

STATE OF THE COLLEGE ADDRESS
Robert K. Knight, Interim President, Clark College
January 31, 2007

I'm delighted to look out and see so many members of the college community – and from the greater community.

First, I'd like to ask members of the Clark College Board of Trustees to stand and be recognized.

We also have a number of current – and former – elected officials here today. Would you please stand and be recognized.

We're also happy to welcome a number of our educational and community partners. Would you please stand so we can recognize you.

During my time in the military I learned when briefing my superiors that I needed to state the bottom line up front (BLUF). The acronym is BLUF but don't get any ideas that I am bluffing you today. The state of our college is very good. Let me say that again: the state of Clark College is very good. This morning I will explain to you why I believe this to be true.

Before I begin, I would like to take you back to last month, when *The Columbian* newspaper ran a feature article from the Associated Press about the popularity of penguins. The article talked about films like "March of the Penguins" and "Happy Feet" as well as games and books about penguins. There's even a Penguin Cam at the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California.

But they missed something -- someone -- very important. Here at Clark College, we believe that it is always the year of the Penguin. And so I would like to take a moment to introduce a very special guest today – our mascot Oswald.

As you arrived here this morning, I hope you were able to take a few minutes to look up at the big screen on our stage and enjoy some of our favorite memories from 2006. Thanks to our webmaster Chris Concannon for putting those memories together.

At times, it may have seemed like one event – the change in presidential leadership – dominated last year. But a strong organization is more than any one individual. A strong institution succeeds – and Clark College is a strong institution – because of the commitment, hard work and accomplishments of every individual.

So -- to our students, faculty, staff, and administrators – to each of you -- I want to say thank you for everything you contributed to our college and our community during 2006.

Our College

And the state of our college is strong. In fact, 2006 was an excellent year for Clark College.

- We celebrated the opening of Clark College at WSU Vancouver. That beautiful new facility, created by LSW Architects and done in partnership with our Plant Services team and key college stakeholders, won a 2006 Community Pride Design Award. It is now home to our nursing program and general education classes. I know that a number of representatives of LSW Architects are with us today and I want to publicly thank them for their outstanding work.
- Speaking of our nursing program: Clark College nursing school graduates scored a 100% pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for last academic year as the school welcomed its 100th class. 100%! That's a remarkable accomplishment. There are only a few other colleges in the country that can say that.
- Our new welcome center opened last fall to provide one-stop service for students.
- We also hosted our first Student Welcome Day. Nearly 450 students, parents and families came together for a welcome session and student roundtables on topics that ranged from financial aid and time management to deciding on a major.
- In 2006, we completed the renovation of Joan Stout Hall, the building that anchors the southeast corner of our main campus. It features 10 smart classrooms, 20 faculty offices, a student lounge, and food vending.
- After years of planning, our Teaching and Learning Center opened. Under the leadership of Gail Liberman, the Teaching and Learning Center provides an environment for our staff and faculty that increases student learning and achievement through the support and promotion of teaching excellence.
- Our Running Start program continues to grow and is one of the largest in the state. Over 900 students are enrolled in the program this year. This program allows students to earn college credit while still in high school but not have to pay for tuition. Thank you Linda Calvert for leading our Running Start program.
- Our Distance Learning program – we call it e-learning -- is now the largest in the state, with about 1000 FTEs. This program allows our students the flexibility to determine what the best time for them to learn is. Glen Jenewein has done a masterful job growing this program. As he told our Board of Trustees this week, Clark College is now positioned to become the leader in Washington State in e-learning.

- In fall of 2006, Clark College welcomed 54 international students, the highest enrollment in more than five years. We are now up to 60 students from 23 different countries. What an important avenue for all of our students to connect with cultures from all over the world.
- Under the leadership of Dr. Hal Dengerink, Chancellor of WSU Vancouver, our long-time partner, we signed an historic proportionality agreement, ensuring that any student who graduates from Clark College and wants to attend WSU Vancouver – can attend WSU Vancouver. That agreement, forged last spring by Hal Dengerink -- and signed by our president Dr. R. Wayne Branch and Lower Columbia College president Jim McLoughlin -- is great for our students and great for Southwest Washington.
- We were also proud to support WSU Vancouver's efforts to become a four-year institution and watched with pride as they welcomed their first freshman class last fall.
- We partnered with Evergreen and Vancouver School districts to conduct the Compass test in our local high schools to assess their skills in math, English and writing prior to their junior year to let those students know where they stand in preparation for college.
- We added a new pathway for our students when Concordia University became a new co-admissions partner.
- And in 2006, Clark College became the first college in Washington to become tobacco-free. It is a credit to Rebecca Wale, our Environmental Health and Employee Development Program Manager, Mary Deal our Health Officer who led the effort – and to our students and staff – that the transition was smooth and we all are breathing easier.

