



# The Clark Journal

MARCH 2007



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## THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE


At Clark College, it's about the students.

For those of you who have been around the last several months, you've heard me say this many times. It's true whether we're talking about the classes we offer, the faculty who teach or even the buildings and facilities we use.

The facilities master plan was established in 2001 to identify and establish the projects Clark College would undertake in support of our students. Many of those projects – including the Penguin Student Union, Clark College at WSU Vancouver and the Gaiser Hall remodel – are either complete or underway.

For this reason, Clark College is undergoing a facilities master plan update. This process will help us establish our current and future facilities needs to ensure that we are building and growing for the benefit of one group in particular – our students.

And while we're all waiting to see the funding that Clark College will receive during this year's legislative session, it's not too early to be thinking about, and planning for, the next biennium's budget request process. As you'll read in this issue of *The Clark Journal*, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) capital budget request process for 2009-2011 will begin in fall 2007.

The facilities master plan – and Clark College itself – belongs to all of us. Take the time now to be involved in the forums and focus groups that will take place as the facilities master plan update process continues. What brings buildings to life is the dedicated work of our faculty, staff and administrators. It is what makes Clark College a dynamic, energizing place for our students to take the next step in their lives. 

*Robert K. Knight, Interim President*

# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: THE CLARK COLLEGE FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

JUST AS CLARK COLLEGE HAS A MISSION, VISION, MISSION IMPERATIVES AND YEARLY STRATEGIC INITIATIVES TO GUIDE OUR OPERATIONS, the college also has a plan to define our physical growth and changes. It is called the facilities master plan (FMP). “The facilities master plan is a visioning tool for translating the instructional plans of the college into physical facilities,” said Interim Vice President of Administrative Services Phil Sheehan. “While the institution’s strategic plan drives discussions about instruction, the facilities master plan drives the physical resources it will take to execute that vision.”

*A renovation of Gaiser Hall, which housed student services including admissions, advising, assessment, career & employment services, counseling, disability support services, financial aid and security, was part of the college’s facilities master plan in 2001.*



## THE HISTORY OF THE FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

The FMP defines the direction and outlines the steps that Clark College will take over the next ten years to address and fulfill its mission imperatives and strategic priorities in terms of facilities. The FMP assures the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) that Clark College is actively planning for the future and has integrated its strategic, instructional and enrollment management plans with its facilities master plan. The FMP is also the master planning tool to support the college’s requests for state funding in the next biennium.

The original facilities master plan was completed in 2001. At that time, five major conclusions were drawn:

1. Planning for development of an east county site should begin in the near term, to help meet demand and alleviate further overcrowding on the main campus.
2. The short- and long-range facility planning process should be closely aligned with enrollment growth targets and educational program development.
3. The resources and assets of existing facilities should be protected and enhanced by future development.
4. Creative options for increasing delivery of educational programs should be explored and, when appropriate, put into use.
5. Traditional and unconventional funding sources should be pursued on an aggressive time line; the college should aspire to a mix of funding support from both public and private partnerships.

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Recent accomplishments at Clark College, including funding and design of Clark College at Columbia Tech Center, the renovation of AA-5 and Gaiser Hall, replacement of Joan Stout Hall (AA-3), the expansion and growth of eLearning offerings, and funding support through the Clark College Foundation and other private partners, can all be traced back to the conclusions established by the 2001 facilities master plan. ([The 2001 facilities master plan is available on the Clark College Web site, www.clark.edu. Select "About Clark" on the left navigation bar, then "College Master Plan."](#))

### UPDATING THE FMP

Many of the projects that were planned in 2001 as part of the facilities master plan have already begun or are already completed. For that reason, it is time for the college to review the 2001 facilities master plan, evaluate data about the growth and direction of Clark College and provide a viable update to provide direction for future capital projects.

A committee representing a cross-section of the Clark College community has been meeting since December 2006 to update the facilities master plan for the college. The committee includes representatives from administration, faculty, classified staff, and student groups, as well as the Clark College Foundation and LSW Architects, the Vancouver-based firm which has worked on many Clark construction projects. The charge of the committee is to work as a cohesive team to provide and seek input on the facilities master plan with focus on capturing the needs of the community and its growth while aligning it to other strategic plans. "As individuals from across campus gave updates on the plans that are being developed, it reinforced the phenomenal work that the college is doing and provided, in one place, the information needed to look at the facilities master plan holistically," said Tami Jacobs, manager of disability support services and a member of both the 2001 committee and the current FMP update steering committee.

