

CLARKSON COLLEGE COURIER



VOL. 1 ISSUE 1



▶ New & Noteworthy

MEET CECIL, THE FALCON INSPIRED BY THE VALUES OF CLARKSON COLLEGE

By adopting the falcon as our own, Clarkson College not only has a mascot to rally around, but an enduring emblem of wisdom and independence, grace and enthusiasm, and heartfelt dedication.

As the proud mascot of Clarkson College, CECIL soars high on wings of purpose with a heart full of pride, watching over students as they study and train to become compassionate healthcare professionals.

CECIL confidently embodies the Clarkson College Values of Caring, Excellence, Commitment, Integrity, and Learning.



FALCONS

CLARKSON COLLEGE
OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS



OUR COMMUNITY

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On the Cover

Clarkson College enters a new era with our first-ever mascot, the Falcon, and our first edition of the Courier.

Contact Us

We would love to hear from you! Direct all inquiries, story ideas, and address changes to our team: Communications@ClarksonCollege.edu. Courier is a publication of Clarkson College, 101 S. 42nd St., Omaha, NE 68131.

Partnerships
Enrich the
Educational
Experience

We solve challenges for the communities we serve and make a difference for a healthier future by supporting the development of healthcare professionals. By partnering with area businesses and organizations in multiple categories, Clarkson College is able to offer scholarships to these partners' employees and family members.

Our partnership program continues to grow. In academic year 2024–2025, Clarkson College awarded \$2,087,831 in scholarships to over 400 students associated with our Founding and Community partners.

Discover how these partnerships support students and their families on our website: ClarksonCollege.edu/Partnerships

Founding Partners



Community Partners



Sally Stimson and Desiree Milner worked with local children on dental hygiene during a service trip to the Dominican Republic.

At the Heart, Service

The act of service binds together generations of Clarkson College students, faculty, and staff. Far from an invisible string, service is a vital component of both learning and working at the College, and is highly encouraged and proudly fulfilled.

Each academic program embeds service learning into its curriculum. Students' commitments to caring begin the moment they enter the classroom. Along with College faculty and staff, students complete a combined estimated 12,000 hours of service every year.

Multiple "Days of Caring" throughout the year provide purposeful, hands-on service locally and globally. Volunteer opportunities reflect our commitment to addressing community needs with compassion and humility. Recent

activities aided (among many others) Girls, Inc., Nebraska Humane Society, Down Syndrome Alliance, Nebraska Episcopal Churches, Catholic Charities food pantries, Access Period, Mosaic, and Hope Lodge.

Our mission work extended internationally in spring of 2025 with a trip to the Dominican Republic. A team of faculty, staff, and, for the first time, a Clarkson College alum, served at an Episcopal preschool where they taught dental hygiene, read with the children, and led playful, engaging activities. The team also worked at the Hogar long-term care facility, training staff on safe resident transfer techniques and the importance of monitoring vital signs. Our historic partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska continues to offer profound learning and service opportunities.

► Academic Program Highlights

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT (PTA)

The debut of capstone poster presentations was an exciting recent achievement for the PTA program. This event offered Associate of Science in PTA candidates the opportunity to showcase their clinical insights to the College and broader community. With a total enrollment of 58 students, the program continued its tradition of excellence with strong program outcomes including board pass rates, graduation rates, and employment rate. Notable accomplishments include student Olivia Estrada receiving the Maltese Cross Service Award for over 300 hours of community service and the PTA Transfer Program being ranked #1 nationally by Nurse.org. Renovations to the PTA program area are underway with the state-of-the-art learning space set to open in Fall 2026.

NURSE ANESTHESIA

Growth in clinical sites, innovation in the classroom and simulation lab, and student achievement were celebrated by the Nurse Anesthesia program this year. A highly competitive cohort was welcomed as the high-fidelity simulation and interprofessional learning experiences were expanded to further strengthen clinical readiness. Student performance remains exceptional, with consistently positive feedback from clinical partners and strong engagement in leadership and advocacy activities on the state and national level. Clarkson College is currently the only true front-loaded program in the area with class sizes flexing around 24 per cohort, and remains committed to curricular excellence, continuous program improvement, and meeting the evolving needs of the anesthesia workforce.

