CONNECTIONS
PCC’s strong relationships with community partners provide workforce training for thousands of students
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DEEPLY ROOTED
Vineyard owner and former PCC instructor Hal Medici has a long history with the college
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Enroll now!
Classes starting
April – June

Community Education non-credit class schedule
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Returning to school after ten years was intimidating. I was afraid that classes would be too difficult, especially math. But my PCC instructors challenged me to overcome my fears and helped me to succeed like I never thought possible. Now I love math, and I'm excited to pass that joy on to my students.

— Nichole
Future Teacher

Portland Community College is proud to celebrate 50 years of creating opportunities for our community.

Share your story at opportunity.pcc.edu
We must have an educated workforce to be successful in our communities. And the way you do that is you work with organizations like Portland Community College. We couldn’t be as successful as we are without this partnership.

— Jerry Willey
Mayor, City of Hillsboro
PCC’s record of providing solid workforce training and education for hundreds of different careers has long been substantiated by the many global corporations and local companies who turn to the college to recruit employees. From health care to engineering to emerging technology, PCC is a major training ground for a variety of industries.

“We must have an educated workforce to be successful in our communities,” said Hillsboro Mayor Jerry Willey. “And the way you do that is you work with organizations like Portland Community College. We couldn’t be as successful as we are without this partnership.”

At a recent 50th anniversary event honoring the college’s longstanding business and government partners, Washington County mayors highlighted the fruitful affiliations the college has formed with Intel, SolarWorld and Genentech as a result of PCC tailoring training to the companies’ needs. Genentech, along with fellow Westside bioscience firms HemCon and Welch Allyn, select students from PCC’s bioscience technology training program.

Such ties are replicated throughout the district with each campus, center and workforce training site teeming with strong connections between industry and education. The following are examples of those enduring relationships, proving that PCC is a local training powerhouse.

**FIRE AND RESCUE**

Experienced instructors and cutting-edge curriculum make PCC the perfect training ground for future firefighters.

“PCC’s Fire Protection Technology Program is an industry leader and can only get better with the dedicated staff that runs it.”

—— Captain Tom Crowder, Clackamas Fire District #1

“PCC’s Fire Protection Technology Program takes an individual who is young and right out of high school and may not have very many life or occupational experiences, and trains this person in not only the skills to perform the job but also the skills to get along with others,” said Captain Tom Crowder of Clackamas Fire District #1. “We see PCC as our future hiring base, therefore we assist by providing qualified instructors, props and training facilities.”

Adds Crowder, “I see PCC as a major partner in the community, with the possibility of becoming a resource to train firefighters after we’ve hired them. Currently, we send new firefighters to a 12-week fire academy of our own, costing us tens of thousands of dollars annually. As the economy tightens, I see firefighters performing this training while obtaining degree credits. I see PCC as a leader in this area.”

**NURSING**

PCC responds to the increasing needs of the health care industry with competitive training programs for nurses, dental hygienists and assistants, medical assistants, lab technologists, ophthalmic medical technologists and radiography technicians. Kaiser Permanente, Legacy Health and Tuality Healthcare often turn to PCC to staff their hospitals.

“When it comes to training nurses, PCC is at the top of our list,” said DeAnn Sellers of Tuality Healthcare. “They are a key partner and dedicated to nursing education.”

Sellers predicts an uptick in hiring in the next decade as many employees retire and says hiring will be competitive because of the number of trained nurses. She recommends that nurses enroll in continuing education classes, like those offered through PCC’s CLIMB Center for Advancement.

**SEMICONDUCTOR**

Intel Corporation has long worked with PCC to ensure a strong workforce. Each year, about 20 students in the Microelectronics Technology Program have the opportunity to work as Intel interns while they attend classes. Students in the Microelectronics Program, as well as Electronic Engineering
“Whenever we have needs for technicians in Oregon, PCC is the first place we go to meet those needs.”
— Carl Rimby, Intel

“Whenever we have needs for technicians in Oregon, PCC is the first place we go to meet those needs.”
— Megan Brashear, DoveLewis Emergency Animal Hospital

Oregon businesses partner with PCC to develop training programs and fill local jobs
By Christina Holmes and James Hill

Technology and Bioscience Technology find work at Intel after graduation. In addition, Intel provides hundreds of thousands of dollars to PCC programs.

