

CLARK COLLEGE FOUNDATION

[ SPRING 2011 ]

# PARTNERS

Annual  
Report  
Edition

# reach

The Path to the Future:

*Today's Realities & Tomorrow's Possibilities*



Page 7

*Cycle of Success*



Page 8

*Dogged Determination*



Page 9

*The Beat Goes On*



Page 10

*Queen of the Road*



### What does it mean to reach?

At Clark College today, it means serving record numbers of students of all ages and backgrounds.

Reaching means offering high-quality classes, programs and services against a backdrop of permanent state budget cuts.

For the Clark College Foundation, it means creating opportunities for the community to invest in the future of our region through education by providing access to all who seek it.

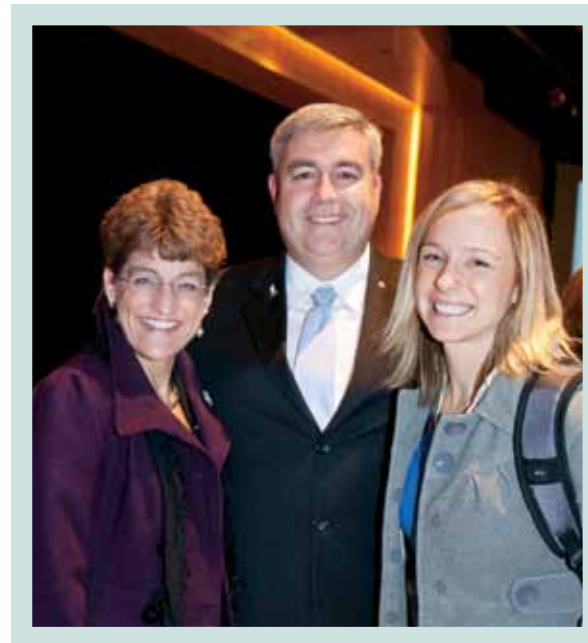
Reaching means connecting with alumni and generous donors. It means providing the margin of excellence for our students and our college.

Working together, we are reaching to achieve our mission and vision and to support the aspirations of our students and our region.

We believe in our future. We are reaching to embrace it.

**Robert K. Knight**  
President  
Clark College

**Lisa Gibert**  
President/CEO  
Clark College Foundation



Clark College Foundation President/CEO Lisa Gibert (left) and Clark College President Robert K. Knight congratulate Briel Cossette, a member of the women's cross country team that reached their ultimate goal – winning the 2010 Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) championship.

# reach

*The Path to the Future:  
Today's Realities &  
Tomorrow's Possibilities*

*"Reach high, for the stars lie hidden in your soul.  
Dream deep, for every dream precedes the goal."*

Pamela Vaull Starr  
Poet, artist, writer, and community college student

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## To reach is to arrive.

Each year, students of all ages come to Clark College to take The Next Step on their educational or career paths. They complete classes and earn high school diplomas, GEDs, certificates and degrees. Many continue their education at Clark College and beyond.

## To reach is to extend and stretch.

At Clark College, we are extending a warm welcome to more than 16,000 students each quarter. At the same time, our administrators, faculty and staff are stretching to meet that demand, which has come as state funding support has declined.

## To reach is to communicate and connect.

Every day, learning comes to life in classrooms at our main campus, Clark College at Columbia Tech Center, Clark College at Town Plaza and Clark College at WSU Vancouver. Our students connect with faculty and each other in our eLearning program, two-day-a-week AA degree program and weekend degree program. Our partnerships allow our students to seamlessly continue their education at Concordia University, Eastern Washington University, Marylhurst University, Portland State University, and Washington State University Vancouver.

## To reach is to succeed.

Each student defines success in their own terms. It may be perfect attendance or earning an A in their hardest class. Some students learn new skills that help them in a changing work environment. Others proudly receive associate degrees in their 20s or 30s or 40s or beyond.

In challenging times, it's tempting to focus on survival. Our students don't want to simply survive. Clark College doesn't want to simply survive. Our region doesn't want to simply survive.

*We want to thrive.*

*We dare to dream.*

*We continue to reach.*





## INVESTING IN EDUCATION: A Community-Wide Asset

Every student at Clark College is here to reach their full potential. Clark College Foundation inspires philanthropic support from the community in order to achieve this objective.

Did you know that barely 50 percent of the college's annual budget is provided by the state of Washington? The reality is that we must continue reaching out to the community, donors, and alumni to cultivate champions of education. As a result of these efforts, more donors made gifts in 2010, although total contributions decreased in a difficult economic environment.

Another highlight of the year was the significant gain in the Foundation's investments. While market factors

beyond our control had weakened the Foundation's overall portfolio in 2009, investment stewardship and market rebounds revived our assets.