RADIOGRAPHY & MEDICAL IMAGING

Student enrollment is on the rise and applications remain strong for the Radiography program. Significant growth was seen in the associate degree program along with continued opportunities for co-enrollment in bachelor's degree and certificate options - an advantage that sets Clarkson College apart. Graduates maintain impressive success rates, with an 88% first-time board pass rate and a 97% overall pass rate for the Summer 2025 graduating class. Exciting improvements are underway in the RMI learning environment. Brown's Medical Imaging will soon replace non-energized lab equipment with a modern, updated room, further enhancing hands-on preparation for clinical experiences. A site visit for JRCERT accreditation is scheduled for February 2026 and will ensure continued compliance and quality in radiography education.

UNDERGRADUATE NURSING

Recent changes to curriculum have energized the undergraduate nursing program. Required nursing courses can now be completed in just six semesters. To meet evolving healthcare needs, Clarkson College—in conjunction with our educational partner Nebraska Medicine—implemented a Shared Clinical Model. Students gain valuable hands-on skills and experiences with a bedside staff nurse. With the commitment to prepare future nurses who are confident in their skills and knowledge, students utilize evolving technology including virtual bedside nursing in clinical settings. Recognizing that nurses must be equipped with more than just clinical expertise, Clarkson College has designed programs that prepare students for leadership, policy, and technological innovation.

GENERAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH SCIENCES

This newly renamed academic department encompasses all undergraduate general education courses along with General Studies, Community Health, Pre-Health, and Psychology degrees, certificates, and minors and reflects our commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration and academic excellence. In addition to on-campus Pre-Health, Psychology, and General Studies degree options, online only options are available through the bachelor of science Community Health degree and certificates in Gerontology, Human Services, Psychology, Public Health, and Women's Health.

HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP & BUSINESS

The addition of four certificate options has propelled students into diverse careers. Certificates available in Artificial Intelligence Literacy, Cybersecurity, Healthcare Management, and Project Management are offered fully online and, in most instances, can be completed in as little as 3 semesters. Students choosing to pursue a bachelor of science degree in Healthcare Management can add a concentration in these same four areas to bolster career opportunities.



Paige Dennis, a 2019 graduate of the Clarkson College Radiography program, generously donated brand-new scrub sets to students in need. They will be distributed through the on-campus pantry, Cupboard & Closet.



ELEVATE YOUR CAREER WITH AN Ed.D.

VICKI BAUTISTA, Ed.D., NBC-HWC
Program Director, Healthcare Leadership & Business

Choosing to pursue a doctoral degree is a bold move, with vision, purpose, and the drive to create meaningful change. A Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) is designed for people who want to step up as leaders, tackle real challenges, and use research in practical ways.

REAL WORLD IMPACT

Our Ed.D. is an action driven curriculum. The program emphasizes applied research, giving students the opportunity to tackle real issues they are passionate about.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

With a wide range of professional backgrounds, students create an interdisciplinary community.

INCREASED CONFIDENCE & PERSONAL GROWTH

The Ed.D. journey builds resilience, sharpens critical thinking, and fuels personal confidence.

ONLINE FLEXIBILITY

Offered fully online with both part and full time pathways, students may tailor their education to their personal and professional lives without compromise.

SPECIALIZED FOCUS AREAS

› **Healthcare Education & Leadership**
Ideal for professionals in healthcare education, administration, or practice.

› **Interprofessional Leadership**
Emphasizes collaborative leadership across industries from healthcare to business and K-12 professionals to community organizations.

To learn more about the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), visit our website: ClarksonCollege.edu/Education-Leadership



Holland Basham Architects, from left to right: Sean Gibbons, David Warner, and Abby Incontro

Charting New Ground

CLARKSON COLLEGE JOINS THE EVOLUTION OF OMAHA'S URBAN CORE

▶ Clarkson College is taking its first steps toward the development of six acres of land between the burgeoning Blackstone and Edge Districts, along an impending streetcar route. The "Clarkson District" will support not only on-campus students but the community at large, including patients and their families at the Nebraska Medical Center, the state's largest hospital.

According to the Urban Core Strategic Plan, an initiative led by the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, progress is necessary to attract 30,000 residents and 30,000 jobs over the next 20 years. This effort will revitalize older neighborhoods in the city's core and ease the strain of suburban sprawl.

