

Secretary of State encourages leadership

Greg Stoltz
The Clackamas Print

Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown was at Clackamas Community College April 15, delivering the message that Oregon politics needs more women.

Brown spoke as part of the Women in Public Leadership Forum. The event, designed to encourage women to become pub-

lic leaders, was organized by the Clackamas Community College New Leadership Oregon Club.

During her keynote speech, Brown listed a number of pioneering women from Oregon politics. To a group of about 60 people gathered in the McLoughlin Hall auditorium, she said, "Many extraordinary women have shown what we can accomplish when we're not just spectators."

Included in Brown's speech

were a number of Oregon's political female firsts and their election dates, including: first state representative, Marian Towne, 1914; first U.S. representative, Nan Wood Honeyman, 1936; first Secretary of State, Norma Paulus, 1976; and first Governor, Barbara Roberts, 1990.

Pointing out that former U.S. Senator Maurine Neuberger, elected in 1960, is still Oregon's only woman to hold that post, Brown said, "I'm hoping one or two of you will change that."

After noting the considerable accomplishments of these political leaders, Brown said it is clear Oregon can do better.

"I think this is where each and every one of you fit in," said Brown. "I think it's extremely important to have women and people of color at the table. I think we look at the world through different lenses than, frankly, straight white men."

After her prepared comments, Brown took questions from the audience.

Asked about her position on preferential treatment for appointing women and people of color to judicial and other state positions, Brown said, "As I look around at our Oregon State Legislature, we

have 90 members. We barely have 30 percent women."

Brown, who served in the Oregon House from 1991-1997 and the Oregon Senate from 1997-2009, noted that the number of women has actually decreased since she has been in the Legislature.

Commenting on minority representation in the state Legislature, Brown said there are just two African Americans and no other people of color. "I don't think that's very reflective of the state. And so I think, it's really important for the legislative leadership to work hard to recruit diverse candidates."

In an interview before the event, Brown offered two bits of advice to women aspiring to leadership positions.

The Secretary said she has really struggled with her public speaking, and that she'd tell people this is a critical skill for political and business leaders.

Brown also said political savvy — knowing when to fight and when to let go — is very important. Of her time in the state Legislature, Brown said, "I was very particular about the fights I would select. I wanted to make sure that they would make a difference."



BROWN

Also speaking at the forum, were Sunny Pettit, of programs for NEW Leadership Oregon at Portland State University, Clackamas New Leadership Club President Meehan Youngblood and club officers Lindsey H. Kate Rough and Amy Atkins.

In a phone interview, Youngblood said the goal of the forum was to get women talking about business or politics and ever they want to do. "It inspires women to reach for stars," said Youngblood.

What is New Leadership Oregon?

The CCC New Leadership Oregon Club was created to allow women interested in politics easier access to an annual training program called National Education for Women's Leadership Oregon (NEW Leadership Oregon), said club founder and former President Catherine Pike.

Based at Portland State University, NEW Leadership Oregon is a six-day residential program designed to introduce Oregon's college women to opportunities for public leadership. The PSU program, held each June, is part of the 17-college NEW Leadership Development Network started at Rutgers University in 1999.

For more information on the CCC New Leadership Oregon Club, call 971-227-3734, or e-mail meegan.youngblood@gmail.com.

DRAFTING: Drafting not the only cut?

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Aside from completing course materials at other schools, CCC was able to negotiate with the state to give students a one-year degree if they have finished the coursework necessary for the degree. Usually, this process would take months of approval, but in light of desperate times, the state was able to speed up the approval process.

"They essentially fast-tracked processes that are usually set in stone," Lundy explained.

This fast track would only help students who would choose the inferior one-year degree, as

opposed to the two-year degree many students signed up for to get an edge over the competition.

"The two-year degree is what the industry wants," Cook emphasized.

Even Lundy recognizes that none of the alternatives students are being offered are as good as the two-year program.

"Students will be impacted," Lundy admitted, adding, "I don't know anything we can do to prevent that."

Clackamas' drafting department was quite accredited in the drafting world. The main corridor in the drafting department has a section of wall decorated with the covers of textbooks CCC instructors have written.

Drafting has almost been deemed an "authorized training center" by the software company Autodesk, which according to Cook, is not an easy thing to accomplish.

"The software company, Autodesk, has blessed us," Cook said with reverence.

With such accreditations and success it leaves one to beg the question of all things, why are we getting rid of this department? And like many tough decisions faced in a budget slump a lot of it boils down to numbers.

One of the reasons behind the drafting department's execution was its slumping enrollment. Low student interest is the reason many drafting departments in the region have downsized from two-year degree programs into one-year.

However a low student count

can't be the only reason to shut down. Cook points out that there are many classes and departments that have either lower Full Time Equivalence (FTE) or at least the same as drafting.

Lundy confirmed that the deciding factor that sealed the fate of drafting was the rippling effect that happens when classes are cancelled. If math classes, science classes or humanities classes are cancelled, it affects more students' ability to get a degree. Drafting, however, is a fairly self-contained degree program. By sacrificing drafting, fewer students will be affected than if other departments with low FTE were eliminated.

Even though it made sense, Lundy said it wasn't an easy decision to make.

"It wasn't a decision that was made lightly at all," Lundy explained.

She also alluded to the fact, that not all of the schools problems are solved.

"Something had to be cut," Lundy explained, warning, "It's not incomprehensible to say something else might get cut as well."

Although necessity may have forced the school's hand, it isn't an easy drop to swallow, and Cook wishes it could happen another way because even though instructors and staff will be left jobless, it's the students who will suffer the most.

"There's not another vocational rehab program out there that will give them the training we can," Cook said.

CHARTWELLS: College's food provider suffers major losses

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The lack of concern for Chartwells well-being seemed to be a common thread.

"I really just don't care," said student John Kelly. "The food tastes like plastic and you have to pay like \$5 for a biscuit."

Eldrich's comment was on par, "It doesn't really matter whether they're here or not."

Not everyone has the same exact feelings, however. Jonathan King, both a two year student and employee at Chartwells, wasn't pleased with the company's move.

"It's my job, so it kind of sucks," he said on the topic.

Both Ramos and King explained that there is a possible silver lining, as the school's new provider might rehire the current employees.

King was enthusiastic, "There are some things I agree with Chartwells on and some things I don't. I would hope whoever replaces them would do as good, hopefully better."

The prospect of a new sheriff in the cafeteria isn't necessarily a win-win in all students' minds.

"It's a good idea, bad idea thing," said student Andre Nicholson. "It's only good for students if they replace it with something quick and health conscious."

The goals of the students are not necessarily congruent with the

plan of the college itself.

Ramos said otherwise, "person that takes over is going to have almost the same menu."

Though many students find this a disappointment, college instructors might not.

"Staff and students don't necessarily agree on food stuffs," Courtney Wilton, vice president of college services.

Wilton said the college will certainly look at fast food companies like Taco Bell and McDonald's but that it would come down to what food service provider would be interested in bidding to be here.

"Will it be someone else? Chartwells?" Wilton asked rhetorically, "I don't think so."

Don't think that the bidding all about money though; in Clackamas was actually for Chartwells to be on campus. Wilton pointed out the next contract will be different in the sense that the college won't require future bidders to pay rent, but will leave the option open and allow the school to potentially make money off the cafeteria.

"The school doesn't want any money off Chartwells," said Wilton. "We didn't want to keep writing them a check for \$24,000."

So what does all this mean for the student body? Eldrich summed it up in a single sentence: "It sucks for the people that like (Chartwells)."



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