

easy. Along the way, I met individuals at the college who I could rely on for good information and for encouragement.

**TCP: How do you believe you have improved since starting your position?**

JT: Well, I think that my time between the moment I believed there is something that is in our control as an institution that we could correct for students, so the stuff that's in our control that gets in the way for students. I believe that not only am I quicker at helping others or just seeing it more globally if there's something like that that's happening, being clear in partnership with all of us that we're going to correct it.

I think that those are things that over time you learn, mostly because what we do doesn't really change, but students' needs and what they may need from us changes more so than sometimes we believe. Just being able to continually review that and hear from students, what's working, and not working, leads to a quicker time of learning more about their needs and then what we need to do to address that. So, it's really about identifying a concern that students have, and getting it addressed.

*"I like to make sure I stay in touch with that peace, that connection to why we're here. That's what I'll miss."*

*-Joanne Truesdell*

**TCP: What are you going to miss the most about holding the position of president?**

JT: I love graduation. It's great. I love graduation. I like being here on campus, I like seeing students, I like asking them what they're studying. I like asking them how's it going, how are we treating you here at Clackamas, what else could we do better for you. I like those parts. Those parts mean a lot to me, because without Clackamas, I wouldn't have had access to an education. So I really get that for most of our students it may, in fact, be that same way. I like to make sure I stay in touch with that peace, that connection to why we're here. That's what I'll miss.

**TCP: Have you met the expectations for your 2016 - 2017 goals?**

JT: Yes. The strategic priorities are about academic relevance and innovation, guided pathways and college readiness, so those are

pretty big goals, and those take more than one year. For this year, there are certain activities that we said we would be doing in order to make sure that we stay on track to accomplish those priorities, and we have met those. We've done grants that's with our school partners for academic and college readiness out in our high schools, so our partnership office is working on that so we've been able to secure funds and keep that project moving.

Some of our faculty members, last minute, especially in college readiness, jumped in to help some of our high schools who suddenly didn't have a faculty member to teach in a program, a career technical program specifically, so that's great. Guided pathways- we've got two things going we've got our navigate and we're testing that system and students are piloting. Then we're also addressing assessment and curriculum outcomes, so those are the things that are important for us to continue and so yes, we are meeting those goals.

**TCP: What is a quality that you think the following president should have?**

JT: I think the most important quality, and from what I've met of Dr. Cook so far, I think a genuine concern for the people we serve and a genuine understanding of our part in making things work for students and I believe he has that fundamentally. I think the board, and I think the whole entire process and I think the college people all believe that he can do a good job, I believe it too, I concur with them, and I think that he'll do well for us in the future. I have every confidence in him.

**TCP: What do you plan to do afterwards?**

JT: Well, afterwards, I have grandchildren, and I have a family and these jobs are fairly all-consuming and so I really do want to spend more time with them and go on a real camping trip for an extended period of time. So I like to camp and I like to fish, and right now my fishing excursions are twice a year, so I'd want to get up to maybe once a month to fish and play with the grandkids and I have some older ones, so watch their basketball games, watch their plays with my younger one. And then I do want to stay connected to the college through the foundation and participating on the foundation board to continue the good work the foundation's doing to raise money for students.

**TCP: What's an interesting thing that most people don't know about you?**

JT: Well, I used to be a trick rider. I used to ride in rodeos and do stunts off of running horses when I was younger, 'til I was about 20. I was hired, so it was kind of the intermission act in a rodeo. My family had horses, we rode horses and we rode in team roping events and barrel racing and stuff like that. It just so happened that a friend of mine was also a trick rider and we were partnering up, I got a saddle and started. It was fun, I will say though, that whenever it's a difficult day at the college, like the legislature is not doing what I think it should be doing for us, I always think at least I'm not being drug by a horse in the mud.

I had a brand new strap one time, and I was out in practice and checked all the equipment over and it was all fine, and then got out there and went off the back into what was called a "death drag" and one of the brand new straps, something somehow was weak and it snapped and I got drug by one leg. Fortunately, the horse stopped. They're trained to dead run until they get to the pivot horse. Then I had to put my horse in the trailer, I was 16, and drive home and then I had what I would call hamburger back, it was not good, and then I had a performance in two days.

**TCP: Is there a message that you'd like to pass on to students here at CCC?**

JT: It's been a pleasure to serve you, students. Always know that at this institution, if there is something that is not going well for you, that we're not doing to serve you, the next president or the board always wants to know, because we want to make things good for you.

## EOU PORTLAND

eou.edu/portland | cfinholt@eou.edu | 503.594.0962

### Come see me today on the Clackamas campus!

- > Free unofficial transcript review
- > Learn about Fast Track Transfer
- > Create your educational plan to EOU



Christi Finholt | Regional Advisor

Partnering with Clackamas Community College

Harmony Center | 7738 SE Harmony Road

Portland, Oregon 97222

