

PCC Career Pathways

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

The 2011 PCC Career Pathways Job Fair: Students' Experiences



"I really like this experience because when you're interacting with [employers] about their company it's almost kind of like a mini-interview."

- Mickalecia Crumble, Computer Applications student



"I'm glad I came over to be at the job fair!"

- Anita Stewart, VESL Healthcare graduate

Missed the job fair? PCC Career Pathways can still help you find success!

To learn more about enrolling in PCC Career Pathways classes, visit www.pcc.edu/cp

Blossoming Into a Career

Recent high school graduate Esther Wynn used PCC Career Pathways to get into the Accounting field. As part of her program, Esther completed an internship at Greenscapes NW, a local company in her town of Eagle Creek. Esther's work ethic and willingness to learn impressed the owner, who said that he had tried other interns before Esther, and none of them had worked out like she did.

Even though Esther was somewhat inexperienced in the world of work, she was both smart and friendly. She threw herself into learning in her business and accounting classes and at her internship. Greenscapes NW hired her after her Entry-Level Accounting Certificate was finished. These days, Esther still commutes to PCC's Sylvania campus, taking accounting classes and planning for a bright future, while working as a vital member of the team at Greenscapes NW.

When you ask her how she beat the odds to find a good job so soon after high school, Esther is more likely to smile and blush than to brag, but everyone around her is very proud of her accomplishments. Esther is proof that with the help of PCC Career Pathways, you can plant the seeds of a great career.



How Mountains Are Moved

Most college students have big goals: a career, a degree, a bright future ahead. Knowing where you are going is vital, but it can also be discouraging to have a goal that is so big that it seems like just a dream. Dreams, after all, don't always come true.

Completing a short-term certificate seems like a distraction that could lead students away from their final goal. After all, if a student gets a certificate, they could get a job and stop school, or perhaps they will decide that the certificate alone is enough, and choose not to pursue a degree.



The Community College Research Center found that earning a short-term certificate can push students toward a tipping point where they are

more likely to earn a degree or a longer certificate, and to make more money than students who did not earn a certificate.

Achieving a certificate is a big boost to students, helping them feel confident that they can reach their larger goals. The credits they earned for their certificate often count toward their degree, so they are closer to their longer-term goal.

There is a Chinese proverb that says "It is possible to move a mountain by carrying away small stones."

At PCC Career Pathways, we specialize in small stones. Short-term certificates at PCC don't take long to complete—usually just a few months. They aren't worth a ton of credits—usually 12-44. It is easy to mistake these certificates for small, unimportant steps, but short-term certificates make a big difference in helping students reach a degree and a career.

What's Coming Up

Want to know what PCC Career Pathways programs will be offered when? Look here:

Career/Technical Programs: <http://bit.ly/CTEoffs>

Vocational ESL Programs: <http://bit.ly/VESLoffs>

Thank You, Employers!

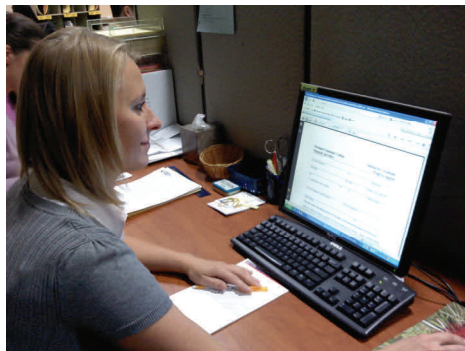
The following local employers attended our very first PCC Career Pathways Job fair in August. Over 85 students attended the job fair, and these fantastic employers made it a success.

Payless Long-Term Care Pharmacy
Northwest Compounders
Woodland Heights Assisted Living
Sinai Family Home Services
Abbott & Associates
Accountemps
Care Medical
Legacy Health System
CSL Plasma
Tuality Healthcare
Portland Public Schools
Guckenheimer
Portland Community College



Success, Accelerated

Lilia Bush-Ohearn is proof of that it doesn't have to take several years of studying English before a non-native English speaker can succeed in college classes. Lilia had several years' experience in management, but found it difficult to find a job in the US. Lilia knew the PCC Career Pathways Vocational ESL Entry-Level Accounting Certificate (VELAC) program was right for her.



Lilia loved accounting though the classes were challenging. To make sure that Lilia and her classmates would be successful in these very rigorous courses, they were enrolled in a support course taught by an ESOL instructor.

Through her hard work and with the support of Career Pathways, Lilia not only earned her Entry-Level Accounting Certificate, she also developed a plan to continue her education and become even more competitive in the job market.

Today, Lilia is working toward a one-year certificate in Accounting and bolstering her experience working in the Financial

Aid office at PCC Sylvania Campus. She believes that Career Pathways was key to her success.

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Clockwise from left: Sara, Laurie, Andrew, Bethy, Michelle

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www.pcc.edu/cp

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