

Clark continues tradition of service

By Rhona Sen Hoss

What's the next step for Clark College? We know people are asking that question on many levels, because the past few months have been difficult and painful for the board of trustees, the college community and the community as a whole.

Much attention has been focused on the presidency of the college. What has not received attention are the things that are not changing. Our mission and vision are unchanged. Our strategic plan and goals are going forward under the direction of a strong leadership team. We continue to offer excellent classes taught by outstanding faculty at our beautiful facilities. We are deeply committed to student success through a focus on learning.

RHONA SEN HOSS, chairwoman of the Clark College Board of Trustees, serves on the board of trustees with Vice Chairman Addison Jacobs and Trustees Sue Fratt, Sherry Parker and Kim Peery. Sen Hoss is employed as Community Partnerships Manager for *The Columbian*.

For the long term, we are exploring a deliberate process to bring a new president to the college. We want the process to be open and transparent and to include as much feedback from the college and the community as possible, as we did in 2003. However, we accept seriously our roles as governor-appointed representatives. The ultimate responsibility for hiring the president of the college lies with us, the board of trustees.

We are also very much focused on today. We estimate that nearly 13,000 students are coming to Clark College this fall. Some are working toward a degree or a certificate. Others are taking classes to help them in their career or simply for enjoyment.

This is the first full academic year in which our students can pursue baccalaureate degrees through our co-admission partnerships with four outstanding institutions: Concordia University, Marylhurst University, Portland State University, and our longtime partner, Washington State University Vancouver.

During our winter 2007 quarter, Eastern Washington University

plans to offer a bachelor of arts degree in social work, taught by their faculty at Clark College. This is in addition to the bachelor of science degrees in technology and dental hygiene that Eastern Washington offers at Clark College.

Today, Clark College operates on multiple sites and in cyberspace. Classes are available on our main campus in Vancouver's Central Park, the Clark Center at WSUV, and Town Plaza. Planning is continuing for our future site at the Columbia Tech Center in east Vancouver.

One-stop service

Our new welcome center — offering one-stop service to students who need assistance with admissions, registration, and financial aid or information on support services that we offer — has opened on the lower level of the Penguin Student Union. We have completed the remodeling of Stout Hall and are beginning work on the renovation of Gaiser Hall. The "T" building (formerly the Clark County social services building) on Fort Vancouver Way will soon be home to Student Affairs, Workforce

Development and our new medical radiography program.

Distance learning is expected to increase. During our spring quarter this year, nearly 1,000 students took classes online. We estimate a 3 percent to 5 percent growth this fall. We are creating more "smart classrooms," utilizing cutting-edge technology. The Clark Center at WSUV is wireless, and we are working to make our main campus totally wireless by the end of our winter quarter.

With more than 929 students registered for fall, our Running Start program is one of the largest in the state. We will welcome 47 international students this fall, the largest group since 2001. Our leadership in the area of work force development will continue through expanded partnerships and corporate training. Our continuing education department will introduce its "Learning for Life" institute this fall for adults over 40.

Clark College has been making a difference in people's lives and in our community for nearly 75 years. It was true in 1933, when we were established. It is true today. It will be true 75 years from now.