

Clackamas Print FILE COPY

Independent, student-run newspaper since 1966
Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, OR

Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2006

Volume 40, Issue 3

Why does MANUFACTURING matter?

Clackamas pushes for student jobs

W. Sorensen
Clackamas Print

Oregon's manufacturers are having trouble finding students to meet current labor demands, and a few Clackamas County manufacturers are hitting the road to do something about it. Manufacturing executives, teachers and government officials met Wednesday, Oct. 11 at Clackamas' Niemeyer Center where, in a brief tour of the manufacturing facilities around and around the area, a three-day conference

was held to discuss the state of manufacturing opportunities in Oregon, as well as to introduce a new "Why Manufacturing Matters" campaign.

The campaign is designed to help raise awareness to students and teachers at the high school and college levels, who may be unaware of the different opportunities available in modern manufacturing.

"What we've found is that the state economists tell us, and our private sector partners tell us, that there are all these jobs going unfilled," said Scott Giltz, the dean of the technical career education division at Clackamas. "I talked to a CEO a month ago that said 'I'll take 50 welders right now, if you

have them.' There's just job after job, and the demand is at an all-time high in my opinion."

To help with the awareness campaign, the college is working with Clackamas County, the Portland Development Commission and the Manufacturing 21 Coalition, as well as local manufacturers, to put on a tour for anyone who wants to find out more about Manufacturing as a professional field.

The tour will start at Clackamas and will visit several local manufacturing facilities over the next several months, including J.V.N.W., Blount International and Xerox. The "grand finale" of the tour, as described at the conference by Dean of College Advancement Shelly Parini-Ringe, will take

Please see ROAD TRIP, Page 2

What is the Manufacturing 21 Coalition?

"[The Manufacturing 21 Coalition is] an industry-led coalition made up of manufacturers around the state concerned about work force issues and innovation research in our universities for manufacturing."

- David Marks, Chairman of the Manufacturing 21 Coalition



Degree through ELC planned for Fall 2008

Megan Koler
News Editor

A new degree program for the Environmental Learning Center is aimed at changing environmental advocates into environmental educators.

The Environmental Learning Center (ELC) at Clackamas will be working with the Environmental Education Association of Oregon (EEAO) to create a degree program for environmental education.

"The whole field of environmental education is not well understood," said Alison Heimowitz, the ELC education coordinator. "It hasn't really been formalized until now."

The process will be funded by a one-year planning grant that began Oct. 1, which the EEAO is passing on to the ELC at Clackamas and all ELC's throughout Oregon.

"Currently, there are very few colleges or universities across the nation that actually offer an undergrad program for environmental educators," said Heimowitz. "What Clackamas Community College is doing is really way ahead of what most states do."

Currently, most of the people that work in the field of non-formal environmental education, like zoo keepers, simply have a degree in the natural sciences, which does

not prepare them to educate others.

"A large portion of their job is taking that natural resource information and being able to deliver it in an understandable way to the community," said Heimowitz.

"What happens is that environmental educators become advocates for a particular cause or issue and call it environmental education," explained Heimowitz. "That is not what environmental education is."

"What they are really doing is advocacy," she said. "The education piece is trying to give people both sides of an issue and presenting them fair and accurate facts. With them having that knowledge, they are better apt to make informed decisions."

Heimowitz will be working with Linda Rhodes, the executive director of the EEAO, to look for a list of competencies in various curriculums that they would like to implement in Clackamas' own ELC degree program.

If all goes as planned, Clackamas will begin to offer the degree program Fall Term of 2008.

Any questions can be directed to Heimowitz at 503-657-6958 ext. 2644 or e-mailed to her at alisonh@clackamas.edu.

Connett offered severance package

W. Krause
Editor-in-Chief

Severance package has been offered to Dian Connett, the vice president of instructional services, by the College Board of Education. Connett took leave from the college Sept. 7. Up until the announcement of the severance package by the board Oct. 19, Connett was expected to return to the college Oct. 23. Connett has been

with the college since September 1980.

A motion was made to vote whether or not to accept the agreement worked out between Connett's and the college's lawyers. Board Member Larry Wright was the only dissenting vote.

According to College Board President Ron Adams, Connett signed the package

Oct. 20. The details of the agreement will be released Oct. 27. Until then, according to Adams, she has the option of backing out of the agreement.

Connett's position has been covered by Baldwin van der Bijl, dean of allied health, math and sciences, and Jan Godfrey, dean of student services. They were asked to tend to the position's duties by the board.

Connett was unavailable for comment.



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