CATCHING UP WITH JEREMY BROWN
New college president talks physics, higher education challenges and bold plans for PCC’s future
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THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS
Middle College program brings Jefferson High students to Cascade Campus
Page 4

Enroll now!
Classes starting January – April
PCC welcomed a new president in July, a leader whose first item of business is to build a bold plan for Oregon’s largest higher education institution during a time of aggressive education reform across the nation. Read more about the opportunities Dr. Jeremy Brown sees for PCC beginning on Page 65. Also, see how business, civic, education, elected and community leaders and students welcomed Dr. Brown to Oregon while the college showcased its many different academic programs. Photos from Dr. Brown’s Investiture Ceremony begin on Page 69.
“PCC provides a world-class education by training and educating our local work force. With its focus on sustainability, PCC helps Oregon prosper and demonstrate leadership for community colleges across the country.”

Congressman Earl Blumenauer
U.S. House of Representatives, Third District
Former PCC Board Member

Photos by: Erin Berzel, Vern Uyetake, Russell Banks, James Hill
Channelle Crittenden is a young woman on the move. A junior at Jefferson High School, she is suffused with excitement and optimism for a lifetime of opportunities ahead. And, thanks to the Middle College program at Portland Community College’s Cascade Campus, she is already a full-fledged college student.

“I’m so happy to have this opportunity,” she said. “I didn’t know if I would get the chance to go to college. When I saw my schedule, I cried.”

The Middle College is a unique partnership between PCC, Portland Public Schools, and Self-Enhancement Inc., a North Portland-based community education nonprofit. The program enables Jefferson students to enroll in classes at Cascade and earn transferable college credit while they’re still in high school. The program covers the costs of students’ tuition, books, and fees at PCC. Thanks to scholarships from a number of area colleges and universities qualified students can earn a bachelor’s degree for free.

Crittenden and her compatriots in the Class of 2015 — this year’s juniors — represent the first wave of Middle College upperclassmen since the program was expanded to encompass all of Jefferson in 2011. They are a bellwether for the program in this regard since Middle College students are beginning to attend classes at Cascade in significantly larger numbers than in years past.

The Middle College’s origins are humble, dating back to a grant-funded program that got its start in 2005.

Originally the program operated on an opt-in basis, enabling a small group of Jefferson students to pursue an early
The University of Oregon OFFERS FULL SCHOLARSHIPS to every Middle College graduate who qualifies for a federal Pell Grant and who meets admissions criteria. OSU and PSU have similar scholarships for Middle College students.

Since 2007, the Middle College has posted an astounding 93 PERCENT GRADUATION RATE. Students in the program have continued their college educations after high school graduation at a rate of 89 percent — a figure that places JEFFERSON AMONG THE ELITE in terms of Oregon high schools.

Each Middle College student can expect to graduate from high school having earned between 12 and 45 transferable college credits. More ambitious students can EARN AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE BY THE TIME THEY GRADUATE.

Learn more about Middle College through upcoming Information Nights in January. Stay updated about Middle College news at www.pcc.edu/middlecollege or email MIDDLECOLLEGE@PCC.EDU

ENTS FEEL RIGHT AT HOME AT CASCADE CAMPUS

By Abraham Proctor

college education based on their own interests. The students were proving equal to the challenge of college-level coursework, so much so that PPS decided to continue funding the program when its grant funds were exhausted.

Both PCC and PPS realized they were on to something good. A coordinator and support specialist were hired in 2007 to staff a new Middle College office at Cascade. Damon Hickok, the coordinator, became a fixture across the street at Jefferson, where he would grab students in the hallway and talk them into registering for classes at Cascade.

“My recruiting tactics were a little bit hands-on,” Hickok recalled, laughing. “It’s what we needed to do, though. So many of our kids never saw themselves in college, and it took someone like me saying ‘Hey — you should take a class at PCC,’ for them to realize it was an option.”

The Jefferson students showed they could handle their college classes — but now, things were different. Where students had previously been left largely to their own devices, with minimal supervision, they now benefited from individual case management and support from Cascade’s extensive network of student support services.

Despite the success of this small, opt-in program, enrollment continued to decline at Jefferson and the PPS Board considered closing it. PPS took a chance: it built on the success of the program and expanded the Middle College to encompass the entire school. Starting with the freshmen class of 2011, every student at Jefferson is now part of the Middle College program.

