

CCC Board of Education – Topic Summary	
Topic:	Full-Time Faculty Report
Date:	May 20, 2026
Presenter:	Charles Lettenmaier, FTF President
Division/Department:	Full-Time Faculty Association
RECOMMENDATION:	Information Only

REASON FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:

This is a monthly report for the Board’s information.

Lars Campbell, Music

Recently chosen to be the new artistic director and conductor of the Gorge Sinfonietta in Hood River. Their hiring committee praised him for his strong alignment with their community-centered mission, which Lars attributes to his work at Clackamas, where community is the focal point in the Music Department. This new professional connection is another great avenue to use for Clackamas students, who Lars thinks will make welcome additions when substitutes are needed in Hood River. Look for his concerts there next academic year!

Melinda Nickas and Lisa Nielson

Noticed that the GED program at Harmony had students that seemed more food insecure than usual. In conversation with Margie Gibler (retired FTF) and Merlyn Smith, Harmony Resource Center and food pantry coordinator, they shared that having someone pick up food at the Clackamas Service Center Food Hub could increase the amount of food at the pantry. Melinda and Lisa started picking food up one afternoon a week and delivering it to the Harmony food pantry. Over time, they added an associate faculty member, a Skills Development resource specialist, and a community member to the crew. Recently, the Food Hub began having them weigh the food that was taken to the food pantry, and we consistently transport approximately 1,000 lbs. of food each week to support our students and community.

Joan D San-Claire

We had a very successful CTE Showcase, putting students and local business together, and these events just keep getting bigger. When Tom Brown actually retires it will be a tremendous loss.

<https://www.clackamas.edu/landing-pages/career-technical-education-showcase>

Laurette Scott (Education)

Laurette Scott and Angela Vossenkuhl would like to share that the first cohort of the Eastern Oregon University Elementary Education program on the CCC campus started in January. This is an 18-month program leading to a bachelor's degree plus an Oregon teaching license with endorsements in Elementary / Multiple Subjects and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). Program recruitment exceeded the goal number of participants, and the cohort doubled in size over last year. Additionally, 92% of this year's cohort is made up of CCC students who pursued the AAOT Elementary ED

degree prior to applying to EOU to complete the 2 + 2 program on our Oregon City campus. Laurette and Angela would like to invite board members to visit the EOU classes which take place at 4pm, Monday through Thursday in the Family Resource Center on the Oregon City campus. We would also encourage you to share information about this program with school districts and community members in your respective areas. This Grow Your Own (GYO) program is designed for working people and career changers who have always wanted to teach but need to continue to work and want to go far, close to home.

Ak Kotash

Wanted to share an exciting update from the Science Department and highlight one of the impactful experiential learning opportunities we continue to offer our students at CCC. Recently, Jen Bown and I returned from leading 17 students on a field course in Death Valley National Park as part of BI-165D: Natural History of Western Deserts. This course has been a cornerstone of our program for nearly 30 years and remains one of the most transformative experiences we provide. This field-based learning allows students to move beyond the classroom and engage directly with the environments they study. During the trip, students identified plant and animal species endemic to the region and examined geologic features and processes that are unique to Death Valley.

Melissa Jones (Journalism)

Twelve journalism students and I traveled to San Francisco in March for the [ACP Spring National Media Conference](#). We attended sessions on everything from how Reuters uses AI to analyze earnings reports to how Western Kentucky University's alumni help keep the journalism program strong. We were also lucky enough to be staying a couple blocks from Chinatown during Lunar New Year festivities. Students are presenting in class this term about what they learned, including how to better cover the community and streamlining editing. Students paid their own airfare, and an ASG grant of \$2,300 helped pay for hotels and registration.

Dawn Hendricks

Our Early Childhood Education and Family Studies program had its National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation peer review visit March 9th-11th. This happens every seven years to ensure we meet the required standards and competencies. The team interviewed administrators, faculty, students and community stakeholders, observed classes and reviewed evidence of how the program meets the standards. At the exit report meeting, the review team shared that they found many strengths in our program and had no areas of concern! We are only one of two nationally accredited ECE community college programs in Oregon and the only accredited Spanish ECE program in the country!

Amanda Coffey

The English department is thrilled to share information about its annual creative writing conference, Compose, happening on May 16, 2026. The conference begins at 10am with our keynote speakers, local poets David Biespiel and Matthew Dickman, followed by a publishing panel. Two back-to-back workshop sessions focusing on many genres led by local writers begin after lunch. Admission is \$25 for the whole day (10am-4pm). Student pricing is \$10.