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**For Immediate Release**

**For additional information contact:**

**Rhonda Morin, dir. of communications**

**Clark College Foundation**

**360.992.2705; [rmorin@clark.edu](mailto:rmorin@clark.edu)**

**[www.clarkcollegefoundation.org](http://www.clarkcollegefoundation.org)**

**Colleen Boccia, senior vice president**

**Columbia Credit Union**

**360.619.3051; [colleenb@columbiacu.org](mailto:colleenb@columbiacu.org)**

**[www.columbiacu.org](http://www.columbiacu.org)**

## **Clark College Foundation, Columbia Credit Union Announce Gift** *\$65,000 will upgrade Clark College's Pharmacy Technician program*

VANCOUVER, Wash.—[Clark College Foundation](http://www.clarkcollegefoundation.org) and [Columbia Credit Union](http://www.columbiacu.org) announce a \$65,000 gift from Columbia Credit Union that will enhance Clark College's Pharmacy Technician program with the construction of a new simulation pharmacy and the addition of lab equipment and supplies.

Clark's Pharmacy Technician program has an excellent reputation in the health care community and among its educational peers for training a skilled pharmacy workforce. In order to heighten academic success, the facilities and technology are undergoing modifications to continue the college's quest to be the premier Pharmacy Technician program in the region.

The program recently relocated to [Clark College at Washington State University Vancouver](http://www.clarkcollegefoundation.org). The move required a significant investment to redesign and remodel the lab space, which allows students to practice skills and simulate activities they will encounter in real pharmacy settings. The plan for a fully functional 500-square-foot simulation pharmacy would not have been possible without the investment from Columbia Credit Union.

Lisa Gibert, president/CEO of Clark College Foundation, praised Columbia Credit Union for their gift and their insight of how quality education has a direct bearing on the well-being of a community.

"An aging population is creating a huge demand for more health care providers. In our community, the Health Care Skills Panel convened by the Southwest Washington Workforce



Development Council reported that by 2020, more than 1.2 million residents of Washington will be age 65 and older. Therefore, educating pharmacy technicians so that they are well-prepared to address the health care needs of the residents is critical.”

The renovated space will be named the Columbia Credit Union Simulation Pharmacy and will contain upgraded pharmacy software and industry equipment. The gift will also enhance professional development for faculty and enrich the curriculum for students. Construction is expected to be completed in fall 2013.

Debra Ortiz, director of allied health at Clark College, said the simulation lab will prepare the future workforce for high demand jobs. “Students will have access to an exceptional educational experience and be ready for jobs with their certificate or degree that not only serves Southwest Washington, but is portable beyond.”

Columbia President and CEO Steve Kenny believes that an investment in higher education is an investment in the community’s future.

“We continue to support local higher education because it gives current and prospective Southwest Washington employers access to a workforce that is technically and scientifically literate,” said Kenny.

“We’re proud to support the professional growth of pharmacy technology in the community where Columbia Credit Union has been a steadfast, local legacy for the past 60 years,” added Kenny.

Pharmacy technicians are in high demand because of the large number of locations that employ pharmacy technicians and an aging population who require care.

Clark’s graduates who earn a certificate or an associate in applied technology degree are workforce ready. They also can seamlessly transfer to Central Washington University for a bachelor of applied technology degree in business management.

The Columbia Credit Union’s gift allows Clark College to take the next step in fulfilling its obligation to build a vibrant community that supports student success and program excellence.



Established in 1973, the Clark College Foundation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt public charity. It serves as the fundraising arm of Clark College to support student access to educational programs and services. It is nationally recognized for excellence in superior fundraising and is the recipient of the 2012 [Educational Fundraising Award](#) from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

[Columbia Credit Union](#) is Clark County's largest deposit-holder with \$872 million in assets offering local consumer, business, mortgage and wealth management services. Established in 1952, it is nationally recognized with the prestigious *Dora Maxwell Corporate Social Responsibility* award. Other accolades include voted *Best Financial Institution 2009 – 2012*, Greater Vancouver Chamber's *2012 Community Builder* awards, and the Non-Profit Network's *Excellence in Corporate Community Support* award. As a certified [Clark County Green Business](#), Columbia Credit Union upholds sustainable business practices including construction under strict U.S. Green Building Council LEED standards. Individuals and businesses in Washington State are eligible for membership.

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