

# Q&A - Farewell to Joanne Truesdell

Joanne Truesdell announced on March 9, 2017 that she is stepping down from her position as president here at Clackamas Community College. The Clackamas Print conducted an exit interview with Joanne Truesdell and asked her to talk about her time at CCC, as well as her future plans. Lori Hall, the Public Information Officer for CCC, sat in on the interview.

STORY AND PHOTO BY JARED PREBLE  
ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR

## The Clackamas Print: What has been one of your favorite accomplishments as president?

Joanne Truesdell: I think my favorite accomplishment is getting our Veterans Education and Training Center recharged. Our students who access the Vet Center often don't have a place, and didn't have a place to go pretty much all in Oregon. So, it was good during the deployment and then the reintegration for us to have stepped up and taken that level of service to people who've served the country.

## TCP: What path in education did you take that resulted in earning the title of Doctor?

JT: Oh, great! My first degree, 1982 from

Clackamas Community College. My last degree, 1997, from Oregon State University. I worked my way through college, and by that, I mean I worked full time and went to school full time.

## Lori Hall: Share your story about how you came to CCC.

JT: I came to CCC, I was out of high school and I was working and didn't know that college would be an option for me. I was employed and my supervisor, my director, in about February after graduation, so about nine months later, he was trying to figure out why I wasn't in school because all of their children were away to college and so, why not me? I said lot's of things like "I don't have enough money," "Because I don't think it's an option for me," "I've heard people say that people

like me don't go to college," that kinda thing. Anyway, he said to come up to Clackamas and learn how to go to college or don't come back to work. That was how I took it. He might not have said that literally, but at 19, that's how I took it.

So, I came up here, and I sat in the parking lot for about 40 minutes trying to figure out every excuse possible about why I didn't go in and what I could tell him- things that I knew he wouldn't believe. And then I went into the Community Center which looked pretty similar to the Community Center we have now and I met someone who actually acted and said things that made it kind of normal that I would, of course be interested in attending college, why wouldn't I? So, I got what I needed when I came into a friendly environment and I stayed. It took a lot to stay, so it's not

President Truesdell sporting her first degree which she received from Clackamas Community College in 1982. She received her last degree in 1997 from Oregon State University.

