

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
- ◆ *Special Focus:* PCC's participation as a *Horizons* Mentor College

“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 Colleges¹

Report Summary

Through the PCC Service-Learning Program, the college serves a leadership role in the community at both the local and national level.

Local

PCC service-learning students contributed volunteer hours worth an estimated value of \$327,242 to local non-profit community agencies in 2007-08. While impressive, this maybe a conservative estimate.

Both 2007-08 and 2008-09 academic years have been ones of transition for the PCC Service-Learning (S-L) Program. The conversion to a new vendor supported database resulted in less data being formally reported during the challenging implementation phase. In addition, three S-L faculty coordinator positions were not fully staffed during this time. These conditions may have contributed to under reporting of S-L student participation.

National

PCC was one of four community colleges in the country awarded mentor college status in a grant administered by the American Association of Community Colleges. Through this grant, from 2006 through 2009 PCC directly supported the development and/or expansion of service-learning programs at three other colleges throughout the country.

Supporting Detail

Service-Learning Participation

Service-learning opportunities are available in numerous academic areas including Biology, History, Writing, Math, Criminal Justice, Computer Information Systems, Health, Spanish, Sociology, Business and others.

Community Colleges Broadening Horizons through Service-Learning

PCC was one of four colleges in the country selected to be a mentor in this Learn and Serve America grant funded program administered by the American Association of Community Colleges.

As a model program, PCC mentored Lorain County Community College (OH), College of Alameda (CA), and Western Piedmont Community College (NC) to develop new and/or expand existing service-learning programs.

Examples of Mentee Outcomes:
Lorain CCC previously had no campus recycling program. After learning of PCC sustainability initiatives through the mentor relationship, the college now has a student run recycling program.

In the past, the existing S-L program at Western Piedmont CC was not consistently funded. The program has now been “institutionalized” within the college and is a line item in the budget.

Student and Community Benefits

Participation in service-learning programs provides students the opportunity to enhance their learning experience beyond the classroom, develop a sense of civic responsibility, and contribute to the local community.

In 2007-08, at least 632 PCC students participated in service-learning projects.

These students contributed 16,773 volunteer hours worth an estimated \$327,241 to local non-profit agencies.²

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.

Preparing for the Future

PCC is currently applying for a Campus Compact Grant to increase program capacity. If funded, this grant would allow

- continued training and professional development of S-L faculty,
- training to be expanded to student leaders and student groups to promote and increase S-L participation, and
- for the program focus to broaden beyond faculty and partnership development to also include student development and co-curricular service-learning.

Notes

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

²Independent Sector estimated value of volunteer time = \$19.51 per hour (2007)
http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html

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