Clackamas Community College alumna awarded Gates Cambridge Scholarship

**Special to The Oregonian** By **Special to The Oregonian**

Follow on Twitter

on May 02, 2014 at 2:45 PM, updated May 02, 2014 at 2:52 PM

Doctoral student and Clackamas Community College alumna Callie Vandewiele has been awarded the prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarship for 2014. She is the first Gates Cambridge Scholarship from Clackamas Community College.

Gates Cambridge Scholarships are highly competitive, full-ride scholarships. They are awarded to outstanding applicants from countries outside the United Kingdom to pursue a full-time postgraduate degree in any subject available at the University of Cambridge in the UK. The program aims to build a global network of future leaders committed to improving the lives of others.

Vandewiele earned her Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degree (AAOT) at Clackamas in 2007, and went on to earn a bachelor's degree with honors at Pacific University. She describes herself as "unschooled" before the age of 16, when she began to take some high school classes before studying Spanish, music and biology at Clackamas Community College.

After earning her bachelor's degree, Vandewiele lived and worked in Guatemala, where she developed an interest in women's leadership education and the ongoing interactions between Western culture, local cultures and ancient traditions. She completed her masters of philosophy in gender studies in the United Kingdom and is now pursuing her doctorate in Latin American studies.

"This Ph.D. in Latin American studies will allow me to combine my passion for women's leadership development, and my deep desire to better understand the local and global forces that shape our identities," she wrote in her scholarship application.

Competition for the awards is intense. From the United States, 750 people applied for the scholarship; 100 were interviewed, and 40 were selected.

-- Janet Paulson, public information officer, Clackamas Community College

© 2014 OregonLive.com. All rights reserved.