



# CLARK STATE FOUNDATION CONNECTIONS

## A TIME OF THANKS AND REFLECTION



The Connecting Communities Campaign will soon be coming to a successful conclusion, surpassing our expectations, and still, we continue to receive donations. To date, we have raised more than \$11 million. This overwhelmingly positive response reaffirms our community's support for Clark State's commitment to deliver quality, affordable education that will improve the quality of life and economic profile of our entire community.

The community's sense of pride in this Campaign was particularly evident in the number of people who turned out to sign their names on the final beam of the Sara T. Landess Technology and Learning Center.

We want to maintain that positive momentum into the New Year as we also take time to acknowledge the many generous contributions received from every sector of our community.

With more than 50 percent of the nation's undergraduates attending community colleges today, it is critical that Clark State remain affordable to all students. As we celebrate the end of our Campaign, the Foundation remains committed to raising funds for student scholarships.

I thank each of you for believing in the power of education to transform lives and communities.

Andy Bell  
Campaign Chairman  
Connecting Communities Campaign  
Clark State Foundation



*Clark State student Regina Frazier and her son Christopher Johnson take time to sign the beam.*

## TOPPING OUT A GREAT DAY

It was a sunny fall afternoon when, one by one, faculty, staff, students and community members stepped forward to sign their names with colored markers on a massive steel beam before it was hoisted onto the frame of the Sara T. Landess Technology and Learning Center. Some wrote inspirational messages, some listed family members, and some added an artistic touch to highlight their name.

The day marked another milestone toward the completion of the state-of-the-art facility which will accommodate classrooms and labs, an expansion of the allied health program, student services, the library and a new café. The building is expected to be completed by June 2007.

As the final beam was placed into position, both the crew and all those who inscribed their names on the beam could feel proud of a building that will, in some sense, always bear their name.

## A TIME HONORED TRADITION

The "topping out" ceremony, as it is called, is one of the construction industry's oldest traditions providing ironworkers a means to symbolically "sign off" on a job well done. Adding a small fir tree or an American flag to the beam before it is placed at the highest elevation has also become part of the tradition. The tree, believed to have ancient Northern European roots, can signify a job completed without injury or a good luck charm. The placement of the flag, an American tradition, is associated with both union solidarity, as well as patriotism.



## A NEW STAFF MEMBER IN THE MIX



With the positive momentum of the Connecting Communities Campaign, activities at the Foundation have increased, leading the Board to add an additional full-time staff

person to support some of the Foundation's new initiatives.

Callie Cary-Devine began as Development Associate on September 1 and has already begun working on three specific projects: to grow the annual scholarship fund and the Circle of Friends, to reach out and develop programming for Clark State alumni, and to help communicate the Foundation's message and accomplishments to its various constituencies.

Callie comes to the position with more than 15 years experience in higher education, most recently serving as director of alumni relations at Antioch College. She has a background in marketing, fundraising and donor relations, volunteer management and event planning.

"I'm excited about promoting the Foundation's identity in the larger community," says Callie, adding that reaching out to alumni and scholarship recipients is an essential step in that process. "There's nothing more powerful than a testimonial from a student who has directly benefited from a Foundation scholarship. For current and prospective donors, it provides a real life story about how their gift will make a difference."

Callie joins Kris Culp, Executive Director; Christa Bostick, Administrative Assistant; and Karen Hunt, Coordinator of the Champion City Scholars Program. "The community has been so supportive of our mission," says Kris, adding that "I believe the next few years will be the most exciting in the history of the Foundation."

You can contact Callie Cary-Devine directly at 937-328-8070 or e-mail her at [carydevinec@clarkstate.edu](mailto:carydevinec@clarkstate.edu)

## RESEARCH UNDERWAY TO SHOW IMPACT OF CHAMPION CITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM



*This year's newest group of Champion City Scholars.*

In the Fall of 2004, the first generation of students were welcomed into the Champion City Scholars Program with a guarantee that solid grades, regular attendance and good behavior would earn them a tuition-free education at Clark State upon graduation from high school. Three years later, that same group of students has entered the tenth grade and remains determined to be the first in their family to graduate from college. But how can the program prove that it's making a difference in the lives of these children?

This year, Dee Garwood, Clark State Instructor in the Arts and Sciences Department, is helping to document the journey these students have embarked on through a longitudinal study to determine how successfully they learn "life skills." Starting with this year's newest group of 50 eighth grade Scholars, she will track their lives through age 22 to 24, approximately eight to ten years.



*Dee Garwood*



Garwood will work closely with these students to teach them the skills required to succeed in an academic setting. A "Life Skills Training" component will encourage students to examine communication and language patterns, financial resources, physical and nutritional health, spiritual and cultural identity, supportive networks and coping skills.

