

WILTON: On funding

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His and the administration's number one priority this year is increasing enrollment.

"Enrollment was down last year, it was down close to 5 percent, and that does affect our funding," said Wilton. "We are all aware of that, and we are all pretty focused on trying to reverse that trend and actually grow our enrollment."

When Wilton isn't busy keeping Clackamas above water financially, he spends much of his free time keeping himself afloat while kayaking on some of the Northwest's finest rivers.

"It's really beautiful, and the rapids are really exciting," he explained. "You have a fair amount of control, and you're the one that's driving the

boat, basically."

Even though he goes as far as White Salmon, Wash., with his wife and two children, to kayak and hike, he maintains that one of the best rivers for beginning kayakers is right here on the Clackamas.

"The run from Barton to Carver has some rapids, and yet it's not anything super difficult," he said. "In the winter it's better because the levels are up and there are not so many people."

Albeit a successful kayaking run usually only relies on the skills of the one operating it, Wilton is looking forward to being part of a group again.

"I'm here, and I want to be a good team member," he said. "I am in a learning mode right now."

ADA: It really helps

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According to DRC Accommodation Specialist Rose Lefebvre, one of two major advantages of the workstation's software packages is that "they have Zoom Text for people who have low-vision." This allows students to enlarge the text until they can easily see and read it.

"It really helps," said Lefebvre. "We get quite a demand for Zoom Text ... that's why we paid for licensing on all five workstations."

The workstations also feature Dragon Naturally Speaking - commonly referred to as "Dragon-speak" - which helps those who have difficulty typing or are unable to type. The student in question wears a headset and speaks aloud the words to be written. Dragon Naturally Speaking "hears" the student's words and places them on the document.

Before creating documents with Dragon-speak, a student must first spend time talking to

the program itself so that it may "learn" the individual's unique inflections, accents and pronunciation. A permanent profile is saved on the hard drive so that once "introduced," Dragon-speak will "remember" the student.

Each workstation's computer features additional software to assist disabled students with other challenges, such as programs that can read text out-loud.

The stations comprise only a fraction of the creative solutions offered by DRC.

"Lots of people view disabilities as just physical disabilities," said Betsy Pacheco, DRC and tutoring coordinator. "They don't think of things like depression and anxiety."

Students interested in learning more about the Disability Resource Center, free Tutorial Services or other accommodations should visit room CC142 in the Community Center, located near the south-eastern entrance. Betsy Pacheco can be reached at 503-657-6958, ext. 2324.

FERPA: Protecting student privacy

Sam Krause

Editor-in-Chief

Little known to the average community college yahoo, certain rights go along with higher education.

Sometimes a student will be asked to waive these rights in order to achieve a goal that benefits him or her. And sometimes, parents want to know their kids' grades to make sure there is a return on that 18-year (and sometimes more) investment called child-rearing.

Enter stage left the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA. This handy document, drafted in 1974, dictates what information can and cannot be released by a college.

FERPA acts as an all-encompassing umbrella to higher education institutions nationwide. How the law is interpreted and carried out is determined by each individual institution and, therefore, varies.

Clackamas takes a more conserva-

tive approach to students' educational information, erring on the side of caution. For instance, some colleges will release information to a parent if his or her child is claimed as a dependent - Clackamas does not.

In some cases, a student will be asked by his or her parent to sign a release so the parent can keep track of the student's progress.

"Helicopter Parents" are a factor. These are the parents who attempt to micro-manage their kids' education, sometimes even from across the country.

Some employers offer tuition reimbursement, and they might require specific educational information for a student to receive that money. This is often a reason for signing a release.

"In that release, we specifically want to know what we are being authorized to release. So, just by signing that doesn't mean we're obligated to give everything we know about that person," said Diane Drebin, dean of instructional services.

College staff are allowed to release certain tidbits of information. This includes enrollment status, verification of degree or certificate award, residency (in-state or out-of-state), major

or program and athletic participation. These types of information are called student directory information.

Some students don't want any information on their record shared.

"If a student wishes to have a complete restriction on their record - meaning not even directory information can be given - then they file a request with the registrar and we put a FERPA restriction on their record," said Drebin. "If someone were to call and ask about that person, what we have to say is there is no information available on that person, and we can't say if they're enrolled or not."

In some cases, local law enforcement will come to the college with safety concerns regarding a student.

"Oftentimes we have officers come in and they have to have a subpoena," said Drebin.

By law, the college has to give the information, but they also have to tell the student that his or her records were subpoenaed within 14 days.

Between the law, overbearing parents and employers, it's important to decide how personal educational records will be handled by the college.

Photo Illustration by Elizabeth Hitz
Clackamas Print

Returning soldiers get extra help



Photo Illustration by Kyle Steele Clackamas Print

Lydia Bashaw

The Clackamas Print

Leaving behind camouflage and tanks isn't the hardest part for soldiers returning home.

Finding work or returning to school may be even more difficult than when they left - but help is on the way.

Partnering with the Oregon National Guard, Clackamas is expecting hundreds of veterans and their families on campus Nov. 3. The college will be holding a Job and Benefits Fair to educate veterans on the opportunities, services and benefits available to them.

Most of the visitors will be National Guard members readjusting to life back home. After serving overseas, when it comes to locating career and education

opportunities, these soldiers need a little extra assistance.

The event, though sponsored by the National Guard and Clackamas, has brought attention from local companies and community services.

According to Dean of Student Services Bill Zuelke, the veterans will have access to workshops, information on local benefits and one-on-one contact with over 40 employers.

"A lot of soldiers are under-employed or unemployed," said Zuelke. "Because they serve overseas, they have access to all kinds of benefits. It's hard to tell them all about these benefits."

With the aid of community agencies, Clackamas has arranged to hold numerous workshops on job skills, using and finding benefits for soldiers. It will also provide soldiers and their families access to

community and county services.

"A lot of times there are a lot of benefits for the soldiers, but what they really need is help for their kids and spouses," said Zuelke. "They don't get the same benefits."

The fair, which will last all day Saturday, will be held in Gregory Forum and the Community Center. All of the college's resources will be available, including computers on which to type resumes, faculty members to answer questions about departments and counseling advisers to help with educational needs.

"The whole team is chipping in and getting ready to make this happen," said Zuelke. "Everybody is stepping up. It's a great thing we get to do - just to give back to them for everything they have done."

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