“To be successful as a technician at Intel, specialized skills are a must. PCC provides bright, motivated individuals with the necessary academic foundation and specific technical knowledge they need to qualify as an entry-level technician,” said Carl Rimby, an Intel college staffing program manager and member of PCC’s Microelectronics Technology Advisory Board.

What also impresses Rimby are the PCC faculty members who are willing to make curriculum adjustments to reflect current industry needs.

“The primary goal of everyone at PCC is to make sure students graduating from the program have the skills they need to compete,” he said.

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY
In Oregon, it is now mandatory that individuals who wish to become licensed veterinary technicians must graduate from an American Veterinary Medical Association-accredited program. Currently, PCC’s Veterinary Technology Program is the only such program in Oregon and is responsible for training the majority of technicians in the state, said Megan Brashear, technician manager for DoveLewis Emergency Animal Hospital.

She adds, “These technicians will travel throughout the state to work in general practices, large animal practices and specialty practices. These former students will mentor and train their coworkers and advance the profession throughout the state. They will get their foundation at PCC.”

Even more, PCC instructors know what veterinarians need from technicians and make sure students gain the necessary skills in the program.

“These are not just the medical skills and practical knowledge but also the teamwork, leadership and client communication skills that will help them in their careers,” Brashear said.

A FOCUS ON SMALL BUSINESSES
The Small Business Development Centers at PCC and Mt. Hood Community College, the Micro-Inventors Program of Oregon and the Oregon Microenterprise Network have been selected by the Portland Development Commission to bring technical assistance and training to small businesses in underserved Portland-area neighborhoods.

Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen and Portland Mayor Sam Adams announced the initiative to grow existing small businesses. A total of $450,000 will be allocated to nonprofit organizations, including PCC’s CLIMB Center for Advancement, to provide assistance and training to about 200 businesses.

“This shows how critical PCC’s services are to the health and wealth of the small business community in Portland,” said PCC District President Preston Pulliams.

The consortium targets businesses on Northeast 42nd Avenue, Southeast Division and 82nd Avenue, Northeast Cully Boulevard, Southeast 124th to 148th Avenue, Parkrose and Rosewood. The businesses will take part in a 10-session training and advising program.

For more information about the grant, contact climb@pcc.edu or 971-722-2798.
When Portland Community College’s Geography Department considered offering a one-year Geographic Information Systems certificate to complement its transfer degree, faculty members met with local industry experts to make sure they were headed in the right direction.

The GIS advisory board listened closely to the plan and offered suggestions. “It was essential to have members of the GIS professional community advise us on curriculum that would best prepare students for work in the field,” said Christina Friedle, a PCC Geography instructor. “Their guidance allows us to feel confident that we’re developing and offering a program that is most beneficial for students.”

A similar scenario played out with the Civil and Mechanical Engineering Technology Program when the department considered adding a green technology and sustainability option. Faculty met with the 10-member CMET advisory board — which includes surveyors, consultants and business manufacturing engineers in private companies and public agencies — and received valuable input.

“It was essential to have members of the CMET advisory board involved in curriculum development,” said Greg Gerstner, a CMET instructor. “Their advice helps ensure that our graduates are employable.”

Most PCC career and technical programs along with some transfer programs have advisory boards that offer advice on current business trends, changes to the industry and employment practices. These committed industry leaders volunteer because they feel strongly about the skills students need in order to land jobs after graduation.

“I feel my community college experience was tremendously beneficial and I’ve always sought opportunities to give back. Serving on the board is one way I can do that,” said geography advisory board member Tommy Albo, who took his first GIS class at a San Francisco community college 15 years ago, and now works for Metro as a natural areas GIS coordinator.

Advisory boards meet twice a year to network with faculty members and other colleagues and then get down to business. For the Computer Information Systems Department, meetings are needed to keep up with new advances.

“In the IT industry, change is so fast and furious that we must know what’s going on in the current marketplace so we can prepare students with valuable competitive skills,” said CIS instructor Gary Coleman.

