

College president goes to Harvard

By Nathan Sturgess
The Clackamas Print

While the position of president in any institution comes with its privileges, often the amount of time, effort and care that goes into all that a president does cannot really be understood unless you're a president as well.

Two weeks ago Joanne Truesdell, Clackamas Community College president, had a rare opportunity to interact with 28 other college and university presidents at a seminar held at Harvard University in Boston.

"The program provides presidents a chance to step back, to reflect on where they've been and to think with others about what may lie ahead," said Judy McLaughlin, director of Harvard's higher education program and senior lecturer on education.

The seminar accepts a limited number of applicants who have a minimum of three years experience in the position. They must also show particular capability in their field, according to McLaughlin.

"We have found over the years that it's wonderful to have people from like institutions ... but it's also wonderful to have people from very different institutions," McLaughlin said.

One thing that set Truesdell apart at the seminar was the fact that she is actually an alum of the college she administers.

"She was one of two presidents in this particular group who were alums of their institution. One of the things I enjoyed enormously in talking with (Truesdell) is how much she personally believes in not only the mission of community colleges but in Clackamas," McLaughlin said. "She represented from that institution not only an extraordinarily capable leader, but a wonderful personal example of the benefits of a community college experience."

According to Truesdell, of the 28 presidents attending there were five other community colleges represented, along with other types of institutions. The smallest was a 150 student, private ministry school and the largest being a "\$2 billion institution," as Truesdell described it.

"(The seminar focused) around finance and financial structures, performance metrics and how all of those drive in to support student learning and success," said Truesdell.

For Truesdell, the seminar helped emphasize several important questions that the current economic circumstance has forced many institutions to ask. One of these questions is whether these circumstances are a true emergency, or are they just part of a long-term restructuring

of the economy.

"We have been thinking about that at our institution as a complete restructuring of how our economy (works), and how we need to operate now and in the long-term to be viable for our community," said Truesdell.

For Truesdell this meant that the central question that continues to need attention is the relationship between funding and access. She emphasized her concern for students who may be losing access because of a lack of public funding, and also pointed out how the far-reaching mission of CCC as a community institution makes this particularly important.

"Some of (the other presidents) were surprised at the breadth of our mission in Oregon by statute," said Truesdell.

When it came to the issue of performance metrics, Truesdell was very encouraged by the seminar.

"We're actually at the forefront of how we measure performance," said Truesdell. "A lot of the stuff we're doing around milestones and momentum points for

students actually is a lot further along in the thinking than many other (institutions).

"I feel affirmed that I'm asking the right questions about how do these decisions affect our ability to deliver an education across a continuum of missions and across a continuum of people's ability to pay and benefit," said Truesdell.

Courtney Wilton, vice president of college services, was confident that Truesdell had returned with a stronger resolve on this matter.

"Budget is a huge issue, and maintaining student access and affordability at a time when the state is significantly decreasing its support of community colleges is very challenging. I'm sure Joanne has gained insight into how best to address these challenges," said Wilton.

But while Truesdell was surrounded by the immense historical and intellectual significance of Harvard, she said that all she could think about was how she could help the students at Clackamas end up at Ivy League schools like that.



Contributed by Harvard University

The 29 college and university presidents all gathered at the Harvard seminar in Boston to discuss the financial and performance standings of their institutions. CCC President Joanne Truesdell is seated third from the left.

Final Exam Schedule

Class day & start time	Exam day & time		
M/W or M/W/F	Mon. 12/6	Tues. 12/7	Wed. 12/8
7:45 or 8 a.m.	8-10 a.m.		
9 a.m.		8-10 a.m.	
10 or 10:15 a.m.	10 a.m.-noon		
11 or 11:30 a.m.		10 a.m.-noon	
noon or 12:45 p.m.	noon-2 p.m.		
1 p.m.		noon-2 p.m.	
2 p.m.	2-4 p.m.		
3 or 3:15 p.m.		2-4 p.m.	
4 or 5 p.m.	4-6 p.m.		
T/TH			
7:30 or 8 a.m.	8-10 a.m.		
9 a.m.	10 a.m.-noon		
10 or 10:30 a.m.	noon-2 p.m.		
1 p.m.	2-4 p.m.		
2:30 or 3 p.m.	4-6 p.m.		
4 or 5 p.m.	see instructor		
Conflicts		4-6 p.m.	

CORRECTION: In the Nov. 17 issue of *The Clackamas Print*, Tena Olsen's name was misspelled in the story "Veterans club creates positive environment for young and old." *The Print* regrets the error.

visit
theclackamasprint.com



Best Mexican Food in Oregon City

TACHO'S

Mexican Restaurant Oregon City, Oregon

Lunch and Dinner Specials Daily

KARAOKE

Thurs. 9 p.m.-12 a.m.
Fri. & Sat. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Kids nights every Wednesday
Kids eat free w/one adult meal
Magician and Balloon Wizard
6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Follow us on:
Twitter: TachosinOC
Facebook: Tacho Espinoza

503-655-5562
515 Molalla Ave
Oregon City, Oregon
Tachosrestaurant.com