

## CGCC's pre-college program offers support, opportunity

### Non-traditional students offered paths to success

By Kelsie Cowart  
For Columbia Gorge News

The Pre-College Program at Columbia Gorge Community College is a multifaceted program that provides education and resources to those interested in completing their pre-college education and/or gaining learning and work skills. The GED program, where students 16 and up are taught content for passing the General Educational Development (GED) test is a major component of the program.

According to Andrew Carmichael, pre-college program department chair and GED instructor, students engage in lessons through instruction and the discussion of topics and strategies needed to pass the GED test, and practice problem-solving skills through working together in small groups.

Traditionally, students attended GED orientation and classes at the CGCC campus, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, classes are currently taking place purely online.

Having to work completely online has created challenges for everyone in education, said Matt Fitzpatrick, the program's director and Transitions and Pathways adviser. One of those challenges is the significant amount of time needed to work with each student individually. But Fitzpatrick also noted there have been many positive changes as well. "We were a little apprehensive about teaching into student's homes ... and now I don't think we'd ever (completely) go back," he said.

These positives stem from being able to work around obstacles that working, non-traditional students may face while attempting to get their certificates, such as a lack of transportation to class. The program has also been able to further bridge



Janette Harrington teaches in the pre-college classroom at Columbia Gorge Community College. Classes are now primarily held online via Zoom. Contributed photo

some of the gaps by providing technical resources, such as laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots, to students in need of them, as well as scholarships of \$152 for those who require financial assistance to pay for the test.

Upon successful completion of the GED test, students are granted an eight-credit tuition waiver to go towards classes at Columbia Gorge Community College.

The GED Program wants potential students to know that the staff recognizes the challenges students may be facing when trying to decide whether or not to participate in the program — understanding the negative associations students may have with classroom environments, and/or the lack of time and resources (such as childcare) working individuals can spare for homework and classroom time.

With classes costing \$25 dollars, regardless of the number taken at one time, program staff are willing to work with them to find solutions that will help them through the course and gain their certificate.

Alongside GED, another prominent facet of the Pre-College Program includes the Youth Success Program — a supportive resource available to qualifying students. Students who are homeless or have a criminal history can also be provided with a multitude of resources such as job placement assistance, pre-college skills development (subjects such as reading, writing, and math), and soft work skills development.

With built in incentives, such as \$100 gifts cards for students who do well in the first two weeks of participation, the Youth Success Program seeks to help as many individuals as possible to gain the skills they need to jumpstart a successful career.

According to Fitzpatrick, other "wrap around" services include programs such as the Adult and Dislocated Worker Program — a resource for Oregon residents who are 18 and older. One program benefit can include scholarships for short term training certificates through CGCC or other training providers.

Another service assists employers with offsetting the

cost of training new employees. This pre-hire, "on-the-job training" arrangement can provide employers with wage reimbursement while helping job seekers begin a new career path (for a full list of qualifying requirements for the Youth Success and Adult Dislocation Programs, visit [ged.cgcc.edu/resources](http://ged.cgcc.edu/resources)).

Another important facet of the Pre-college Program is the Gorge Literacy Program. Volunteer based, Gorge Literacy is a confidential, one-on-one tutoring resource for pre-college students preparing for the GED, as well as members of the community who need assistance with reading and writing, basic math, and English language learning. The program's mission is to enable community members "to reach their goals and realize their potential within their family, work, and community lives."

For further information on the program and how to register, as well as a survey of individual needs, visit [ged.cgcc.edu](http://ged.cgcc.edu).

## ICE removes child molester with felony convictions

### Crimes occurred in Wasco and Klickitat counties

SEATTLE — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers removed a Mexican national March 23 with federal convictions in both Washington and Oregon including first degree child molestation, first degree attempting to commit sexual penetration, and first degree attempting to commit sexual abuse.

