Remarks given by Dr. Lonnie L. Howard

Annual Retiree’s Luncheon
Location: Clover Park’s Rainier Room
12:00 p.m., June 3, 2014

Hi everyone and welcome to this…The Clover Park Technical College (CPTC) - Annual Retiree’s Luncheon.

It’s good to see all of you, and I hope everybody is enjoying their food. With that being said, I would like to thank the Culinary Arts Program as well as our sponsor, LeMay Pierce County Refuse. Thank you so much.

Also thanks to Dr. Debbie Ranniger for that wonderful introduction. As mentioned, my name is Lonnie Howard and I’m the new President here at CPTC. For me this position has been bittersweet. In that, Clover Park is an amazing place to work, but following in the footsteps of Dr. John Walstrum is nearly a herculean task.

But I’m sure John Walstrum, when he first came aboard, felt the same way about following in the footsteps of his predecessor, Dr. Sharon McGavick. And Sharon McGavick felt the same way about following in the footsteps of her predecessor, Al Green; and so on and so forth in the nearly 70 year history of Clover Park.

But these transition points really do speak to a type of Administrative Cycle-of-Life. As retirees, you have probably seen a lot of institutional changes. So [historically] there is not much I can tell you about the College - - since you were here before me.

However, in terms of future innovations, there is a new excitement and a lot to share:

Our goal is to ‘take the institution to the next level.’ Not only for it to be a major player in Pierce County, but indeed a “tour de force” on the educational landscape [here] in the State of Washington and in the Nation, as well.

Whereby, we move away from this ‘false’ perception of just being a ‘VOC TECH’ School. Rather we embrace our rightful place in higher education as a 21st Century Learning Community that utilizes the latest tools and technologies to prepare our students not just for high-paying jobs – but high-paying careers.

And to achieve these goals, we have a game plan in place. Based largely on our 2013-2018 CPTC Strategic Plan, we are focusing on three (3) key areas:

(1) Increasing Student Success and Educational Access.
(2) Being more Responsive to our local Community and Business & Industry.
(3) Becoming more Entrepreneurial.

Furthermore, to address various challenges, we are (1) moving towards implementing a college-wide enrollment management system, (2) recently opened a new 55,000 sq. ft.
Health Sciences Center, and (3) the first two-year college in Pierce County to be 'approved' to offer an Applied Baccalaureate Degree.

Yes, the future for Clover Park Technical College looks very bright. But as we talk about the future, we cannot forget about the contributions of the past. I believe every generation “owes a debt of gratitude” to the generation that preceded it.

So, I don’t want you leaving this afternoon, without feeling a great sense of appreciation for your many years of “faithful service.”

It is upon your steady shoulders and because of your **tireless** efforts that our current faculty/staff/students are enjoying these educational liberties today. On behalf of our College, thank you so much for your many years of service.