

Moving out for school



Jessica Foster Clackamas Print

Beth Gross relaxes in the Community Center. She is one of many who has chosen to live on her own.

By John Simmons The Clackamas Print

In search of independence, they migrate away from their homes out into the big, open world. For the most part they are unprepared for the trials they will face; many are struck by the hardships of life, migrating from place to place until they either finally settle in or are forced to return home.

I am, of course, referring to college students.

The college years are a time of growth, self-discovery and an opportunity to gain maturity and knowledge. For many, this is also a time to try living away from home. By living away from their parents, students hope to prove that they can run their own lives and be self-sufficient and independent of parental influence.

Beth Gross moved out of her parents' house soon after graduating high school because she felt she could not stay in her hometown and wanted to be closer to school. She currently lives with her fiancé and a roommate and is entirely independent of her parents and their home.

"[It was my] best decision ever. It made me grow up. There wasn't anyone to take care of me; I had to do it all myself," said Gross.

Her standard of living is different but just as good as when she lived at home in her opinion. "I don't get home cooked meals as much, mostly because I don't have time, but it's happy," said Gross.

Luke Robinowitz recently moved out of his parents' house and into an apartment with a friend from high school so that he could be closer to work and school.

"I think when every kid gets to a certain age they start to grow apart from their parents and start clashing with them," he said. "For me, it was time to take responsibility for my life and show my parents I could do it."

Although moving out is appealing, there are certain downsides.

"It's worth it for the freedom, but then you realize how much you have to pay for," said Robinowitz. "It's definitely paycheck to paycheck. It's difficult to be independent and makes you kind of resent doing it."

Robinowitz makes enough money to have a fully stocked fridge and have other necessities paid for, but if he were to lose his job or if his car broke down, he wouldn't be able to cover his expenses. "I'd be screwed and probably have to go back to my parents' house," he said.

Sarah Miller moved out to gain independence and to grow independently from her parents but has a few regrets.

"It's so hard; I never had a home cooked meal unless I go over to my parents' house," she said. "If I were to go back and do it again, I would have stayed home a little longer. It's not just the rent you have to pay for; there are a lot of other expenses."

Many students are not fully independent of their parents and families after they leave the home. Robinowitz still relies on his parents for laundry and stays at their house once or twice a week. Miller lives with her sister and returns home periodically to have a home-cooked meal, and most college students need a roommate or two to help cover expenses.

Because of the cost and how hard it is to be completely independent, many students choose to stay at home.

Johnny Wade chose to stay at home because of the financial benefits.

"It's free to live at home," Wade said. "I get free food, and it's not that far from campus, so it would have been pointless to leave."

Emily Adams chose to stay at home for similar reasons. She doesn't have the money to move out, and in the meantime she can save up her money.

"I can save the money and spend it on whatever else I want," Adams said.

Andrew Fajen still lives at home because he sees no reason to leave.

"It's a lot cheaper for me. I get free food that's amazing, and I love the heck out of my family," he said. "If you're at community college, I think it's not important to move out. But if you're at a university, I think it's worth it. Experience college, you know?"

Before a student makes the final decision whether to move out or stay home, there are many things to consider.

"I think they need to know how to be sustainable. They need to be responsible, and they need to have a good flow of money," said Fajen. "They can't just expect everything to be easy; they need to be ready for the ups and downs of life. And they had better be mature!"

Students also need to consider whom they are moving in with.

"When I first moved out, I didn't think about whom I was moving out with and where I was moving out to, so I bounced around until I found the right place," said Gross. "Don't move in with someone just because they need a place as well. Be picky about whom you move in with."

"Save up some money, because you don't know what going to happen," said Robinowitz.

Annual Oregon Transfer Day comes to Clackamas again

By Chris Kramer
The Clackamas Print

On Feb. 15, Clackamas Community College will again be opening its doors to about 30 schools to help and provide students with the information they need to discover the best institution for their academic goals.

The event this year will be taking place in the Gregory Forum from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Transfer day brings representatives from higher education schools all around Oregon to one place in order to help students discover where they want to go with their higher education needs.

Co-organizer of the event Miguel Cardenas says CCC welcomes transfer day, "with intent of promoting higher education, higher credentials and higher degrees."

The event has something to offer every student with a diverse range of schools and majors, from online institutions to schools of oriental medicine.

"Whether you're undecided or decided, the fact is we have all these representatives on campus," said Cardenas.

Clackamas places a lot of importance on the event, and it is viewed as successful especially considering the low costs to the school it needs to run. Oregon Transfer Day is a tour that moves from community colleges around the state and is an annual event here. The school is doing something a little different this year as far as informing students of the event and its location.

"To let the students know in the past we've been mailing postcards but because of budget cuts ... and to align ourselves with the green movement, we've sent out electronic notifications," said Cardenas.

As the school is placing more and more importance on its MyClackamas e-mail system, this is a great way to reach out to students quickly and efficiently and alert them of the events location, time, and any further information they might need. It's also a great way to promote the green movement the school has been placing importance on.

Carla Crowder, a student at CCC, has never been to a transfer day event but plans to attend this year.

"I think it's very beneficial, and it basically can change lives in a positive manner because it gives them the opportunity to have all that they need from different schools at their fingertips," said Crowder.

In previous years, students have found

the event to be very helpful and informative. Brandon Shackelford attended last year's event and plans on attending again this year.

"Last year's Transfer Day was very informative, and I thought the staffs at the schools were very friendly and knew the answers to my questions. I learned that CCC has transfer credits to PSU, which was nice to know in case I want to go there," he said.

Overall the school expects a good turnout this year and encourages all students to attend the event.

Organizations attending Oregon Transfer Day

Corban College
Eastern Oregon University
Ford Foundation Scholarships
George Fox University
Linfield College
Linfield College Division of Continuing Education
Marylhurst University
Northwest Christian University
Oregon College of Oriental Medicine
Oregon State University
Oregon Institute of Technology
Pacific Northwest College of Art
Pacific University
Portland State University
Southern Oregon University
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University of Oregon
University of Phoenix
University of Portland
Warner Pacific College
Washington State University Vancouver
Western Oregon University
Western States Chiropractic College

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