Targeted Learning Center and the Young Parent Opportunity Program (YPOP). The Vocational Options Programs is also among the alternative programs at Clackamas.

Rathburn believes that her



photo by Nolan Kidwell

Rene' Rathburn will begin her job as Assistant Dean of Instruction on July 1.

pull the departments in this division together," Rathburn explained.

Many of the students who Rathburn currently works with are teenagers--teen moms and teens taking GED courses at Clackamas for high school credit. Rathburn, who grew up in Long Beach, CA, was a teen mom and she finished her high school credits at a community college in

"the thing I never wanted to do was work with high school-age youth," she said.

So, after earning an Associate Degree from Portland Community College, a Bachelor of Science Degree from Portland State University and a Master of Arts in Education from Lewis and Clark College, Rathburn began teaching in special education and "traditional" classes in the Portland Public School System.

In 1980, however, a position at CCC opened. On a term-by-term basis, Rathburn came to Clackamas to develop TCAP, which was not expected to be successful. According to Assistant Dean of Humanities John Hooley, who hired Rathburn in

1980, Rathburn "did a beautiful job" and the program was a success.

According to Rathburn, who took the job because of the term-by-term contract, "One term working at Tri-City just opened this whole avenue of 'Wow! I have some skills here and I love working with these students.'"

feel there's some incredible expertise in every single one of these departments," she said. Rathburn plans "to draw from (this valuable expertise) to make this new division happen.

"I'm pleased to be the person who can draw this expertise together," she said.

Rathburn, who is the mother

"I don't feel that I'm taking on this challenge by myself. I feel there's some incredible expertise in every single one of these departments . . . I'm pleased to be the person who can draw this expertise together."

"The reason I continued was because people believed in me. People actually believed that I could pursue these things in, perhaps, a 'non-traditional' way. I think I have brought that belief to the programs that I've both worked in and helped develop," Rathburn said.

As for her new job as Assistant Dean, Rathburn is optimistic. She expressed her high hopes by pointing out a quote by Henry David Thoreau which reads, "If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them." She explained that while the programs of the new division have already been established, it is now time to solidify the links between the separate programs.

"A lot of people have said to me, 'Who would want this job?'" Rathburn said.

"I don't feel that I'm taking on this challenge by myself. I

of three children and the grandmother of five, is also involved in many other programs on campus.

"I have a lot of energy and I love working with people and being part of new programs and watching them grow," she said. "I think that's the thing that's kept me fired up."

She is a supporter of CCC's Focus on Women program and has been a coordinator of the Women's Weekend. In addition, Rathburn has helped plan cultural events for Focus on Women. She has also been involved with the International Education Committee, Institutional Accountability, and has represented Clackamas on the education committee of the Children and Youth Coordinating Councils.

Will Rathburn's new job as assistant dean interfere with her other activities? "I still plan on staying involved in the things I have a passion about," she said.

Not going to school in "what I call the 'traditional' way, kind of gave me a deep appreciation for what 'non-traditional' students have to bring to a setting."

experiences with the alternative programs will be a great asset in her new job as assistant dean. The programs in the new division are "multi-agency programs," or programs "that operate and pull together several agencies to deliver services," she said. Now, each department and its programs must be merged into one division.

"My experience in pulling together all those agencies to develop the (alternative) programs has helped to give me the skills to

California.

Not going to school in "what I call the 'traditional' way, kind of gave me a deep appreciation for what 'non-traditional' students have to bring to a setting," she said. One of the most exciting things for Rathburn is "being able to teach and promote innovative ways to reach 'non-traditional' students."

Rathburn, however, was not always interested in working with teenagers. She was always interested in working with people, but

Seven apply for assistant dean position

A new process was used in the selection of the Assistant Dean of Instruction of the newly merged division at CCC.

First, all members who are included in the new division met and decided the criteria for the screening committee. They then selected Emily Orlando, English instructor, and Melissa Banks, research analyst, to be the Co-Chairs of the screening committee. The other members selected for the committee included Counselor Ellen Burbidge, Department Chair of Industrial Programs Glenn Ferris, Director of Plant Services Carol Patterson, Assistant Dean of PE/Athletics/Community Recreation Carol Peterson, and Director of Employment and Management Development Karen Stone.

The screening committee reviewed seven applicants--the Learning

Center Cyndi Andrews, Chemistry Instructor David Arter, Alternative Instructor Mary Craven, AESL Instructor Day Davis, Alternative Program Instructor Thomas Fearing, Department Chair of Alternative Programs Rene' Rathburn. The committee selected three of the applicants to be interviewed by CCC President John Keyser and Dean of Student Services Dian Connert.

Following the interviews, Keyser and Connert met with the screening committee and discussed the interviews. They all came to a consensus and chose Rathburn to take on the new job of Assistant Dean of Instruction.

Rathburn will begin her new job July 1. Her current job, Department Chair of Alternative Programs, will be filled by Craven.

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