Doug Mathias, a senior talent acquisition consultant who owns an IT recruiting business and also works for Providence Health System, said many PCC graduates are well respected in the industry. He believes advisory boards have something to do with that.

“As practitioners we’re in the trenches and we tell faculty members what’s happening at the street level,” he said. “We give them real time feedback and tell them what type of professional is needed in the workplace.”

Among the board members’ duties: offer suggestions on how faculty members keep course curriculum relevant and up-to-date; share industry trends so grads are prepared for the workforce; help fine-tune job descriptions for new faculty hires; provide on-campus guest speakers; and in some cases, offer internships to current students.

“Our students have also contacted advisory committee members directly for information and resources if they’re working on class projects,” said Friedle. “One advisory member is from Portland State University which has helped us with articulation agreements between the two departments.”

Advisory members are recruited by faculty or others associated with the department. Several advisory boards include PCC alumni.

Coleman said the CIS board is successful for several reasons. “We recruit high quality, upper-level industry professionals from a good cross-section of the IT world. We have consistent meeting times and our collaborative agenda format allows for easy and maximum participation.”

Members of the Computer Information Systems advisory board meet at the college to discuss ongoing changes in the industry and how PCC prepares graduates for the workforce.
As she walks through the two-story building peeking into classrooms, Christina Unga talks about her two loves — children and sustainability — and how her center is the result of decades of dreaming.

The ChildRoots Center for Young Children in Southeast Portland is built on the promise that raising young minds can be done with sensitivity to the environment. The alumna of PCC’s Early Childhood Education Program has found a niche with her approach to caring for children between the ages of six weeks and six years old.

Her commitment to environmentally conscious living is apparent at every turn. Toys are made from wood, soft fabric or natural resources. Cribs, bouncy seats and other contraptions that bind babies won’t be found. Instead, children nap on mats on the floor and fussy babies are soothed in child-sized hammocks.

The ceilings and walls are decorated with paper airplanes made from maps, origami birds, and crepe paper lanterns, especially important for young babes who spend so much time on their backs.

There is a full-time chef who cooks vegetarian, mostly organic and locally farmed meals for kids who impressively can tell the difference between kale and chard. Children drink from glass jars not plastic cups.

“I want this center to be a child’s home away from home and I want them to feel safe and secure,” said Unga, executive director and founder of ChildRoots. “I believe we do a lot of good things for the community.”

The waiting list to get into the school is long and it’s not unheard of for pregnant women to reserve spots months before their babies are born. Aside from the main center on SE 17th and Burnside, there are three in-home annex sites that share the same philosophy. All told, about 180 children flow into the main center and annex sites each week.

In many ways Unga prepared for ChildRoots her entire life. Growing up in Northeast Portland, she was the neighborhood babysitter who rarely passed up a job. As she got older she found work in a pediatric dental office.

She graduated from Jefferson High School and in the mid ‘90s enrolled in PCC’s Early Childhood Education Program. In one class she designed her dream center. Aspects of that rendering are part of ChildRoots.

“My philosophy for child rearing is simple yet eloquent as she finds herself a pioneer. Last July, The Oregonian wrote about the center’s healthy approach to food. Since then centers from across the country have inquired on how to create such a meal plan.”

Her studies were interrupted when she got pregnant. After her son was born, she opened a child care facility in her home, her first of about a half dozen centers she went on to operate.

As an experienced child development expert with savvy business acumen, she ventured into the retail market by opening Fairies and Frogs Toys. She closed that store to open another child care center called Growing Seeds.

By 2007 she turned her attention to ChildRoots. She says that age and maturity brought her to the point where she knew exactly what she wanted in each of the 10 rooms. She worked on curriculum and trained teachers.

Her staff of about 40 now shares the load allowing her to slow down a bit. She also has plenty to keep her busy at home as she and her husband Moni Unga have six kids ages 14, 12, 10, 3, 2, and 1. The youngest three are recent adoptions.

Her philosophy for child rearing is simple yet eloquent as she finds herself a pioneer. Last July, The Oregonian wrote about the center’s healthy approach to food. Since then centers from across the country have inquired on how to create such a meal plan.

