

Clackamas offers alternative choices in education

Cyndee Mady
Staff Writer

As the economy in Oregon continues to spiral out of control, enrollment in education classes is on the rise. Many working class adults who never completed high school are finding it necessary to improve their skills in order to compete with the current job market.

Clackamas Community College offers three options for such individuals including: Adult Basic Education (ABE) program, General Education Development (GED) program and Adult High School Diploma program.

The ABE program is for students who need help with some of the more basic skills, such as reading, writing, and arithmetic. This program brings students to the GED level.

The GED program prepares students to take the official exam and receive their GED certificate, which affords them many of the same luxuries as a high school diploma. For instance, a GED certificate is generally accepted in place of a diploma for most jobs. It also enables students to go to college.

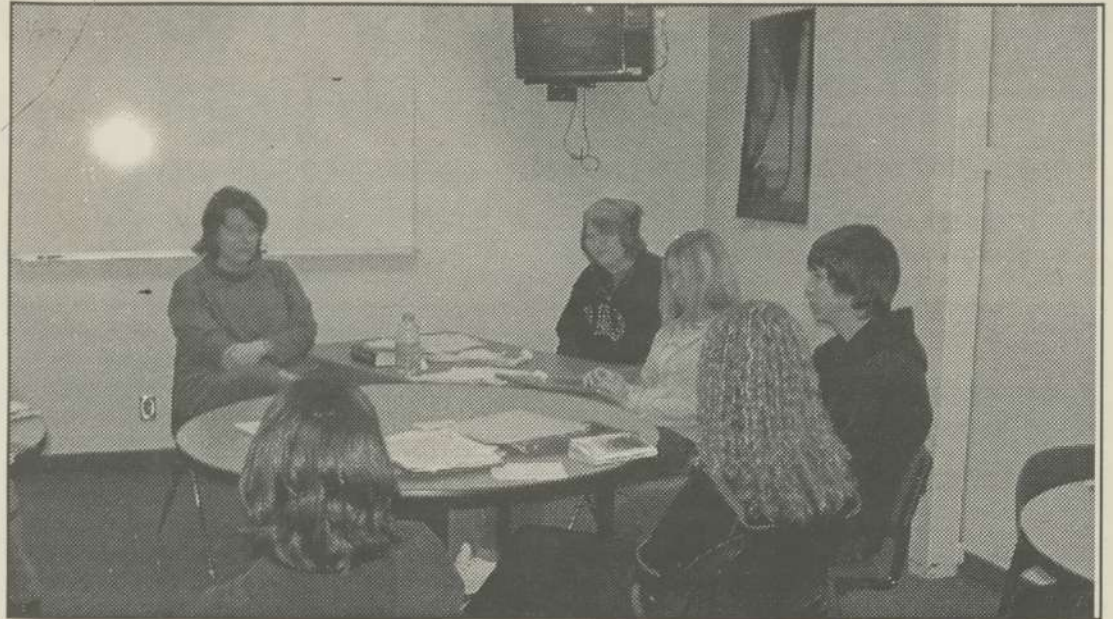
The Adult High School Diploma program benefits students who had to

drop out of high school, but only need a handful of credits to receive their diploma; or those individuals whose career choice requires a high school diploma.

Barbara Simington, secretary in the Dye Learning Center, interviews each student to determine personal needs and abilities. An assessment is then administered for placement purposes. "In some cases, students are farther along than they think and can take a GED practice exam to see if they are capable of passing the official GED exam," says Simington. Both exams are offered on campus.

Rhonda Lee attended Jellico High School in Tennessee, but at the young age of 15 she left school to get married and raise a family. Lee lives in Oregon City and is a licensed Day-Care Professional. She has three children of her own, Brandy (14), Heather (12), and Timmy (10). Now that her children are older, Lee (29) is able to take evening classes at Clackamas to earn her GED Certificate.

"At first I was a little nervous going back, being older, but once I got there I didn't feel out of place. Everyone seems to be very motivated. They all have a goal that they have set for themselves," said Lee. With education as her current mission, Lee hopes to become a Dental



Becky Ogden (left) instructs a group of students in the Tri-City Alternative Program that meets in Clairmont Hall, one of a variety of alternative education choices at CCC.

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Hygienist in her near future.

Another option for education is available via the Tri-City Alternative Program in Clairmont Hall. This program is designated for high school students ages 15-17 who could not adapt to the structure of the high school setting.

Becky Ogden is one of two instructors who teach the 30 students

enrolled in this program. "People have a tendency to think of them as bad kids, and that's not the case. They've had issues in their lives that prevent them from being successful," says Ogden.