When the decision was made to expand the Middle College, a public outreach campaign was mounted. Organizers also brought Self-Enhancement Inc. (SEI) — a trusted name in the neighborhood with its own strong track record of success — into the partnership, a move that really helped galvanize community support for the program’s expansion, said Gabe Hunter-Bernstein, Cascade Campus’ director of educational programs.

“The first year [at the information nights], people were asking, ‘Is this real? Will the district follow through? Can my kid really take PCC classes for free? How is this going to save Jefferson?’ ” he recalled. “Now, at the most recent information night (in 2013), they were asking, ‘Will these classes transfer to Harvard?’ ”

Hickok and his staff help students navigate the PCC registration processes, which can sometimes be intimidating and opaque to young people, particularly to first-generation college students.

One of the concerns expressed by the community, particularly as word of the Middle College’s success spread, was that students from outside the area would transfer to Jefferson to take advantage of the program’s tremendous opportunities. It was decided that the program would exist to serve the neighborhood’s students first, but if there was space remaining, students from other parts of the city could transfer in.

One such student is Yelena Bogza, who commutes 90 minutes by bus from her home in Southeast Portland every day to be part of the Middle College at Jefferson. A self-styled “junior/senior” — she started taking PCC classes as a freshman, and is on track to graduate early — Bogza has found the program to be a great fit for her talents and ambition.

“I really wanted to go to Cleveland [High School] with all my friends,” she said, “but when some counselors came to my middle school to talk about the Middle College, I knew I couldn’t pass it up. At first it was strange being in class where almost everyone was older than me, but people were really supportive and impressed when they found out how young I was. Most of them said they wished that they would have had a similar opportunity at my age.”

Bogza, Crittenden and their classmates, who are now juniors, spent the past two years at Jefferson absorbing an intensive college-readiness curriculum (particularly in reading, writing, and math) in preparation for a heavier course load at PCC.

Thanks to the alignment of curriculum between the two institutions, many students can take some PCC prerequisites — Reading 115, for example — at Jefferson. And, like every incoming PCC student, they take the College’s COMPASS placement test to determine which courses are appropriate for them.

“By how’s it working? Pretty well, said Noreen Brown, an instructor in PCC’s Computer Applications and Office Systems department.

“My Middle College students are motivated and smart,” she said. “They’re usually my best students in class. I adore them; I think they’re so brave.”

For students like Crittenden Middle College is entirely doable — and so is her future. She plans to attend Georgetown University after she graduates, where she wants to study political science and international relations. Law school is on the horizon.

“I’ve dreamed of college for so long,” she said. “I’m so grateful that this opportunity is here. I’m going to be the first person in my family to graduate from college.

“But I won’t be the last.”
An uptick in the residential housing market has students looking at the building industry as a place to land as the economy recovers.

PCC’s Building Technology Program, which includes degrees in building construction technology, construction management and design/build remodeling, is seeing a bumper crop of students hungry to learn tools of the trade.

“Portland will grow for at least the next 20 years,” said program chair Shannon Baird, who teaches construction management classes. “This is a good program for students who want to learn by doing and who are satisfied by making. As an institution it feels great to teach students how to develop these skills, how to earn a job and a paycheck and how to be a success.”

Most students are interested in residential construction and after going through two years of rigorous classes in the 7,000-square-foot shop at Rock Creek, many graduates are finding jobs.

“I like the fact that students come here to improve their skill set and to add tools to their toolbox,” said Baird, who spent the first part of his construction and architecture career working in London, Hong Kong and New York on high-end residential projects and large commercial projects such as a six-story department store.

PCC’s program is the only nonprofit construction school in the region, attracting students who range from high school grads to retirees. There are four full-time instructors and about a dozen adjunct instructors. Leaders from the local construction industry serve on an advisory board and help keep teaching practices current.

Students receive individualized career counseling and of the nearly 150 students in the program at any one time, about 15 to 25 percent are women.

Judy Orrell enrolled in classes in 2011 to educate herself about construction so she could eventually oversee the dream house she and her husband hoped to build. The house has not yet broken ground but Orrell has a new career in residential construction.

“The law class was great and so are the design classes,” said the Orrell, who spent years in a longshoremen management job before coming back to school.

