

Clark College extends corporate outreach

Did you know?

- The Clark College Corporate Education program pays for itself with user fees.
- Last year, the department trained 1,320 employees.
- Courses range from "Dress for Success" to "Leading Change."
- To learn more, visit www.clark.edu and click "Career & Workforce" or call 360-992-2356.

Growing program helps local employers develop training plans

By **COURTNEY SHERWOOD**
Columbian staff writer

Companies looking for a little extra help on those human resource hot topics — sexual harassment, cultural awareness, appropriate office attire — can now turn to Clark College.

The college's growing Corporate Education department, entering its second full academic year, has added new staff and is looking to expand its outreach to

local employers.

Clark College can work with employers to identify training needs, then develop customized programs, said Todd Oldham, director of Corporate Education.

Though it may seem that only smaller businesses turn to the college for topics typically handled by a human resource team, "there are employers with training departments who still do quite a bit of outsourcing," Oldham said.

In addition to the typical HR hot topics, the department offers a range of additional training options, such as accent reduction for non-native English speakers. And the department can help employ-



Todd Oldham
Corporate Education
program's director



Tom Barrows
Clark corporate
relations manager



Michelle Giovannozzi
Clark corporate
relations manager

ers develop degree programs for their workers, Oldham said.

Corporate Education was first developed in 2005 with college seed

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money, said Lisa Edwards, executive dean of work force development and continuing education at Clark College.

In its first year, it provided customized training for 32 businesses.

This year it is self-supporting, with a roughly \$500,000 budget that will come solely from fees charged for services, Edwards said.

Two corporate relations managers — Tom Barrows and Michelle Giovannozzi — now work to help businesses develop programs at Clark College.

“Their focus is to do outreach, talk to business and find out what their training needs are,” Edwards said. “This is a very deliberate and purposeful outreach to ensure that the college is being responsive to the needs of the businesses in our community.”

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