

# Foundation gives hope to inspiring minds

By Joshua Dillen  
Associate News Editor

Pocket change is not what the Clackamas Community College Foundation awards to students and spends on the college every year. More than \$600,000 is to be given away to students this fiscal year by the Foundation. These monies, in the form of scholarships and grants, are awarded yearly by the Foundation through their efforts in coordinating and managing several yearly scholarships and endowments that contribute money in perpetuity.

The Foundation also ensures that various college departments have funding to complete programs and projects or even upgrade equipment, called Funds for Excellence, which supplement the college's regular sources of income. These funds amount to more than \$500,000 each year to bring their contribution to education here well over \$1 million through June 30. The Foundation has a current endowment of more than \$11 million that is invested and pays for a lot of what is happening at the college every year. Niemyer Center would not have been finished if not for funds raised by the Foundation and its committee headed by the late Chuck Clemans, a long time Foundation Board member.

With spring term right around the corner, and the expense that comes with this hectic time, students might like to know what the Foundation does for them and the college. This money comes from donations by individuals, other foundations and even fundraisers that have included golf tournaments sponsored by the CCC Foundation. In our current economy, the CCC Foundation is a very important part of the college providing a great resource for students, according to Karen Martini, the Executive Director of the Foundation. She explains the purpose and mission that drives these awards.

"Our mission is to raise friends and funds for Clackamas Community College. Everything is college-centered. Everything we do is driven by the college mission," said Martini. "The two pieces that categorize us most would be student access and student success. We really try to help create a place that will give them everything they need to move on and be successful."



*Karen Martini, director of the CCC Foundation works hard to build relationships to raise funds for the improvement of college programs and provide monies for student scholarships. Students receive more than \$600,000 annually in the form of scholarships.*

Martini said that access is provided by the scholarships, textbook grants — the things that help a student be here and stay here. Then there's help that provides for success from the funds that improve programs, facility enhancements, equipment purchases and upgrading technology. These funds build a physical environment that is conducive to that success.

Foundation Scholarship application deadline is arriving soon. Students have until April 29 to return a completed application to the Financial Aid Office in Rook Hall. Applicants can download or fill out and print an application at [clackamas.edu](http://clackamas.edu) or pick one up in Rook Hall. There is also a link to a complete list of scholarships and the criteria needed to be considered for award. Students should review this list to be aware of what is expected from students for each scholarship. GPA, field of study, total credits per term and other factors vary depending on the scholarship.

Many only require a 2.0 GPA and only six credits. The site also has links to many helpful tips and strategies to win scholarship and grant awards. The site will have a list of recipients available on June 30 who will be notified by mail. The funds will be disbursed fall term of the 2012-2013 school year.

Darcie Iven is a Financial Aid/Scholarship Adviser with the college and works closely with students and the Foundation to coordinate the monies it provides.

"I work with the Foundation. They handle the donor end of it. They raise the money. I handle the student end, giving out the money," she said.

Iven likes to help the students and make a difference in their lives. There is an advising session every Thursday evening 5 to 6 p.m. according to Iven, that helps students learn how to search for scholarships and what's available. There is also

information about filling out your FAFSA.

"They are a wonderful organization and they work all year long finding new money," Iven said. "The amount we can give each year in scholarships is increasing. My job is increasing the number of students who apply. There's no reason a student shouldn't apply."

Martini also said the CCC Foundation is one of the more successful community college foundations in the state and is proud that 80 percent of the full time employees who contribute to the Foundation.

"We have the best staff giving record in the state," she said, "People look to us for a model."

Matthew LaForce, Chair of the Engineering and Sciences Department, is excited about the staff donations to the Foundation. "It's a huge thing that people don't know that the faculty here donates more than any other college in the state."

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