A Word From the Campus President

With the presidential election drawing closer, a portion of our collective discussion has turned to values. Family values, American values, religious values – however one might classify them, the notion of which principles we choose to espouse and live our lives by has become part of the ongoing national discourse.

But there is a value – education – that is often left out of discussions of morals, of ethics, of personal and professional integrity. The reason for this omission, I think, is that education is often considered as simply a process or a means to an end, and isn’t numbered among the virtues I just mentioned.

But I submit to you today that it is itself a value to be cherished alongside honesty, fidelity, fair play, and any of the other notions we seek to implant in our children’s consciousness. Just as importantly, like these other values, education is something that must be passed from generation to generation in order for it to flourish.

A colleague recently remarked to me that there was never any doubt in his mind that he would go on to college after he finished high school. Both his parents held graduate degrees, and going to college was something he had anticipated as a natural stage in his life from the time he was old enough to conceive of such a thing. In other words, in this man’s family, education was an inherited value.

Now, it’s important to mention that this man came from a white, middle-class background, as did the generation before him and the generation before that. With this history, it was far more likely that his parents would emphasize education as a value than not – and, in fact, it’s fair to say that his family’s economic history existed because they cherished education as a value.

Needless to say, it is far less likely for young people from historically underrepresented communities to have the same conception of higher education as an inevitable thing. When one’s parents never went to college, or in some cases never graduated from high school, it can be...
For the third year in a row, a Cascade Campus student has been named the top community college scholar in Oregon.

Elijah Herr, a state All-USA Academic Team member and Governor’s Scholar, was named the New Century Scholar for the state of Oregon through the two-year honor society Phi Theta Kappa.

Not bad for a student who has been away from a classroom for more than a decade.

Since enrolling in college in 2004, the 33-year-old has cultivated a 4.0 grade-point average. He is currently student body president for Cascade Campus and serves as district chair for PCC’s District Student Council. Herr has made the President’s List nine consecutive terms and is an active member of Phi Theta Kappa.

The New Century Scholars program is an extension of the All-USA Academic Team. The highest-scoring student in each state in the All-USA Academic Team competition is named a New Century Scholar and receives a $2,000 stipend funded by the Coca-Cola Foundation and the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. Herr was honored at the American Association of Community Colleges convention in Philadelphia, Penn., in April, where he represented all Oregon community college students at the convention’s opening ceremonies. Herr was also honored in April by Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski at a ceremony in Salem.

“I jumped up and down,” Herr said when he learned of his honor. “I was pretty excited. It’s nice to be rewarded after three years of hard work.”

Herr said he might not have applied if it weren’t for the dogged determination of Kendi Esary, Cascade Campus student leadership coordinator. “I was threatened by Kendi to apply,” Herr said with a chuckle. “The application process started in December just as everything from fall term was coming to fruition. It was a busy time and I saw this as just one more thing to do. If she hadn’t pushed it, I wouldn’t have applied.”

Herr is majoring in political economy and his preferences of four-year schools include the University of California-Berkeley, Columbia University, Georgetown and Lewis & Clark College.

“If they give me money, I’ll go anywhere,” Herr said. “Have book will travel.” Herr had wanted to go to law school, but money and an interest in politics turned him in the direction of political economy.

This is an impressive education path for a student who didn’t get to college right out of high school. The reason was simple – Herr didn’t have enough money for college and his parents made too much to qualify for financial aid. So the former state high school mock trial champion leaped into an art career and put his college education on hold.

After 12 years of working as an illustrator, event promoter, Web

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Cascade Hosts Season’s First Mayoral Candidates’ Forum

Five contenders for Portland’s highest office kicked off the campaign season at Cascade Campus in March with the year’s first candidates’ forum. Mayoral hopefuls Sam Adams, Sho Dozono, Craig Gier, Beryl S. McNair, and Chris Rich tackled a range of questions on issues of import to Portland’s African American community and other communities of color.

