



Cindy Becker
Director

Community Health Division

Public Services Building

2051 Kaen Road #367 Oregon City OR 97045

August 26, 2009

Joanne Truesdell
President
Clackamas Community College
19600 S Molalla Ave
Oregon City, Oregon 97045

Dear President Truesdell:

We are writing in support of the Clackamas Community College tobacco-free campus proposal.

The organizations signing this letter are engaged in working towards the healthy development of youth and promoting health and wellness of adults within Clackamas County and statewide. We are fortunate to have Clackamas Community College as a wonderful resource in our community! We appreciate CCC's strong record of leadership in areas including health professions education and sustainability.

By going tobacco-free, CCC will join Mt. Hood Community College, Portland Community College, and Oregon Coast Community College, all of which will be 100% tobacco-free by January 2010. Prohibiting tobacco use on CCC premises is consistent with statewide and national trends in creating more healthful campuses free of secondhand smoke.

A tobacco-free campus maintains an accessible campus environment. The urgency of this issue is evident when we consider statistics such as the prevalence of asthma in our communities – the percentage of adults with asthma is 9.6% in Clackamas. For these individuals, avoiding secondhand smoke may be a medical necessity. These students (as well as staff with asthma) should not have to risk exposure to a completely preventable health hazard while walking across campus.

A tobacco-free campus protects minors from secondhand smoke and the influence of tobacco. Clackamas County high schools are completely tobacco-free. High school students on their school grounds may not smoke and are not exposed to secondhand smoke. These students should have consistent tobacco-free school educational environments, whether at their high school or when they are taking classes at Clackamas Community College. A college policy that allows smoking gives minors tacit approval to smoke while on campus.

Together, we need to provide our community members with every opportunity to succeed; a tobacco-free campus accompanied by education and smoking cessation resources is one important way of doing this for the youth and adults of all ages who attend classes at CCC.

Thank you for considering this important community health issue and we would be glad to serve as resources to CCC as this moves forward.

Sincerely,

Cindy Becker
Director
Department of Human Services

The following organizations support the Clackamas Community College initiative for 100% tobacco-free campus policy:

- African American Tobacco Prevention & Education Network, Lifeworks N.W.
- American Lung Association in Oregon
- Asian and Pacific Islander Health Network, IRCO/Asian Family Center
- Breathe Free: Oregon's LGBTQ Tobacco Prevention & Education Network, Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center
- Clackamas County Community Health
- Clackamas County Mental Health
- Head Start of Clackamas County
- Kaiser Sunnyside Hospital
- Latino Tobacco Prevention & Education Network, Oregon Human Development Corporation
- Oregon Public Health Division
- Oregon DHS Addictions and Mental Health Division
- Urban American Indian Tobacco Prevention & Education Network, Native American Rehabilitation Association
- Willamette Falls Hospital