"We want you to be scholars, to be leaders," Garwood said at the orientation session for this year's new group of Scholars. Through her research, she hopes to learn to what degree the students' social and academic skills were influenced by participating in this unique program.

In addition to the guidance provided by Garwood and Karen Hunt, Coordinator of the Champion City Scholars Program, these students will also be supported throughout their journey by their mentors and school counselors. This year six new volunteer mentors joined the team: Kris Culp, Janet James, Jamie Minter, Mary Jo Leventhal, Shashi Chadha, and Callie Cary-Devine

For this population of students, getting a college degree is no longer an economic impossibility and they can be reassured that the funding is not going to disappear. "I want you all to know we will be by your side. We're in it for the long haul," Karen Hunt tells the students and their parents. "We believe in you. We want you to succeed!"

*Dee Garwood at a Youth Summit for 7th & 8th graders, including Champion City Scholars.*



## NEW FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS TELL WHAT INSPIRED THEM

The Foundation is overseen by a dedicated volunteer Board of Directors, and this year six new members accepted the invitation to join the Board, bringing the total membership to twenty-three.



### RICK DUNBAR

*President, Richards, Raff & Dunbar Memorial Home*

“As Springfield endeavors to attract new and better businesses, it is paramount that we have a workforce that is capable of fulfilling the needs of those employers. I have been here all my life and I am now in a position that I am able to help improve the quality of my hometown. I look forward to the opportunity to serve with the community leaders that comprise this board and together we can build a bigger, better Clark State and in turn, a bigger, better Springfield.”

### SHASHI CHADHA

*Adjunct Instructor, Clark State Community College*

“I became a mentor with the Champion City Scholars Program to help motivate students in any way I can. My involvement with the Foundation will allow me to expand that support through a variety of initiatives.”

### LARRY LANDESS

*Trustee, The Turner Foundation*

“I want to be a part of the growth of Springfield, and Clark State is on the forefront of that growth. I believe education is extremely important in this area.”

### LAURIE LEVENTHAL

*Chair, Circle of Friends Steering Committee*

“I serve on the Foundation Board because of my role as Chair of the Circle of Friends, the steering committee that supports the mission and programs of Clark State’s Performing Arts Center. I believe that the two groups can collaborate on many different projects that will benefit our community and I see my role as helping to facilitate that relationship.”

### AMY LUTHER

*Owner, The Happy Soul*

“I was motivated to participate on the Foundation Board because of its mission. Statistics point clearly to the fact that the future workforce needs to be an educated one. Those without education will find themselves at a much greater risk for poverty. I believe poverty is the root cause of many of society’s afflictions and if we are to make a difference in our society, we need to make educational opportunities accessible to everyone. I see my involvement with the Foundation as a great opportunity to get personally involved in this mission.”

### TODD ROBERTS

*Vice President, Marketing and Operations, CFA Networks, Inc.*

“I have a passion for Springfield and Clark County and I believe that Clark State plays an important role in the city and the county’s future. I see our community, as well as Clark State, on the cusp of some great developments. Tomorrow’s economy will require a more educated, well-trained workforce and Clark State is uniquely positioned to bridge the gap for area residents.”

## TELLING OUR STORY THROUGH A NEW WEB SITE



According to the Non-Profit Times, more than 40 percent of donors visit a web site before deciding to make a gift. A web site can tell an inspirational story or announce an important event or piece of news in a timely, cost-effective and creative way.

For the Marketing Committee of the Clark State Foundation, creating an informative and eye-catching web site is a top priority. The new site will feature news, events and profiles of alumni, donors, scholarship recipients and board members. The site will link to the Clark State web site providing greater visibility about the Foundation's mission. Local designer John Fimiani, President of Springboard Group, will design the site.

The Marketing Committee membership includes Maureen Grady, Randy Kapp, Todd Leventhal, Todd Roberts, Mark Robertson, Tim Sheerin and Hans Wagner as Chair. Keep an eye out for [www.clarkstatefoundation.org](http://www.clarkstatefoundation.org).

## WHERE ARE YOU NOW?



Last June, 380 students received their diplomas from Clark State. Those of you in the Class of 2006 and all those who graduated before you can proudly say you are alumni of Clark State Community College.

We want to know what our alumni are doing today so we can be proud of your accomplishments since you graduated. We'd also like to stay in touch with all of you so that we can share news about Clark State and your classmates.

Please update your contact information and send us your good news at [carydevinec@clarkstate.edu](mailto:carydevinec@clarkstate.edu) or call 937/328-8070.

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