Next up she will serve as an intern in a construction-related job with the City of Tualatin, part of cooperative education, a program that allows students to receive credit for on-the-job experience.

Another draw to PCC is the popular construction management degree, ideal for professionals looking for jobs in project management, estimating and scheduling. Graduates move on to work for larger general contractors or use their skills for their own businesses. All classes are offered in the evenings to accommodate work schedules.

More recently the department amended course offerings and added a design/build remodeling option which focuses on designing, managing and constructing kitchen and bathroom renovations. The program has strong affiliations with local contractors and national associations including the Associated General Contractors and the National Kitchen and Bath Association.

Troy McCartney headed back to school in 2009 when the economy dried up and construction work was scarce for the general contractor. He wanted to add skills so that he could do more work himself rather than hire subcontractors. He also hoped to find more networking opportunities.

“But it’s been so much more than that as it’s opened my eyes to new ways of doing things. The amount of knowledge these instructors have is phenomenal,” said McCartney.

The broad range of industry experience from instructors and their ability to connect with students is what makes the program stand apart from competitors.
The PCC Foundation Golf Invitational hit a major milestone this year in dollars and duration.

The ever-popular event that gathers golf enthusiasts to Heron Lakes Golf Course each September celebrated its 10th year. And during that time nearly $1.1 million has been raised for student scholarships in Building Construction Technology.

Peter Marta, who hopes to graduate next spring with a degree in Building Construction Technology, recently received a scholarship which has provided some support as he pursues work as a general contractor.

“I’ve always had an interest in construction but no experience and now I’m learning all I can,” said Marta, adding that cabinetmaking is among his favorite classes.

Back in 2004 leaders from local construction businesses, Howard S. Wright, Walsh Construction, Skanska and Emerick Construction, banded together to organize and sponsor the first-ever golf invitational. The goal was to provide financial assistance to students enrolled in PCC’s construction program. Over time the fundraiser has gained momentum, attracting more businesses and individuals who spend a day on the course and in turn provide opportunity for a student in need.

“We believe in PCC and how the college engages the community and prepares students for the workforce. Howard S. Wright’s commitment to PCC and students in the Building Construction Technology runs deep and long as we see the benefits of supporting men and women who will pursue careers in construction and who will someday work at job sites,” said Jeff Ganz, project executive at Howard S. Wright.

“Construction is a critical part of our economy and we’re doing our part to ensure that students in need of scholarships and financial assistance attend college. We know a college education will help graduates find family-wage careers.”

The Invitational celebrates the work of businesses and PCC as they transform campuses and facilities into modern institutions of community learning and engagement in order to meet the needs of an ever-changing economy and student populations in the 21st century.

This cornerstone PCC event not only raises critical funding for the Foundation and student scholarships but it also builds and strengthens the deep history and relationships PCC shares with construction partners in the Bond Program.

In addition to support from the founding companies, major sponsors for this year’s 10th anniversary event included: Fortis Construction; Nathan D. Young Construction; Integra Telecom; MODA Health; Hoffman Construction Company; Hydro-Temp Mechanical; Quality Plus Services and others.

The golf invitational serves as the Foundation’s longest running special event and even jumpstarted other events, such as the successful and popular Annual Gala held in the spring.
Maggie Bowman's second career act was years in the making but it took a gentle nudge from a Community Ed instructor to finally convince her.

A longtime and much-loved schoolteacher for 32 years in and around McMinnville, Carlton and Yamhill, Bowman was never short on ideas of how to incorporate art across all subjects. Art is part of her DNA as she remembers growing up on a big chunk of land in Southern Oregon and using sticks, rocks and leaves to produce interesting designs and pieces. Her mom was an artist and her dad a woodcutter.

After studying at Lewis and Clark, she headed into teaching first- through eighth-grade students. Along the way she dabbled in art classes as a way to satisfy her more creative side.

About 17 years ago Bowman and her husband began taking annual trips to New Mexico where they buy silver jewelry from Native Americans and sell the pieces at local craft fairs. Tumbleweed Trading Company was born and it's been a rewarding part-time business for the couple.

When customers needed jewelry repairs Bowman would turn to Cindy Proctor, a well-known metal smith who owns Newberg Jewelry Studio and Supply. After the umpteenth request to fix a piece, Proctor told Bowman, half joking: “You know, if you took my PCC Community Ed class on metalworking you could do these repairs yourself.”

