

Harmony: growing healthcare education needs may help Harmony

Continued from HARMONY, Page 1

According to the Center for Health Education at CCC, the average age of a nurse in America is 53, while the number of people 65 and over will grow by 147 percent over the next 40 years.

Clackamas County Healthcare estimates there will be a net increase of about 30,000 jobs by 2012. Joanne Truesdell, president of Clackamas Community College, hopes that this will attract students to CCC as well as the Harmony location.

Along with health care classes offered at Harmony, community education and drivers training classes are also offered. Truesdell described the campus as the launching point for community interaction.

The college had been looking at this project for about seven years prior to the budget cuts that have cut programs and forced the school to look for ways to save money. Truesdell said, "Back in 2004, '5, and '6, when things were starting to get stronger is when the decision was made to pursue this."

The Harmony expansion project was funded through certificates of participation as well as over \$5

million in bond funds from the state, which would cover costs through 2013.

To help pay for future costs of the building, facilities are rented out to groups who wish to host meetings or training sessions at the college.

Truesdell estimated that about two-thirds of the facilities and employee costs at the Wilsonville campus are paid for by private companies not affiliated with the college who wish to hold meetings at the campus.

One hope for the Harmony campus is for it to be available for use all hours of the day and night. Truesdell also felt that having the campus open around the clock could help generate funds for the college.

"We need to stop thinking about ourselves as traditional in the sense that students who pay tuition, pay a portion of our cost and the state pays a portion of our costs. If we continue to do that students will exponentially experience tuition increases," Truesdell said.

With rising tuition costs at universities, community colleges are becoming increasingly more appealing. The college plans to keep expanding at the Harmony campus in hopes that it will bring in more students.



John Petty Clackamas

Harmony campus' main building has enabled the satellite location to house an increasingly large number of students. The facility has rented out space to private groups in order to pay for long term costs.

Budget: ASG lobbies to conquer dismal budget

Continued from BUDGET, Page 1

Right now the college's budget resembles a tight-rope walker trying to cross the Grand Canyon on a piece of yarn. It's a skilled balancing act where even a slight gust of wind can bring great repercussions.

Currently we are receiving reserve funds from the state while at the same time getting part of the stimulus money sanctioned to Oregon by Obama's national stimulus package.

When the next biennium approaches, however, in 2011 the state may not be gifted with emergency federal dollars and a deep reserve. This is where funding problems will sneak back into the limelight and problems may start occurring again.

Although more cuts are not currently being scheduled, Wilton says that thinking Clackamas won't have any to make may be unrealistic.

"I think its more likely we'll have to make cuts," he said, referring to the years beyond what our new budget covers.

The college was already racked this year by a series of unexpected cuts that occurred due to a dramatic drop in state revenue leaving the school to reevaluate its budget mid-year.

The first hole was \$416,000 and was easily plugged but it was later announced in early

March that there was another \$13.2 million dollar gap to fill and this time it wouldn't be without repercussions. In the end the solutions included a raise in tuition, the loss of many classes, a cut in the hours and amount of part time instructors working on the campus and a layoff of 20 staff and faculty.

The state's budget for community colleges however is not set in stone and at the moment there are a lot of efforts being made in order to increase the funding through lobbying.

I tried contacting the Oregon Community College Association's (OCCCA) Legislative Director, John Wykoff to talk about his effort in lobbying but discovered that he was busy already lobbying in Salem and was unavailable for comment.

The student branch of OCCCA, the Oregon Community College Students Association(OCCSA) also kicked up its lobbying work and encouraged Clackamas' Associate Student Government

(ASG) to help in its battle.

Members of ASG will not be traveling down to Salem again and testifying personally in front of the legislature. Instead the new plan of attack that OCCSA is encouraging is to have a phone and e-mail driven campaigns.

Alyssa Fava, next year's ASG president, and Michael Vu, the current president in office, are both working to organize the phone campaign and the e-mail driven aspect has already ended.

The deadline given to ASG by OCCSA was May 20-22, but on such short notice Clackamas' ASG was not able to react.

"We didn't have enough manpower to organize within three days," Fava said.

Although Fava and Vu are organizing the student legislative push, their adviser Mindy Brown seemed to really know what was going on.

Brown said that OCCSA was trying to get more students to participate in order to get more voices heard from the student level. She also

talked about how ASG might use MyClackamas Portal to reach a broader audience.

Fava seemed less certain about the portal, but said they were working with Dean Walch, Clackamas' Web site editor, on the matter. Nothing yet had been finalized and considering the e-mail campaign is over, the likelihood of anything being put on the portal has fallen.

The overall feeling that the e-mail and phone campaigns have carried are of desperation and confusion. Not due to ASG disorganization but the seas the college is sailing through are rough and fast; reactions must be swift and well organized to combat the tides.

Although the May 22 deadline that OCCSA set has come and gone, Brown says that students voices will still matter when heard by the state's legislature even a few weeks out.

"We're pretty optimistic that community colleges are going to be getting more money, we're just not sure how much," Fava said addressing why the phone campaign is still important.

A booth will be set up in the community center Wed. May 27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ASG is encouraging students to come by and call state senator Richard

"We're pretty optimistic that community colleges are going to be getting more money, we're just not sure how much."

**Alyssa Fava
ASG President Elect**

Clackamas Community College Veterans Club presents:

"BINGO EXTRAVAGANZA FUNDRAISER"

Proceeds from the event will be split three ways among the Veterans Book Voucher Program, the Veterans Club and the Foundation's Military Families Scholarship Endowment.

The first program is to be used to provide each new veteran with a book voucher at CCC book store to help with the cost of books.

The second portion will fund club events, student veterans conferences and incentives for the Veterans Club.

The final use of proceeds go towards the Foundation's Military Families Scholarship Endowment to help fund students education at CCC each year.

\$10 for 6 cards you play all night long card for a single game.

Location Gregory Forum
Date: June 3, 2009
Time: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information contact Cassie Curry at (503) 860-9313 or cassandra.curry@student.clackamas.edu

Clackamas Print

The Clackamas Print
19600 S. Molalla Ave.
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-657-6958, ext. 2309

Editor in Chief: Lydia Emily Bashaw
Web and Graphics Editor: Kayla Berge
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