Are you a PCC alum? We want to hear from you! Visit www.pcc.edu/alumni or call 971-722-4607.
With the college’s yearlong 50th anniversary in high gear, Oregonians and other local residents now have a chance to learn about PCC’s early days through a new exhibit at the Oregon History Museum.

The exhibit, “PCC: 50 Years of Education Revolution,” opened in February and features everything from the first class schedule in 1961 to founding president Dr. Amo DeBernardis’s wooden desk. It’s the first time the college has exhibited its treasures at an outside venue.

“There is no doubt that PCC is inextricably part of Oregon’s history. Over the past 50 years, PCC has helped shape the lives of over one million people and PCC has always been accessible to all,” said Tyrene Bada, the college’s records coordinator. She adds, “PCC has very humble beginnings. What I love most about the PCC story is that it was created to meet the needs of the community. The first class schedule was only four pages long. It’s neat to see how the schedule grew each year because it shows how popular PCC was becoming.”

Among the displayed items: the gavel used in the early 1960s to conduct meetings and is still in use today by the Board of Directors; the original state charter drafted in 1961 designating PCC as a community college district; nursing and firefighting uniforms; and dozens of historical photos.

The exhibit illustrates the college’s role in changing the educational landscape and shaping the local workforce.

“PCC has provided brighter opportunities for countless Oregonians and it’s hard to put a value on that,” said Kerry Tymchuk, Executive Director of the Oregon Historical Society. “I hope as young people go through the exhibit that perhaps they will see that PCC can help them reach their dreams just as it has helped so many others reach their dreams.”

Marsha Matthews, the museum’s director of public services, said this exhibit is likely to inform many Oregonians about the college.

“Some people may take PCC for granted because it does a wonderful job in a variety of ways. I think people really don’t know the evolution of the college and the challenges the founders went through to be a part of this community,” she said.

Matthews adds that many Oregonians and Portlanders have benefited from PCC’s strong presence during the last five decades.

“It’s important for us to feature an institution that has been so important and integral to the quality of life here as it trains workers and educates students,” she said. “Plus there was such a difference in going to school in the 1960s before laptop computers, iPods and Wikipedia.”

The PCC exhibit is on display through the end of May. The museum, located at 1200 SW Park Ave., is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. For information, visit www.ohs.org
PCC Programs
Degree programs and credit classes

PCC is also your one-stop resource for the following credit programs. Go to www.pcc.edu to learn more.

Transfer Degrees
Associate of Arts, Oregon Transfer
Associate of Science
Associate of Science, Oregon Transfer, Business

Other Degrees and Areas of Study
Oregon Transfer Module
General Studies
High School Completion
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
Adult Education (ABE and GED classes) (Non-credit)

Career and Technical Education Degrees and Certificates
Alcohol and Drug Counselor*
Apprenticeship
Architectural Design and Drafting
Auto Collision Repair Technology
Automotive Service Technology
Aviation Maintenance Technology
Aviation Science Technology
Bioscience Technology*
Building Construction Technology
Business Administration
  Accounting
  Management
  Marketing
Civil Engineering Technology*
Computer Applications and Office Systems
Computer Information Systems
Criminal Justice
Dealer Service Technology*
Dental Assisting*
Dental Hygiene*
Dental Laboratory Technology*
Diesel Service Technology
Early Education and Family Studies
Electronic Engineering Technology*
Emergency Management
Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic*
Emergency Telecommunicator/911 Dispatcher*
Facilities Maintenance Technology
Fire Protection Technology*
Fitness Technology*

Geographic Information Systems
Gerontology
Graphic Design
Health Information Management*
Interior Design
Landscape Technology
Machine Manufacturing Technology
Management and Supervisory Development
Mechanical Engineering Technology*
Medical Assisting*
Medical Imaging*
Medical Laboratory Technology*
Microelectronic Technology*
Multimedia
Nursing*
Occupational Skills Training
Ophthalmic Medical Technology*
Paraeducator
Paralegal*
Professional Music
Radiography*
Sign Language Interpretation*
Veterinary Technology*
Welding Technology*

*Program has special enrollment requirements.

