

Advisers make transferring easy

Fellow Clackamas student searches for most useful resources when transferring to another college

By Jaime Dunkle
The Clackamas Print

The transition from a community college to a university is overwhelming, and the course of a four-year commitment doesn't help. In the heat of anxiety, it is easy for students to forget there is a plethora of resources available to ensure the transfer process is seamless.

Both community colleges and universities provide several avenues of assistance to transfer students. At Clackamas Community College, the Student Success Center is a free of college-transfer knowledge. Universities also have advising services accessible to students, and a lot of the information is available on the college Web site under the "admissions" section. Sometimes students take help for granted.

Raquel Cardenas, an academic adviser at the CCC Student Success Center for the last five years and a co-coordinator for the Oregon Transfer Day for the last two years, says there are approximately 100 students currently eligible for a college transfer. Each year, qualified students are receiving their transfer information via e-mail instead of the previous postcard snail-mail method. Luckily, e-mail communication proves to be an effective student awareness.

"I've already talked to at least a handful of students who, initially, on their own, let me know that they received the information regarding Transfer Day," said Cardenas.

Comparing that to last year, she says as people mentioning they received a postcard, she is not really recalling any," Cardenas continued.

The Clackamas Student Success Center is the mecca of transfer resources. There are transfer guides available that provide information for all the universities in the state of Oregon. Question guides are also offered to students. These help students get the right information when they meet with a university delegate. If the academic advisers at the Student Success Center are not able to help, they connect students with an appropriate faculty advisor.

The Student Success Center can also help students make appointments with university representatives. These arrangements are held at Clackamas to make the transfer process easier for students.

Students seeking enrollment at Portland State University can sign up for an appointment on Tuesday, Feb. 23, between 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Another opportunity to connect with university intermediaries will be at the upcoming Oregon Transfer Day held in the Gregory Forum on Feb. 15 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

After meeting with advisers, it is important to keep the transfer momentum going. Sometimes it is worthwhile to save the best things for last but not when it comes to enrollment.

The Director of New Student Programs at PSU, Melissa Trifiletti, suggests that students apply as soon as possible because it takes four to six weeks to process an application.

"Often times, students wait until the last minute to apply for admission. If you think that you are going to transfer to PSU in fall 2010, then you should apply now," Trifiletti responded via e-mail.

There are a lot of options unbeknownst to most students.

"You may also want to learn more about PSU's co-admission process where you can take classes at Clackamas and PSU during the same term and have your financial aid be applied to both institutions," Trifiletti continued.

When asked about information regarding transferring,



Steven Riley Clackamas Print

CCC student Keri Tegtmeier browses through the transfer center located in the Community Center on campus. Tegtmeier is one of many students who plans to transfer to a university from Clackamas.

Leah Stone, a prospective Portland State student, explained, "It's all available online, and they have so many departments that are open to help any transfer student. It's easier than you think."

Transferring to a university requires effort. Avoid being a know-it-all and do some research.

"If you intend on attending a university, go to the university Web site and print a list of

classes before selecting your community college courses. A lot of the required university classes are available at community colleges," Stone said, offering advice to fellow students.

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New show debuts with shots of PDX

By Shambre Lund
The Clackamas Print

Oregon, most recently known for its film and TV accomplishments such as "Twilight," "Extraordinary Measures" and TNT's "Leverage," has now got a new family drama series to tack on its list.

The new CW series "Life Unexpected" follows a 15-year-old girl through her struggle to get out of the Portland foster care system, by getting an emancipation.

The promising new drama premiered Monday, Jan. 18, and raked in 2.74 million viewers (topping "One Tree Hill" at 2.2 million).

During the first episode, Lux, the main character, is witty, sarcastic and gives viewers a charming character. She sets out to find the birth parents she's never met to sign her legal papers that will allow her to be free of foster care and on her own.

Her father, Nate Bazile, an

over-aged college "dude," who is shocked to find out he has a daughter, the one he thought his former high school fling had aborted. Meanwhile Lux's mother, Cate Cassidy, and her boyfriend star on a local radio talk show, which just so happens to be Lux's favorite.

In the pilot, we learn that Cate had good intentions for giving her daughter up, thinking she'd be adopted into a loving and mature home, but she discovers that Lux was born with a medical heart problem that had kept her from being adopted. Her medical condition was fixed when she was young, but she still bounced around from place to place, never finding a home or family to call her own.

Her parents, both childlike themselves, are granted temporary custody of Lux instead of emancipating her. The viewers are left questioning if Lux will ever get emancipated or find a home with her biological mother or father or her parents get back into a romantic relationship.

The series is set in Portland but is actually filmed in Lionsgate studios in British Columbia, Canada, only flashing Portland cityscapes and monuments throughout the episodes.

The "Life Unexpected" creator, Liz Tigelaar ("Brothers and Sisters"), says she picked Portland for its "Juno-esque" vibe.

This series promises to be no follower of "Melrose Place" and "Gossip Girls," no club anthems are playing in the background when characters walk and no drunken teens and sexual games being played among naïve teenagers.

Instead Lux gives her audience a spunky foster kid with a heart, street smarts, witty sense of humor and a good head on her shoulders. If spotting out clips of the Max train and various bridges in Portland aren't enough reasons to tune you in, Lux's warmth and determination to find a loving home certainly are.

"Life Unexpected" airs on Mondays at 9 p.m. on the CW.