



August 27, 2012

Dear Colleagues:

Clark College is celebrating its fifth anniversary of adopting a tobacco-free policy on all campus properties. Looking back, I can confidently say we are thrilled with the results.

Our campus is healthier and more attractive. The policy has all but eliminated bark dust fires started by discarded cigarette butts and literally cleared the air at our picturesque 100 acre downtown Vancouver campus.

The decision was not an easy one but necessary. Students were violating our old policy and it was difficult to enforce. We had also been receiving constant complaints from students and employees about the smoke on campus. Asthmatic students said they were triggered walking in and out of our campus buildings. And, blind students also told us that they had problems navigating the crowds of smokers congregated around the doorways of our facilities.

In the end, our decision came down to whether our current tobacco policy was reflective of our institutional values. Allowing secondhand smoke exposure on campus did not align with our mission and, for that reason, we decided to be tobacco-free.

Enclosed is a case study about our experience. We invite you to visit our tobacco-free campus any time. We are happy to share our experience, answer any questions or provide you with resources and materials that worked for us.

You can contact me or Lauren Bradford, Program Manager of Environmental Health & Safety, who can be reached at lbradford@clark.edu or 360-992-2251.

Sincerely,


Robert K. Knight, President
Clark College

Clark College *The Next Step*