In a year of unprecedented enrollment growth, we are grateful that our community members demonstrated solid support for their community college. All of us need a strong Clark College because the margin of excellence in education enhances the local economy and sustains a vibrant Southwest Washington. With your help and continued investment, these efforts will ensure a bright future for us all.

**Lisa Gibert**  
President/CEO  
Clark College Foundation

**Keith Koplan**  
Chair, Clark College  
Foundation Board of Directors

### Clark College Foundation Statement of Financial Position

	June 30, 2010	June 30, 2009
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 64,040,646</b>	<b>\$ 60,653,992</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 1,215,618</b>	<b>\$ 1,381,163</b>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$ 10,713,907	\$ 10,252,868
Temporarily Restricted	13,968,135	12,313,565
Permanently Restricted	38,142,986	36,706,396
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 62,825,028</b>	<b>\$ 59,272,829</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 64,040,646</b>	<b>\$ 60,653,992</b>

Clark College Foundation is audited annually by Moss Adams, LLP, a regional independent accounting firm. Copies of the audit for the year ending June 30, 2010 are available from the Foundation office upon request.

### Clark College Foundation Statement of Activities for the Year Ended

	June 30, 2010	June 30, 2009
Support, Revenue & Gains		
Contributions	\$ 1,193,362	\$ 1,475,392
Special Events and Other	135,610	205,963
Investment Income	5,279,223	(12,496,410)
<b>Total Support, Revenue &amp; Gains</b>	<b>\$ 6,608,195</b>	<b>\$ (10,815,055)</b>
Expenses		
Program	\$ 1,930,309	\$ 2,669,877
Fundraising	406,578	335,299
Operations	719,109	785,046
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,055,996</b>	<b>\$ 3,790,222</b>
Change in Net Assets	3,552,199	\$ (14,605,277)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$ 59,272,829	\$ 73,878,106
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 62,825,028	\$ 59,272,829

# Cycle of Success

*Community Investments Reap High Returns.*



A Firstenberg-First Independent Bank scholarship recipient, Deanna Lund ('02) still turns to Clark College to pick up a foreign language or take career-enhancing classes. (Photo taken at the International Branch of First Independent, Vancouver, Wash.)

*What do you do when you run a large business, need customers, and want quality employees? Smart business owners invest in their community. The Firstenberg family – beginning with Ed and Mary – has long been known for their generosity. Their philanthropic efforts are seen in buildings and facilities throughout Southwest Washington, and through the years they have provided nearly 150 scholarships to Clark College students.*

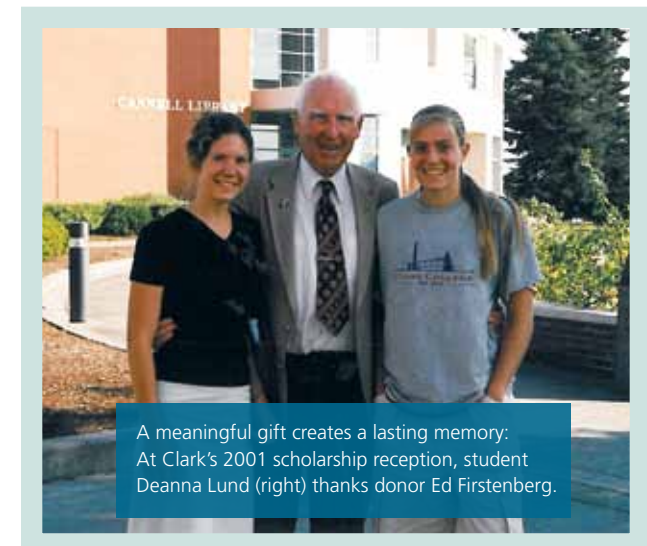
Ed Firstenberg was well versed in the benefits of education. The Seattle native earned his Master of Business Administration (1935) from the University of Washington. He wanted a career in the financial industry, but banks were closing, not expanding. Instead, Firstenberg landed a business teaching position at Ridgefield High School. Several years later, he finally broke into banking as an assistant cashier at Ridgefield State Bank. By 1954, Firstenberg had acquired three banks and merged them under the name of First Independent Bank.

To celebrate their success, in 1993 Ed and Mary established a \$100,000 endowment to ensure that scholarships for Clark College students would continue long after they were gone. Ridgefield High School graduate Deanna Lund received one of those scholarships. Her courses at Clark focused on

international business and even included a five-week tour to study French at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland. In addition to her class work, the athletic Lund also played basketball, and ran track and cross country.

