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Increase in student diversity is not reflected in staff

Abby Neet

The Clackamas Print

Clackamas Community College, according to data obtained from the Human Resources department from the year 2004, has zero African American instructors.

BJ Rinearson, Director of HR, believes that, "Because all of the information is voluntary, it is very likely that faculty members would not give their race and would be qualified in the unknown section."

After being asked about current demographics from 2004 the latest update available, Rinearson said those would take between three and six months to make.

Rinearson was asked if she personally knew of any African American teachers on the faculty, to which she stated she could think of one but, "could only give numbers and no names."

In the Affirmative Action Plan Update, a set of goals regarding diversity, there is not a slot for faculty members with unknown/not given ethnicities, so the information could be more accurate than first thought. It is however, from 2004.

African American counselor, Tony Davis says, "(It is) very unlikely that minority faculty members would not feel comfortable giving their ethnicity."

According to CCC's Affirmative Action Plan Update, in 2004 there were 163 faculty members and zero African American and Hispanic faculty members. It also said there was one Asian / Pacific Islander on the faculty.

The number of African American students has increased from 2006-2008 by 23.85 percent from 253 to 349. Hispanic student enrollment has increased by 15.01 percent from 2,196 to 2,553, while Asian/Pacific Islander saw a 16.8 percent increase from 829 in 2006, to 1,031 in 2008.

Davis believes there is, "documented evidence, when you look at student success. The higher success is going to be seen on seeing someone who looks like them."

The vice president of the impending Multicultural Alliance, Rachel Syphard, feels differently.

"It's not an issue for me because I grew up in Molalla, where it was me and my brother and two other people that were black, so I'm used to not being around black people. It doesn't bother me at all. It's a normal thing. That's how I grew up," said Syphard.

Davis said it is an important issue for HR but also realizes the economy is affecting whether or not the goal can be achieved.

"I know it's on the front burner for BJ. She is really an advocate," Davis said.

"Not sure the historical nature of why there has not been the motivation for an active search for diversity. I can only assume, and I don't want to assume," Davis stated about the college's lack of a proactive search for a diverse staff.

Davis also has plans on teaching classes, when it can be arranged. He is interested in teaching an African American history class and a hip hop music class. He said it pretty much goes back to the budget, or lack thereof.

"It's a good thing that the concern is there, but we can't follow through with it with real opportunity," Davis said.

He hopes to see action when things start to loosen up in the economy and the college is able to put his ideas into action.

The college's total enrollment head count went up 21.6 percent from 25,029 to 35,008 from 2006 to 2008. A higher total enrollment means more money for the college but apparently things are still rough.