PCC board member wins regional and state accolades
By James Hill

Portland Community College is celebrating 50 years of serving the community, and few people better exemplify that spirit than PCC board of director Jim Harper, who was honored recently with national and statewide accolades.

Harper, who serves as PCC board chair, received the 2011 Pacific Region Trustee Leadership Award from the Association of Community College Trustees, a national organization based in Washington, D.C., and the Oregon Community College Association’s Howard Cherry Award for Outstanding Community College Board Member, a state award. He also was named to the ACCT board at its convention in Dallas, Texas, in October.

“I feel really honored and privileged to be recognized in this way,” Harper said. “Both awards rank high for me.”

The awards recognize Harper’s more than 40 years of involvement with the college as a student, volunteer, PCC Foundation and PCC board member, and a corporate user of PCC services. Harper, who is a local realtor in Portland and a former director of Human Resources at Wacker Siltronic Corp and division manager for Tektronix, Inc., has been on the PCC board since 2005 when he was elected as the representative for Zone 4 (downtown Portland and portions of Columbia County).
PCC students, alumni, employees and supporters have turned out in force to help the college reach its goal of 50,000 hours of community service.

Volunteers have pulled ivy from Tryon Creek and Mt. Tabor Parks, packed 17,000 pounds of rice for the Oregon Food Bank, created more than 1,700 holiday cards and 300 placemats for Loaves & Fishes, wrapped 500 pairs of socks for seniors, helped clean Roosevelt High School on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and planted trees and restored park areas in Aloha, Southwest Portland and Northeast Portland.

It’s been a busy five months. The college has logged nearly 27,000 community service hours performed through a variety of projects across the district.

“It’s been going extremely well. From being able to provide a service project each month and then having more than 100 people show up at that event, it’s just been wonderful,” said Sarah Tillery, PCC’s Service Learning Program Coordinator.

What’s pleasantly surprising is the mix of people who take part in the projects — alums, students, faculty, retirees and friends of the college. “It’s exciting to see how engaged people are with these projects,” Tillery said.

What also impresses Tillery are the faithful volunteers who sign up for projects each month. These regulars barely finish one event before getting information about the next one, and they appreciate having events organized for them.

“People are looking for something to tap into and they rely on our office to get it,” she said. “We’ve tried very hard to keep the time frame consistent so it’s not an all-day event. It’s usually about three hours from the time you leave your house and volunteer and get back to your house.”

In honor of PCC’s 50th anniversary year, the college pledged to contribute 50,000 hours of service to the community. Achieving this goal requires PCC to double or triple the number of projects and hours it usually organizes in one year.

Tillery believes the college will make the goal but she’s certain it will take the work of many to make it happen.

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, Portland is ranked as number two for large cities with regards to the volunteer rate.

“The Race To 50,000 Hours

As the clock ticks, PCC is over halfway to its community service goal

By Christina Holmes and James Hill

PCC’s Service Learning Program Coordinator.

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“We’re lucky to be in Portland which is ranked as one of the top engaged cities for volunteering. It hasn’t been a struggle to get people out,” said Tillery. “We’re hopeful we can make the goal but we need everyone’s help and commitment to do one small thing in the next two terms.”

JOIN PCC’S 50,000-HOUR CHALLENGE

Help PCC reach its goal and give back to your community at a PCC Day of Service! Service activities are organized each month so there’s always an opportunity to get involved. Here is the Day of Service lineup for the remainder of the school year:

Friday, March 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Card making at Rock Creek, Cascade and Sylvania Campuses for sick youth.

Saturday, April 21
PCC will join Hands On Greater Portland for the Comcast Cares Day of Service at several locations in the Portland area.

Saturday, May 12
eCycle Drive at Sylvania Campus. Assist in the secure and environmentally sound way of recycling of old electronics.

Saturday, June 2
Volunteers return to the Oregon Food Bank to package and sort food for emergency food boxes.

For more information about these events and to track the college’s progress toward its 50,000-hour goal, visit opportunity.pcc.edu/volunteer
PCC has teamed up with a celebrated local theatre director to produce "Project 50: From the Ground Up," an interactive play to honor the college’s 50th anniversary. Jonathan Walters of Hand2Mouth Theatre and theatre students have spent months researching, writing and rehearsing the play in preparation of opening night on March 2. Students conducted interviews with students, faculty and alumni to better understand PCC’s history and humble beginnings as well as what the college means to a diverse group of people.