Our Students

When Bill Clinton ran for president, his campaign team kept focus by famously reminding each other that "It's the economy, stupid." At Clark College, it's the students and you know the rest.

Our students are at the heart of everything we do. We need to reflect that in the way we operate and manage the college. And I'm proud to say that 2006 was an exciting year for our students.

- Over 1,100 men and women earned degrees and certificates from Clark College during the 2005-2006 academic year. 22 Clark College students graduated with highest honors for achieving a 3.9 grade average.

- 59 Clark students earned their degrees through the Running Start program – graduating from high school and Clark College at the same time. Two of our Running Start students graduated with perfect 4.0 GPAs.
- Our Model United Nations program hosted a regional conference at the World Trade Center in Portland. We were the only community college in attendance -- and we hosted it. I want to thank Amanda Mayoral, our student body president, and running start student for her leadership role in coordinating that event.
- Running Start students Sarah Craciun and Mariah Acton were named to the 2006 All-Washington Academic Team. I am proud to announce that students Sue Corey and Max Holloway -- both of whom have held leadership positions within the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) honor society and have served as members of the Tutoring & Writing Center staff -- will represent Clark College on the 2007 All-Washington Academic Team.
- The staff of *Phoenix*, our award-winning student art and literary magazine, earned two national awards for their outstanding work.
- The college hosted a very successful forum highlighting issues faced by our deaf students. Tami Jacobs, our outstanding Disability Support Services Manager, says that our students were very excited by the event and were impressed by the thoughtful and insightful questions that audience members asked. I particularly enjoyed seeing the pride in our deaf and hearing-impaired students. Those in the audience said they enjoyed having the opportunity to meet -- and learn about -- the students. Due to its success, we have since scheduled a forum for our blind and visually-impaired students which will be held later today.
- In the fall, we hosted a number of International Education Week activities that ranged from a serious discussion of genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan to a celebration of El Dia de Los Muertos (the day of the dead).
- Strong seasons for men's soccer and NWAACC honors for cross-country athletes were fall highlights for Penguin athletics and that has continued into the new year with a great showing by our men's basketball team.
- In 2006, we welcomed our newest Penguin athletes – the Clark College women's softball team.
- Vancouver Mayor Royce Pollard and City Council welcomed some of our Adult Literacy tutors and students to City Hall during Adult Literacy Week. We really appreciate the mayor's and council's kindness in highlighting that critically important program.

- Commencement was especially memorable for the Clark College class of 2006 who received their diplomas and a congratulatory handshake from our keynote speaker, Governor Chris Gregoire. It was the first time in our history that a governor of our state took part in our commencement activities. Dr. Tim Cook, Marta Dragomir, Lisa Nelson and Mark Owsley did an outstanding job of coordinating our commencement -- and it was a huge undertaking.

Our Faculty and Staff

Our faculty and staff continued to excel in 2006.

- Judy Alleman, Lisa Conway, Michael Scotto di Carlo, Dwight Hughes, Izad Khormaei, Dr. Charlene Montierth, Dr. Rick Rausch and Jim Wilkins-Luton were honored as the newest faculty members to receive tenure.
- English department faculty member Gail Robinson received a 2005 Oregon Literary Fellowship.
- Music professor Donald Appert won a second consecutive ASCAPPLUS award.
- Nell Gladson, Beth Heron, Brenda Knutson, Chris Milner and Lynn Schinzing were honored with Exceptional Faculty and Classified Staff Awards.
- Faculty members Deena Bisig and Dr. Tim Cook were honored by the Vancouver Business Journal as "Accomplished & Under 40."
- Lead Graphic Designer Wei Zhuang and the members of our international programs team were honored by the University and College Designers Association for our international programs view book.
- Instructor Larry Blakely returned to Clark College for the publication of his book, "Dust & Dreams: Stories of Life, Love & Baseball."
- English professor David Oates celebrated the publication of his book, "City Limits."
- English as a Second Language and Latino Outreach Program Coordinator Rosalba Pitkin was appointed to the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs.
- Leann Johnson, who joined Clark College as our Director for Equity and Diversity, was named first vice chair of the Washington State Arts Commission. Leann came to us after working for the City of Vancouver.