For Clarkson College students, faculty, staff, and the community, the plan offers the potential of

affordable housing, community activity spaces, entertainment, dining, and additional healthcare services.

Visioning sessions and conversations with master developers have offered the assurance that Clarkson College will benefit. Discussions have been underway with the College Board of Directors, Faculty Senate President, Staff Senate President, Student Senate President, the College Leadership Council, and Comprehensive Campaign Leadership Cabinet through Holland Basham Architects (HBA). The College will share information on the progress as engagement with key stakeholders continues and seek out community input and alignment.

In addition to adding sought-after amenities to the area, the Clarkson District will have a positive impact on the College. By supercharging the visibility of Clarkson College, enrollment of both on-campus and online programs as well as community outreach will increase, ensuring the strength and viability of the institution for years to come.



WHO CARES ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE EDUCATION? WE ALL SHOULD.



AS THE CHALLENGE GROWS, DR. ANDREIA NEBEL, CLARKSON COLLEGE PRESIDENT/CEO, OFFERS INSIGHT

We do not think about healthcare until we need healthcare. And when the need arises for you, a family member, or a friend, only the best healthcare will do. But having the best takes exceptional healthcare education. In my 22 years at Clarkson College, I have seen countless students educated and prepared to be the best providers in healthcare. It is a rewarding process that Clarkson College has accomplished for 137 years.

An article published by the New York Times stated that in 38 of our country's 50 states, healthcare systems are the largest economic employer.⁽¹⁾ And with hundreds of millions of people living longer—thanks to medical and technological advancements—healthcare educators like Clarkson College play a critical role. Rising cases of illness due to obesity and mental health issues further exacerbate the importance of quality healthcare education.

To fulfill this need for healthcare, support of healthcare education institutions like Clarkson College is imperative. It is something that most can strongly agree is necessary—especially when faced with the need for services. And while that support can look different for each of us, it can be as simple as a “thank you” to a healthcare provider, staff, or educator. Or as simple as offering an encouraging word to a student to keep them going, reminding them they have chosen a worthy profession. After all, their state and country need them.

Facing the larger challenge of financial support can be daunting. However, the willingness to support the work becomes easier with the understanding of how higher education institutions operate. Over the last decade, it

has been common to hear from multiple sources about rising costs of everything with tuition and healthcare expenses often at the top of the list. However, the reality is that net tuition paid by students in all public and private university systems has fallen over the last decade while costs to operate and attend have risen primarily due to living expenses. A Pew Research Center study found many people polled ambivalent, finding only 22% of U. S. adults stating the cost of college is worth it.⁽²⁾

WHEN DID WE LOSE THE INTEREST OF INVESTING IN OURSELVES?

WHEN DID BUYING “STUFF” BECOME MORE IMPORTANT THAN SUPPORTING EDUCATION?

WHEN DID WE LOSE SIGHT OF THE LONG-TERM GAINS?

To care about others more than oneself and show up every day with a willingness to help, it takes continual reflection and an inner drive to stay purpose driven. At Clarkson College, this is what our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters do best. Truly. Take just a moment to think about what it would be like to have an emergency or even a routine appointment, but no one was there to help. Would you feel distraught, angry, or nervous? Sadly, it is already happening.

Humans are the solution, beginning with a better understanding of how higher education institutions operate and taking opportunities to support the work. All successful higher education institutions can operate because they manage expenses well and the revenue (including tuition and fees) is diversified. However, on average, private non-profit institutions



like Clarkson College rely on less than 52% of revenue coming from tuition⁽³⁾. Additional revenue sources to cover operational expenses including faculty and staff salaries and general supplies are necessary and obtained through philanthropic support, government funding, and income from other educational services such as residence halls, meal plans, etc.

In this landscape, a strong future for Clarkson College is found in the action taken by all of us in the following requests:

1 ENCOURAGE CURRENT, NEW, AND PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS THAT THE REASONABLE INVESTMENT IN THEMSELVES IS WORTH IT FOR A LIFETIME OF PURPOSE AND GAIN.

