

## Goal 6: Community Report

We will facilitate growth and development of our district communities by accepting a leadership role and serving as a key educational resource to the community.

### Key Measures

- ❑ Student participation in Service-Learning Programs
- ❑ Dollar value of Service-Learning volunteer hours
- ❑ *Additional key measures for Community Goal 6 are under development and will be incorporated into next year's report*

***“Service-Learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.”***

National Service Learning Clearinghouse<sup>1</sup>

### Key Measures

A total of 15,773 volunteer hours, with an estimated value of \$284,544.92 was contributed to the local community in 2005-06.<sup>2</sup> These volunteer hours were generated by the 1,221 PCC students who participated in service-learning projects.

### Supporting Detail

#### The Service-Learning Experience

PCC students enhance skills, develop a sense of civic responsibility, and contribute to the community through participation in Service-Learning programs. Various academic courses, from over 40 disciplines, incorporate volunteerism into the learning experience as students serve 5-20 hours at participating non-profit agencies and complete related class assignments.

#### *Quotes from PCC Student Service-Learning Participants:*

“As I got talking with the guests, they confirmed what I had always thought. They were people and families not much different from my own, not much different from me. I could have easily been in their shoes if not for the safety net of my family.”

Writing Service-Learning Student, serving at a Goose Hollow Family Shelter

“I learned information that I would not have been able to obtain in any other way...I found that I felt more confident in what I was speaking about because I was a part of what I was speaking about...I honestly almost dropped the class when I found out that I was going to have to volunteer as a part of my grade. But I actually signed up intentionally for a class next term that is a service-learning class because I enjoyed it.”

Speech Service-Learning Student, serving at the Canby Food Bank

“I love doing service-learning projects. I'd like to see them more often in other classes. I don't really care about the credit as much as getting to do something fun and valuable with classmates who I don't always see in class (especially telecourse) outside of the classroom.”

Engineering Service-Learning Student, serving at the Community Cycling Center

## **PCC Community Partners**

More than 150 non-profit community agencies offer service-learning opportunities for PCC students. These agencies, PCC Community Partners, collectively address a wide range of community interests and provide volunteer opportunities related to environmental, educational, health, and social service needs.

### *Quotes from PCC Service-Learning Community Partners:*

"Here at Barnes, we have had several volunteers through PCC which have helped in our After-School Program...Yesterday I overheard a 5th grader ask one volunteer if she could become his new adopted sister...Our kids really benefit from having positive role models and the extra academic support."

Barnes Elementary School

"We've had many PCC service learners help us over the years to weatherize homes for housebound senior citizens and people with disabilities. It's great to see how professors link class theories to grassroots service while the students provide a direct service to members of our community. With the students' help, we are able to make homes more comfortable and safe, lower utility bills, and conserve natural resources."

Community Energy Project

"Having Portland Community College students who are working to realize their academic goals work with and role model for the primarily low income students we teach, some in federally failing schools is an invaluable connection...These relationships often inspire students to expand their perception of suitable career options by helping them see the steps to get there..."

Wolfree (Outdoor Environmental Education "Outdoor School")

### In summary, Service-Learning

- Contributes to Student Development *through enhanced critical thinking skills, exposure to diverse communities, and increased awareness of societal needs,*
- Strengthens the College Community Connection *as faculty and agencies act as "co-educators" to students, and*
- Supports the Work of Participating Agencies *through the contributions of interested volunteers that bring creativity and knowledge to the partnering organizations.*

### **Resources**

<sup>1</sup>National Service Learning Clearinghouse

[http://www.servicelearning.org/welcome\\_to\\_service-learning/service-learning\\_is/index.php](http://www.servicelearning.org/welcome_to_service-learning/service-learning_is/index.php)

<sup>2</sup>Independent Sector value of volunteer time

[http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer\\_time.html](http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html)

PCC Service Learning Website

<http://www.pcc.edu/servicelearning>