After receiving her associate degree in 2002, Lund went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Willamette University in International Studies where she also played varsity basketball. "My scholarships helped me achieve academic goals that I wouldn't have been able to pursue otherwise," said Lund. "I give back what I can to support Clark and to show my appreciation for what I received." Today, Lund is a homeowner and an office manager for NW Injury & Rehab Center in Vancouver. "I constantly draw on many facets of my Clark education, from business classes to language and cross-cultural courses and experiences."

"Deanna is exactly the kind of person that dad and mom wanted to help," said Bill Firstenberg, CEO of First Independent. "They knew that smart, ambitious people like her would continue to strengthen the social and economic fabric of Southwest Washington." Although Ed and Mary have passed away, their legacy through education lives on to nurture the local economy and cycle of success.



A meaningful gift creates a lasting memory: At Clark's 2001 scholarship reception, student Deanna Lund (right) thanks donor Ed Firstenberg.



# Dogged Determination

*Tackling Life with a Glass Half Full.*



Rhonda B. ('09) is one of many hard working graduates of the highly acclaimed Clark College nursing program. Housed in a state-of-the-art building on the Washington State University Vancouver campus, the successful program has been built up over the years in response to Southwest Washington's continual need for caring, competent, and compassionate nurses.

*"This is a tough environment that can just eat you up," smiled Rhonda B. (Due to the sensitive nature of her work, we are sharing her first name only.) A 2009 graduate of Clark College's nursing program, Rhonda provides care to about 650 prisoners at the Clark County Jail. "I work on everything from drug issues to fight injuries to suicides. My job is never dull – and I love it!"*

It took Rhonda nearly ten years to get where she is today. The prerequisite courses at Clark were tough, and she retook some of them to earn the top grades needed for the highly competitive nursing program. During this time, her family suffered from severe health and financial struggles. Ovarian cancer knocked Rhonda down for a bit, but she became more determined than ever to succeed. Nine months later, she entered the nursing program at Clark College.

The family scraped by while, thankfully, tuition and supplies were covered by generous scholarships. "I couldn't have made it without those," Rhonda admitted. "We had a roof over us, but no heat." Despite her challenges, she persevered and never gave up. "Rhonda has amazing inner strength," said nursing instructor Katie Kleiser. "She was relentless about getting things right, and I loved working with her."

The Clark College nursing program is one of the best in the region and highly respected locally, statewide, and nationally for superb faculty and staff. Generous donor support – such as from the estate of Hilma Speights – provides for training with outstanding tools and equipment found in today's medical settings. Extensive clinical experience is one of the reasons that students in Clark's nursing program are well prepared for their careers. "It was so comprehensive, including the spiritual side," Rhonda recalled. "That's important in nursing, even in the incarceration world."

The rigorous nursing curriculum made full-time employment impossible, although Rhonda still managed to work part time at Clark College. "Even during her most difficult times, Rhonda was reliable and upbeat," said Terri Kaufman, Rhonda's supervisor in the registration office. "She was inspiring, and her attitude pulled everyone along with her."

As for Rhonda, she is delighted that the future looks bright. She has gone from making minimum wage to a professional salary in an excellent field. "I have a reliable car, a house with heat, and my family has good health insurance and care," she said. "Clark College literally changed my life." Undoubtedly, Rhonda is changing lives, too.

# The Beat Goes On

*Drumming Up the Lessons of Life.*

*They say you should love what you do and do what you love. If that's the case, how do you turn a passion for drums into a solution for at-risk youth? If you're Eddie Esparza ('10), you build a band.*

As a kid, Tinkertoy cans and cardboard boxes were Esparza's early instruments until he got his first real snare drum in the seventh grade. When it came time for college, he registered at Clark and became a popular student athlete and track star. "The small classes were a good fit," recalled Esparza. "The staff cared about students, and I built a great network of relationships."

Life and employment opportunities cut college short. Esparza pursued his music and followed an interest in law enforcement with security work, including a stint at Clark. It led to a similar position in the Vancouver School District, but he yearned to make a positive impact on youngsters. Esparza had an idea: "Drums helped me during tough times, and I knew they could help these kids."

In 2003, he began with seven students at Martin Luther King Elementary School and some well-used drums. "The main focus is leadership and responsibility," said Esparza. "It's not about making drummers; it's about getting kids to stay in school and go to college." Today, more than 350 youth have been served, and the One of a Kind Drumline percussion ensemble has performed in Portland's Crystal Ballroom and at Trail Blazer games. They appeared on a KGW-TV segment and often play for community venues around Southwest Washington. Their performances are energetic and astonishingly professional with a thundering cadence that electrifies audiences.

Drumline players are typically in first through fifth grades. The primary goals of the program are to instill self-respect, confidence, discipline, and character – to name a few. Performers must maintain good grades, make responsible choices, and demonstrate leadership.