That was back in 2006 and that's when the fun really started. Bowman took the class several times, followed by more classes and before she knew it she was buying silver by the ounce along with tools that allowed her to melt, solder, cut, fabricate and bend metal. Her garage now serves as a working studio and home base for her jewelry making business and she says she's never been happier.

“Of course, I have a whole new appreciation for jewelry and the pieces I’ve been buying for years,” she said.

Proctor, who's been teaching for Community Ed for 11 years, has seen an uptick in her classes since the Great Recession began in 2008.

"People realize they need a skill as a backup plan to their regular job and they want to learn a craft they're good at or have an interest in," she said. "A lot of students come to the first class with a deer-in-the-headlights look but I tell them that jewelry-making is like cooking. You need to follow the recipe or in this case a step by step process. You must pay attention to the technique. And if you do exactly that you will be fine. I also tell them that they must have patience.”

To learn more about jewelry making classes and other Community Ed classes, turn to page 17 or visit www.pcc.edu/communityed and select “Arts.”
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 Body Painting
Auto Collision Repair Technology
Automotive Service Technology
Aviation Maintenance Technology
Aviation Science Technology
Biology and Management of Zoo Animals*
Bioscience Technology*
Building Construction Technology
Business Administration
Accounting
Management
Marketing
Retail Management
Civil Engineering Technology*
Computer Aided Design and Drafting
Computer Applications and Office Systems
Computer Information Systems
Criminal Justice
Culinary Assistant
Dealer Service Technology*
Dental Assisting*
Dental Hygiene*
Dental Laboratory Technology*
Diesel Service Technology
Dietary Manager
Early Education and Family Studies
Electronic Engineering Technology*
Emergency Management*
Emergency Medical Services*
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
Library Media
Machine Manufacturing Technology
Management and Supervisory Development
Mechanical Engineering Technology*
Medical Assisting*
Medical Imaging*
Radiography
MRI Technologist
Computed Tomography/CT Registry Prep
Medical Laboratory Technology*
Microelectronic Technology*
Multimedia
Nursing*
Occupational Skills Training
Ophthalmic Medical Technology*
Paraeducator
Paralegal*
Professional Music
Real Estate
Sign Language Interpretation*
Veterinary Technology*
Welding Technology

*Program has special enrollment requirements.

New Leaders Coming to Rock Creek, Cascade Campuses

Portland Community College is expected to welcome two new presidents during 2014 to lead the Rock Creek and Cascade Campuses.

The search for Rock Creek’s new leader will begin in January and a new president could be named in the spring. Birgitte Ryslinge, dean of instruction for Rock Creek since 2008, is the Interim President at the campus, a role she took on in January after David Rule left to become President of Bellevue Community College.

Ryslinge, who has helped lead Rock Creek’s bond planning, has reorganized the instructional divisions at the campus to align with regional industry needs and better serve the campus’ growing student population. Prior to coming to the college, she was dean of Academic Services, Vocational Education and Economic Development for Las Positas College in California. She earned her doctorate in Organizational Psychology from Alliant International University.

Craig Kolins, who has been with PCC since 2002, was appointed Interim President at Cascade Campus when Algie Gatewood left in September to take the top job at Alamance Community College in North Carolina.

Kolins holds a doctorate in Higher Education Administration from the University of Toledo and has served extended periods as interim president of the Southeast/Extended Learning Campus and Rock Creek Campus. He is currently Dean of Instruction for the Southeast/Extended Learning Campus where he has been a leader in planning for the future comprehensive campus at Southeast.

The college has hired a consulting firm to assist in a national search for the permanent Cascade Campus president with a goal of selecting a successor by June 30, 2014.

Calendar of Events

January

Winter term classes begin on Monday, Jan. 6, 2014. For registration information, call 971-722-8888 (select option 2) or visit www.pcc.edu/registration.

WACIPI 15th Annual Traditional Powwow is Saturday, Jan. 18, 2014 from noon to 9 p.m. at the Sylvania Campus. For more information, call the Sylvania Multicultural Center at 971-722-4116.

College closed on Monday, Jan. 20, 2014 for Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.
If Fred Charlton didn’t end up fighting fires and responding to emergency calls he just might have been growing crops.

