



LETTERS

### **CCC responding to economy with new offerings**

To the Editor:

Enrollment is soaring at Clackamas Community College as Oregonians seek education and training in the wake of the recession. We are serving more students than ever before. In the past year, our Workforce Development staff assisted 7,014 people with job-seeking services. This is a 10-fold increase over the year before.

This is not only a dramatic example of how our county has been affected by the economy, it also illustrates the key role CCC plays in meeting the needs of our community. Community colleges are on the front line, whether addressing changes in industry that require retraining, or providing an accessible and affordable pathway to a four-year degree.

At Clackamas, midnight welding classes have been added to meet increased demand as people increase their skills and abilities. Federal Department of Labor funds will be used to develop curriculum to train local people to repair the rotor blades on the gigantic wind turbines that are increasingly providing electrical power. Federal dollars are also being used to increase services to veterans in our community. These are just few examples of the many ways your community college responds to the needs of the economy to help people get back to work.

As your representative to the CCC Board of Education, I am visiting organizations within the Gladstone, Oak Grove and West Clackamas areas to report on business and activities at your community college. If you would like me to speak to a group in your community, please contact Susan Iwata at the college: 503-594-3017.

Thank you.

Judith Ervin

CCC Board of Directors, Zone 3