Ken Boddie, an anchor and reporter with KOIN-TV, emceed the event, which played to a standing-room only house in the Moriarty Arts & Humanities Auditorium. The forum was broadcast live to the Portland area and beyond on KBOO radio. Cascade Campus teamed up with the Urban League of Portland, the NAACP, the African American Alliance, and the Oregon chapter of the National Association of Minority Contractors.

A link to an audio recording of the forum can be found on the College’s Web site, www.pcc.edu.

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difficult to see oneself pursuing higher education. This is why it is so important to help young people remove the psychological barriers that can prevent them from going to college, and help them to see higher education as inevitable. The most persistent of these mental barriers is the belief that college is simply too expensive. As president of a community college campus, I can tell you right now that there is ample financial aid available to those willing to ask for it, particularly for people from historically disadvantaged backgrounds. And because the demands of real life don’t go away when you’re going to school, it is always possible to study at your own pace – even on the weekends – especially at community college.

I am happy to say that there are more people from underrepresented communities with college degrees than ever before in this country, but there are still too many young people who see higher education as an impossible dream. Things do not need to be this way, however. All it takes to change your destiny is the right decision at the right time.

“They can grow up asking themselves not whether they will go to college, but where...”

The point I am driving at is that you can make education an inherited value in your family, even if it hasn’t always been there before. It can be a struggle, but the rewards in the long term far outweigh the costs in the short term. The decision of one person to earn a college degree can, like it did in my colleague’s family, set the stage for future generations to do the same thing. That same decision can have a positive impact on the future of your children, your grandchildren, your great grandchildren. Like my colleague, they can grow up asking themselves not whether they will go to college, but where.

Dr. Algie C. Gatewood is President of Portland Community College’s Cascade Campus.
Positive Enrollment Trend Continues

Cascade Campus continued to show strong enrollment growth during the Fall 2007 and Winter 2008 academic terms. For Fall 2007, the Campus grew by 33.48 FTE compared to the previous fall term — from 1,462.41 to 1,495.89 — a growth rate of 2.3 percent. This exceeded the overall District growth rate of 1.4 percent.

Winter Term showed an even more robust growth rate of 6.8 percent, the highest in the District and more than four times the College-wide rate of 1.5 percent. The Campus grew by 85.09 FTE compared to the same period a year prior, rising from 1,249.12 to 1,334.21. as follows:

As of the second week of Spring Term 2008, the Campus has grown by 5.1 percent over the same point a year prior. Over the period from Fall 2007 through the second week of Spring 2008, the Campus has grown at an average rate of 4.7 percent, well above the College-wide growth rate of 2.9 percent over the same period of time.

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designer and 3-D animator, he felt it was time to find a more stable career.

At Cascade Campus, he would eventually connect to faculty and staff who opened doors. Porter Raper (composition and literature instructor) referred him to the student government office to work as a social programs assistant for student government. From there, Herr became addicted to helping students. He credits Cascade staff like Esary, Linda Reisser (dean of student development), Scott Huff (dean of instruction), and instructors Ann Sitomer (math) and Michael Sonnleitner (political science) as critical mentors in his development as a college student.

To have the last three New Century scholars come from Cascade; they’ve built wonderful program," Herr said of Cascade’s leadership. “It speaks volumes for what we are doing here.”

Past New Century Scholar recipients from Cascade Campus include Lisa Hummel in 2007 and Shanta Anderson in 2006.
Students who are the first in their family to attend college often face challenges that others don’t. Without the support of family members who have experienced higher education, first generation students can find a college campus to be a daunting place.

Fortunately, a compassionate group of Cascade Campus faculty have teamed up to form the Faculty Mentor First-Generation Student Pilot Project, which began in Winter Term 2008. The program’s mentors can have a positive effect on retention by helping students acclimate to the college environment, especially during their first year of studies, said Judy Voth, an instructor in the Adult Basic Education program and head, along with Monica Schneider-Anthony, of the mentorship effort.