- Rassoul Dastmozd joined Clark College as our new Vice President of Instruction. He came to us from Eastern Iowa Community College. I hope many of you read about his remarkable life story in The Oregonian.
- Our Communications and Marketing Department earned honors from their peers in District Seven of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations for their work in publications, photography and media relations.
- We honored Sue Fratt for her ten years of service as a Clark College trustee and welcomed new trustee John White.
- Clark College Foundation President Lisa Gibert and Vice President of Development Ara Serjoie both earned designation as Certified Fundraising Executives by CFRE International, the organization for fundraising professionals.
- Sabra Sand, accounting manager, developed a pilot fee payment plan for our students so that they can make three payments on their tuition instead of making the entire tuition payment at once. Thirty-two (32) students took advantage of the new plan and we will be expanding the program significantly.

Our Executive Cabinet ensured that the college stayed focused on our strategic plan. That plan helps us stay focused on the things we believe are essential to what we do. We call them our mission imperatives.

They are:

- Our focus on learning.
- Access to education.
- Respect for differences.
- Workforce development.
- Broad-based partnerships.
- Management excellence.

This year, we're working to do a better job of letting our goals drive our budget process – and ensuring that everyone in the college community has the opportunity to be part of that process. We are aligning all sources of funds: state, foundation, student, grants. In the past, we had looked at the different fund sources separately and not necessarily in conjunction with our strategic plan.

Again, students are at the heart of it. If we're doing things that don't support our six mission imperatives – doing things that don't support our students – we need to ask ourselves why we're doing them.

Our Alumni

At Clark College, we like to say: "Once a Penguin, Always a Penguin." So it's no surprise that this was also a memorable year for our alumni.

- At half-time during a basketball game last spring, we paid tribute to members of our 1956 baseball team. Led by coach Skeet O'Connell, that team won the state championship.
- Long-time legislator and civic leader Robert (Bob) Schaefer was honored with the Clark College Outstanding Alumni Award. His wife Sally, a former trustee, was at his side.
- Dental hygiene student Yevhen (Eugene) Usachov moved to the United States from Ukraine in 1988 and lives in Vancouver with his mother and sister. In 2006, he was named the winner of the first Clark College Alumni Scholarship, which was established by the Clark College Alumni Association.
- This month, we welcomed Bounsang Khamkeo. *A member of the Laotian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he came to us from Laos and learned English at Clark College. Today he works at OHSU as a behavioral health counselor and has written a very moving book – I Little Slave – about his seven years of imprisonment in Laos.*

A Sense of Community

When I was thinking about a theme for this speech, I thought about all of those people – and all of the lives we touch throughout our community. I kept coming back to the word "connecting." I'm very proud of the many ways that we connected with our community in 2006.

- Under the leadership of former Dean Chuck Ramsey, we welcomed students from throughout our area at the 2006 Jazz Festival and welcomed jazz great John Handy as our headliner. The 2007 jazz festival drew great crowds last weekend.
- In 2006, author and educator Dr. Freeman Hrabowski III joined us to honor the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Clark College hosted the 2006 Regional High School VICA/Skills USA Machining and Welding Contests. We hosted the 2007 competition last Saturday. It was great to see so many talented young people.
- We welcomed the Washington State Middle School Science Olympiad. The Washington State Science Olympiad will again return to Clark College this year.

