

Scholarship specialist offers advice

By **Patty Salazar**
News Editor

Winner, winner, chicken dinner! You could be a winner of free education. At Clackamas Community College, many scholarships exist for new and returning students. Darcie Iven, financial aid and scholarship coordinator, has a few things to say to help you know what you need to be a scholarship recipient.

The Clackamas Print: How many students apply for scholarships?

Darcie Iven: Between 500 and 700.

TCP: How many scholarships are available?

DI: The number is always changing because the foundation is always adding more. This is 2011-12 numbers; we received 561 applications for 321 scholarships and 247 individuals got awarded. The odds are really good. So far this year we have awarded \$592,000 and that will be more by the end of the year, we will be over \$600,000.

TCP: When are the scholarship applications due for 2012-2013 and where should they be turned in?

DI: April 30. They [students] can type in the application online, but it still has to be printed out. When they [students] submit it, they have to have their essay and letters of recommendation and their transcript. Just turn them in the front counter of Rook Hall.

TCP: What is the largest scholarship offered by the foundation?

DI: The largest dollar amount is the James Streeter.

TCP: Do local high schools work with the college to offer scholarships?

DI: How our program works here is our college offers each of the high schools in our service district three scholarships; we have all our high school seniors turn their Clackamas applications into their high school counseling and career office. They get a group together and they decided who gets those three scholarships. We offer an honor, opportunity and academic incentive scholarships. Then they let me know what their decision is and also give me all of the applications and they all go into the running for the rest of the scholarships here.

TCP: Would you highly recommend for any and all students to apply for scholarships?

DI: I absolutely would because there is something for everyone. All you need is a 2.0 GPA or higher. You could be going six credits or more. There's something for the automotive students, there's something for the theater student there's just general scholarships no matter what you're taking. Some are specific and some are general. So yeah everyone should apply.

TCP: Does getting scholarships affect you getting FASFA?

DI: You can get them both. We have a couple of

grants that comes [through] FAFSA and some of them run out before since there is only that amount of money. Students normally fill it in with loans so scholarship money can go in and make it so that you don't have to take out so many loans. It's a much better deal.

TCP: Is there anything else you would like to add?

DI: Scholarships are just the smart thing to do. It's free money you don't have to pay it back. Anybody who is coming to a community college try to keep cost low as much as you can 'cause it's going to cost you so much more when you move on to a four year.

Iven also suggested that students start with a search engine such as fastweb.com, with fastweb you fill out some demographic questions and then you are sent emails offering scholarships that are fit to yourself. Although using such a website a person is in a pool of everybody in the nation. Iven's next suggested step would be to apply to the Oregon Student Access Commission [OSAC] where the pool of applicants shrinks to only Oregon students. And of course apply to scholarships offered by the school you are attending, such as CCC. To check out off the scholarships that are up for grabs go to www.clackamas.edu/scholarships.

Online classes help busy students load credits

By **Joshua Dillen**
Associate News Editor

Frustration, disappointment and confusion are commonplace emotions on campus when registering for classes. The logistics can be overwhelming when working education into a busy lifestyle.

Winter term is halfway through and it's time to think about spring. Pre-registration for spring enrollment at Clackamas Community College begins on Tuesday, Feb. 28 for returning students. New enrollees can begin the process a week later.

It's difficult for some to work out the right schedule while optimizing their educational goals. It can be particularly hard to coordinate an effective class load that fits into a student's everyday life. Single parents, full and part time workers and those who may have a substantial commute often find it difficult to effectively juggle a busy lifestyle and school. Whatever the hindrance, distance learning may be the solution that overcomes these and other obstacles.

Taking online courses removes the attending part of the educational equation. They could possibly alleviate some of the time wasted trying to make a class schedule work. Travel related expenses can be substantially cut or eliminated. With the definite advantage of freeing up large chunks of time, these courses look very attractive to some, but have they are a disadvantage for others.

"Distance learning requires self regulating skills," said Steve Beining, department chair of distance learning. "If you're not that kind of student, you probably won't do well with distance learning."