Juan Manuel Enriquez-Martinez, 40, was convicted June 23, 2015, in the Wasco County Circuit Court for attempting to commit sexual penetration and for attempting to commit sexual abuse in the first degree and was sentenced to 56 months and 14 months confinement, according to an ICE press release. On Jan. 19, 2016, Enriquez-Martinez was convicted in the Klickitat Superior Court for the State of Washington of child molestation in the first degree and was sentenced to 68 months confinement.

Enriquez-Martinez came to the attention of ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) officers as a result of his criminal convictions.

On March 1, 2016, ICE ERO's Portland office lodged an immigration detainer on Enriquez-Martinez with the Federal Correction Institution in

Sheridan, Ore., where he was being detained. ICE lodges immigration detainees on individuals like Enriquez-Martinez who have been arrested on local criminal charges and who are suspected of being removable, so that ICE can take custody of that person when he or she is released from local custody.

On Feb. 22, 2021, the Washington Department of Corrections transferred custody of Enriquez-Martinez to ICE and on March 10 an immigration judge ordered Enriquez-Martinez removed to Mexico, the release stated. Enriquez-Martinez waived his right to appeal the decision. Enriquez-Martinez was removed from the United States via an ICE Air Operations charter flight and transferred to the custody of Mexican authorities.

According to the press release, ICE is now implementing the civil immigration enforcement priorities directed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on Jan. 20 to focus resources on threats to national security, border security and public safety.



Juan Manuel Enriquez-Martinez

## Now is the time to complete spring debris burning

### Burning should be completed in March

Landowners planning to burn yard debris, material from fuel reduction projects and other commercial forest slash this spring in Wasco and Hood River counties should contact the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) office in The Dalles for information on how to obtain a permit and when burning is allowed, according to a press release from the agency.

ODF is encouraging landowners to complete burning from fuel reduction projects or commercial forest slash prior to March 31 to reduce risks of escaped burns and the rekindling of burn piles later in the season when wildland fuels have dried out. Yard debris pile burning is typically allowed until May 15.

Spring is often the time

when landowners work to clean up vegetation and yard debris around their property and is the perfect time for cleaning gutters and removing leaves and needles from rooftops to reduce risk of wildfire damage to homes and buildings.

However, ODF reminds landowners to be cautious if they plan to burn that material. Weather in the spring can often be erratic and winds can pick up suddenly, fanning flames and dispersing embers into dry vegetation nearby. Many communities have programs which allow for chipping and disposal of these types of materials at low or no cost to landowners. ODF encourages landowners to take advantage of these "No Burn" opportunities.

During the month of May the Wasco County landfill accepts yard debris free of charge. Below are some tips to reduce the risk of a fire getting out of control.

- Check with local fire department and county restrictions to be certain burning is allowed and what restrictions should be followed.
  - Check weather forecasts. Avoid burning on windy days or when wind is forecast to be erratic or increasing.
  - Never leave a fire unattended. Be certain the fire is completely out prior to leaving.
  - Have a water source and shovel available while burning.
  - Keep debris piles small. Add material gradually as the pile burns down.
  - Ensure burned piles are cold prior to adding new material for future burning.
  - Contact 911 immediately if the fire gets out of control.
- Landowners can be held financially responsible for the costs of putting the fire out and any damage caused by a fire if they are found to be negligent while burning.

**EASTER**

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**BELIEVE... BELONG... BECOME...**

Be our guest for Easter this year. Let's celebrate the resurrection of our Lord together. God will meet with us in a wonderful way, and we would like you to share in this powerful experience.

**CANDY RAIN**  
FOR CHILDREN AFTER THE SERVICE

**CELEBRATE EASTER**

Annual Community Easter Sunrise Service  
Easter Sunday April 4, 2021  
6:30am at CHS Football Stadium  
1455 NW Bruin Country Rd, White Salmon, WA

Come together for a community-wide sunrise service to worship God and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Rain or shine join us!

This event is sponsored by the Evangelical Pastor's Association:  
Encounter Church, Grace Baptist, & Husum Church of God  
For questions please contact Pastor Tom Culp 509-281-1161