Current data shows, especially in healthcare-related fields, an employee with a bachelor's degree earns 67% more per week than someone without a degree. Widely used data from the Center for Education and Workforce showed that a bachelor's degree will earn 31% more than those with an associate's degree and 84% more than those with just a high school diploma.⁽⁴⁾

According to Forbes, the average master's degree granted in 2023 will pay lifetime degree-based earnings of \$1,282,187 by 2063 for a 40-year ROI of 472.09% and the Masters of Nursing degree is considered a top degree to pursue in 2025.⁽⁵⁾

Maybe even more important than salary today is the stability of a healthcare job. Employment in healthcare occupations is projected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations from 2024 to 2034.⁽⁶⁾ Additionally, healthcare is projected to create 24% of all new U. S. jobs through 2033.⁽⁷⁾

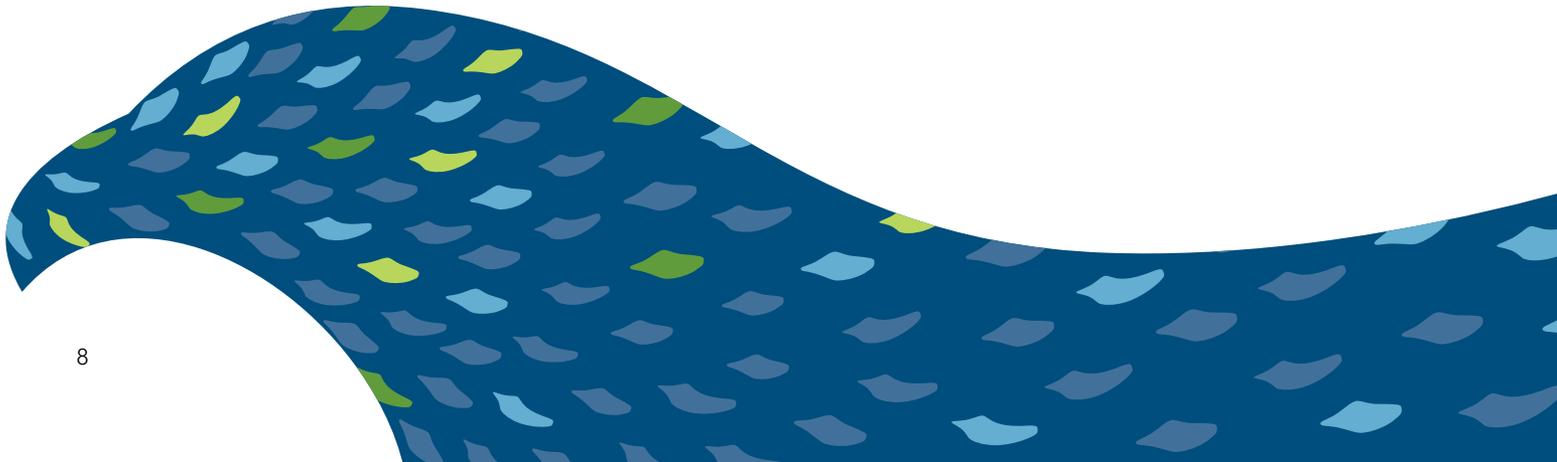
2 DONATE FUNDS TO ENSURE LONGEVITY.

Donor and private support for scholarships, capital improvements, and emergency funding account for approximately 18% of the total need of most institutions to break even.⁽⁸⁾ Supporters of Clarkson College now can contribute to our first-ever Foundation, created to support the College in perpetuity.

3 EXPAND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND OTHER BUSINESS OPERATIONS.

Clarkson College has always been innovative, never more so than today. Our 3D Printing and Training Center has FDA clearance to provide medical implants and other surgical devices for patient bone replacement, radiation treatments, and more. Our Professional Development department provides services for over 6,700 community learners each year with training in foundational roles including medical assistant, phlebotomy technician, nurse

The healthcare workforce shortage across professions includes everyone from frontline food services and janitorial staff to nurses, radiologic technologists, business office personnel, physicians, patient care technicians, etc. It is past the time to realize that this shortage is not because of cost; it is because of care.



aides, restorative aides, behavioral psychiatric health technicians, and surgical technologists, as well as basic life support and advanced stroke life support. Clarkson College students are supported with free resources such as counseling and tutoring, an on-campus pantry, and writing lab. Grants afford the opportunity to educate rural and urban communities in EMT continuing education, interprofessional education, and simulation services. Highlights of many of these resources are found throughout this publication.