With four years at his current position, Beining stresses that someone who is "good" at being a student is the best candidate for this modern style of teaching. A student should be studious and be able to seek help via the virtual classroom setting, he explained. Of course, a computer, preferably less than four years old and a reliable Internet connection are necessary.

"Our goal is to make educational resources available to more and more people," Beining said. "It provides convenience and flexibility."

Last term there were 119 online courses offered at CCC, in which, a total of 3,570 students enrolled. Beining explained that is generally where he sees enrollment statistics staying for the foreseeable future. Winter term in 2011 had 131 courses with 3,235 enrolled.

Students that are apprehensive about such nontraditional learning environments do have resources at the college to encourage and support their success. Beining highly recommends taking classes like EL-90 (Applied Study Skills for 3 credits which is not available

as an online class). The course emphasizes the building of study skills, organization and time management with an introduction to distance learning and Moodle. Moodle is the virtual classroom environment students use to access lessons, turn in assignments and even interact with classmates via discussion forums. He also said hybrid courses can be a great option for those who want to test online education. Hybrid courses have less real class time than regular courses and offer many of the aspects of completely web-based classrooms.

Laurel Reed, CCC student, is taking classes in both formats. She works in the call center at the college and would not have the time to manage the 17 credits she is taking this term if not for distance learning. In spite of this advantage she expresses that you will not get the same experience without a real classroom.

"You're not getting the face to face interaction you need to get it and really understand the lesson," she said. "People need that interaction with teachers and classmates to see their viewpoint and understand more. You have a better experience in a classroom."

Reed admits it is hard to balance the benefits of freeing up time versus her obvious respect for good old fashioned teaching in a classroom. She admits distance learning is a necessary thing for her and plans to enroll in more online classes next term.

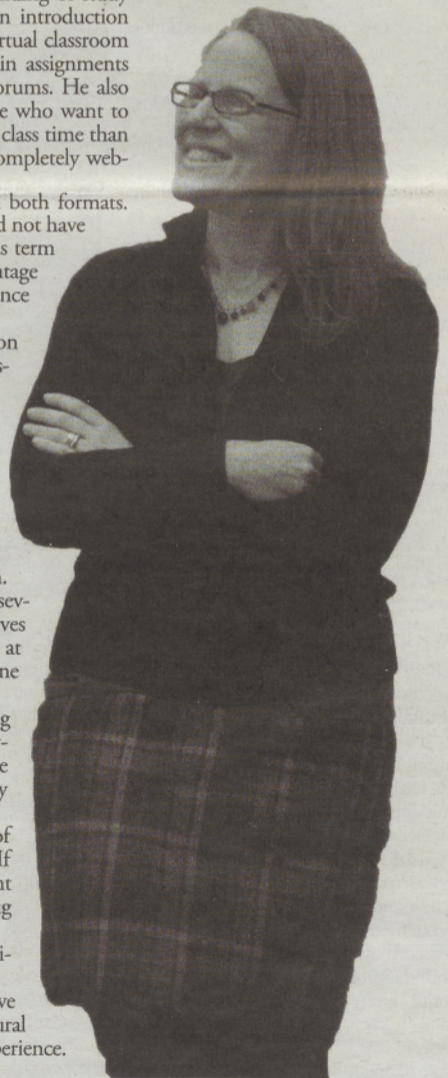
Trista Cornelius, English instructor, has taught several distance learning courses at the college and believes it is a great way to learn. As an English instructor at CCC for 10 years, she said she has taught at least one online class for each term she has worked here.

"They're different, but I really enjoy teaching online courses. I get to be organized. It's like having a lot of pen pals," she said, "But I do miss the spontaneity of a real classroom, no matter how lively your discussion board is."

Cornelius also feels it takes the right kind of learner to be successful in a virtual environment. If the energy of a classroom isn't necessary and a student has the right study skill or there are other inhibiting factors, the curriculum works very well.

"As long as you are totally motivated and disciplined it's great," she said, "but it's not the same."

Cornelius likes the contemplative and creative natures of the teaching style. She enjoys the cultural diversity that online classes seem to have, in her experience.



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