“First-generation students can use the help of someone to guide them through the ‘maze’ that
A Campus of the Community, Not Just in the Community

Spend enough time with Campus President Algie Gatewood, and you’ll hear him speak of his vision of the role of the Campus in the lives of its students, faculty, staff, and neighbors.

“I want Cascade to be a campus of the community, not just in the community,” he will tell you.

Recent months have seen Cascade step more fully into this vision, as a host of individuals and organizations have used the Campus as a place to hold meetings, forums, performances and more. At the same time, the Campus has strengthened its ties with its neighbors, working more closely with individuals and groups in the community to enhance neighborhood safety and expand access to higher education.

“A community college campus should be the educational, economic, and social hub of the neighborhood,” Gatewood explained. “This is the place people go when they want to advance their education or change careers, and this is where they should also go when they need a place to gather, whether it’s to discuss important issues or share a joyous occasion.”

In recent months, the Campus has hosted an education town hall meeting with State Representative Chip Shields and Senator Margaret Carter; a health disparities conference, with the Multnomah County Health Department; MathFest, a gathering of students from all over the Portland area; and the recent Portland mayoral candidates’ forum, to name just a few.

Coming up in the near future during Spring Term 2008 is the annual Grammys in the Schools event, a day of workshops and performances for

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Miss Black Oregon USA

Another Cascade Campus student earned a mark of distinction when Genté Traylor was crowned Miss Black Oregon 2008. Genté placed ahead of runners-up Michelle Washington, of Concordia University, and University of Portland graduate Aisha Campbell at the Miss Black Oregon pageant, held in February at the Airport Sheraton Hotel. She will represent Oregon at the 2008 Miss Black USA pageant, set for June in Washington, D.C.

As Miss Black Oregon, Genté – a Psychology major at Cascade Campus – takes home a $2,000 college scholarship, a $1,300 modeling and acting scholarship, and a host of other prizes.

The women of Cascade Campus turned out in force at the pageant. In addition to Genté, the Campus was represented by Denaya Brazil, Marneet Lewis, and Yvenie Martino.
by contrast, entry-level positions in a lab (such as phlebotomist or lab assistant) may not require professional certification. But the medical lab career ladder doesn’t stop there, Zimmerdahl said.

students who go on to earn a bachelor’s degree in Medical Lab Technology can earn the title of medical technologist, along with a corresponding bump in pay and the potential to supervise or manage a laboratory. Students in PCC’s program can transfer to the School of Medical Technology at Oregon Health Sciences University, a joint program run by OHSU and the Oregon Institute of Technology. About 20 percent of PCC MLT graduates elect to take this course, Zimmerdahl said. And when they do, they’re ready. Zimmerdahl said that one of his recent graduates received the highest score in the country on the national certification examination – something that isn’t an anomaly.

"In the 15 years that I’ve been a full-time instructor for this program,” he said, “this is the eighth time that a PCC student has received the highest [exam] score in the country.”

In addition to providing its students with a high level of instruction, PCC has stepped up in recent years to help address the growing statewide shortage of certified medical lab technicians. Through a series of agreements with Rogue and Lane community colleges, as well as with private laboratories like Oregon Medical Labs in Eugene, and hospitals and clinics in Medford, Roseburg, Bend, and elsewhere, the MLT program has developed a distance learning component that reaches from one end of the state to the other.

“There was a definite need outside of the Portland metro area to reach out to underserved communities,” Zimmerdahl said. “PCC has the only accredited MLT program in the state, and it was proving difficult to recruit qualified lab technicians to some of these smaller towns."

So thanks to PCC, there has been and will be a measurable improvement in the quality and speed of care available to Oregonians outside the Portland area. The program graduated its first class of distance learners last September, and further agreements are pending with Central Oregon and Chemeketa community colleges.

