

Mt. Hood Community College

The following comments were collected from MHCC students in March 2009. Later that month, MHCC student nurse and lung cancer survivor Rebecca Geary shared her perspective on the need for a tobacco-free campus at a meeting of the District Board of Education. Two months later, following a task force review of this issue, the Board unanimously voted for all college premises to be tobacco-free starting January 2010. Congratulations to MHCC for its leadership in campus health and wellness!

Comments from MHCC students:

- “It would be easier to quit if it was ‘out of sight’ going to & from class.”
- “I am for no-smoking on campus. I find that when passing the smoking areas the air smells and feels very congested. I have asthma and so the smell of smoke easily makes me cough and grosses me out.”
- “Please ban smoking on campus! My husband has very serious lung problems, and is sensitive enough to it that just walking by it will affect him for days, and we pay to go to school here, not for extra lung problems!”
- “Breathing at this school is difficult when traveling between classes. You have to take longer ways to class to avoid coughing and feeling suffocated.”
- “Smoking is bad for the majority population at MHCC.”
- “Smoking on campus is unclean and lacking in respect for others. If a student is in a designated area they seem to feel that it’s ok to blow smoke on others walking by, leaving a mess or leave butts burning in area then leaving for others to deal with.”
- “Good idea, even though I’m still a smoker. Follow the examples of the other community colleges.”
- “The fumes are toxic no matter where smoking areas are posted. It’s too big of a health issue anymore, both known and unknown to further consider human “rights” over health and environment. “

“With the information that we have about the dangers of secondhand smoke, it's blatant disregard for the health and well-being of the general public to allow smoking on campus at all. I'm proud to be part of a college that chooses to be among those who are setting the standard for others to follow.”

– Rebecca Geary, MHCC Student Nurse

