

## Goal 6 – Community

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
  - ◆ *2007-08 Special Topic: PCC Economic Impact*
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*“Service-learning combines community service with classroom instruction, focusing on critical, reflective thinking as well as personal and civic responsibility. Service-learning programs involve students in activities that address local needs while developing their academic skills and commitment to their community.”*

American Association of Community Colleges<sup>1</sup>

### Report Summary

Service-learning opportunities and experiences

- encourage student growth and development,
- strengthen the connection between the College and local community, and
- support the work of partnering non-profit agencies.

Over 1,400 PCC service-learning students contributed volunteer hours worth an estimated value of \$276,595 in 2006-07.

In addition to service-learning, PCC facilitates financial growth and development in our district communities

- by providing a better prepared/skilled workforce,
- through operational spending (i.e. wages paid to faculty and staff, purchases, capital improvements, etc.), and
- by reducing social costs due to improved health, reduced crime, and fewer welfare and unemployment claims associated with higher educational attainment.

## Supporting Detail

### Service-Learning Participation

*Service-learning opportunities are available in a wide range of academic areas including Art, Writing, Math, Computer Information Systems, Health, Spanish, Sociology, Business and many others.*

“Volunteering ... was a valuable and memorable experience ... I saw the challenges public schools face with overcrowded classes, underpaid teachers, and educationally slighted kids. However, I also experienced the positive outcomes society can provide by volunteering in the community.”

*PCC student volunteer at a local elementary school*

“When I first learned about this project, I was overwhelmed. I had never been a volunteer before even though I had always wanted to ...”

*PCC student volunteer at The Beaverton Housing Community*

“...This experience has shown me that there are so many rewards with getting involved in the community. I think that this service-learning option was better than any research paper I could have ever done... My official time at the Demo Center might be over but I will be back on my own time next term.”

*PCC student volunteer at the Jefferson High School Demo Center*

Students have the opportunity to enhance their learning experience beyond the classroom, develop a sense of civic responsibility, and contribute to the community through participation in service-learning programs.

In 2006-07, 1,416 PCC students participated in service-learning projects.

These students contributed 14,736 volunteer hours worth an estimated \$276,595 to local non-profit agencies.<sup>2</sup>

More than 150 non-profit community agencies partner with PCC to offer service-learning opportunities for PCC students.

- These agencies collectively address a wide range of community interests and provide volunteer opportunities related to environmental, educational, health, and social service needs.
- Examples of community partners include the Community Cycling Center, SOLV<sup>3</sup>, Russell Street Dental Clinic, American Diabetes Association, Markham Elementary School and Providence Mercantile Health and Fitness Center.
- PCC’s Habitat Restoration Team, Student Success Conversation Partners, and Rock Creek’s Waste Reduction Program have also received support from PCC service-learning volunteers.

PCC’s application to participate in “Students4Giving” was one of five selected in the country by the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund (“Gift Fund”) and Campus Compact.<sup>4</sup>

- Through this grant, PCC was awarded a Gift Fund Giving Account seeded with \$15,000.
- Students in participating classes will oversee these funds, learn about charitable giving and make recommendations for which qualified charities to support and how to grow the Giving Account balance for future charitable grants.

# PCC Economic Impact

*In 2005-06, CCBenefits Inc. was hired to conduct an analysis of the socioeconomic benefits generated by Oregon Community Colleges.*

*The study addressed the total impact of community colleges on the Oregon economy and provided information including:*

- *Benefits for the economy of higher earnings for students,*
- *Relief of the tax burden due to higher earnings in the region, and*
- *Total return on investment for taxpayer dollars.*

*CCBenefits' economic impact model has been field tested on over 500 different community and technical colleges throughout the U.S. and Canada.*

## Results for Portland Community College<sup>5</sup>

### Student Benefits

For every credit completed, PCC students will, on average, earn \$94 more per year each year they are in the workforce. Alternatively, for every full-time year of attendance, a student will earn an additional \$4,252 per year.

### Local and State Benefits

The PCC service area economy receives roughly \$102.1 million in regional income annually due to PCC operations and capital spending.

Estimates indicate the service area workforce embodies around 17.2 million credit and non-credit hours of past and present PCC instruction which increases regional income by \$1.8 billion.

PCC also contributes to community growth and development by reducing social costs due to improved health, reduced crime, and fewer welfare and unemployment claims associated with higher educational attainment.

## Notes and Additional Details

<sup>1</sup>American Association of Community Colleges  
<http://www.aacc.edu/servicelearning/>

<sup>2</sup>Independent Sector estimated value of volunteer time = \$18.77 per hour (2006).  
[http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer\\_time.html](http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html)

<sup>3</sup>SOLV was originally established in 1969 as an organization called Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism. Today it is a non-profit organization that brings together government agencies, businesses and volunteers to enhance the livability of Oregon.

<sup>4</sup>Fidelity® Charitable Gift Funds and Campus Compact Choose Five U.S. Universities and Colleges for Charitable Giving Program <http://www.compact.org/news/press/release/754>

PCC Service Learning Website: <http://www.pcc.edu/servicelearning>

<sup>5</sup>Fact Sheet: *Economic Impact of Portland Community College*, prepared by CCBenefits Inc.

CCBenefits Inc.: <http://www.economicmodeling.com/>