“i’m proud of the way this program is growing and of the quality of our students,” Zimmerdahl said. “We’re doing a good thing here.”

young musicians in the area, as well as a possible town hall meeting with U.S. Senator Ron Wyden.

the North Portland branch of the Multnomah County Library, PCC Public Safety, the Portland Police Bureau’s Northeast Precinct, and a number of local businesses – the Commission has grown to encompass a wide range of community groups, businesses, and governmental agencies, all collaborating to make the neighborhood a safer place to live, work, and study.

“Cascade Campus is unique in the PCC District in that we are physically integrated with our community, rather than set apart from it,” Gatewood said.

“This makes us a natural home for community events, and I couldn’t be prouder of the way in which we engage our neighbors.”

A packed Moriarty Auditorium crowd listens intently as a slate of mayoral hopefuls describe their respective visions for the future of Portland. The event was broadcast live on KBOO radio and featured on several evening TV news broadcasts.
new students have to navigate,” Voth said. “It really gives them a sense of self-efficacy.” At a January gathering in the Learning Center, a group of Voth’s mentees got a chance to hear from an assortment of Cascade Campus staff who were once first-generation students themselves, including Arts & Professions Division Dean Kate Dins and Campus President Algie Gatewood. Voth said that successful former first-generation students can serve as an inspiring example to the mentees. Voth and her team of faculty mentors follow these 10 principal guidelines to help keep first-generation students engaged and successful:

Communication — Ask students to send an e-mail, so that you can be sure they know how to do so. Get them used to using the communications resources at their disposal.

Help students to locate the MyCourses link on MyPCC in order to access PowerPoint presentations, missed assignments, and the course syllabus.

Be concrete in your instructions — report your grading rubric along with the assignment and include it with the syllabus.

Reinforce — often — the awareness of Campus resources. Point out the location and benefit of the Learning Center, Counseling Center, Financial Aid, and your office. Don’t assume students know these things.

Encourage interpersonal relations to develop in the classroom. Friendships draw students back to class and back to another term.

Introduce and reinforce often the activities on campus such as clubs, guest speakers, peer tutors, and the ASPCC Ambassadors.

Promote the use of office hours with you as a good way to ask for help, share concerns, and catch up if class is missed.

Model success every chance you get.

Walk with students to the Career Center and Advising & Counseling areas.

Link instruction to the world of work, home, and financial planning. Make assignments relevant to everyday problem solving. Does the mentoring make a difference? Absolutely, Voth said. She recalled a recent mentee who went through a difficult stretch, struggling financially and even losing his car and his job. The support of his mentor helped to keep the young man in school and even helped land him a job on Campus.

“He knew there was someone he could go to,” Voth said. “He learned what his resources are. It’s what kept him engaged.”

A who’s who of Oregon’s political, business, community, and faith leaders turned out at Cascade Campus in October to honor State Senator Margaret Carter, when the Campus’ Skill Center — which the Senator helped to create — was officially dedicated as the Margaret Carter Skill Center.

Senator Carter was honored on the Moriarty Auditorium stage by a host of speakers, including U.S. Senator Gordon Smith, Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney, former Campus President Mildred Ollee, and Kathy Jackson, a Skill Center alumna who has gone on to a gainful career. A permanent sign now marks the location of the Margaret Carter Skill Center in the lobby of the Technology Education Building.
Campus Hosts Bond Informational Forums

In January and February, Cascade Campus — along with the rest of PCC — hosted a series of informational sessions aimed at informing PCC faculty, staff, and students about a $374 million capital construction bond referendum possibly slated for the November ballot (the PCC Board of Directors approved the referendum in March).

If approved by voters, the bond would finance a number of new construction, renovation, and technological upgrade projects around the District. For Cascade Campus, passage of the bond would:

- Add simulation lab for first responder and allied health students
- Add space for early childhood education program
- Add space to expand instruction for careers in education
- Add classrooms
- Add childcare facility for students
- Increase parking
- Increase capacity of library and other student services space
- Upgrade the Teaching and Learning Center

For a complete listing of bond projects, click on the "Bond 2008" link on the PCC Intranet home page.