Updating the facilities master plan for Clark College is an important endeavor that will be completed by June 2007. The updated facilities master plan will provide a basis for the

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### *Facilities Master Plan Update Steering Committee*

The facilities master plan (FMP) update steering committee is comprised of members representing a cross-section of the Clark College community. Representatives from administration, faculty, classified staff and students, as well as the Clark College Foundation and LSW Architects, are working as a team to provide input on the facilities master plan.

Facilities master plan update steering committee members are:

<b>Mike Arnold</b>	professor, Health & Physical Education
<b>Candy Bennett</b>	executive dean, Planning & Advancement
<b>Marta Dragomir</b>	executive assistant, Communications & Marketing
<b>Lisa Gibert</b>	president, Clark College Foundation
<b>Jim Green</b>	director, Plant Services; steering committee facilitator
<b>Jennifer Grove</b>	operations manager, Administrative Services
<b>Dave Halme</b>	LSW Architects
<b>Tami Jacobs</b>	manager, Disability Support Services
<b>Robert Knight</b>	interim president
<b>Ray Korpi</b>	dean, Basic Education, English, Communications & Humanities
<b>Amanda Mayoral</b>	president, Associated Students of Clark College
<b>Mirranda Saari</b>	program manager, Assessment Center; classified employee representative
<b>Phil Sheehan</b>	acting vice president, Administrative Services
<b>Judy Van Patten</b>	counselor
<b>Rebecca Wale</b>	program manager, Environmental Health & Employee Development
<b>Ralph Willson</b>	LSW Architects
<b>Casey Wyckoff</b>	LSW Architects





2009-2011 SBCTC capital budget request process that will begin in the fall of 2007. It is through the budget request process that the college requests funding for all major and minor capital projects. “The facilities master plan is critical in the competitiveness of the capital budget request process,” said Sheehan. Building projects such as the Penguin Student Union, AA-5 renovation, Joan Stout Hall (AA-3) replacement, Gaiser Hall renovation, Clark College at WSU-Vancouver, and Clark College at Columbia Tech Center have all been defined in the master plan. By outlining these projects in the facilities master plan they were all prospective projects for funding and have all successfully obtained funding. Future projects – such as the Foster Hall replacement, the health and advanced technologies building, and additional satellite college campuses and buildings – will need to be defined in the facilities master plan to ensure that they are properly considered for funding.



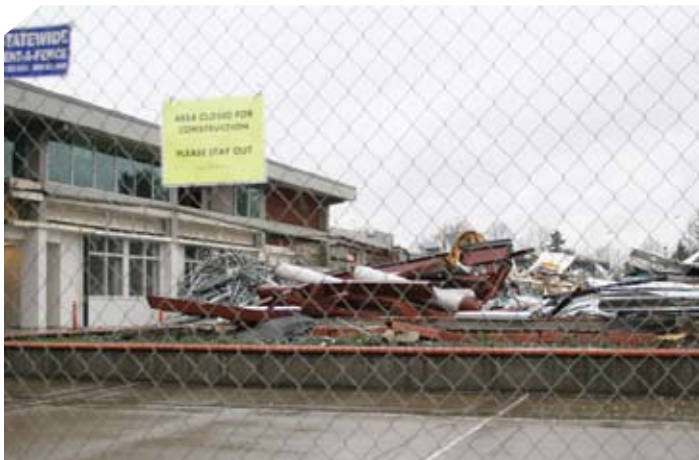
*The Clark College at WSU-Vancouver facility, completed in spring 2006, opened up opportunities for students in north Clark County to attend Clark College classes closer to home and houses the college’s nursing program.*

## TAKING THE NEXT STEPS

On February 9, the facilities master plan update steering committee hosted an open forum for the college that featured two master planning experts, Dr. Susan Wolff and Tom Henderson, to provide their insight and knowledge of master planning and to encourage the college community’s involvement in the process.

