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CCC President Joanne Truesdell announces retirement

OREGON CITY – Longtime Clackamas Community College President Dr. Joanne Truesdell announced at the March 8 Board of Education meeting her decision to retire her presidency effective July 2018.

Truesdell told the board the time is right for her to retire: The Board of Education is experienced; the college has a balance of new and seasoned staff and faculty; and the college finances and systems are strong.

“I want to thank the community for its constant, thoughtful and earnest support of Clackamas Community College,” Truesdell said. “For the last 50-plus years, the residents of Clackamas Community have supported the college and our mission to offer high-quality education that is accessible to everyone. It has been an honor to work for you and with you.”

Truesdell has more than 30 years of experience in Oregon community colleges as a student, staff, faculty member and administrator.

She returned to Clackamas Community College as its eighth president in 2007, though her first experience at CCC was as a student in the early 1980s. Her early career path in education started while she was a student at CCC.

Her knowledge of Oregon's educational opportunities deepened as she earned degrees from Portland State University, the University of Portland and a doctorate in education from Oregon State.

At Portland Community College, Truesdell was first the director of the family resource center and then director of enrollment services. She went on to become dean of student development at Chemeketa Community College, where she moved on to serve as executive dean.

Truesdell gained workforce expertise during her service as deputy commissioner/deputy director for the state agency responsible for workforce development. Her understanding of workforce development has had a direct impact on CCC's programs.

At CCC, Truesdell has led the college through some of the most challenging times for education, as well as the recent successful passage of a \$90-million bond referendum. Facing both budgetary challenges, and new direction and expectations from the state, she provided thoughtful leadership that never lost sight of what is best for students and the community.

Under Truesdell's leadership, CCC is an established partner in economic development in the region by integrating workforce and college services, earning national recognition for work around veterans' reintegration and partnering with the Clackamas Community College Foundation, which recently completed its Education That Works campaign raising more than \$11 million for scholarships and innovation.

“The Board of Education recognizes and expresses our appreciation for the immense amount of time President Truesdell has committed to CCC,” Board of Education Chair Richard Oathes said. “The college has been fortunate to have a leader guiding us in these challenging times who is so dedicated, respected and tenacious.”

The college will work with a search firm to find Clackamas Community College’s next president.

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Editor’s note: Photo attached.