When the choice of careers came to a head he was split between fire science and agriculture. Growing up with a dad who was a longtime community firefighter in Western Washington County, and whom he saw run training exercises and wash rigs, proved to be a strong influence.

After that decision the next one — where to go to college — was easy. He enrolled in PCC in 1989 after graduating from Lincoln High School. After leaving PCC in 1992 with an associate degree, he took a few years off and then studied at Eastern Oregon University in the Fire Service Administration Program. He later earned a master’s degree in public administration from Portland State University.

During the last two decades he’s climbed ladders, both literally and figuratively. He worked his way up from a firefighter in Milwaukie to fire chief for Clackamas Fire District #1. At the helm for just over a year, Charlton helps protect 180,000 residents living in 170 square miles of Clackamas County. There are 17 fire stations, 200 full-time employees and about 100 community volunteers.

“The job of fire chief is very challenging and rewarding at the same time. I miss riding on fire engines and I view my role as supporting our firefighters and making sure we have the tools, training and funding to protect Clackamas County,” said Charlton, who lives in Happy Valley with his wife and two children.

Q. Why did you attend PCC?
A. PCC had a very strong fire science program and I wanted to attend a college in the community where I grew up.

Q. Did you remember any instructors?
A. One of the lead fire science instructors was Dick Spring. He worked for the Portland Fire Bureau and had a wealth of experience and stories for all of the relatively young students.

Q. Was there a place on campus that you hung out with friends?
A. We would gather in the commons area and share experiences of testing for entry-level firefighter positions.

Q. You’ve been successful between your time with the City of Milwaukie and Clackamas. What’s been your greatest accomplishment?
A. Getting hired in 1994 as a career firefighter with the City of Milwaukie was a life-changing event. I’d been testing for several years across Oregon and Washington in a very competitive job market. At times, there were 700 to 800 applicants for an entry-level firefighter exam and that was to just establish a hiring list. After being hired with the City of Milwaukie I knew the fire service was the profession I would call a career.

Q. What advice do you give college students today?
A. There are so many incredible career choices and volunteer opportunities to explore. Invest the time in higher education and look for opportunities to make our communities stronger. Education is your foundation; build upon it and make a positive impact in everything you do.

I’d also tell them to go to PCC because it provides a wide range of degree-focused courses and prerequisites for other universities.
NEW PRESIDENT VISIONS
A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR PCC
ROLLING STONES GATHER NO MOSS

It’s a familiar saying and one that depicts the pace Jeremy Brown, PCC’s new president, has kept since his arrival to the college on July 1.

The first part also touts his favorite band.

Brown is an active listener, someone who likes to take input, study, and “do his homework” before making decisions. He hit the ground running over the summer, meeting with college leadership as well as external community leaders as he transitioned into PCC’s presidency. Throughout, he’s relished the opportunity to soak up as much information as he can about PCC’s role in the landscape of higher education and the challenges and opportunities ahead for the institution.

After evaluating Oregon’s higher education playing field, Brown has identified a handful of key issues as the most pressing for PCC.

But he sees these challenges through the lens of opportunity; it’s a chance to open the college’s eyes to new possibilities.

Along this line of thought, Brown — with support from PCC’s Board of Directors — has initiated the development of a five-year strategic plan for the college. A steering committee is in place and members will assess the college’s mission, value and goals. Sub-committees will tackle targeted objectives throughout the year, and by June 2014 PCC will have a strategic plan ready for implementation in Fall 2014.

This plan will no doubt incorporate ways PCC is meeting student completion goals so it delivers on Oregon’s 40-40-20 objective by the year 2025: that 40 percent of adult Oregonians will hold bachelor’s or advanced degrees, 40 percent will have associate degrees or postsecondary certificates, and all adult Oregonians will have obtained their high school diplomas or equivalent.

The strategic plan will outline goals that enable PCC to best position itself as an essential partner in regional economic development and a leading provider of workforce training. The development of new funding sources also will be addressed.