4 ADVOCATE FOR GOVERNMENT FUNDING.

Although less than 10% of revenue⁽⁹⁾ for any private non-profit college or university derives from government funding, it is important that state governments continue to believe in this work. Clarkson College advocates for all nursing and allied health professions.

5 TRUST THAT EVERY JOURNEY IS DIFFERENT. IT IS OKAY FOR STUDENTS TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS.

How many of us paid for something that we did not use as intended only to have it lead to another opportunity? A student leaving an institution without a degree is not a failure unless the leaving has not led to a next step. Students leave institutions based on fit and programming all the time, only to find their way to Clarkson College to begin their journey as healthcare professionals. Let us trust that there is more good happening than bad and take ourselves back to request #1; encourage students to invest in themselves.

The road to success and economic stability for healthcare education institutions may be bumpy and uphill, with no margin for error. Yet it is absolutely worth the effort. It will take time, energy, and compassion.

Whether this publication is your first encounter with Clarkson College or you are alumni, faculty, staff, current students, prospective students, or community partners, one thing is true: the positive impact one healthcare provider or services professional has had—or will have—on you or someone you love is inevitable. By remembering that healthcare education needs you now more than ever is to know that someone will be there when you need it most.

YOU CAN SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE! YOUR DONATION TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS HELPS ENSURE THE EDUCATION OF FUTURE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS. SCAN THE CODE BELOW OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE CLARKSONCOLLEGE.EDU/DONATE



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Education Meets Exploration with Academic Travel Abroad



Dr. Rachel Holm and Ben Allen most recently led an Academic Travel Abroad trip to Japan.

“IT’S BEN!”

That simple exclamation was the start of something big for **Ben Allen**.

Dr. Rachel Holm, Clarkson College Academic Travel & Mission Administrator, found herself in need of a tour manager. Someone that could shepherd students, staff, and alumni with ease. Someone with the healthcare chops to help shed light on the wide variety of information, breaking down what may seem “foreign” into relatable, human learning experiences. Someone personable, intelligent, and well-traveled. For Rachel, that someone was Ben.

As a frequent ATA participant and 2015 graduate of Clarkson College, Ben had several trips under his belt when he agreed to take the job in 2024. Now, Ben has settled into his role as tour manager and enthusiastically guides groups twice a year. He finds them to be good breaks from his regular role as a Clinical Nurse Educator (CNE) for the Emergency Department at the University of Washington Medical Center-Montlake.

“These trips have really taught me to slow down in my everyday life and to get to know the patient that I am seeing at the bedside. I now realize that getting to know someone’s story can mean so much.”

Ben credits his mom, **Becky Allen**, Clarkson College Assistant Director of Undergraduate Nursing, and enthusiastic ATA traveler, as the inspiration behind his adventuring spirit. “She constantly challenges me to look at things in a different light and to keep pushing through even when things get hard,” he explained. “Without my mom’s guidance, I don’t think I would have chosen nursing as a career. Watching her grow in her career at Clarkson College showed me that you can always keep chasing that next step and that you can always change and grow.”

As tour manager, Ben has traveled to Japan, Croatia/Northern Italy, Southern France, and Costa Rica. He previously traveled to Germany, Switzerland and Ireland, among others.

ATA trips are immersive and student-centered, offering firsthand looks at the history, arts and cultural identities. An academic course and experiential

travel allow participants the opportunity to trace the history of healing arts while also gaining insight into diverse worldviews and perspectives.

“Even with brief visits to local hospitals, travelers get to see how a healthcare system works in other countries. And while this is an important part of the trip, the self-growth that each student experiences is the greatest change. While venturing out of their comfort zones, I tell them, 'you have to become comfortable in the uncomfortable.' Ultimately, they learn that it is a big, beautiful world and they need to get out there and experience it.”

While the trips do offer chances to explore international landmarks, they also teach participants how to ask questions and talk to people, even when much of the communication happens in a non-verbal setting. Ben explains, “It helps people appreciate what they have and encourages them to push through discomfort to pursue their passions.”

The ATA program will take flight next with a trip to Ireland in May and is making plans for an adventure in Thailand over the new year. There’s no doubt that Ben Allen will be there, charting the course with his signature calm and curiosity.



