

TCP: Where did you go to college?

Cook: Western Oregon University.

TCP: Is it true you run marathons?

Cook: I've done 29. I'm trying to run one in every state. I've run 18 different states. My last (was) in Kauai, Hawaii. I did Anchorage, Alaska, at the end of June.

TCP: Did you hope to one day be a college president?

Cook: This isn't a job I was aspiring to. I didn't think I was gonna be a college president one day. I started working at Clark College in the 90s as a counselor. I really thought I would do that job forever.

TCP: What are some of CCC's strong points?

Cook: Faculty, staff, students really care about this place and they care about each other. I learned that right off the bat.

TCP: How does tuition at Clark, your former college, compare to CCC?

Cook: It's hard to do a straight comparison. You'll have to do the research on this and tell me if I'm right or wrong. I think it was \$105 an hour, it could've been a \$108 an hour at Clark. Ours is \$100 and it just went up to \$100 this year and it went up from \$93 which is a big jump, why I hesitate on that is you can't just look at tuition. You have to look at fees.

TCP: Is there anything you want to change about CCC?

Cook: What I've been understanding from folks is that we're kind of the best kept secret in town. People feel really good about us but no one really knows what we can do, so, I look at that as an opportunity to really get the word out. We are one of the most under-served areas for education, meaning there are a lot of people in this community that aren't going to college that could be coming. I see that as another opportunity to get people here.

TCP: You're really into vinyl records?

Cook: Now we're getting serious. I think I have four record players and a jukebox at home; I have a lot of vinyl and I'm really into 45s now. So I bring in records to play in the office. I have a couple hundred holiday albums cause I collect that weird kind of stuff. I'll probably host some holiday dance parties up in the office.

TCP: Do you feel like CCC does a good job of emphasizing both athletic and arts programs?

Cook: Yeah I do. I have been incredibly impressed with the theater program here. One of my favorite places about this campus is all of the sculpture art. On nice days like these one of my favorite things to do is just wander around. Our wrestling team has won five national titles, they're amazing. I think there's a good balance.



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