

The Clackamas Print

Vol. XXVI No. 6

Clackamas Community College

Oregon City, Oregon

INSIDE

News

College's third annual giving tree project begins

ASG is currently placing giving trees in various sites across the Clackamas campus. The program is sponsored by the Salvation Army. Gifts that are donated will be given to poverty stricken and homeless children.

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Features

Abundance of 'elbow room' at new library

CCC's new library, which opened up this fall, features three seminar rooms and a lot of "elbow room." According to Don Vorderstrasse, the reference and periodical librarian, now that the library is in the Dye Learning Center, it is being used by more students.

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CCC staffers spend year as Fulbright scholars

Three women from Clackamas are spending the school year teaching in England. Jan Anderson, Nancy Mikleton and Karen Stone have left Clackamas for the year and are taking part in the Fulbright Scholar Program.

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Sports

Awards presented at cross country banquet

The cross country team held an end-of-the-season banquet on Nov. 17. Various awards were presented to team members. Awards for outstanding runners of the men's and women's teams, were given to Mike Hickey and Jessie Richter, respectively.

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\$100,000 grant enhances education program

by Paul Valencia
Staff Writer

The Young Parent Opportunity Program, Clackamas Community College's comprehensive educational project, recently received a grant from the federal government of more than \$100,000.

The Health and Human Services Department only granted



Rene Rathburn photo by Vivian Johnson

money to 10 programs in the country, with Oregon receiving two. In all, the grant will cover \$111,110, to be distributed over a 17-month period.

Rene Rathburn, assistant dean of the Extended Learning Services Division, said she was pleased with the grant.

"We only had a week and a half notice to put it together and apply," she said. "We figured we had nothing to lose and everything to gain."

YPOP representatives filled out a 14-page application form describing what the program does.

The grant does not mean, however, that Clackamas County has a larger problem with teen pregnancy than other areas of the country. Instead, Rathburn said, they had to prove that it was a successful program that could serve as a model.

The youth will be the ones who will benefit from the grant. They receive basic skills education, high school credits, parent education, life skills, pre-employment training, child care, transportation and case management.

"It gives people skills. Once they have skills and can continue their education, options for their futures look much brighter," Rathburn said.

Eligible members of the program, between 15 and 19 years old, pregnant or parenting are referred by their resident high school in the county. They are unlikely to graduate with their class due to lack of credits and are in need of child care and transportation to continue their education.

"It's letting young people know there are options and I think that's been one of the greatest offerings of having a comprehensive program," Rathburn said.

The program is offered at the Family Resource Center on campus and is free.

YPOP can handle 30 students at any one time, Rathburn said, with students receiving a starting date on a space available basis, after they go through an interview. The average time for a



photo by Lynn Sichel

The \$100,000 grant will fund a variety of educational programs for YPOP students.

student in the YPOP is one term to an entire year.

That time, though, can translate into a prosperous future, or at least a good start on one. Rathburn said 70 percent of families living off of government services have teen-parent history. Many of those, she said, do not receive the adequate education. This program creates options for young parents, she said.

Dian Connett, dean of student services, is also pleased with YPOP's grant. "That grant fits in so well with our efforts at the Family Resource Center," she said.

Since the federal government offered the money as a demonstrative grant, Connett sees the college's role as being big. "I think it's saying we all have a lot to learn about making positive impacts with teen parents and families," she said. "The college will be part of that learning process."

When the 17 months is up,

YPOP can again request funds from the federal government, but there are no guarantees. "We have to prove we've done a good job with teen parents and we do what we said we would do," Rathburn said.

She does not see the size of the program increasing in the future, but she does hope for an increase in services.

For now, though, the program seems to be doing what it set out to do. It is currently running at an 87 percent success rate with some students even returning to their high schools. Before joining the program, many of the students felt their lives were at "dead ends," Rathburn explained.

"I've always taken a special interest in teen parents," Rathburn said of her role in helping to create the program and apply for the grant. "I'm sure that has something to do with my passion about having choices for people."

Counseling program seeks peer helpers to aid Clackamas students

by Tracey Roozenboom
Staff Writer

The Counseling Department is asking for individuals to nominate fellow students and staff members to become peer helpers.

The program focuses on students and faculty who already provide problem solving techniques and listening skills to other students, stated Advising Specialist Roberta Donaldson.

Donaldson and Richard Best (also from the Counseling Department) said the program is to help students deal with a number of issues such as drugs, alcohol, stress and eating disorders, to name a few. If the peer helper cannot help the student, they can give them referrals to a counselor. According to Best, it is important to note that, "they won't give them any answers but will help them explore their options."

The helpers will be easy to locate around campus because

they will be wearing T-shirts and badges so students can identify them, commented Donaldson. The funding for this program was made possible through the FIPSE (Funding for Improving Postsecondary Education) grant, which is a drug and alcohol grant.

The peer assistance program, "is a one credit class; you can take it each term for three credits. It's listed under Career Development 150, self awareness and personal skills," cites Donaldson.

"About 25 students and 5 faculty members will be sent letters telling them they were chosen," said Best. "We're not looking for one type of student but a variety of students," chimed in Donaldson. Once the helpers are picked (via survey forms dropped in the boxes in the counseling center and the student activities center), they will go through training in West Linn from 8 a.m.-10 p.m. on Dec. 4 and on Dec. 5 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

A Phi Theta Kappa celebration



photo by Lynn Sichel

Phi Theta Kappa recently celebrated its 63rd Founder's Day. An initiation for new members will be held Dec. 16.