By Kate Chester

PRESIDENT ENVISIONS A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR PCC

Dr. Brown has identified four issues as the most pressing:

◆ Maintaining access while increasing and redefining success and completion.
◆ Enhancing PCC’s reputation for educational, business and community partnerships.
◆ Leading the state’s largest educational institution through Oregon’s aggressive educational reform process.
◆ Increasing resources available to fulfill the college’s mission, including both public resources and private philanthropy.
UNIQUE LEADER FOR UNIQUE TIMES

A native of Manchester, England, Brown spent the bulk of the past 13 years on the East Coast, serving as president of Dowling College on Long Island and before that at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, part of the state’s public university system. He’s also held top leadership roles with the State University of New York in Canton and at Florida State University in Panama, where he learned to speak fluent Spanish.

An academic by training, Brown earned a doctorate in physics from the University of Birmingham, England. After two years of conducting physics research at Indiana University, he joined Princeton as faculty in its physics department. The transition into academic administration came when Brown was offered the position of associate dean of the graduate school at Yale, followed by a return to Princeton as the associate dean of faculty. This mix of administration and teaching is the perfect combination to understand the makings of PCC, the many constituents it serves, and the opportunities that await. We asked Brown to share his thoughts on his PCC experience so far.

BROWN’S VISION IS THAT PCC WILL BECOME A PREMIER 21ST CENTURY COLLEGE

Q. YOU’VE BEEN HERE A LITTLE OVER FOUR MONTHS. WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE YOU ARRIVED?

A. I’ve had many opportunities to meet with a lot of our internal constituents — faculty, staff and students — to get to know them, their campuses and facilities, and their programs, and for them to get to know me. I’ve found it to be a “listening tour” of sorts; at the same time it has helped to promote transparency and encourage open lines of communication. I’ve also spent a great deal of time out in the community, having initial meetings with local leaders, community leaders, elected officials. Again, these have served as valuable “getting to know you” venues that have already proved to be very helpful for me.

Q. WHAT’S THE IMPRESSION OF PCC IN THE COMMUNITY BASED ON WHAT YOU’VE HEARD AND LEARNED?

A. I’ve learned that our approval rating by the community at large is very high; survey data indicates that PCC is exceptionally good at what it does and has a very respected reputation. I knew of PCC’s reputation, but since moving here and becoming president, hearing it firsthand makes you proud, excited and committed to the college’s mission.

I see opportunities for us to build on our successes in the future. I’ve begun to engage with decision-makers in Salem regarding funding for community colleges overall and for PCC in particular. I want to establish a leading role for PCC in discussions related to higher education in the state. I plan to regularly interact with Oregon’s community college presidents, as I see opportunities for collaboration, to share best practices, and to share my experiences from having been in other systems on the East Coast.

And the people we’ve met here are great. They’ve been so warm and welcoming, to both my family and me. They want us to be successful.

Q. WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS OF THE COLLEGE?

A. Its people. They’re committed, dedicated, and regularly extend themselves to support and encourage our students. I’ve also seen a commitment and dedication outside their roles at PCC, in the community at large. It’s quite inspiring. Another strength is the breadth of programs that PCC offers, as well as its commitment to access, affordability and success.

Q. THE COLLEGE IS UNDERTAKING A STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS. CAN YOU SHARE MORE ABOUT WHAT THAT IS AND WHAT IT WILL LOOK LIKE?

A. The strategic plan will be a collective vision for PCC’s future: what we believe we should and can do to make this a premier community college for the 21st century. It will offer a bold vision for beyond the immediate horizon and then work backwards, so that we assess timelines and then navigate a path forward to accomplish what we’ve determined as our goals.

An endeavor supported by PCC’s Board of Directors, the plan will help us set priorities, align resources, and guide decision-making over the next five years as we seek to build on our many successes and strong sense of service to students. This will ensure
clarity of vision and demonstrate to external parties that we do have a plan — one for obstacles, changes in higher education, and our ambitions.

Q. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND WHAT DOES PCC NEED TO DO TO GET THERE?

A. People’s perceptions of what a community college is are often very different than what a community college really is. Many think we’re primarily a provider of vocational training. In fact, we have a diverse plethora of programs to serve many kinds of students who arrive at our doors — English for Speakers of Other Languages, Continuing Education, Workforce Development, developmental education, and lower division college transfer, among other programs.

We need to continue to deliver quality instruction. We need to take into account the diversity of students we serve, the variety of ages, their backgrounds, and their varying learning styles. We need to build or strengthen relationships with legislators, alumni, community leaders, businesses, the K–12 school systems and four-year institutions. And then there’s evaluation of old ways of doing things, old policies and support systems, while assessing best practices to achieve best outcomes — what are the shifts we need to make?

