

Who are you going to call? CERC!

Emily Walters

Arts & Culture Editor

Clackamas students are no strangers to school bills.

But many students have difficulty getting hired for a job.

Whether due to a busy schedule, inexperience or a combination of several factors, the Career and Employer Resource Center can help.

The Career and Employer Resource Center – or the CERC – is a plethora of information and guidance for Clackamas students and community members.

There are many elements to consider when searching, applying and interviewing for jobs.

"A combination of things, involving the resume, cover letter and interviewing skills," Linda Wood said, should be the main focus in order to obtain a job.

Wood is one of three career and development specialists at the CERC, the others being Clara Dawson and Ethel Swanson.

"The three of us – Linda, Ethel and myself – help students search for jobs," said Dawson. "We work very closely with the Oregon Employment Department."

Many special services are

provided by the CERC for those looking for work.

The CERC has two different assessments to help students determine their skills and possible career options. They are the Discover assessment and the Career Information System (CIS). These are great tools for students who are undecided about what field they would like to enter and what majors to explore in college.

Also available in the CERC are two separate sets of modules, which anyone can check out. The first set concerns Career Exploration, and the second is about the Job Search.

Students and community members have several acces-

sible computers in the CERC to use specifically for their job-searching, away from most of the hubbub of noise throughout the rest of the campus.

On these computers is a program to test skills and practice them, and links to labor markets, such as the Oregon Labor Market Information System (OLMIS). These services are in addition to the normal programs which are on the general-use computers at the college.

"These are all free services for anyone in the community, but especially students," Dawson said.

Extra resources at the CERC are those geared toward specific groups of students.

"We work back and forth with the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). It is a grant through the Department of Labor," said Dawson.

Shalee Hodgson, an employment and training specialist, works closely with that particular branch of the CERC.

"I work with employers to find what they need," she said.

Hodgson also finds jobs and helps people in the WIA stay employed.

Readily available in the CERC is the Occupational Skills Training section (OST), which works mostly with individuals who have mental disabilities.

"Vocational Rehabilitation pays for whatever Financial Aid does not," said Ron Cleaver, a specialist who heads the OST.

The office of Employment and Training Specialist Melissa Coombs, who heads the Cooperative Work Experience (CWE), is also located in the CERC. CWE is a program at the college through which students may receive help finding an internship in their field of interest while receiving college credit. Courses can be found in the college's schedule of classes.

The CERC is located inside the Advising and Counseling Center in the Community Center. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Stop in today for job-search assistance from any of the experts.

For additional information on the CERC, call ext. 2409, e-mail career@clackamas.edu or go to <http://depts.clackamas.edu/career>.

Career & Employer Resource Center Career Center

Elizabeth Hitz Clackamas Print

The Career and Employer Resource Center sign hangs inside the Advising and Counseling Center in the Bill Brod Community Center. Operating hours are weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dance classes take center stage as physical education option

Andrea Simpson

The Clackamas Print

Every Tuesday and Thursday on the third floor of Randall Hall, you can hear the sweet blend of tap shoes and Natalie Cole.

Tap dancing is only one of a variety of dance classes offered through the Physical Education Department. Ballet, swing, jazz and hip-hop are also offered at various times throughout the week.

"... try everything until you find something that you love. There is a type of dance for everyone."

Taina Heiberg, Tap Instructor

Since the dance room was moved three years ago to its current location in room 208, Tap Instructor Taina Heiberg says she has seen a decline in interest in dance classes.

"When we were down near the wrestling room, people would walk by and look in; it created interest," Heiberg said. "I would like to see more promotion about the fact that we have a beautiful, new dance room on the third floor."

Heiberg has been teaching dancing since she was 14, and has been teaching here for 18 years.

In that time, she has seen many changes in the program.

"I applaud the college for bringing different types of dance here," she said. "If kids don't have the freshest thing to sign up for, they are going to go somewhere else."

Jazz and Hip-Hop Instructor Jenelle Yarbrough says that the dance classes offer advantages that traditional physical education classes may not.

"Dance helps build coordination and memory," said Yarbrough. "It's different from playing a sport in the way that you have to learn how to coordinate different parts of your body in rhythm to music. It takes layers and layers of coordination and movement."

Yarbrough is especially excited about the turnout for the hip-hop classes.

"On the first day, my hip-hop class was completely filled," she said. "I said, 'Hey, if you like this class, try jazz.' Street Jazz

is hip-hop with a twist. It's hip-hop with some slight jazz influences, and we do some leaps and turns in jazz."

Even though this is Yarbrough's first year teaching at Clackamas, she has high hopes for the program.

"I would hope that the program would grow to the point where it can invest in itself for things like a decent sound system. I would also

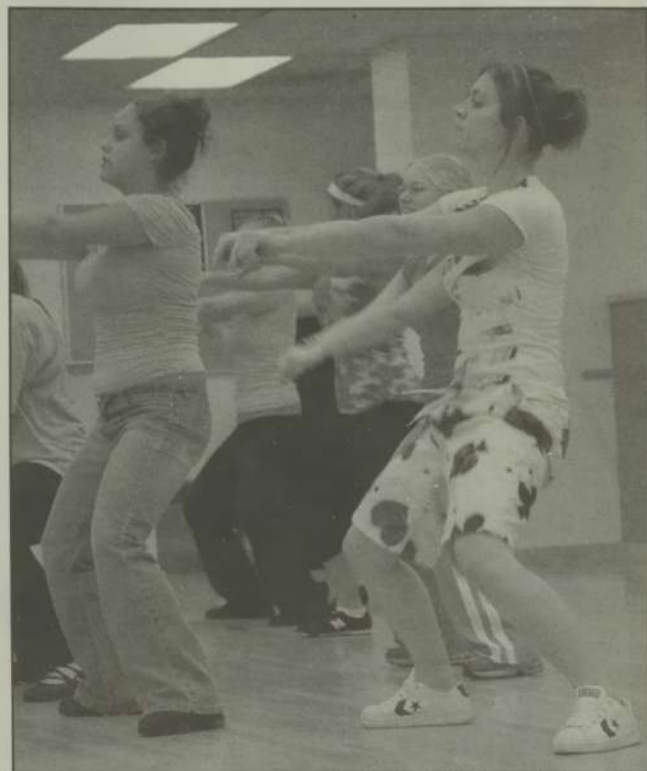
like to see a performing arts showcase of classes – an opportunity for the students to work towards something instead of having class end semester after semester."

"I would like to see better promotion for the dance program. I think students just don't know about it," Heiberg said. "Tap is a fun form of exercise."

And if you think that dance is not for you?

"Figure out what interests you, and try everything until you find something you love. There is a type of dance for everyone," said Yarbrough.

Heiberg said, "If they know their left foot from their right foot, I can teach them to dance."



Alexandria Vallelunga Clackamas Print

Above: The hip-hop class gets their groove on. Left: Tap Instructor Taina Heiberg shows off some footwork with her talented toes.