- In 2006, we again partnered with YWCA Clark County to honor Women of Achievement in Southwest Washington. The names of this year's honorees have just been announced and we look forward to honoring them on March 6th.
- Dr. Gary Moulton, editor of the Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, spoke at Clark College as part of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Celebration.
- We were also honored to host the first appearance – anywhere – of the Fort Vancouver Tapestry.
- In partnership with the Vancouver Rotary and the City of Vancouver, we hosted Cherries Jubilee: a celebration of our historic cherry trees with our sister city Joyo, Japan.
- The Archer Gallery hosted great shows – and drew great reviews – throughout the year. Their offerings included the Art Faculty Biennial and a terrific student art show. Director Marjorie Hirsch has continued to pull in outstanding exhibits this year and has just scored a coup by securing a Jacob Lawrence exhibition this spring.
- Clark College and Toyota jumpstarted the future by hosting an Automotive Tech Open House.
- Our music and theatre departments offered outstanding concerts and productions – and traveled internationally to dazzle audiences in Mexico.
- We hosted a pow-wow to celebrate Native American culture.
- We welcomed Merriam-Webster's publisher to mark the bicentennial of America's first dictionary.
- Our students welcomed Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed, and we once again were Election Central for Clark County for the primary and general elections.
- Our Workforce Development efforts were honored during the 2006 Governor's Economic and Workforce Development Conference.
- We participated in the 2006 Bi-State Metropolitan Forum, which featured appearances by Washington Governor Chris Gregoire, Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski, Vancouver Mayor Royce Pollard and Portland Mayor Tom Potter.
- We partnered with Evergreen and Vancouver School districts to conduct the Compass test in our local high schools to assess their skills in math, English and writing prior to their junior year to let those students know where they stand in preparation for college.

An Exciting Start to a New Year

Just as it's important to honor and thank the people who have made outstanding contributions during the past year, I also want to talk about the exciting things that are happening now and will continue this year – our newest connections.

- Starting this quarter, Eastern Washington is offering a bachelor's degree in social work at Clark College, the next step in the career path in the social work field. We filled our first class.
- The State Legislature is in session. What a strong delegation we have from Southwest Washington. We are extremely pleased with the Governor's budget that went forward to the legislature. We don't know yet what the exact outcome will be, but the State Board has asked that Clark College receive 442 growth FTEs during the next biennium. That's the most new FTEs (15 credit student) – the largest growth – for any community and technical college in the state. This translates to over \$1.6 million in new state funding. No other community or technical college is projected to receive this much of an increase.
- Our nationally-recognized nursing program is expected to grow by 40 FTEs beginning this fall. And we are looking forward to adding night and weekend classes to meet the ever-growing need for trained health professionals in our community.
- Across the college, we're looking at upgrading 30 classrooms to become "smart classrooms" featuring the latest in technology for our faculty and students.
- As you walked into Gaiser Hall, I'm sure you noticed that things look different here. Our eagerly-anticipated remodel of Gaiser Hall is underway. We're remodeling the building in the entire Student Affairs area to provide better service and access for students. Construction should be completed by our spring quarter in 2008.
- While that renovation is going on, many of our student services are being provided in what we call the "T" Building. That's the former Clark County Social Services building located just across Fort Vancouver Way. That building also houses our new medical radiography program.

- In the months and years to come, additional changes are coming to that area. We are hopeful that the state legislature will support our request for dollars to design a new Advanced Health & Technology Building. It would be built at the corner of Fort Vancouver Way and Fourth Plain. In addition to serving our students, it would serve as an important part of the city of Vancouver's plans to energize the Fourth Plain corridor. As you know, the Fourth Plain corridor between Fort Vancouver Way and Andresen is a multicultural center and perhaps the most ethnically diverse part of Vancouver. Our new Health and Advanced Technology building will be built across the street from McDonald's and anchor the western piece of the Fourth Plain corridor. Our Foundation has stepped forward again to help us with that project.
- This spring, the State Legislature is expected to authorize funding for construction of Clark College at Columbia Tech Center. The building will house 20 classrooms, seven science and computer labs, a 5,000-square-foot multipurpose area for conferences, offices for faculty and support staff, and parking for 700 vehicles. Clark College at Columbia Tech Center will offer general education classes, professional and technical training, basic skills classes, workforce development and personal enrichment courses and will allow us to better serve the eastern portion of our service district. With increased natural lighting, large projection-screen displays, acoustics, and ergonomic furnishings, LSW Architects plans to exceed state-mandated certification from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (otherwise known as LEED) program. With these two projects and others already scheduled we will be bringing nearly \$100 million in construction dollars to the community over the next several years.
- Under the leadership of co-chairs Dr. Tim Cook and Dr. Charlene Montierth, our accreditation steering committee is hard at work. Our next accreditation is scheduled for fall 2008 and we are committed to using the process to help us celebrate the things that we are doing well and finding opportunities to continuously prove the ways in which we serve our students and our community.
- There's good news for our student athletes: A new athletic tuition waiver of 25% and 40% scholarship will make it easier for students to attend Clark College and represent us in Penguin athletics. Oh by the way-- we are seriously looking into starting up baseball here at Clark again. More to come on this in the near future.
- Earlier, I mentioned the opening of our Welcome Center. It's part of our efforts to realign the front door of our college. That realignment includes a new college address. Effective tomorrow, our address is 1933 Fort Vancouver Way. Bruce Gateley of our Alumni Association suggested the number in honor of the year we were founded. Lori Jimerson of Central Services did an outstanding job working with the U.S. Postal Service and the City of Vancouver to make this happen.

