

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **High Tech U Returns to Clark County; 40 High School Students to Learn First Hand from Local Companies About High Tech Careers**

**CAMAS and VANCOUVER, Wash., June 15, 2010** — Ashley Green a junior at Toutle Lake High School says of her High Tech U experience last month at Weyerhaeuser and NORPAC in Longview, “It was a life changing experience for me.” Kodiak Somarakis, a sophomore at Hockinson High School when he attended the program last year at Underwriters Laboratories feels the same way. Says Somarkais, “I now want to pursue a management position in engineering. I am also going to take business classes.”

According to Lisa Anderson, president of the SEMI Foundation, which produces the industry-driven math- and science-based career exploration program, this response is not unusual. “We constantly receive enthusiastic feedback from students and their teachers,” says Anderson. “Our partnership with industry and education has enabled us to develop and continuously improve a dynamic and fun educational program that excites kids about math, science, and high tech careers.”

On June 15-17, 2010, with strong support from the Clark County business community, High Tech U returns to Southwest Washington to introduce 40 more students to high tech concepts and careers. The third program coordinated and delivered by the Southwest Washington Workforce Development (SWWDC) and the SEMI Foundation in the last year, this program will bring the total number of Southwest Washington students have participated in the program to 111, six of whom have received scholarships for the outstanding participation in the programs. Eight Southwest Washington teachers also participated in High Tech U last spring at Intel.

“As a company whose lifeblood is science and engineering, we’re delighted to help inspire the next generation of inventors and technologists,” said Ron Gompertz, Hewlett-Packard’s Research and Development Project Manager.

**Next SEMI High Tech U Takes Place June 15-17 at Hewlett-Packard, WaferTech, and Clark College:** For three fun, information-packed, activity-filled days, students will be introduced to high tech concepts and exciting career possibilities. The program, which is taught by the companies’ employees, includes mock interviews, tours of Hewlett-Packard, Wafer Tech, and Clark College. The initiative is part of the region’s larger workforce development strategy to engage more youth in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education and

careers. High Tech U targets students who are interested in learning about high tech, have average-to-good grades, and are in the sophomore to senior grade levels.

“So many students don’t have any idea of how math and science is used in the real world,” said Lisa Nisenfeld, SWWDC Executive Director. Consequently, they often struggle in their course work and as a result, we see fewer students pursuing the careers that drive our economic vitality and offer excellent wages. As a region and a country, this does not bode well for our future. High Tech U has a demonstrated track record of engaging students and impacting their academic and career choices.”

The June High Tech U is sponsored by HP, WaferTech, the SWWDC, Clark College, the Clark County High Tech Community Council, Employers Overload, Columbia Machine, and Underwriters Laboratories. The program is also funded in part with funds from a Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant administered by WorkSystems, Inc.

“Math and science education is vitally important to the future of our region – and our country,” said Clark College President Robert K. Knight. “We’re looking forward to welcoming these students. It’s an opportunity to showcase our programs and the kinds of learning we offer – both inside and beyond the classroom.” Knight noted that, within the decade, the college is expected to build a new science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) building on its main campus.

In addition to hands-on experiments that introduce electronics and semiconductor-manufacturing concepts and explain microchip logic, students will learn about nanotechnology and solar energy technology. High Tech U also features sessions on educational pathways and career planning.

### About Our Partners

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**WaferTech** is the largest, integrated circuit (IC), semiconductor foundry in the United States. Located in Camas, Washington, WaferTech is backed by the technological prowess of its parent company, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (**TSMC**), creator and world leader of the semiconductor integrated circuit foundry industry. Visit <http://www.wafertech.com/> for more information.

**Clark College**, founded in 1933, provides two-year transfer degree studies, technical training and basic skills classes for as many as 16,000 full-time and part-time students each quarter.

Clark is the second largest college in the Washington state system of 34 community and technical colleges. Clark offers classes at its main campus in Vancouver's Central Park as well as Clark College at Columbia Tech Center in eastern Clark County; Clark College at Town Plaza, located two miles east of the main campus; and Clark College at Washington State University Vancouver in Salmon Creek. For more information, visit [www.clark.edu](http://www.clark.edu).

**Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC)** provides leadership and resources to increase economic development by providing a trained and productive workforce in Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum Counties. Led by a diverse board of representatives from business, labor, community-based organizations and government agencies, the SWWDC responds to the unique needs of SW Washington. For more information, visit [www.swwdc.org](http://www.swwdc.org).

**The SEMI Foundation** is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit charitable organization founded in 2001 to support education and career awareness in the fields of high technology through scholarships and the career exploration programs SEMI High Tech U for high school students, and SEMI High Tech U Teacher Edition. Since 2001, over 100 programs have been delivered to more than 2600 students and 500 teachers in the US, Austria, France, Japan, the Netherlands and Singapore. Visit [www.semi.org](http://www.semi.org).

