

# Military families get extra help paying for school at Clackamas

**Lindsey Decker**  
The Clackamas Print

With college tuition in Oregon rising, many find themselves in need of financial aid. Among those many are military families. The Military Family Endowment, an ongoing fundraiser at Clackamas, goes toward scholarships, book fees and other educational support. People who qualify for the endowment are soldiers on active duty, Oregon National Guard reservists, veterans and survivors of the Iraq war. This million-dollar endowment will generate \$50,000 a year to help send military families to Clackamas in the future. Organizing the fundraiser is Shelly Parini, who is the execu-

utive director of the College Advancement Foundation. "I put together what I thought was a good plan to attract contributions," Parini said. Because of the hardships of war, some military families cannot afford a good education. Parini composed a survey asking Oregon National Guard members questions about their families and what programs would benefit their education and military training. Out of 100 soldiers, 92 said

they needed extra help financially.

**"I want the soldiers to know that someone cares about them and their families."**

Shelly Parini  
Executive Director

"This is a gift that will keep giving for generations," Parini said of the endowment. "I want soldiers to know that someone cares about them and their families." Community members Lowell and Janet Miles brought forth the idea of starting the endowment. They then teamed up with Parini to discuss military families' educational needs and what groups they would help within the service.

The couple owns Miles Fiberglass and Composites, in Oregon City, and are just one of the many companies that have contributed time and money to the endowment. "I wanted to do something for military families," Parini said. "This endowment is giving military families an opportunity to advance themselves through career training and education." Parini arranged banquets for the Oregon National Guard and large companies in the Portland area. At these banquets, she started raising money for the endowment. The first banquet was held during the summer of 2007. Large companies, like Fiberglass and Composites, donated money to the cause. At the first banquet, Parini raised \$15,000 in pledges. Currently, there is enough

money to start sending veterans to school in 2008. "I had family in the Vietnam War who were treated poorly when they came home. Regardless of how one feels about the war, these people are serving our country. It's only right that we help them," said Parini. "This is not about politics; it's about helping people." Parini went public with the Military Families Endowment on Oct. 9 by hosting a banquet where community members were invited to come and listen to her proposal to aid military families. She hopes the public will respond well and help raise even more money. For more information about the Military Family Endowment, please contact Lori Lunchak, president of Miles Fiberglass and Composites, at 503-775-7755.

## Regional Phi Theta Kappa event promotes leadership, service

**Riley Lundgren**  
The Clackamas Print

Leadership, scholarship, fellowship and service are the standards that the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) plans to address while at the college this weekend. Students from across the Cascade Region will attend the seminar hosted by Clackamas' Alpha Xi Zeta Chapter. "So far, participants have registered from as far away as the College of Southern

Idaho," said active PTK member Chris Hinton. "What is amazing about this particular event is that we are being highlighted by Phi Theta Kappa International for doing it," he added. The PTK chose the Alpha Xi Zeta Chapter to host the seminar due to its strong connection to the aforementioned four hallmarks that it represents. The event's activities will challenge PTK members on all that they stand for. "There will be a Real World exhibit set up by Medical

Teams International," said Vice President of Leadership Jeff South. The Real World exhibit will be a display that includes hypothetical situations, such as a garbage dump in Mexico where families live and a medical triage clinic in New Orleans after a hurricane. PTK members will interact and figure out how to best deal with these circumstances. The students will meet throughout the day to reflect on the issues they have seen and discuss their ideas.

Clackamas faculty will be speaking at the seminar. Speakers will include Thomas Jones of Theater Arts Department, Communication Chair Kelly Brennan and Dean of Student Services Bill Zuelke. The event will take place at the college on Oct. 27 and 28, starting at 9 a.m. The seminar is free to anyone in the Alpha Xi Zeta Chapter. For more information, contact the PTK via e-mail at [phitk@clackamas.edu](mailto:phitk@clackamas.edu) or visit the Associated Student Government here on campus.



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