- Speaking of our founding. I hope you'll mark this date on your calendars. October 1, 2008 will be our 75th Anniversary. Planning is underway for a year of events to mark our diamond jubilee.

People Make the Difference

But I think it's also the individual connections that make Clark College such a special place. Here are just a couple of examples.

- On January 16, after classes were canceled due to severe weather, our math division chair Paul Casillas pulled up a chair and sat in a lounge to help a student who had made his way to the college despite the cold and snow. Paul didn't tell anyone, but another colleague spotted his act of kindness.
Connecting.
- One of our star soccer players had his kick blocked during sudden death penalty kicks during a playoff game against Bellevue. We lost the game and the opposing goalie tried to ridicule our player. But our Penguin athlete handled it well – looking at it as a life lesson. It was – not just for him but for his teammates.
Connecting.
- At our 2006 GED and High School Completion graduation ceremony, three students addressed the crowd. One, Roger Koontz, admitted that, in order to get a job, he used to lie about graduating from high school. He had been a dishwasher, warehouseman and laborer. He told the crowd: "In Clark College's GED program, the teachers got through to me, and now I am no longer perpetuating a lie. Finally, it's true that I have a GED...and I feel empowered."
Connecting.
- Lori Jimerson of Central Services honored the spirit of her son, Kalani Rodrigues, by holding the second annual K-Rod Walk/Run. Kalani was a Penguin athlete – a runner who lost his race against brain cancer at the age of 19. Through the annual K-Rod Walk/Run, Lori honors her promise to Kalani to continue the search for a cure.
Connecting.
- Dr. Alfred Apsler believed so deeply in lifelong learning that he established the Focus on Mature Learning program in Clark College. To support that passion and to honor her parents, Ruby Apsler established a scholarship for adults age 55 and older who need financial support to take advantage of mature learning programs.
Connecting.

- Rico Selga is a graduate of the Clark College nursing program. In addition to operating his own business in downtown Vancouver, he works as a nurse locally. He also volunteers with Northwest Medical Teams. He has made four trips to Liberia, offering medical care and medical training for Liberian health professionals. He plans to return this year – with Clark College students and alumni – to film a documentary about Liberia.

Connecting.

- Last May, chemistry professor Brenda Broers stopped for coffee at a local shop. She noted a commotion – a man lying on the floor with blood near his head and a cut above his eye. Brenda took off her coat and began CPR. At first, there was no response. Then, the man's eyes fluttered and he started to cough. When the paramedics arrived, they confirmed that Brenda had saved Jack Schilaty's life.

Connecting.

- A donor who wished to remain anonymous believes so deeply in the mission of Clark College that they made a \$100,000 year-end challenge gift to the college. With leadership from our Foundation and support from our college community and the community at large, a total of \$286,000 was raised to support our students and our programs.

Connecting.

- Last spring, 19 Clark College students used their spring break to travel to Hammond, Louisiana. Working with Habitat for Humanity, they helped rebuild homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Connecting.

- Christina Jensen has always wanted to be a nurse. That desire took on new meaning when she was treated for bone cancer. She graduated from Hudson's Bay in 2005. Today, she is a freshman at Clark College – in the nursing program – and a member of the "I Have A Dream" program.

Connecting.

- Not long ago, a student was checking out in the bookstore but didn't have quite enough money to cover her books. She was trying to figure out which book she could get away with not buying until later in the quarter. Another woman who was standing in line -- at a different register-- overheard the conversation. She quietly asked her cashier to find out how much money the woman needed. Just as quietly, she then bought the book for the other woman and left the bookstore. The student was so happy and grateful that she started crying.

Connecting.