**Clark County High Tech Community Council** was formed in 2001 by local area high technology companies. The 10 member council meets periodically to discuss issues important to the economic vitality of SW Washington as well as the rest of the state, nation, and world. Specific areas of discussion are competitiveness, education, and transportation.

**Columbia Machine** is the world's leading manufacturer of concrete products and palletizing equipment, serving customers in over 100 countries. Columbia builds a complete line of equipment to outfit your entire concrete products plant or meet your palletizing needs. With superior construction, advanced machinery controls, robotics capability, upgradeable performance, and maximum flexibility, we are sure to have the Total Solution for your business. Information about Columbia Machine is at: [www.columbiamachine.com](http://www.columbiamachine.com).

**Employers Overload (EO)** is one of the staffing industry founding companies. EO has been successfully fulfilling its purpose of "helping people succeed" since 1947 with quality staffing services. EO currently has office locations throughout Oregon, Washington and Ohio, and continues to expand. EO specializes in professional, clerical, and light industrial placements. For more information, visit: <http://www.employersoverload.com>.

**Underwriters Laboratories (UL)** is an independent product safety certification organization that has been testing products and writing Standards for Safety for over a century. UL evaluates more than 19,000 types of products, components, materials and systems annually with 20 billion UL Marks appearing on 72,000 manufacturers' products each year. UL's worldwide family of companies and network of service providers includes 64 laboratory, testing and certification facilities serving customers in 98 countries. For more information, visit [www.ul.com](http://www.ul.com).

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The best visual/interview opportunities for SEMI High Tech U are as follows:

**Tuesday, June 15 – Hewlett-Packard, 18110 SE 34th Street, Vancouver**

- **11:15 am-12:15 pm – Hacky Sack Catapult:** The air is filled with hacky sacks as students learn how medieval technology relates to modern day chip making in a math and statistics exercise called “Statapult.”

**Wednesday, June 16 – Clark College, 1800 East McLaughlin Boulevard, Vancouver; Penguin Union Bldg. (PUB) 258 B & C**

- **12:35 pm -3:45 pm – Aerodynamics, Scratch Programming, Electrical Engineering:** Students participate in hands on exercises demonstrating these concepts. (Students rotate through session; repeated with 12:35 – 1:35; 1:40 – 2:40; 2:45 – 3:45)
- **10:00 am-11:00 am: – Human Calculator:** Using a “feet on” exercise, as in the game

**Thursday, June 17 – WaferTech, 5509 Northwest Parker Street, Camas**

- **9:30 am- 11:30 am – VIP Welcome Session:** Local business executives and community leaders meet to learn about SEMI High Tech U and observe students participating in the Statapult exercise.
- **10:00 am-11:00 am: – Human Calculator:** Using a “feet-on” exercise as in the game “Twister,” students try not to get tangled up as they simulate electron microprocessor flow.
- **2:45-4pm – Mock Job Interviews:** Students learn how to interview for a job and then practice their skills in a one-on-one mock job interview.

**SIDE BAR: What SW Washington Students are saying about their experiences at the Underwriters Laboratories, Clark College, Weyerhaeuser, NORPAC, and Lower Columbia College High Tech U Programs**

“Thank you for this opportunity to better my education for my future.” (Reese Holland, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Battle Ground High School, Underwriters Laboratories/Clark College program)

“This program gave me a very impressive life long experience, I’ve learned a lot. I think I’ve grown up through this program.” (Jason Zhu, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, RA Long, Weyerhaeuser/Norpac/Lower Columbia College program)

“This is a fantastic program. I really benefited from it.” (Cassie Helland, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Washougal High School, Underwriters Laboratories/Clark College program)

“The Liquid Packaging tour of Weyerhaeuser was the best. I learned a lot about the inner workings of the plant.” (Wayne Ogle, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, RA Long, Weyerhaeuser/NORPAC, Lower Columbia College program)

“The best part of the day was learning about Biofuel and green jobs.” (Marina Mason, 12<sup>th</sup> grade, Castle Rock, Weyerhaeuser/NORPAC, Lower Columbia College program)

“This program helped me more than I thought it would and I am extremely thankful.” (Ashley Winton, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Hockinson High School)

“Let’s do it again next year!” (Susan Foytack, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Mark Morris, Weyerhaeuser/NORPAC, Lower Columbia College program)

“Everything that I learned will help me in the future. The more I learned about the different fields the more I am determined to learn.” (Travis Gilbert, 12<sup>th</sup> grade, Loowit, Weyerhaeuser/NORPAC, Lower Columbia College program)

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