Leader of the band, Eddie Esparza ('10), teaches his young drummers teamwork, leadership, responsibility and goal setting - skills for a life of success.

"Eddie teaches, encourages, motivates, and gives them a vision of excellence for themselves," said Debra Hale, principal of King Elementary. "He is a passionate, dedicated, and talented educator who has given countless hours for youth in our community."

Working with the young musicians just might have been Esparza's biggest incentive to walk his talk and finish his degree. In June 2010, he finally earned his associate degree from Clark College – 20-plus years after he first began. Esparza and his percussionists are proof positive that the beat of a drum can generate life lessons regardless of age.

Note: For more information, visit [www.oneofakinddrumline.com](http://www.oneofakinddrumline.com).



# Queen of the Road

*Globe-Trotting Engineer Makes a Difference.*

*Like thousands of immigrants before her, Mayra Garcia's mother, Zoila, dreamed of a better life for her family. "My mom is my hero," smiled Garcia ('05). "I was only three when she brought me by herself to America." Today, Zoila and her husband, Benito, have excellent jobs, two homes – and a daughter who is a college graduate.*

"Knowing how hard my mother struggled motivated me to go a step further with my education," said Garcia. After receiving her associate degree at Clark College, she transferred to the University of Washington and earned a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering ('07). She is employed as a transportation engineer with Transpo Group, a private consulting firm in Kirkland, Washington.

Clark College is the number one institution for Clark County high school graduates who attend college. Many

come to figure out their next step in life – just like Garcia did. Affordability was also important, and Garcia received several scholarships that eased financial worries. "For me, a scholarship is more than financial assistance and academic recognition," she reflected. "It's like someone saying, 'I believe in you.'"

Garcia knew she had an innate need to help others but discovered that her interests lay in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics – commonly called STEM. Clark Engineering Professor Tina Barsotti, who was Garcia's advisor and instructor, suggested a career in civil engineering. "Engineering is a very creative profession," said Barsotti. "We design things that make life better. It's a great field for women who want to make a difference."

Barsotti's advice rang true for Garcia, and she sought ways to pair her personal and educational goals with a yen for travel. She helped in the rebuilding process for Katrina-affected areas with a group of engineering students. In Guatemala, she worked with a team of students to design and build a playground complex. Closer to home, through professional organizations, she encourages high school students to pursue engineering-based careers.

Garcia says she walked into Clark College with nothing but hope and willingness, and came out with confidence, a career path, and a diverse set of skills. She credits Barsotti with encouraging her to enter the male-dominated field of engineering, while her experiences as a student ambassador built confidence. "Clark was the catalyst in my college experience," she said. "It helped propel the sequence of events that led me to where I am today. My family – especially my mom – is very proud of what I've achieved."

To learn more about how Clark College has helped these alumni reach for their dreams, we invite you to enjoy their video clips at [www.clark.edu/cc/ar2010](http://www.clark.edu/cc/ar2010).



Although Mayra Garcia ('05) is still in the early stages of her civil engineer career, she finds it exhilarating to know that she has the ability to change lives for the better around the world.

## CLARK COLLEGE FOUNDATION DONOR ROLL

*For the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010*

On behalf of our students, faculty, and staff, we thank all of our generous donors whose investment makes it possible to provide support to students and keep programs current at Clark College. Your generosity makes an impact on our community in a positive and critical way, and we are grateful for every contribution.

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## Alumni Spotlight

# Jason B. Joner

Jason Joner ('95) was always interested in law. But it was the business law course he took at Clark College from Professor Don Russo that motivated him to go on and earn his Juris Doctor degree.



Joner's first introduction to Clark was in the early '90s through the Running Start\* program for high school juniors and seniors and subsequently earned his associate degree. "Going to Clark allowed me to live at home, plus work and save money," said Joner. "I was able to get all my prerequisite courses completed before transferring to the University of Washington." Between savings and scholarships, Joner was debt free when he graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science.

He attended the University of Virginia Law School and returned to Vancouver during the summers to intern at the law firm of Miller Nash. He then practiced business law with the firm for several years. Like Russo, he also taught business law at Clark. "I wanted to pass along my experience as Don Russo did for me,"

said Joner. "It was wonderful to interact with the students."

Today, Joner is a vice president at LD Jellison, a consulting and design company where he conducts renewable energy consulting. "It is very satisfying and exciting to work on ecologically and environmentally sound projects," notes Joner. "There are new developments every day."

Like many alumni, Joner has stayed in Southwest Washington and contributes to the economic and social vitality of the community. He and his wife, Jessica, are raising their three children in Vancouver.

*\*The Running Start program at Clark College is offered to qualified high school students seeking to earn college credits while completing their high school education.*