“I’ve learned so much about PCC and there are amazing, inspirational stories,” said Elaine Marie Ballar, a lead actor. “After hearing these stories you see how different we are but also how everyone is connected.”

Walters said the performance will feel like a play but when the audience sits down they will be part of the activities.

“We didn’t go in and say, ‘It’s PCC at 50 so here’s the story we want to tell.’ First we said,

“We let the material and the real life of the campus and the interviews tell us what the play was going to be.”

—Jonathan Walters
PCC alumnus and director of Project 50
‘Let’s try to cast as wide a net as possible.’ We had some themes of what we thought might be interesting. We let the material and the real life of the campus tell us what the play was going to be,” Walters said.

The play starts with a monologue by a student portraying Dr. Amo DeBernardis, the college’s founder and first president, and then mixes in historical events and student stories. Ballar describes the play as a comedy, drama and inspirational story.

Students began writing the script in January and spent weeks tweaking dialogue. Those who handled research and interviews may not necessarily take center stage but their contributions are significant. The set design itself is interesting because a campus will be “built” during the play.

“The fact that what we didn’t know what the story would be about intrigued me. It’s a little scary and daunting but it’s also really exciting,” said Ballar, who is back in school finishing prerequisites as she prepares for a medical program.

Ballar spends about 20 hours a week on the play and she’s bonded with classmates she wouldn’t otherwise have met. The creative energy is dynamic, she adds.

And while she’s previously danced and performed tae kwon do demonstrations, this is her first foray into acting.

Portland-based Hand2Mouth Theatre was founded in 2000 and Walters serves as artistic director. He co-creates and directs the bulk of shows, and works closely with guest writers and the ensemble to develop original theater work. Hand2Mouth has received multiple Portland “Drammy” Awards, including two for Outstanding Ensemble Performance, and it has toured the U.S., Latin America and Europe.

“The fact that we’re doing a play about the college, to bring back an alum to produce the play couldn’t have been better,” said Patrick Tangredi, Theatre Arts Program Director. “More so, he developed a kind of cutting-edge theater format that he has done in town and internationally, something that is valuable to us, the students and the entire community. He is part of PCC and we wanted to use this resource.”

Walters graduated from PCC in the mid ‘90s. “I figured I’d be a playwright or a poet and in my two years at PCC I really figured out what I wanted to do; really got my head together and went forward,” he said.

He’s happy to be back at PCC, creating a play about the place that helped launch his career.

“We will give you this head-spinning and dizzying amount of information of all the lives that came through here and all the history that went on and tie it all together to a much deeper question being asked,” he said. “It’s a very humanistic story.”

“Project 50” will be shown March 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 and 11. Visit www.pcc.edu/about/theatre or call 971-722-4949 for performance times.
The amount of money may not seem like a lot, but for Isaac Sunday’s village back home in Cameroon, it meant the world.

Sunday, 26, procured a $3,450 grant from the Ndong Awing Cultural and Development Association through his summer grant-writing class at the Rock Creek Campus. The grant will fund 50 benches, six-month salaries for four teachers, and a table for a school back home in his village of Awing in the Northwest region of Cameroon. The Hillsboro resident submitted the proposal in early August and finished the donation of furniture and money transfer by mid-September.

The microelectronics technology student worked long distance to hire carpenters in Awing and surrounding villages to make the furniture, and coordinate the donation with school and village officials. He traveled back to Cameroon in late August to oversee the final stages of the project and returned just before the start of fall term.

“I know that some of the basic necessities a new school always needs are school benches,” Sunday said. “In many occasions students don’t have benches to sit on when a new school is started. I come from a rural community where education is far behind, so I was thinking I wanted to see what part I can play to help these people who need education.”

The idea came about in Craig Buchner’s Technical Writing course last summer, which prompted students to write a grant proposal for an assignment. For Sunday, the class was simply a requirement for his microelectronics degree, but he made the class experience count.

