Clark readies fundraising push as state cash wanes

By HOWARD BUCK
Columbian staff writer

If Olympia’s sure to turn down the money spigot, where can fresh dollars be found?

Since last spring, Clark College leaders have worked to identify priority programs on which to mount an ambitious new, local fundraising push.

A preliminary consensus: Scholarships, health sciences, early childhood education and technology are critical programs or training areas most likely to rally outside support.

“These are programs that are key to what we do at Clark,” said Bob Knight, Clark president.

"They're core to what we do.”

The looming budget crunch of 2009 has swiftly upped the ante, as evidenced by state funding cuts proposed by Gov. Chris Gregoire on Thursday.

Under her plan, Clark and other community and technical colleges stand to lose 6 percent from their current budget in 2009-10. But final budget cuts could grow much deeper.

“We’re cautiously optimistic,” Knight said of the proposed 6 percent hit. “We’ve been saying, ‘We’re going to be part of the (economic) solution.’ I think the
Clark:

From Page C1


saying, "We've got some good ideas here. Now, where can we go from here?" Knight said.

Howard Buck: 360-735-4915
or howard.buck@columbian.com.

Clark Receives fundraising push as state cash wanes