Debbi Covert Contributes a Lifetime of Service

Debbi Covert, who retired in February of this year, was an employee of Portland Community College for over 40 years. Most of those years were spent at the Cascade Campus working for, among other departments, the Emergency Services Division.

“She was an outstanding worker and always went out of her way to help students,” Kal Robertson said, who had the opportunity to work with Debbi while serving as division dean. Among many other accomplishments, Ms. Covert received a $10,000 Albert Shanker Award for outstanding American Federation of Teachers Union Paraprofessional and School-Related Personnel. She graciously used portions of her award to purchase and install overhead storage units for instructional administrative assistants in the EMS Department, to donate a laptop computer to the Classified Federation and to contribute $500 to the Portland Public Schools’ book fund.

ELBOW ROOM

Ground was broken this spring on an expansion of the Campus’ north parking lot. The project will yield an additional 55 parking spaces, helping to ease the Campus’ chronic parking shortage. The additional spaces will take up the land once occupied by the Salvation and Deliverance Church.

Wessel Takes Over As L.A.M. Dean

Nancy Wessel has been named as the new head of the Campus Liberal Arts & Mathematics Division. Wessel, currently a professor of sociology and Director of Academic Coordination for University Centers at Central Washington University, will take over for Interim Dean Steve Hudson on July 1. She holds BA, MA, and PhD degrees in Sociology, along with a MA degree in TESOL/Linguistics.
DeLinda Martin Recognized For Her Outstanding Academic Achievement

DeLinda Martin has been selected as a 2008 Oregon Community College Outstanding Scholar. She was also honored in April by Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski at a ceremony in Salem. Martin, a Banks resident and Cascade Campus student, is an English major with a 3.95 GPA. The 41-year-old plans to transfer to Portland State University where she plans to earn a bachelor’s degree in English. She has made the President’s List and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

Before starting her college education she worked as a training coordinator in a manufacturing plant, which allowed her to help other adults develop the tools needed to succeed at their jobs. During her job, she had been told that she was management material, but couldn’t move up the career ladder because she didn't have a degree. “With much encouragement from managers and coworkers I started taking a few community college classes,” Martin said. “I discovered that it is never too late to go to college. I am now 41 years old, a full-time mother, a full-time student, and I work part time in student government. I am very excited about where my future is going, and I feel I am providing a positive role model for my children and developing the ability to support my family. My education will help me start my career as a manager in corporate training at a production facility.”

Article taken from www.pcc.edu/news

The Middle College Program is currently in its third year of operation. The 2007-2008 program is the result of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Portland Public School district (PPS) and Portland Community College Cascade Campus (PCC), dated September 18, 2007. Currently, the program is open to students from Jefferson High School and Roosevelt High School. The purpose of the Middle College Program is to provide students with a bridge between high school and higher education by allowing them to enroll in college classes while still attending high school. The Middle College experience provides an important, real-world example that higher education is, in fact, within reach.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Medical Assisting Program Re-accreditation:
The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs will conduct a site visit on Thursday and Friday, April 17-18

International Community Service Fair 2-5 p.m.
Saturday, April 19, TH 112 & TH 122

OR Court of Appeals hears cases at Cascade Campus. 9-12 p.m., Tues., April 22, MAHB Auditorium

“Jazz Hot; Jazz Cool.” Performance by the Sax 5th quintet 6:15-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, MAHB Auditorium

Grammys in the Schools 9 a.m. - finish, Friday, April 25, MAHB Auditorium

Cascade Job Fair 11-3 p.m., Tues., May 6, GYM

Student Art Exhibit: “Made at PCC Cascade” showing in the Cascade Gallery April 23 - May 23

Portland Teachers Program honors 2008 graduates, current participants, and alumni at the 19th annual Celebration of Students. Friday, May 30, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. MAHB Auditorium