

Carey takes reign as tech chief

By John Simmons
Copy Editor

Although not the most visible department of Clackamas Community College, the Information Technology Services Department provides many necessary services to the college. Unfortunately ITS has had to deal with being understaffed since July, when the dean and one of the administrators left to work for another company.

That was when Kimberley Carey, who had been working as the director of administrative computing, was hired as interim dean and Chief Information Officer. After months of searching for someone to take the job, the Board of Education approved Carey as the new CIO on July 19.

"The first time when it was open, I had not applied, and when it was open again I chose to," said Carey. "A lot of reasoning was making sure I was fully supported in taking a new position here on campus, and during the interview process, I really felt like I was by both the executive team and staff here."

Courtney Wilton, vice president chairman of colleges and chief financial officer of CCC, said that Carey was hired because she was the most qualified for the position. He said she is doing an excellent job so far in handling challenges well, challenges such as being understaffed and managing the myriad things ITS has done at one time.

"We have a lot of things going at once ... and it's a lot of change," said Wilton. "We're upgrading our payroll system ... and going to this online time-keeping system, which is more reliable. We're looking at a different type of scheduling system and hoping that we can automate it to a larger degree. We're also looking at a software program (Analytics) which will allow us to better utilize the information that is in the system right now which is available to managers and staff as it should be, so we can allow us to do a better job of providing information to staff who really need it."

Carey's new position comes with some benefits, such as more control over the processes as well as an increase in pay. "It's a pretty big position, definitely something I had to think over before I jumped into it," said Carey. "There are a lot of reasons why I like this position. I think there would be not just thinking about things operationally but also strategically. I like being involved in the brainstorming ... and helping guide some of the decisions; that was a big draw of why I applied. It came with a raise." Deans are on a different pay scale than director level.

Carey's salary is now in the level 15 meaning that she annually makes \$81,315-108,300. She has 15 ITS staff that she supervises and several other staff that she oversees.

"We have our desktop support, we have our network support and we also have our support for myClackamas,



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Kimberley Carey was recently promoted to Chief Information Officer of Information Technology Services. She says she is ready for the responsibilities that her new position will put on her and is excited for her new job here at CCC.

as well as Datatel (CCC's main administrative system); I'm overseeing all of that right now," Carey said. "That wouldn't normally be all under a CIO - obviously it would be under the umbrella of CIO, but the day-to-day management of it wouldn't have been all under the CIO's supervision."

"A lot of it is just looking strategically at what technology is out there, what our needs are on campus and trying to fit that so we're not just worried about the day-to-day but also what can we be doing better and take advantage of some of the technology that's out there."

Mary Collins, software applications specialist, has known Carey since being hired a little over two years ago and is excited that she's been promoted.

"It means my department has a chief, and that's very important for us," said Collins. "I'm looking forward to what she does with that. I think there hasn't been a good defining challenge for her yet that you can point to and say, 'Yeah that's why we hired her,' but those are coming up. I have full confidence in her and she's going to be great."

Collins pointed out that a major task for Carey will be to keep the ITS team working together and to keep them informed of each other's projects despite being spread out throughout the Barlow building. With budget cuts on the horizon, another task will be finding ways for ITS to become more streamline.

"As Courtney has presented, there are different ways of approaching it, from cutting expenses to generating revenue," said Carey. "We're not a revenue-generating department, but there are always ways we can try to cut costs, it's just a little more difficult in IT because a lot of it is contractual arrangements that we have with vendors that we'd then have to renegotiate. We can try and present that before our exec team and see if that's acceptable, because whatever we cut in IT will have an impact for what we do."

"I met with all my staff one-on-one to get their ideas if we want to look at restructuring. I think we want to make sure that we're efficient and responsive to needs. I don't like to change just for change's sake, but if there're ways we can become more efficient and communicate better with each other then I'm for it. We had two different director positions under the CIO, so as a cost-saving measure maybe one of those positions would be eliminated. If we did ... obviously we'd have to look at some structural changes with that."

Although she steps into the shoes of CIO at a time of trial for Clackamas, Carey's coworkers are confident in her ability to lead the department effectively and better the school as a result.

"Congratulations to Kim and good job to the people who hired her; it was a smart decision," said Collins.

MILITARY: College working towards giving veterans credit

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"We're also working with the business department on what we could do in the area of project management because a number of (military positions) have that. Also a number of those positions have to do with knowledge of water quality. You have a mobile unit, you put it somewhere and what do you do to make sure the water quality is what you need for drinking water? What do you do with waste? Those are the three areas that we are specifically targeting right now. But the desire is that we go beyond that," he said.

"The US Military's training might not match what the courses at CCC provide and that is needed for full credit. That is one of the biggest challenges that this project faces."

"There's another piece to it. What if you met 80% of the outcomes but not the other 20%? Part of what we're working with departments on is to identify what (veterans) would have to do to get those outcomes and making those modules available to the veterans so they don't have to go through the entire course."

"The automotive department is the closest program to being ready according to Moller, the department chair for automotive technology. They're working on how to cover the gaps of missing information that military training doesn't cover for the automotive field."

"We've been working with the college transcribing military service and looking at their MOS (military operations specialist) numbers and the corresponding hours of the courses. And then trying to see if we can take components of our regularly scheduled courses, classified as a bridge course, to fill in the content and hours they need to qualify for the

full credits in our program to help them graduate," said Bradley.

As each department analyzes the needs and gaps of veterans, it'll help to create a comprehensive bridging class to get veterans caught up.

"At this point we're evaluating every veteran on a case-by-case basis and comparing their military transcripts and everything else they have with our course content. So when someone comes in with a particular MOS we know that every single person that comes in with that same number course on their transcript they will need X, Y and Z to equate to the 7 credit course we offer," said Bradley.

Moller is also leaving it to the respective departments whether or not they will have an aptitude test in order to be awarded credit, something that Bradley is planning to do. Currently there are no specific limitations on which generations of veterans are eligible but Moller said that he felt that some veterans may not be able to use their previous experience for credit towards a degree based on technology changes.

"Most of these are technical pieces that they are learning about. Say my department was computer science and someone came in says 'Yes, I did all of these things' in a programming language that we are no longer using. It doesn't really take the place of current programming language," said Moller. "But exactly at what point does that happen? Again we would work with individual departments who are familiar with the technology that is in question."

Student Brandon Duval spent eight years as military police in the United States Army and feels that Clackamas's service to veterans is superb but wouldn't mind to see his service experience covered by this project.

"There are so many different MOS's in the mili-

tary so I know for a lot of people it's going to vary depending on what their specialty was in the military. For example I was military police, so it would be a short jump to a criminal justice degree. But I know that very little of my criminal justice experience from the military actually transfers over."



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Brandon Duval works on his assault rifle in his apartment. As a veteran, Duval is a certified armorer. He can do basic repairs to pistols, rifles and machine guns. Getting college credit for his service would help Duval further his career.