

'Insider' inspiration to speak at Clark College

Ex-tobacco exec Wigand blew whistle on industry

The Columbian

Jeffrey Wigand, the former tobacco executive who blew the whistle on the industry's health issues in a landmark "60 Minutes" interview and became the basis for Russell Crowe's character in the Oscar-nominated film "The Insider," will speak Tuesday at Clark College.

Wigand will appear at 7 p.m. in Foster Hall, on the west side of the main campus on Fort Vancouver Way, between East McLoughlin and Fourth Plain boulevards.

Directed by Michael Mann, "The Insider" tells the true story of the man who decided to expose what the seven major tobacco companies knew about the dangers of their product.

Wigand was a vice president for research and development at Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp.

The information he shared

with the Food and Drug Administration and CBS' "60 Minutes" on the industry's use of additives in tobacco, genetically engineered tobacco, and other aspects of cigarette design significantly contributed to the FDA's decision to regulate cigarettes and smokeless tobacco products.

"The Insider" was nominated for seven Academy Awards, including a nod for best picture and a best actor nomination for Crowe.

Wigand has said the film

If you go

- **Who:** Jeffrey Wigand.
- **What:** Former tobacco executive whose story was the basis for the film "The Insider."
- **When:** 7 p.m. Tuesday.
- **Where:** Clark College's Foster Hall.
- **Cost:** Free and open to the public.

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was meant to “expose the power that this corporate giant has on the media and the lengths it will go through to suppress the truth and cover up its 50 years of deceit, lies to the public and disregard for public health and safety.”

On Monday, as a prelude to Wigand’s appearance, Clark College will present “The Insider” at 2:30 p.m. in the college’s Decker Theatre.

Both presentations are free and open to the public. Seating for each will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.