Dr. Susan Wolff is chief academic officer at Columbia Gorge Community College and a consultant in educational and facilities planning. Wolff’s experience in education includes positions at Linn-Benton Community College, Oregon State University, and as associate dean of instruction here at Clark College. Wolff emphasized that, in planning facilities, colleges should, “think outside the box.” Her presentation focused on creativity, including the idea of planning flexible buildings. “Be flexible to teach versatile programs in the same facilities,” she said. Within her presentation she referenced two books – *A Whole New Mind* by Daniel Pink and *Social Intelligence* by Daniel Goleman – as potential sources of inspiration for Clark College as we consider our facilities master plan.

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*January 2007: Central Gaiser Hall is demolished to make way for the new building.*





*With the largest concentration of faculty offices on the Clark College main campus, replacement of Foster Hall is one of the projects under consideration in the facilities master plan update process.*

Tom Henderson is director of capital budgets for the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC). Henderson shared with forum attendees from his experience with and knowledge of the funding requirements and processes in the SBCTC system. He relayed best practices for funding and building facilities to support the needs identified in the master plan process. Henderson also identified the basic elements of creating a facilities master plan, including:

- ❖ why Clark needs a facilities master plan;
- ❖ how to begin the planning process;
- ❖ the “nuts and bolts” of creating a good FMP;
- ❖ timelines and critical elements of a plan;
- ❖ how to make the plan both useful and used;
- ❖ how the plan relates to other planning documents; and
- ❖ what should be included in the college’s master plan.

In starting the facilities master plan development process, Henderson said it is important to, “involve, communicate, set priorities and build consensus” within the college. “Involve the community in all discussions,” Henderson said. The facilities master plan, “tells people why you are doing the things that you are doing.”

At a recent meeting of the facilities master plan update steering committee, representatives from Clark College’s Instructional Council spoke about the instructional plan for the college. The committee learned valuable information about current and

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## FACILITIES MASTER PLAN: THE BOARD PERSPECTIVE

The Clark College Board of Trustees supports the current efforts to update the facilities master plan for the college. “The strongest foundation of any building is not the pouring of cement or laying of bricks, but the development plan that precedes it,” said Clark College Trustee Sherry Parker.

Since the creation of the facilities master plan in 2001, Clark College has completed or is underway on much of the planned development outlined in the original document, including:

- ❖ funding, design and construction of the Penguin Student Union;
- ❖ replacement of Joan Stout Hall (AA-3);
- ❖ acquisition of the “Triangle” property;
- ❖ funding, design and construction of Clark College at WSU-Vancouver;
- ❖ renovation of the “T” building (former Clark County Social Services building) to create classroom and office space;
- ❖ remodeling central Gaiser Hall; and
- ❖ funding and design of Clark College at Columbia Tech Center (east county location).

“The rapid growth of Clark County in recent years has made it necessary to expand the college’s facilities,” said Parker. “It is exciting to see the growth that is taking place to enable our faculty, staff and administrators to better serve our students.”

The facilities master plan is the document that establishes the priorities of the college. Without it, funding requests through the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) to the state legislature would not be ranked as highly – and thus would not receive the funding priority – of those submitted by the other 33 community and technical colleges in the state.

“Without a thoughtful, planned approach to the location and uses of a building – and a clear sense of how it fits into the larger picture – a building becomes a box to fit services and educational programs into, rather than a tool or vehicle through which educational offerings are made available,” said Parker. “Having a facilities master plan ensures that Clark College’s plans for future growth align with our strategic plan and keep students at the forefront of all we do.”







prospective instructional programs and their projected growth. Vice President of Student Affairs Rachel Ruiz and Vice President of Instruction Rassoul Dastmozd addressed the progress being made in the development of the enrollment management plan.

In addition to its regular meetings, the facilities master plan update steering committee will hold periodic forums to share information and progress and to seek input from the college community to ensure that the updated master plan addresses the needs of the college. Focus groups will also be formed to assist in compiling college-wide input. Individuals are encouraged to contact any member of the steering committee with questions or comments regarding the process or the facilities master plan.

“The facilities master plan update steering committee is a great team of individuals,” said Jim Green, plant services director at Clark College and steering committee facilitator. “I am excited that we have input from all areas of the college in this process. The resulting FMP will certainly support Clark College as we continue to grow.” 🌱



*To accommodate the need for classroom and office space, and to temporarily house student services during the Gaiser Hall remodel, Clark faculty, staff and administrators moved across Fort Vancouver Way to the “T” building (the former Clark County Social Services building) in December 2006.*