

President Johnson: concerned for students' welfare



CYNDEE MADY CLACKAMAS PRINT

Johnson begins third year as President at Clackamas.

Cyndee Mady
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dr. Joe Johnson, president of Clackamas Community College, has always believed in the power of education and dedication. "I've worked hard all my life," said Johnson.

As president of CCC, Johnson spends a lot of his time in what he refers to as "the external political process," working with the legislature, commissioners and government agencies. He continues to strengthen alliances with businesses, community organizations, K-12 districts and four-year colleges. In addition to day-to-day administrative duties, he attends the president's counsel, cabinet meetings and the Board of Education.

Last year's budget deficit was a top priority for Johnson, who was able to maintain all faculty members through the crisis.

"What my sense of things now is that the state of Oregon is stabilizing, which is a very good thing so we can begin to do some forward planning," said Johnson.

Johnson says the tuition increase is mainly responsible for bringing the budget back into balance, though

he regrets the strain it has put on students.

"I'm very concerned that in Oregon, we're pricing students out of community college," said Johnson.

Through the rising cost of tuition, Johnson warns students against taking on too much debt with student loans that will someday need to be paid back with interest. He encourages students to focus on their studies.

"Scholarships come from grades, transferability comes from grades, employment offers come from grades. Students need to pay attention to the fact that if they are going to school they need to do well and there are rewards that follow from that," said Johnson. "Just blowing it off and thinking I can get by putting in the minimal amount of work can lead to disaster."

Johnson offers one final warning for students who must drop a class.

"You would be stunned at the number of students who don't even pick up the phone or go to the web site and drop their classes, then suddenly they accumulate a humongous amount of incompletes or Fs and those are on their permanent record for ever more to come."

Johnson earned his doctoral degree in higher education from the University of California, Berkeley; obtained his master's degree in labor and industrial relations from Michigan State University and received his bachelor's degree from the University of the Pacific located in Stockton, Calif., though he has never forgotten his roots.

From milking cows on his grandfather's dairy farm to putting in 15-hour days in the melon sheds,

Johnson has always enjoyed the fruits of his labor. As a young boy, he worked in his family's drug store along side his father.

"They used to turn a box upside down and I would stand on it and run the register," said Johnson.

Palo Verde College, located in a desert town outside of Palm Springs, California was Johnson's first teaching job. Johnson met his now wife of 30 years at a faculty pool party.

"We were all splashing around in the pool at this party and I popped up and there she was and there I was and the rest was history," said Johnson.

Together they share four children from ages 15 to 27, two of whom are currently enrolled in college.

Johnson served as a faculty member and administrator in California's community college system for many years before transferring to Clark College in Vancouver, Wash. where he held the position of president for 15 years.

Prior to his appointment at CCC, Johnson served as Chancellor and Superintendent of the San Mateo County Community College district in California, overseeing the operation of three college campuses.

"Students need to pay attention...if they are going to school they need to do well...rewards follow from that."

Dr. Joe Johnson
CCC President

CCC's Middle College provides alternative educational experience

Karen Hill
FEATURE EDITOR

Huddled in a two-room modular located behind Randall Hall are 12 high school students enjoying the comfort and security of a small, carpeted venue, complete with sofa and coffee pot, as they work to earn their high school diplomas and college credits simultaneously.

The students are part of a new program called Middle College. The program offers alternative school students a chance to complete high school and earn an Associates of Arts Oregon Transfer (AAOT) degree. The students chosen to start the pilot program are from the Tri-City Alternative Program (TCAP) located on the Harmony campus.

"We're targeting the under-represented population," said Lisa Nielson, Middle College instructor. "[Middle College] is like a small high school that has gotten rid of the definitive border between high school and college. It provides students with work-related experience, college skills and a smooth transition into the college environment, physically and socially."

Together the students meet in the modular to take the Clackamas Middle College seminar, Psychology 101 and Bridges I, which is a six-credit class that focuses on career choices and life skills. Students also attend a variety of other college

classes on campus, varying with the degree of their choice and the courses that accompany that degree.

"The goal of our program is to teach these people to be contributing adults," said Brenda Inglis Marks, skills development department chair. "Each person has a plan specific to them."

The students' future career goals include criminal justice, law, music technology, auto repair, auto mechanics and architectural drafting.

For most of the students, this is a chance of a lifetime: a paid education and the opportunity to earn a college degree.

"I never thought I'd go to college," said Tiffany Friesen, a 17 year-old student who joined Middle College after attending one year at TCAP. "Neither of my parents went to college. I'm going to be the first to do something, to make something of myself. I don't know who's funding this program, but I thank them all!"

When asked for her motivation to join Middle College, student Kristin Manning replied, "It's going to be paid for!"