- Becky Merritt of our Displaced Homemakers program recently received a note from a woman who graduated from the displaced homemakers class in 2002. Tammy Whalen wanted to let Becky know how much the class meant to me and that it was the stepping stone to her education. After completed the class, Tammy continued at Clark and graduated with honors in 2004. She was accepted into the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Mt. Hood Community College and will be graduating from that program in May of next year. She wanted to thank Becky for, as she put it, “all that you did for me and what you do for all of the other women who find themselves in this situation.” She told Becky that she would be interested in coming back and talking to a displaced homemaker’s class to tell them about her experiences. As she put it, “I would like to be an inspiration to those who are feeling the way I felt when I was going through that very stressful time in my life.”

Connecting.

- At each Clark College graduation, every student has a memorable and unique story to share. Here are two. Paula and Scott Moore graduated from Clark College last June. Both are recovered meth addicts who came to Clark after treatment to get their lives back on track. Scott graduated with a degree in general studies and a 3.3 GPA. He has gone on to Concordia University, where he is studying psychology. Paula got her AA degree in Business Administration and was accepted into the social work program at Concordia. As I was walking through the crowd last year after graduation Paula and Scott recognized me as one of the individuals reading off the graduate names. I had never met them before but they were so proud of what they had accomplished and they wanted to thank anyone involved at Clark College. They too wanted to share their stories and help others.

Connecting.

- Our college recently lost our Director of Auxiliary Services Director, Carl Flipper, who died unexpectedly. While visiting him in Legacy hospital during his last few days, I asked the ICU nurse where she had received her training. She immediately began to talk about her education and training at Clark College. She bragged about her instructors. She was a recent graduate of Clark and was immediately placed in the ICU unit because of the reputation of our nursing program. She did not know that Carl and I were associated with Clark until after she told the story. It was heart- warming to know that one of Clark College’s own was taking care of one of Clark’s own during his last few days.

Connecting.

Connecting with Each Other and with Our Community

We all know that Southwest Washington is growing and changing and has an exciting future ahead. Clark College is growing and changing too.

Clark College wants to be -- and will be -- a key community team member and leader as this community and region move forward.

- We will work to better connect with our high schools in order to better prepare our students for college and for life.
- Our Board of Trustees will be meeting with school district boards to strategically plan collaboratively for the welfare of our students in the upcoming months.
- We will work to better connect with WSU Vancouver and Lower Columbia College to increase our level of service for higher education in this region. We partner with and support those institutions because it better serves our community. We are in this together.
- We will connect with our business and industry to better support their needs. We will connect with our health providers to better support their needs. Clark College will work closely with our work force development council and regional economic development council to better connect and do our part in workforce and economic development.
- We will work with our City and County governments to work in the best interests of our community and region.
- We will maintain community partnerships that serve our community and our students at the same time.
- We will seek new partnerships that benefit our community and students.

Clark College is a special place. We have strong foundation leadership with committed community members on its board. We have very active and committed alumni and penguin athletic club members committed to helping our students.

However, we need to do a better job at telling our story. This college does much more than provide an avenue for students to transfer to a four-year university, although we do that very well.

- Students can earn technical certificates that will enable them to enter the workforce immediately.
- We help people earn a GED or high school diploma when they haven't been able to do that through the traditional routes.

- We provide developmental education to students who aren't quite ready to take college level courses after leaving high school.
- We help students learn English as a second language.
- We assist businesses in training.
- We provide worker re-training when workers are displaced and need to find new skills.
- We provide continuing education and learning for our mature students – our lifelong learners.
- We are a cultural center in support of diversity through pow-wows, ceremonies honoring Dr. Martin Luther King and Black History Month, International week celebrating Hispanic, Asian-American and all cultures, Rites of Passage, forums for our blind and deaf students.
- We host concerts, theater productions, lectures, art exhibits, movies.
- We are your community college!

It has been said that success is the difference between where you are...and where you want to be. Since 1933, Clark College has helped people take that journey.

For many people, getting started on the journey is the hardest part. Since 1933, Clark College has truly been "The Next Step" for thousands of residents of Southwest Washington. We take pride in each of their journeys and their accomplishments.

I know that:

- with the talent and dedication of our faculty and staff,
- with the commitment of our Board of Trustees and our Foundation, and
- with the support of the people we serve,

we will be connecting with our community for the next 75 years – and beyond.