“When Isaac decided to submit his grant to help build a school in his hometown, I was thrilled,” said Buchner, who teaches grant, fiction and technical/professional writing. He added, “I assigned this project halfway through the summer term and before the session was over, Isaac had heard back from the grant committee. It was great for our class to see the results. I think his success inspired everyone, myself included.”

Sunday came to the United States back in 2009, achieving a longstanding dream of immigrating to a developed nation so he could gain skills to help his community back home.

He earned a civil engineering degree in Cameroon, but had to start over when he got to Oregon on an Immigrant Visa. At PCC’s Rock Creek Campus, advisers steered him toward the Microelectronics Technology Program. It was a good match with the job he found as a diagnostic imaging file clerk at Tuality Healthcare in Hillsboro.

“I never knew anything about PCC, but I was really devoted to education,” Sunday said. “PCC is a very, very good place for me. It is very flexible. Classes are offered around the clock. The campus is so open and I meet good people.”
If not for a job rejection from a local high school back in the late 1960s, Linda Huddle may never have spent decades advocating for troubled youths facing some of life’s toughest challenges.

Sure, she may have worked in education, but she certainly wouldn’t have helped launch a nationally known program for at-risk youth and won millions of dollars in grants.

“The key to get young people out of poverty is education and teaching them how to think critically, write, use a computer and use language correctly,” said Huddle, who retired from PCC in 2010, topping off a 40-year career in a profession she loved. “By doing that we’re investing in their future and our future.”

Her accomplishments are feted not only by PCC colleagues but throughout Portland as she was honored in November 2011 by Portland Monthly as a “Light A Fire” recipient, one of only 14 local nonprofit leaders the magazine spotlighted last year. She was secretly nominated by a former colleague for the Lifetime Achievement award. When the magazine called to tell her the news, Huddle thought it was a joke.

A Milwaukie native who grew up on a dairy farm in Oregon City, she graduated from University of Oregon with a Spanish degree. She taught Spanish in West Linn and later in Hawaii before departing for Spain to travel for six months. She then applied for a teaching job at Jefferson High School, which she didn’t get, so she signed on with Providence Hospital as a human resources secretary. Huddle later became involved in the welfare to work movement.

She spent nine years with the Private Industry Council, focusing on youth employment and reaching out to struggling students. She often directed youths to PCC.

“There are a lot of programs out there that give a quick fix. But employment training programs are long term and they are focused on outcomes,” she said.

After PIC closed in 1997 she worked with the Open Meadow school in North Portland.

In 1999, she became the manager of student retention at PCC’s Gateway to College Program, aimed at high school students in need of alternative instruction. Huddle went on to become director of PCC Prep Alternative Programs which included Gateway; Multicultural Academic Program (MAP) for students with limited English skills; Youth Empowered to Succeed (YES) for students who drop out of high school and later want to earn a GED. Toward the end of her tenure, PCC Prep expanded to include Project DEgree, which places students in cohorts for prerequisite courses, and Future Connect, and education initiative developed by the City of Portland and PCC.

She worked closely with Nan Poppe, a Gateway to College leader and former president of PCC’s Extended Learning Campus, to apply for a grant with the Gates Foundation to replicate the successful Gateway to College program across the nation. The foundation put an initial $4.8 million toward the project.

Her focus has always been on teens, especially those who face challenges due to family or community hardships. Before she left PCC, she was involved with Future Connect, the college’s recent major initiative to get more promising, first-generation college students into school and keep them enrolled by providing financial support and ongoing academic counseling.

“What I learned from Linda is that even though we all have our own personal and professional challenges in life, it’s important to not lose sight of why we do the work we do with community college students,” said Craig Kolins, interim president of the Extended Learning Campus.

In retirement Huddle keeps busy with exercise, travel, gardening and folk singing. And she’s still a visitor to the college as she often interviews potential Gateway students.

“I loved being at PCC because it gave me the shot in the arm that I needed,” she said.

For more information about PCC Prep Alternative Programs, visit www.pcc.edu/prep or call 971-722-6213.
Hal Medici bought 40 acres of land on a secluded hillside in the Willamette Valley to raise his four kids and try his hand at farming or raising cattle.