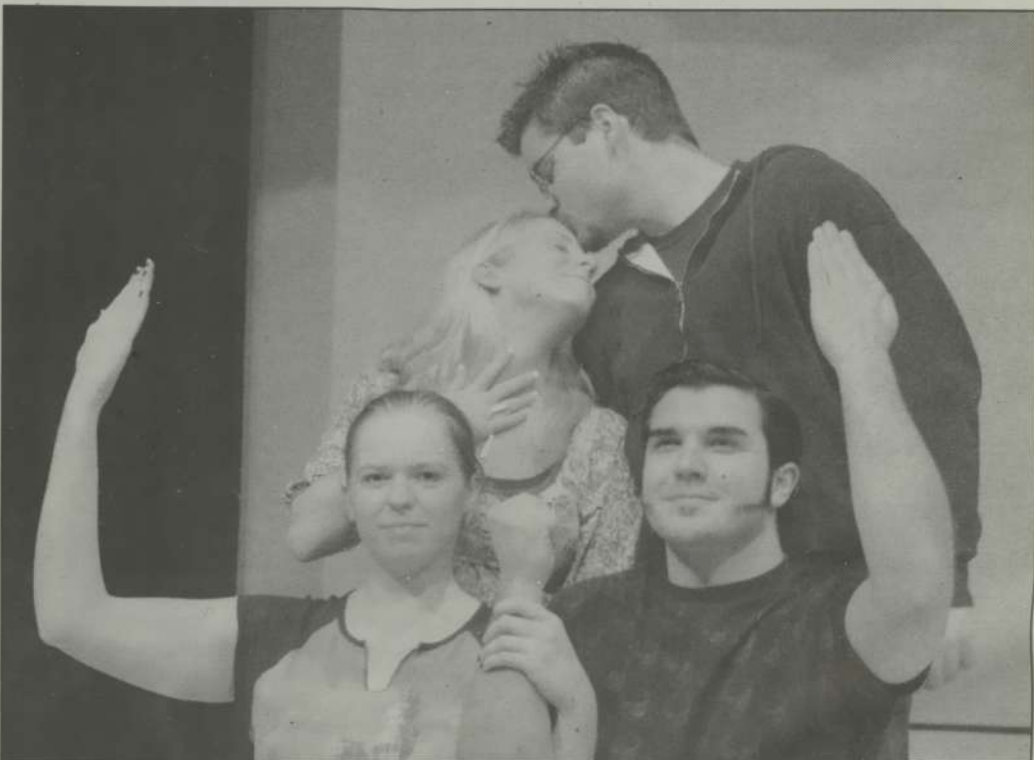
John Hurlburt Clackamas Print

From left to right Hshnequa Perini, Abisai Ahumada and Ashley Gardner study in McLoughlin Hall. In the past few years student diversity has increased.

Warning: Explicit Play

The theater department's next production takes a darker tone

See Page 4



Robert Crawford Clackamas Print

Madelyn Marcott and Jake Whitten, a member of *The Print*, kiss while in front of them James Sharinghousen, right, and Kelly Miller, left, act like a car in the theater department's newest play, "How I Learned to Drive."

Transfer days to offer students options

John Hurlburt

News Editor

Trying to find a four-year college after attending community college can feel like stumbling blindly through the dark, just hoping you fall into the spot without too many thorns. With Transfer Days coming through however, students are finally getting a flashlight to save them from financial and educational gashes.

The annual Transfers Days event is being held in Gregory Forum, on Thursday, Feb. 12. The event will have representatives from 25 different universities, as well as the Ford Scholarship Foundation, available to help students with information regarding what each of the schools have to offer.

Miguel Cardenas, one of the organizers for Transfer Days, says that there are many advantages offered to students who choose to attend.

One of the advantages is students can speak face to face with representatives and find out certain lower level classes, that might help them get ahead, when they move on towards a four year degree.

"The problem with the transfer degree is it's so broad," Cardenas elaborated.

Instead of just taking an Arts and Letters class, the college representatives can help students know which class would be most helpful with in the Arts and Letters category.

There are more advantages than just knowing which classes to take.

"It's a great way to save money in more ways than one," Cardenas said.

As opposed to going out to many different colleges, having them all in one place means, students will save gas and time – as well as get an idea of which school makes the most sense to invest money into.

Not all the schools attending are

just the usual four-year universities. Although traditional universities such as University of Oregon, Marylhurst and Western Oregon will be present, some attending will cater more to a specific audience such as, Western States Chiropractic College Oregon College of Oriental Medicine and The Art Institute of Portland.

If the chance to speak with representatives from different colleges doesn't seem like enough to entice, door prizes will also be offered. Aside from food, Cardenas doesn't know what all will be offered, but he did say that traditionally Clackamas paraphernalia is usually the prize being offered.

Aside from transfer days, there are also three different scholarships being offered to students who are looking to leave community college in search of the next inning in the game of higher educa-

tion. The Clackamas Rotary Transfer Scholarship, the Al Pfahl Transfer Scholarship and the Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship can all be picked up in the front of Roger Rook hall on the racks.

According to Fayne Griffiths, director of financial aid services, these are all private scholarships and have to be filled out separately from the schools financial aid.

Last year, an estimated 253 students, took advantage of Transfer Days and the hopes are that this year will get at least that many.

Student Laura Evans plans to be one of those who are looking for a place to go after Clackamas on Thursday, and to her, going just makes sense.

"It would be easier to do it that way than to try and figure out info on your own," Evans said, explaining why she would go.



Contributed by Tamara Barry

Representatives from Pacific Union College sharing information at 2008's Transfer Days. Last year 30 colleges came to offer students opportunities.