While funding for this program

may be a mystery to its participants, the instructors know who to thank when it comes to paying the expenses.

"Middle College is funded by four sources," said Marks. The funding includes PELL grants, an application for a Charter School, The Middle College National Consortium, and an agreement with the students' school district, in which a portion of the school's state money is exchanged for their student.

A huge aspect of the program is the small group experience.

"The kids have a chance to bond with the instructor," said Marks. Students

Abbie Jenck and Amy Webb agree. "There is a lot of one-on-one time and the teachers and staff are very supportive," said Jenck.

"This was a great opportunity and we wanted to take it," Webb added. Participants Jeremy Alani and Matt Wibbens are thankful for the opportunity Middle College has offered. "It's a good program. It's helping us succeed," said Alani.

"I was never dedicated to school before," admitted Friesen. "This program pushed me into it. My life is totally switched around. I thank God for it."

"This was a great opportunity and we wanted to take it."

Amy Webb
Student



ISAIAH CREEL CLACKAMAS PRINT

Casey looks to the future in hopes of stable relationship.

Acute math tutor proves to the world that he's no square

Isaiah Creel
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Popular opinion holds that math tutors are essentially overzealous teachers' pets, each complete with a comically large bow tie, horn-rimmed glasses, a pocket protector and a Vulcan-like grasp of logic. Levi Casey, however, isn't your stereotypical math tutor.

This single, 23 year-old Virgo enjoys candle-lit dinners, long walks on the beach and long story problems. He doesn't wear glasses, and thought only briefly about purchasing a pocket protector. He's no computer genius, but he is proficient with both the TI 83+ and the TI 89 graphing calculators.

"I like intelligent women, but they don't have to be good at math," said Casey. "As long as they can recognize the value of it."

Many students are aware of the various tutoring programs offered here at CCC such as the math program Casey is involved in, but many of those same students choose not to take advantage of the tutors.

The intimidating visage that first comes to mind at the mention of a tutor is enough to frighten even

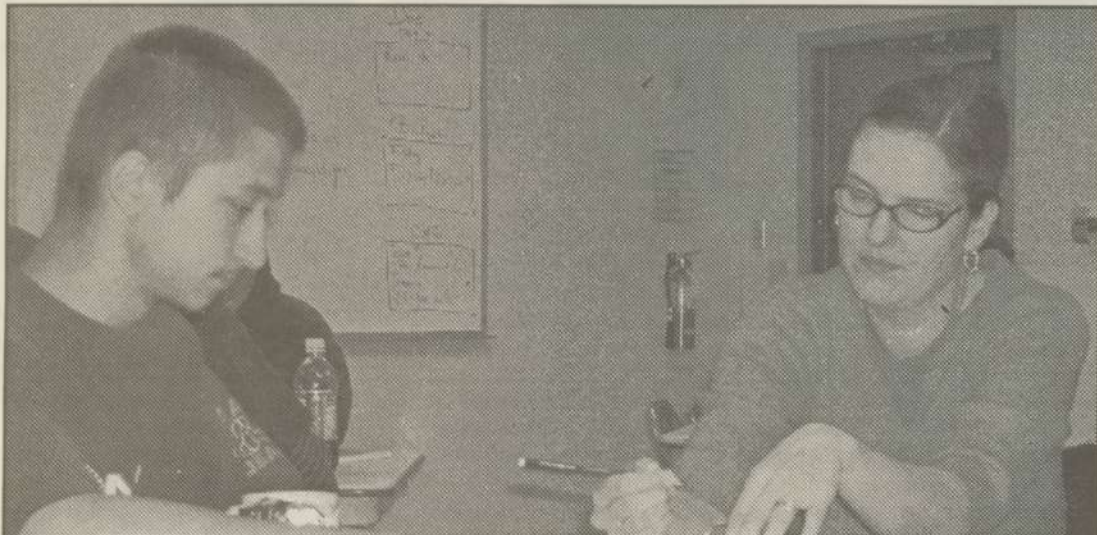
the most liberal-minded college student, and sadly many go without the help they so desperately need.

The common misconception is that tutors in general have somewhat of a "holier than thou" attitude towards their fellow students. The truth of the matter is that these tutors are students too, and are just as afraid of you as you are of them. Like Casey, they are just normal people, although perhaps with a slightly better-than-average understanding of the concepts of such daunting topics as the Pythagorean Theorem.

They are here to help alleviate some of the stress that comes with the astronomical homework load forced upon the average college student.

Math tutors are available Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Casey lovingly refers to Mondays as "the bum rush" when he helps approximately 20 people throughout the course of the day. The rest of the week is wide open though, so feel free to stop by Streeter Hall for some standard deviation.



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Instructor Lisa Nielson studies with Middle College student Jeremy Alani.