

Welcome Center opening delayed

Wacheno still inaccessible to students

STORY & PHOTOS BY JOSEPH LOHMOLDER
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The long anticipated Wacheno Welcome Center at the Oregon City campus is unfortunately still inaccessible to students. Previously expected to be finished over the summer and ready for the start of fall term, the WWC has undergone renovations after a leak caused significant delays.

The Clackamas Print reached out to Lori Hall, the executive director of college relations and marketing. Hall stated that, "Many of the windows were not installed according to the detail provided by the architect. This error allowed the windows to leak when tested during construction." The delay in opening stems from the time needed to replace the incorrectly installed windows and retest them.

The creation of the WCC has been accompanied by the remodeling of the old Bill Brod Community Center, which includes a face lift of Bill Brod as well as a conjoining of the two buildings.

The Clackamas Print was given the opportunity to tour the new WWC along with Tami Harper, administrative coordinator for the college's department of Academic Foundations and Connections, who provided information on what the new facility has to offer. You can listen to our full interview with Harper on Spotify.

It is still unknown when the WWC will be open and available to students; although, there was a virtual dedication on Oct. 29.

The WCC is meant to house most of the college's student services, including advising, enrollment, financial aid, testing and placement services and education partnerships. The building itself is stunning; its many windows provide plenty of natural light as well as never-

before-seen views of the campus. The new center is sure to be an amazing new resource and crown jewel of campus, that is when it is finally ready.

The college has been less than clear on when the WCC will open. However, college president Tim Cook said in an email on Nov. 18 that, "It is our hope that we can open the Wacheno Welcome Center with limited hours and limited staffing for winter term."

It should be noted that this lack of clarity

extends beyond the walls of the WCC. The college has also stated that there will be more classes offered periodically throughout the 2021-2022 school year; however the numbers simply do not add up.

For comparison, fall 2019 saw 1,674 in person classes and 171 split hybrid, online and remote courses. Fall 2021 saw 463 in person and 980 classes that were hybrid, online and remote. It is expected that in winter 2022, there will be 388 and 856 respectively.



Inside the empty Wacheno Welcome Center during fall term.

Nine COVID cases hit campus in fall

STORY BY REILLY SMITH & JOSEPH LOHMOLDER
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Clackamas Community College announced the ninth confirmed case of COVID-19 on campus of fall term on Dec. 10. The first case was reported on Oct. 14.

In an email sent to students and staff, the college stated that "The person was last on the Oregon City campus on Dec. 9 in the Family Resource Center and DeJardin" and that they are now following self-isolation protocols.

The Dec. 10 case is the second to be confirmed this month — six earlier cases were confirmed in November.

The cases have been in different buildings on the Oregon City campus: the Pauling Center, the Randall weight room, the Holden Industrial Technology Center, the welding shop, Barlow Hall, Lewelling, the Niemeyer Center and now DeJardin.

Like most formal in-person education in the state of Oregon, the college shut down in-person operations in March 2020. Almost all classes moved online; however, in-person classes have slowly returned. Fall term, for example, saw the return of in-person classes for theater, graphic design and others.

The Oregon City campus has more staff and students on campus than in fall 2020, and has had a larger number of reported cases than fall of last year. College athletics and sports moved away from in-person training in 2020 after a third COVID-19 case in November 2020.

This year, all athletic programs are back on campus, with many athletes competing without masks.

The college is encouraging students and faculty to regularly visit the Return to Campus webpage, which outlines all current guidelines and COVID-19 safety protocols. The college advises anyone present on campus who contracts COVID-19 to notify their instructors, as well as College Safety.