An ATA group traveled to Croatia and Northern Italy in 2024, exploring the Dalmatian Coast, the beauty of Venice, and the unique cultural healthcare practices of the area.



Travelers in January, 2026 posed for a group photo at the Meiji Shrine, a Shinto shrine in Shibuya, Tokyo.

▶ HELPING CLOSE TO HOME

During the most recent academic year, our on-campus pantry, Cupboard & Closet, dispensed:

Over 1,211 pounds of food

25 holiday meal bags

955 diapers

Countless self-care & hygiene items, school supplies, uniforms/scrubs, and household essentials



Billed as the “top of Europe,” Jungfrauoch was a chilly destination for Ben Allen during an ATA trip to Switzerland.

▶ SIMULATED CARE. REAL CARING.

The Clarkson College Interprofessional Simulation Center (ISC) brings together nursing, allied health, EMS, and other healthcare disciplines in a shared learning environment that mirrors real-world teamwork. Far from a regular classroom, the ISC is the first simulation center in the state of Nebraska to earn Provisional Accreditation from the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH), an internationally recognized interdisciplinary organization.

Sally Stimson, Interprofessional Simulation Administrator, has broadened the impact of this vital education by mobilizing to provide tailored training for rural EMS teams and obstetrics/newborn services. With funds from a generous Lozier Foundation Outreach Grant, the College purchased a van to transport high-fidelity manikins, task trainers, supplies, and faculty for hands-on simulation training.

Municipalities and healthcare providers are welcome to contact the ISC to learn more about the training available by emailing StimsonSally@ClarksonCollege.edu.



The ISC visited Hooper, Nebraska to provide training for their EMS team.

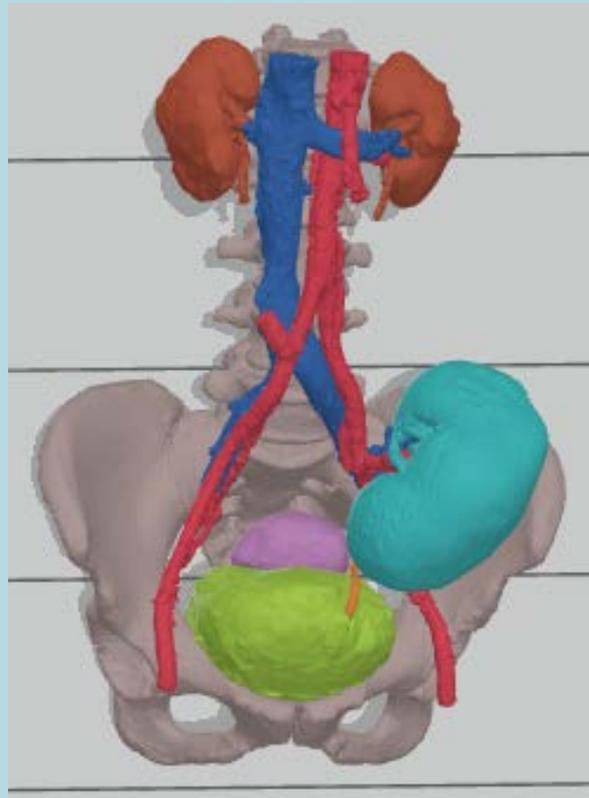
▶ Grants Promote Integration of 3D Innovation in Patient Care

A \$200,000 grant from Clarkson Regional Health Services established an innovative program at Nebraska Medicine. Administered by the 3D Printing and Training Center at Clarkson College, the Physician Champion program aims to reduce financial barriers for physicians seeking to integrate 3D printing and virtual modeling into patient care, with the ultimate goals of improving patient outcomes, reducing surgical times, and advancing hospital efficiency.

Since the program's introduction in June 2025, Nebraska Medicine physicians from multiple disciplines have completed training and are implementing the program. To ensure equitable fund allocation, applications are reviewed to identify candidates with clinical expertise. Current fund requests include a PEEK (material) cranial implant, a portable paracentesis/thoracentesis task trainer, and a patient education model for a transplanted kidney. Further discussions are underway for projects comprising a pediatric, patient-specific cutting guide and presurgical planning 3D printed models for retroperitoneal sarcomas.

