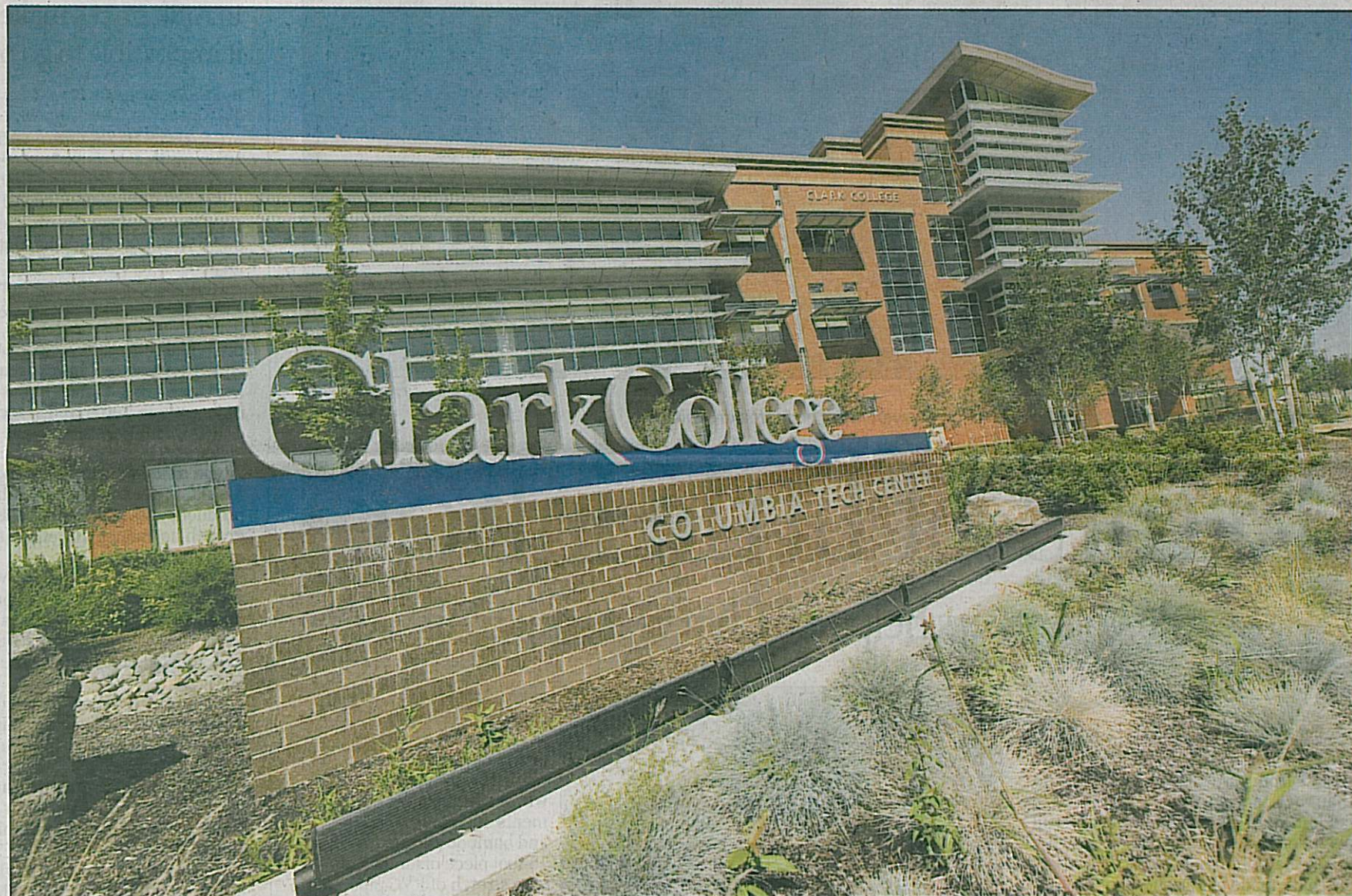


# Higher education branches out in east Vancouver



Scott Root, a Clark College technician, installs a plasma-screen display at Clark's new Columbia Tech Center classroom building in east Vancouver.



Photos by STEVEN LANE/The Columbian

An open house Saturday will showcase the \$30 million Clark College Columbia Tech Center classroom building in east Vancouver. Instructors and admissions employees will be at the event. More than 800 college and corporate-training students are expected to attend classes in the building when fall term starts Sept. 21.

Open house  
set at Clark's  
new building  
at Columbia  
Tech Center

By HOWARD BUCK  
Columbian staff writer

Clark College will throw its arms open to east Vancouver with an open house Saturday at its new Columbia Tech Center classroom building.

The \$30 million, four-story building will be on display to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Special guests and events will showcase its 18 classrooms, eight science and computer labs, and a smartly equipped "culinary kitchen."

There's also a 3,500-square foot conference room, handy for public or private events on the 9.5-acre campus at 18700 S.E. Mill Plain Blvd.

Guests may explore three floors on self-guided tours.

Classes don't begin in the new building until

Clark's fall term opens Sept. 21.

On Saturday, Clark instructors and admissions staff will provide background and registration assistance for both general education and corporate-learning classes scheduled there.

Information on financial aid, scholarships and eligibility will be available.

So will details on Clark's new two-day-a-week Associate of Arts degree program, and its popular Running Start, English as a Second Language and Adult Basic Education courses.

There will be tai chi, Zumba and belly dancing demonstrations in the first-floor fitness room. Down the hallway, PBS barbecue show host Rick Browne will show off his wares in

## If you go

■ **Who:** Clark College.

■ **What:** Open house for Columbia Tech Center classroom building. Schedule of events, more on the building: [www.clark.edu/special/ctc\\_open](http://www.clark.edu/special/ctc_open).

■ **When:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

■ **Where:** 18700 S.E. Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver.

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STEVEN LANE/The Columbian

Dennis Anderson, from System Commissioning Consultants, checks heating and ventilation equipment at the new Clark College Columbia Tech Center classroom building. Officials expect the four-story building on Southeast Mill Plain Boulevard to meet green-building LEED compliance.

## Clark College:

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the kitchen before another proprietor displays "Cheeses of Switzerland."

Clark instructors will promote Web design and Photo-shop learning opportunities, plus Mature Learning courses and senior health networking.

The building can hold up to

1,000 students. About 500 are expected to attend one or more of 266 class sections scheduled this autumn, including general education courses moved from Clark's main campus near downtown Vancouver to better reach the east county.

Clark also will offer about 70 courses in noncredit corporate and continuing education this fall, expected to draw another 330 students or so.

School officials hope to eventually obtain gold LEED (Lead-

ership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for the energy-efficient building.

There are two small rooftop wind turbines and two photovoltaic arrays, mostly for instructional use. Real-time energy data can be relayed to classrooms. Peak combined output is about 4 kilowatt hours, barely one-half of 1 percent of the building's power needs.

LSW Architects designed the building. Todd Construction of Tigard, Ore., was the

project contractor.

It's the second branch campus for Clark, which operates a classroom building at Washington State University Vancouver, opened in January 2006.

The school also has explored potential sites for a north county branch campus in the Ridgefield or Battle Ground area.

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