



Patty Salazar The Clackamas Print

Hiroaki Hayashi, an international student from Japan, talks with his advisor, Andrea Vergun, at Clackamas Community College. Hayashi is one of 23 international students attending CCC this year.

International students find home at Clackamas

By Patty Salazar
News Editor

In the bustle of new and returning students at Clackamas Community College, you may have noticed a few visitors around campus. This year we have 23 international students, joining our student body. Although it might not seem like an extremely large amount of students, it is one of the highest numbers of international students that CCC has had in a few years.

The number of international students attending Oregon universities on student visas has risen recently. According to the Oregon University System in the fall 2010 enrollment fact sheet, international students grew by 19.9 percent, to an all time high of 5,733 students representing 127 countries. The college could have had a big pay out from international students since they pay triple the tuition of an Oregon resident.

Over time at CCC, the international student count has been relatively low. Anne Bachmann, English as a second language instructor at CCC, mentioned that the program for intensive English has 11 international students but there are more in the general student body.

Andrea Vergun, adviser for intensive English at CCC, said, "It's great that we [CCC] have a great reputation that we are getting people to come by word of mouth, however 11 people aren't much."

Bachmann, who went to Taiwan as a recruiter for CCC in past years, explained that the department simply doesn't have the funds to go on recruiting trips. "Those fares are quite expensive, but I think that there is a big pay off if you keep going." She stressed that it is really important to build relationships with the families so that they are comfortable sending their child to CCC. With the department funds running low that cannot be accomplished.

Since the ESL department cannot afford to send recruiters out, Vergun is now doing what they call "arm chair recruiting." She is doing a virtual fair this month. Vergun is going to be a representative for Study Oregon, an organization that consists of Oregon colleges, to recruit online.

One of the international students attending CCC this year is Hiroaki Hayashi, 21, of Japan. Hayashi isn't new to Oregon; he finished his senior year in high school at Silverton High School in 2008 before going back to Japan to attend college. While in Japan he studied linguistics and wanted to study abroad once again. Hayashi spoke to his American host family in Silverton about coming back to study. They recommended CCC as the best community college in Oregon.

The cost for Hayashi to attend CCC for a term is close to \$3,000. Hayashi is attending CCC for the rest of the 2011-2012 year.

SUSTAINABILITY: 14 stops on tour

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The tour starts at Barlow Hall, with a display of how the college has been saving millions of dollars in energy costs, thanks in part to CCC's Lead Energy Coordinator Hilmo Ljucevic. "Hilmo Ljucevic is a really smart guy. He used to run billion-dollar power plants in Bosnia and [across] Europe. He has all sorts of ideas to increase our energy efficiency and move more and more off the grid," said Noel.

According to Ljucevic, his goal has always been the same, to increase efficiency through researching new discoveries and technologies. "For me, [there] always was [the] question about the optimization process. If you want [a non-technical] word, optimization means sustainability. It means green," said Ljucevic.

Some other features of the sustainability tour include a wind turbine on top of Barlow Hall, solar thermal energy collectors on top of the Pauling, Randall and McLoughlin buildings, which provide them with hot water. In the south parking lot near Roger Rook Hall, the campus has installed two electric car charging stations, which are currently free to use.

The Environmental Learning Center, which was built mainly from recycled materials and reclaimed lumber, is included on the sustainability tour. "They are looking to update and improve that site," said Carrie Kraten, from the renewable energy and sustainability department.

Toward the horticulture center, there are displays

featuring many different practices of composting, each with benefits and cost to build. Also in the area, an eco-roof model is displayed. The water-efficiency demonstration gardens can be seen closer to Clairmont Hall.

"One thing the dean wants to do is merge the functional aspect with the educational aspect," said Kraten.

There are 14 stops in all. Soon, the wind turbine and photovoltaic solar panel on top of Barlow will feed to a TV screen in the Community Center, which will show the live energy being generated by the turbine and solar panels in the area.

There is more information available about each stop in the Sustainability Tour pamphlet released by the campus's Renewable Energy and Sustainability Resource Center and on the signs at each stop on the tour itself.

According to Kraten, the project has been funded by both federal grants and the college foundation, which helped purchase the live energy display monitor in the Community Center, along with making the signs and pamphlets for the tour.

"Hopefully, [the tour] creates a sustainability dialogue on campus. I think that's the first step," said Noel. Last Friday, Noel left the project, heading back East to pursue other projects but the sustainability tour will continue with the help of volunteers.

"[With sustainability] you can't reach a goal if you don't change some habits," said Ljucevic.

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