Q. DO YOU HAVE A PERSONAL GOAL SET FOR YOURSELF ON BEHALF OF THE COLLEGE?

A. In five years I want PCC to be a nationally recognized leader in many different areas.

Q. WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF PROFESSIONALLY?

A. Education has opened so many doors to me, throughout my career, that it’s challenging to whittle it down to just a few of which I’m most proud.

Continuing my own education and then teaching offered me the chance to share what I’d learned and to encourage students to pursue their dreams and goals. Conducting physics research to advance knowledge is something else I’m proud of, because it has broad benefits. And now, as an academic administrator, I have the opportunity to help change lives.

Q. WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO TAKE A POSITION ON THE WEST COAST?

A. Truthfully, I’d never been to Portland before the interview process began. But the idea of moving here was exciting. The position at PCC was a fantastic opportunity for me. Community colleges are where the action is today, in part because of their quality and affordability. PCC has a stellar reputation, and Portland is a wonderful community; my wife, Rebeca, our son, Andrew, and I have found it to be very warm and inviting. The city itself is beautiful and green, but not so big that it’s a huge city. It’s a wonderful place to raise my youngest.

Q. TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

A. My wife Rebeca is from Panama. I have three sons Lucas (age 17), Gabriel (age 12) and Andrew (age 5). Lucas and Gabriel live in Panama; they’ll visit at the beginning of the New Year, when they’re off from school.

Q. WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE?

A. I mostly like independent movies. And Rebeca and I have a Christmas Day tradition of watching “Love, Actually.”

Q. FAVORITE MUSICAL GROUP?


Q. TELL US ABOUT YOUR HOBBIES AND INTERESTS.

A. Sailing — I’ve got a certificate to charter boats. Skiing, squash, gardening, and cooking. And watching soccer — but that’s more of an interest than a hobby.

Q. IF YOU WEREN’T A COLLEGE PRESIDENT, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

A. I’d be playing for Manchester United Football Club.

Q. WHAT WERE YOUR BEST SUBJECTS IN SCHOOL?

A. French, English literature, and Latin. I decided to major in Physics because it was my most difficult subject; the more I learned and applied myself, the more I really appreciated the discipline.

Q. WHAT LANGUAGES DO YOU SPEAK?

A. In addition to English, I speak French, Spanish and a bit of German.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CUISINE?

A. Thai or Vietnamese.

BROWN AIMS TO EMBOLDEN PCC’S BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Hillsboro Hops General Manager K. L. Wombacher talks with Brown.
Dr. Jeremy Brown was formally introduced to Oregon in October at an Investiture Ceremony that celebrated the many ways PCC plays an important role in the state’s economic vitality, higher education programs and business partnerships. Emceed by KGW Anchor Laural Porter and attended by 400 people, local civic, business and college leaders spoke about PCC and its mission of educating students and preparing them for the workforce. Gov. John Kitzhaber welcomed Brown during this critical time in the state’s history as higher education institutions face major reforms.

Students from PCC’s Voices of Soul Choir sang and Jefferson High School dancers entertained the crowd, PCC composition and
literature instructor Dr. Michael McDowell wrote and delivered a poem in Brown’s honor and guests were reminded of the many academic disciplines offered each term at the campuses and centers.

“Today is not about me, but a celebration of a remarkable college,” said Brown, adding that community colleges are where the action is and the place to be if you want to impact higher education. Half of all undergraduates in the U.S. attend community colleges.

Under Brown’s leadership PCC begins an eighth-month analysis of the college’s mission, values and goals. A strategic plan is expected to be implemented by Fall 2014.
Make YOU the project!

If you can dream it, Community Ed’s hundreds of classes can help you achieve it. Go online to pcc.edu/communityed and get started on your own Project: YOU this winter.

Our Project:

Name: Cary Johnson
Occupation: Human Resource Specialist
My Project: Deepen my knowledge of beaded jewelry and move toward working with metals
Class I Took: Metalwork, Jewelry Making I & II
And Now: With inspiration from my instructor and peers, I’m ready to grab my tools and solder, cut and hammer creative and artistic pieces that I can share with friends and family.

PCC CommunityEd