This program prepares students to return to high school or enter the GED program, and encourages the value of learning and education. The

students really like the environment, the personal attention they receive, the style of teaching and being able to work at their own pace.

Options are available for individuals wanting to create a better life through education. If you would like information on the above programs, contact Barbara Simington, ext. 2595, or Becky Ogden, ext. 2454.

Clackamas instructor Daugherty achieves dream of teaching, has seen many changes in GED program



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Heather Dahmen
Staff Writer

After 13 years in retail, Linda Daugherty decided it was "time for a change" and went back to school to get her teaching certificate.

"That was my first choice coming out of high school, but I got married instead," said Daugherty. In 1995 she received her certificate and pursued her dream to be an elementary school teacher. "I did a lot of subbing, but I think they don't want

40-plus-year-old first-time teachers. So, I ended up doing some volunteer work which got me a job with Mt. Hood, which then got me into adult education," she said.

"I worked at Mt. Hood and PCC for a while, and then saw an opening and applied out here," Daugherty said. "At one point, I was working for all three colleges. Eventually, it got to the point where I could drop one because I got more hours at the other." She's been here ever since.

The biggest change in the pro-

gram since Daugherty came here five years ago was when the GED test changed. All the high school, Pre-GED, and GED were once mixed together and are now separate "so that we may serve them individually," Daugherty said.

Also, enrollment in the GED department has seen a rise in the last two years. "I think there has been a lot [more enrollment] because of SIM/CAM. SIM/CAM are the state requirements you have to meet to get out of grade school, junior high and

high school; and the requirements seem to be so high for some students that they give up," Daugherty said.

"We've seen a large increase in adults coming back for their GED," Daugherty added. "Usually, when there's a recession you'll see adults come back because they're out of work."

Regardless of the reason one may have for pursuing a GED, Daugherty is here to help. As one of her former pupils I give her two thumbs up and five stars!

Retirees looking forward to new adventures

Zingarelli leaves after 22 years at Clackamas, still wants to be involved with college's literacy program



Rene Zingarelli is the Associate Dean for the Extended Learning Services Division. She has been a part of CCC for 22 years. She has taught in Alternate Programs and the Learning Center. She took part in restructuring the college, bringing the Alternative Programs and the Learning Center Departments into the Extended Learning Service Division.

"I am excited to part of the

Children's Cancer Association, which my family established after the death of my granddaughter," said Zingarelli.

"It's been a powerful learning experience from day one. It is the power of the community, with students, staff, and partners in the community," said Zingarelli. "I will miss the people and the community. I will figure out how to stay in touch."

"There is no better community college in the state of Oregon. The community of leadership, faculty, staff, and students - there's just a great level of quality," said Zingarelli.

"I think that my fondest memory is being part of giving birth to so many programs such as: Tri City Alternative Program, the Targeted Learning Center, and The Young Parent Opportunity Program," said Zingarelli.

When she retires she intends to take some art classes, travel, and just let projects emerge. In addition, she wants to still be involved in the college by helping out with the literacy program.

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Conklin retires after 28-year career in CCC automotive department, plans on starting own repair shop after leaving Clackamas this year



Ray Conklin has been working at CCC for 28 years, from Sept. 15, 1975 to Dec. 31, 2002. He is the Automotive Department Chair. In addition to that, he is also the Oregon Contest Manager for the Ford AAA Student Auto Skill Competition.

"I have gained the ability to do what I love, to do that in depth, and the ability to help others to do the same," said Conklin.

More than anything else Conklin loved teaching electrical systems

over the last 20 years. He also has worked at many auto repair shops, and taught at a college in Michigan.

Sadly, Conklin's retirement has come far too soon. He was planning on staying for two more years, but is retiring now because of PERS.

"Greatest bunch of people to work with, easy to manage... they make my job easier," said Conklin in reference to his coworkers.

Conklin is planning on starting his own repair shop after he retires this year.

Lundy, retiring from Clackamas after 28 years, hopes to get out of lounge chair long enough to continue teaching part-time



Dan Lundy is the Engineering Science Department Chair. He has been working at CCC for the past 28 years.

"I guess I have gained a job that I love and the ability to make contact with lots of people, faculty and students," said Lundy. "The college is a great place to work. I am really enthusiastic with the area I have been teaching, about how to make water cleaner and safer. We enjoy some of the best rivers, streams, and

drinking water in the country."

"My fondest memories are with the people I work with here and the students I had, to see them pursue their own careers," said Lundy.

After Lundy retires he will "Certainly look for a lounge chair... ha ha, but honestly I hope life won't change, hope to still be a part of the Engineering Science Department. I really enjoy teaching part-time."

compiled by Mark Falling