Early indications show improved accessibility, surgical planning, and precision, contributing to better patient outcomes. The successful implementation of the first 3D-printed cranial implant reported by a neurosurgery physician champion was the first in Nebraska. A referral from the Nebraska Medicine radiation oncology department to Faith Regional Hospital in Norfolk, Nebraska led to the successful delivery of seven 3D products and has created a sustainable process for 3D technology to expand to rural hospitals in Nebraska.

As the Physician Champion network expands, it is sparking the conversation of the value of 3D printing, driving adoption, and improving patient care while laying the foundation for a cost-effective model. More information is available from **Trish Weber**, Director of Innovation Strategies via email WeberTrish@ClarksonCollege.edu or on the web: ClarksonCollege.edu/3d-printing-and-training-center



Adoption of 3D printing and virtual modeling has helped improve patient outcomes.

▶ **INSIGHT IN ACTION: SPEAKERS BUREAU TAKES SHAPE**

Clarkson College has established a Speakers Bureau, designed to share the expertise, scholarship, and thought leadership of our faculty and academic professionals with communities across Omaha and beyond.

The Speakers Bureau will provide organizations, conference planners, nonprofits, and industry and community partners with access to speakers who bring academic rigor, real world relevance, and a deep commitment to public service.

For more information visit ClarksonCollege.edu/Professional-Development/Speakers-Bureau



▶ Alumni in Action

A LABOR OF LOVE NICOLE ROBINSON LPN 2005, BSN 2008

If a nursing student can have fun while learning the intricacies of labor and delivery, they may have found their professional calling. At least that is what happened with **Nicole Robinson**. Her dream of becoming a labor and delivery nurse came true after earning her LPN in 2005 from Clarkson College. She was able to work part-time in women and infant services at Nebraska Medicine while working toward a BSN. She continued in that department until 2012 when she had her first child. A part-time job as an aesthetic nurse at Nebraska Medicine Village Pointe Aesthetic Surgery and Dreams MedSpa became her new nursing passion.

Nicole is married to Joe, an anesthesiologist that she met through a fellow Clarkson College student. She still counts Carlee Janzen Humm and Rosie Jones Neal among her dearest friends. Now with four children, the Robinsons enjoy a busy life.

Clarkson College roots run deep for Nicole with two fellow alumni sisters. The next generation of graduates is on the horizon with a niece (Ella Zuber) enrolled in the BSN program.



RUNNING INTO A REWARDING CAREER CARRIE SIMONSON ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN PTA, 2024

Dealing with injuries from years as a competitive track athlete sparked an interest in physical therapy for **Carrie Simonson**. After she earned a kinesiology degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Carrie took advantage of the affordability and flexibility of the hybrid-transfer PTA program to further her education at Clarkson College.

While a student at the College, Carrie developed valuable clinical skills, learned critical thinking, and grew professionally. With her goal of working in outpatient settings, she was able to gain experience in therapeutic exercise, manual techniques, and mobility training, learning how to apply those skills safely and effectively to meet individual patient goals. Carrie learned that the PTA role is constantly growing, with opportunities in outpatient orthopedics, sports rehabilitation, home health, hospitals, pediatrics, and even wellness and prevention programs.

"The physical therapy profession requires patience and genuine compassion for people of all personalities, diagnoses, and challenges," Carrie explained. "It is good to stay curious and be ready to learn constantly as the field of physical therapy is always evolving."

Having passed her board exams in January 2025, she now works full-time at Makovicka Physical Therapy, a Clarkson College Community partner. She finds that being part of a patient's journey from start-to-finish is very rewarding. "Every day, I get to help people regain independence, whether that means walking again, returning to work, or simply being able to pick up their grandchild without pain. It's incredibly rewarding to see progress over time and know I played a role in their recovery."

Growing up in Springfield, Nebraska, Carrie enjoyed sports and outdoor activities like hunting and fishing—things that she realizes were the inspiration for her career choice. She leads an active life and enjoys free time with her German shepherd, Kelce.



▶ Stay Connected

Let's get social! Follow Clarkson College for timely updates.

Commencement Activities Cap Academic Year

The annual tradition of marking student achievements was celebrated by faculty, staff, alumni, students and their families with pinning, hooding and commencement ceremonies in August.