As the math instructor sat in his office at PCC one day back in 1973, his colleague Dick Ponzi, who taught mechanical engineering, told him he should plant vines and build a winery. Ponzi, who already owned a winery and today has several other family wine businesses, thought Medici’s spot had the perfect elevation and sun exposure for a successful vineyard.

Medici bounced the idea off his wife, Dotty, and her response was along the lines of: “Sure, it will make the place look pretty.”

“There really was no investigation. We were amateurs with borderline naiveté,” Medici said.

A few years later, close to three dozen math and engineering students were out in force for three weekends planting six acres of vines — about 6,000 plants in all — at what is now Medici Vineyards. When asked what the students earned for their work, Medici laughed and said, “Mostly As and Bs.” Then he quickly added that each was paid an hourly minimum wage and fed meals.

Medici’s roots run deep as his vineyard is one of the oldest in the area. He now spends his retirement days on the Chehalem Range where his property is filled with grapes, lavender and other wild flowers. His dogs Sammy and Sadie are never far from his side. He makes daily trips to The Dark Horse, his wine store in downtown Newberg, where he often greets visitors.

He pretends his knowledge of winemaking amounts to only a handful of grapes, but his contemporaries disagree. They say he knows how to make excellent wine, and also lends a hand to many startup wineries by allowing them to use his facilities to produce their early harvests. Currently, Sineann and Ferraro produce their wines at Medici.

Last fall, a new batch of PCC students met Medici and toured his winery as part of Community Education’s Connoisseur of Oregon Wines Series.

In the class, students meet at various wineries across the fertile Willamette Valley (and even into Salem) to learn everything from picking grapes to fermentation to bottling wine. This behind-the-scenes experience gives students the chance to sip wines and talk with winemakers.
“We’ve taken these classes for 10 years and I don’t think we’ve ever talked about the same thing twice,” said Rose Yandell who, along with her husband John, is a faithful devotee. “We kid that we’re never going to graduate. I guess we’re not smart enough.”

The Northeast Portland couple enrolled in the non-credit courses after spending weekends tasting wine at local wineries but walking away with questions about the entire process. Now they spend many Saturday mornings learning about viticulture with classmates who have become close friends. The couple even schedules vacations around the wine classes.

“My knowledge is very deep about Oregon pinots, but don’t ask me about French Bordeaux,” she said smiling. “I love Oregon pinot because no one makes it the same way but no winemaker criticizes another winemaker for the way he or she makes it.”

The popular wine appreciation series draws students from all backgrounds and experience levels. Novice wine tasters mix with oenologists. The fall term touched on such topics as the history of Oregon wines, building your wine palate, and growing a brand from scratch.

“We’ve had countless students come to this class knowing basically nothing about wine. But they will learn plenty if they continue to attend because there is new information every week,” said instructor Diane Johnson. Johnson was a perpetual pupil before she was approached to coordinate the series.

“It’s incredibly fun mining my contacts to come up with the very best classes and speakers out there. I’ve met some incredible folks in the wine industry and have such an appreciation for the work and talent involved in their businesses,” she said. “Most of all, there’s always a lot to learn, and it’s fun to find those opportunities for the whole group.”

Robert Dupuy joined the class when his family hosted a 16-year-old French exchange student who apparently knew more about wine than him.

“That was not cool,” Dupuy chuckles. “I wanted to learn more about Oregon wines. I like wine a lot and my view is that making good wine is very complex. I’m not an expert but I’m very interested.”

Dupuy encourages anyone to take part in the series as winemakers are patient when newcomers ask basic questions.

When Hal Medici met with the PCC class, he talked about the early days and his motivation for buying land.

“This really was never intended for a commercial venture. It was a lifestyle I wanted for my kids,” said Medici, who grew up drinking wine made by his Tuscan-born father. “You should do something because you love it rather than just to profit from it.”

He also recalled his 30-year career at PCC, starting at the Failing School in 1966 and later moving on to the Sylvania and Rock Creek Campuses. While he officially retired in 1992, he drove 27 miles each way to teach one class at Rock Creek for another five years.

“There was never a time when I didn’t want to go to class,” said Medici. “PCC is such a fantastic institution and a tremendous contribution to the community.”
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