

### Steven Hill to speak at Washington State University Vancouver's 2009 Chancellor's Series



Steven Hill

**Steven Hill**, administrator for Washington State Health Care Authority, is the first guest speaker at Washington State University Vancouver's 2009 Chancellor's Seminar Series. Hill will offer information from a state and national perspective on health care issues that shape the debate— affordability, quality and access—as well as share thoughts on the course of health care reform and the implications for families, employers and governments. Hill's lecture, "Health Care Reform: A Moral and Fiscal Imperative," will begin at 11:45 a.m. Friday, Sept. 25, in the Firstenburg Student Commons. Tickets are \$25 and include the lecture, lunch and parking. For tickets, call **694-2588** or visit [www.vancouverusa.com](http://www.vancouverusa.com).

WSU Vancouver's Chancellor's Seminar Series examines timely topics and extends an invitation to exchange ideas. The series gathers students, faculty, staff, business leaders, elected officials and community members on campus for an in-depth conversation about a topic of current interest or concern. Guests are encouraged to ask questions and share ideas after the presentation.

Save these dates to attend the whole series:

Friday, November 13, **Barry Hewlett**, WSU Vancouver Professor of Anthropology, "Containing Ebola Outbreaks: Lessons for Bio-security and H1N1 (Swine Flu)."

Friday, January 15, **Rogers Weed**, director, Washington State Department of Commerce, "How Can the State Work with Businesses and Partners to Grow and Improve Jobs?"

Friday, March 5, **Ann Daley**, executive director, Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board, "System Design Plan and Its Effect on Higher Education."

All Chancellor's Seminar Series events begin at 11:45 a.m. and are held on campus in the Firstenburg Student Commons. To learn more about the series and the speakers, visit [www.vancouver.wsu.edu/css](http://www.vancouver.wsu.edu/css).

### Clark College to offer class on franchising

Clark College is offering a two-session class on "Essentials of Franchising" from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, and Saturday, Oct. 3. Which will be held in the college's Columbia Tech Center, 18700 SE Mill Plain Boulevard.

The course will be taught by business entrepreneur **Robert MacLellan**, whose career encompasses restaurant and retail experience in both the corporate and the entrepreneurial environment.

Participants will learn about the advantages of the franchise business model versus the non-franchise model. Discussion areas will include criteria in selecting a franchise, the typical franchise contract and its important components (fees, royalties and geographic territory), how to value the business, profit margins, multi-unit benefits and requirements, and site selection criteria.

Three case studies will be utilized covering name brand franchises (Taco Bell, MacDonald's and Wendy's), their national expansion and why they continue to succeed after 30 years. In addition, participants will learn why Subway sandwich sales are increasing during this current recession. A field visit to a regional Starbucks outlet will aid in understanding site selection criteria.

The fee for the two-day session is \$149. For additional information, call **992-2484**. Information about all corporate and continuing education classes is available at [www.clark.edu/cee](http://www.clark.edu/cee).

### Clark County nonfarm employment falls

Clark County seasonally-adjusted nonfarm employment edged downward by 100 jobs in August, the eleventh consecutive monthly decline. Unadjusted employment was estimated at 125,100. Payrolls dropped by 2,300 from July due to seasonal layoffs in education. Gains in transportation and health care & social assistance were offset by losses in manufacturing and retail trade. Employers in the county have shed 8,300 jobs in the past



Robert MacLellan

year (-6 percent), with every sector in retreat with the exception of education & health care and government.

Construction employment was unchanged over the month at 9,300 jobs—usually August brings 200 seasonal hires. Total payrolls are down 2,800 from a year ago, an astonishing 23 percent decline. Through July, officials had issued permits for 375 housing units, keeping the county on track for the lowest year on record going back to 1980. The Case-Shiller housing price index for the Portland metro area rose slightly in June, the first increase since May 2007. The index is not adjusted for inflation, so essentially there was no change in prices. This is a mixed blessing: stable prices may help limit foreclosures but will also hurt sales and construction of new homes. In any case, prices are likely to continue to decline (relative to inflation) for some time to come.

Manufacturing shed another 200 jobs in August, including 100 in electronics. St. Gobain Crystals in Washougal closed early in the month, throwing almost 60 people out of work. The losses brought total employment down to an even 12,000—1,500 less than a year ago (-11 percent).

Trade, transportation and utilities, the county's biggest sector, was unchanged over the month at 24,200 jobs. Wholesale trade held steady at 5,300 jobs, down 200 over the year. Retailers cut payrolls by 200 jobs, and employment fell to 15,000, a drop of 900 from last August. Transportation added 200 jobs over the month, but the 3,900 job total was still short 200 over the year. Add it up, and the sector lost a total of 1,300 jobs over the year (-5 percent).

Information services slipped down 100 jobs in August and at 2,600 was 100 lower than a year ago.

Financial activities employed 5,900 in August, the same as July but 700 lower than a year ago, a drop of 11 percent. Both banking and insurance (-400) and real estate and leasing (-300) have been shedding jobs.

Professional and business services were unchanged over the month at 13,900 jobs. Professional services employed 7,000 a year ago, but only 6,400 this August. Business services has declined by twice as many jobs (-1,300) to 6,300. Half of the loss has been at temp agencies.

The county's jobless rate was estimated at 13.9 percent in August (highest in the state), up from a revised 13.1 percent in July (second highest in the state), and not quite double the 7.7 percent from a year ago. More than 30,000 county residents were jobless and seeking work. Of those 30,000, about 8,600 filed a regular continued claim with the state of Washington—more than double that of a year ago—and an estimated 4,700 filed a claim with Oregon. Over 800 Clark County residents who have filed claims on the Washington side are exhausting their benefits each month (they are still counted as unemployed as long as they are looking for work). They are then eligible for federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation for 20 weeks, and, if still jobless, they can claim state Extended Benefits for another 33 weeks. An estimated 73 county residents completely exhausted all types of benefits in August. An additional 400 may run out of benefits in September.

### Calendar

Camas Farmer's Market will be from 3 to 7 p.m. tomorrow, Sept. 16, at 600 block of NE Fourth Avenue, between NE Everett and NE Franklin. <> Art Conversations is set to meet 7 p.m. tomorrow, Sept. 16, at the Slocum House Theater, 605 Esther Street.

### Tuesday on the air

September 11th Commemoration—Patriots Day (9-11)—4:15 p.m. CVTV

**C-Tran Board of Directors Public Hearing (live)—5:30 p.m. CVTV**

**Chicago White Sox at Seattle (live)—7 p.m. FSN KFX**

City Council Workshop (9-14)—7:30 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver City Council (9-14)—9:30 p.m. CVTV

### Town Tabloids and the Weather

**Scott Bailey** "bad hair day". <> **Jalayah Eley** playing in the mud. <> **Greg Flakus** writing nice words. <> **Jim Stanton** exploring volunteer opportunities. <> **Tuesday**, partly cloudy, 61-82. **Wednesday**, partly cloudy, 58-73. **Thursday**, partly cloudy, 55-74.