MALTESE CROSS SERVICE AWARD

Ms. Olivia De Torres-Estrada, 2025 PTA Graduate
Recognizes Clarkson College students, alumni, and employees for outstanding community service.



DR. PATRICIA BOOK PERRY FACULTY OF THE YEAR

Dr. Jenette Smith, Assistant Professor
Recognizes a faculty member's unique and significant contributions to the education of students.



CLARKSON COLLEGE

SPIRIT WEEK '25

Taking Flight

With the introduction of a first-ever College mascot to rally around, "Taking Flight" was the perfect theme for the annual celebration of the Clarkson College Values— Caring, Excellence, Commitment, Integrity, and Learning. Held each September, Spirit Week honors our rich history with fun activities for alumni, students, faculty, staff, and the community at large.


Save the Date

We look forward to connecting with alumni, employees, students, partners, and the community when Spirit Week returns September 21-25, 2026.



ALICE WINHTER



Among the Clarkson College alumni celebrating Spirit Week was a very special attendee, Alice Winther Trullinger, a 1951 graduate. We are so appreciative that she traveled from her home in Florida, with family, to attend the alumni brunch, garden walk, and alumni dinner. Ms. Trullinger shared, "Oh my...Clarkson College holds such dear memories for me. Those were some of the most precious years of my life. And knowing that my daughter and my granddaughter attended with me makes this even more special." Our alumni office was honored to also accept the donation of her original Nebraska nursing license for the College archives. Her generosity, service to others, and compassionate spirit; still brighter than ever, 74 years after her graduation, is a testament to the values carried within all Clarkson College graduates and the impact they have in the lives of others. Thank you, Alice!



1



2

INTEGRITY



3

CARING



4

EXCELLENCE



5

COMMITMENT



6

LEARNING

- 1) At the open house on Monday, our day of **Integrity**, visitors and prospective students toured campus.
- 2) Our Community and Founding Partners provided information about partnership scholarships at the open house.
- 3) On Tuesday, our day of **Caring**, Nursing students and faculty cleaned and stocked the "Little Library" at Clarkson Park.
- 4) Wednesday's day of **Excellence** carnival included a "Stack to Stock" sculpture contest, a benefit for the on-campus pantry.
- 5) Dr. Andrea Nebel congratulated the newly crowned Ms. Clarkson, Serena Wilson, and Mr. Clarkson, Jimmy Nguyen at the Garden Walk on Thursday, our day of **Commitment**.
- 6) Mr. Matt Pospisil and Dr. Carla Dirkschneider were honored as Distinguished Alumni on Friday, our day of **Learning**.



BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

NEW BOOK TO TELL THE CLARKSON COLLEGE STORY

To honor the people, moments, and milestones that have shaped the institution, Clarkson College has partnered with Legacy Preservation to author a publication dedicated to its rich and meaningful history. **Dr. William Montgomery**, Associate Professor, is representing Clarkson College during the process and lending his extensive skills as a historian to the effort.

Dr. Montgomery explained, "There are many stories worth telling, including our early work in distance education, the implementation of programs beyond nursing, and the growth into post-graduate education. I'm excited to begin digging through our archives and talking to those who have shaped our College."

As this project continues to unfold, more details will be announced. Contributions of memories, photos, and other memorabilia are welcome, and may be received through the Alumni office. Contact **Hailey Bykerk** via email for more information: BykerkHailey@ClarksonCollege.edu.



Instructor Phil Lopez leads a CPR training exercise.

Advancing Skills to Accelerate Careers

Community learners turn to Clarkson College Professional Development to complete a variety of courses and enhance their skills, obtain healthcare certifications, stay current with industry trends, and meet continuing education requirements. During the most recent academic year, over 6700 participants took advantage of training as varied as Medical Assistant, Nurse Aide (CNA), and CPR training. Clarkson College works closely with local health providers to engage their employees, and offers training to businesses, organizations, and high school students.

To meet the needs of the ever-expanding healthcare field, training courses are now available for Advanced Stroke Life Support (ASLS) and Surgical Technologist, joining Behavioral & Psychiatric Health Technician and Mental Health Technician (introduced in 2025) as the newest course offerings.

To learn more, contact **Brooke Brown**, Director of Professional Development, via email: BrownBrooke@ClarksonCollege.edu or click the "Professional Development" tab at ClarksonCollege.edu.