

Local angle

Clark College could benefit from program

The Columbian

The head of Clark College welcomed President Barack Obama's call for an \$8 billion program to train students for high-growth industries.

"That's great news," said Bob Knight, president of Clark County's community college, adding that the proposed program is a "tremendous opportunity" for Clark College.

He said graduates of programs preparing students for the high-tech and medical fields have been received very well by local businesses, which bodes well for the college's chances at getting some of the federal money.

The White House said it seeks to train an additional 2 million workers in growth areas including electronic medical records. One of the college's latest offerings — health informatics — fits nicely into that plan, Knight said.

Whatever portion of the money Clark College might land probably wouldn't lead to new programs, because the financial boost would probably come with a shorter timeline than is necessary to achieve that.

The proposal shows "the president knows that education can boost the economy and get us out of this downturn," Knight said.