



CLARK COLLEGE PRESIDENT Robert Knight (in front with long coat) takes a walk around campus following his Jan. 17 "State of the College" address. Part of the speech dealt with physical fitness through walking on campus paths.

Clark president stresses student success

Academic honors, growth noted in State of the College Address

New and successful academic programs, "smart" classrooms, national speakers and international students, and an emphasis on health and wellness were all part of the 2008 State of the College Address delivered Jan. 17 by Clark College president Robert K. Knight.

"It's All About the Students" was the theme of the hour-long talk, delivered to a packed Gaiser Hall on the Vancouver campus of the college.

"What makes us most proud is student success," said Knight, who is in his first year as president of the community college.

Knight used video clips of student comments to punctuate his remarks.

Knight listed several successes that occurred in 2007. He highlighted a new Field Survey Technician program

that has filled classes since inception. He noted that American Sign Language is now offered as a credit course, with a second-level class now added. He described the "impressive growth" of the Teaching and Learning Center which fosters lifelong learning. The college will graduate its first class of medical radiography students in March.

Knight described the college's Corporate and Continuing Education program which allows students to search class schedules and register for classes online.

In addition to Clark College facilities at Washington State University Vancouver and the Town Plaza locations, Clark offers basic skills classes at 14 satellite facilities, said Knight, with plans for a new, \$27 million building at 18700 SE Mill Plain Blvd., which will house 18 classrooms plus science and computer labs and other facilities.

Knight said Clark's Running

Start program has 1,067 students enrolled for winter quarter, which is a record.

For the 2006-2007 academic year, the college conferred 1,126 degrees and certificates, plus several hundred GED certificates. Clark presently has 75 international students from 26 countries. The college has expanded its nursing program by 20 percent, said Knight.

Following two national figures who spoke at Clark College in 2007--former counter-terrorism czar Richard Clarke and former presidential advisor David Gergen--the college will launch a faculty speaker series, said Knight.

Knight described the college's incentive-based program to live well which provides employees and students with points for doing something healthy. Participants may earn one point per day by doing a different healthy action. Points result in gift cards and prizes.

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"To help people stay physically fit, we have created Penguin Paths throughout our main campus," said Knight, who invited all those present to join him in walking those paths following the State of the College speech.

Clark College will note its 75th anniversary in October 2008 when a year-long "diamond jubilee" celebration will get underway. That same month, college officials expect representatives from the North-

west Association of Schools and College to conduct a 10-year accreditation visit.

Clark College was founded as a private, two-year junior college in 1933, and has been accredited since 1936.

"As we enter into this very special year in our history, I know that we will continue to be successful because of the talent and dedication of our faculty and staff, the commitment of our Board of Trustees and our Foundation, and because of the people who support us--the people that we serve," concluded Knight.