“Portland Community College gives students the opportunity for quality and accessible education while helping train Oregonians for jobs that are in demand today. I love seeing PCC succeed and thrive because PCC is a key to the success of our region.”

U.S. Senator
Jeff Merkley
of Oregon
Back to Class

† Spring 2015 term begins March 30
Register now for classes you plan to take when the term starts on Monday, March 30. There are thousands of credit and non-credit classes available at dozens of sites across the Portland metro area. For information about registration, visit pcc.edu.

Upcoming Events

† An Evening for Opportunity, Lunar Landing: A Space Age Gala
April 10, 5:30 p.m., 1035 N.W. Overton St.
Join the PCC Foundation for our annual gala for scholarships and success programs – this year, in retro space age style! Inspired by the 1969 lunar landing, meet us at “mission control” on April 10 as we help PCC students shoot for the stars. Visit pcc.edu/gala for tickets.

† PCC Theater Presents ‘Hairspray,’ the Broadway musical, March 6–15
Tap your toes to the catchy songs of this beloved musical performed by PCC students, faculty, staff and community members. Tickets ($10) are available in advance at PCC’s Sylvania Bookstore, or by calling (971) 722–4323. Visit pcc.edu/about/theatre for location and show times.

† Semana de la Raza, April 20–24
Now in its ninth year, this week-long celebration honors Latino culture and community at the college’s Rock Creek Campus, 17705 N.W. Springville Road. Semana de la Raza features free public events such as lectures, music, awards and films.

† Commencement 2015
PCC’s graduation is at 7 p.m., Friday, June 12, at the Memorial Coliseum, 300 N. Winning Way. Come celebrate graduates as they are awarded degrees and certificates in front of thousands of friends, family and community members.

Shared on Social Media

† WooHoo! Back to school I go! All ready to sign up for classes at @PortlandCC in the Spring!
@Draygo81

† I Owe It All to Community College, via @nytimes agreed @tomhanks, @PortlandCC changed my life
@bodleianlitch

† @comm_college being at PCC was one of the best experiences in my life!
@bettyviolinist

† An amazing night at the NAYA GALA with Dr. Jeremy Brown, PCC President. #thinkPCCfirst
@HakimaHakima

Share your thoughts and photos with us on Twitter @PortlandCC.

GRAWR! FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @PCCPANTHER

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Contributors: James Hill, Rebecca Olson, Christina Holmes
Photographers: Vern Uyetake, Bethany Fegles, James Hill
Once a deli clerk, Fodé Sannoh gains the trades skills he needs to go after his dream job.

*Story by James Hill*
Many years ago, Fodé Sannoh escaped Liberia as a refugee after his father was killed in a civil war. He came to the U.S. for a better life, but could only find work as a convenience store employee or a deli clerk. After enduring an armed robbery and a mishap that burned his right hand at these jobs, Sannoh decided it was time to pursue a different path. He came to PCC originally hoping to become a skilled worker—a plumber, in fact.

The college doesn’t offer training for plumbers, but faculty immediately recognized Sannoh’s potential and redirected him to the Facilities Maintenance Technology (FMT) Program based at the Swan Island Trades Center. He’s now primed to earn his Trades & Industry Department. You can choose where you want to go.

“I came to PCC because it was very affordable for me,” Sannoh said. “I felt like that was the best choice I’ve made in my life. You can choose where you want to go because there are so many areas you can do. PCC finds a way for you to get into the workforce and change your life.”

Rick Willebrand oversees the Trades & Industry Department at Swan Island, which enrolls 700 students a year. He helped Sannoh find his calling in the trades and got him initially into the short term, 14-credit training program for installing HVAC equipment. Willebrand said the training classes got Sannoh hooked and he returned to pursue additional certificates, eventually enrolling in the two-year FMT program.

For his apprenticeship, PCC engaged with Vigor, Service Steel and Columbia Wire & Iron, have the potential to provide the skills needed by the local manufacturing industry. The training lab handles 60 student welders every term who can then be hired by local companies like Vigor.

“I talk to a lot of HVAC service company owners and facility managers, and they are always saying to send them people. They need help.”

That demand won’t slow any time soon. Willebrand said that two years ago the U.S. Department of Labor announced that 53 percent of all HVAC and facilities technicians in the country will retire within five years. This is part of the reason that PCC opened the new Swan Island Trades Center last September thanks to the 2008 voter-approved $374 million capital construction bond. The Trades & Industry Department is home to Facilities Maintenance/HVAC-Refrigeration, Fiber Optics, Pre-Apprenticeship and Electrical Trades programs, and the administration and related training for five Oregon apprenticeship programs, including millwrights.

“We have to establish a pipeline to ensure that when the jobs are there we have the people to fill those jobs with the skills that are needed,” said PCC President Jeremy Brown. “Our economic strength and vitality depends on an educated and developed pool of diverse and skilled workers who are connected to, and engaged with, our community. PCC is providing the skills and the job training for more than 20 different occupations in the trades. This is significant, this is exciting, and this is our future.”

“I felt like that was the best choice I’ve made in my life. You can choose where you want to go because there are so many areas you can do. PCC finds a way for you to get into the workforce and change your life.”

Want more stories about trading up? Watch student Rudy Martinez’ trades retraining story at youtube.com/pccvideos.
ONE SMART COOKIE

How PCC’s Small Business Development Center helped Joshua Fegles perfect his recipe for success

Story by James Hill
Joshua Fegles knew he had found what he was looking for when he spotted a flier advertising a class called “Getting Your Recipe to Market” at PCC’s Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

Fegles, 35, had just created a gluten- and dairy-free chocolate chip cookie recipe and he wanted to share it with the world. His plan was to serve the gluten- and dairy-free community by offering “cookies of uncompromising taste, texture and quality.” After contacting PCC’s SBDC Director Tammy Marquez-Oldham about his recipe and business plan, he joined the class in 2011.

“That class was exactly what I needed when I was starting out,” Fegles said. “I had no idea that I’d have to learn things like how to convert a recipe to a scalable formula or how to find contract manufacturers and distributors. In a few short months, I had been exposed to everything I needed to know to get started with my food business.”

The SBDC provided ongoing business advising that has given Fegles guidance and direction at every stage of his company’s development, including his business and growth strategy, among many other things. The center is one of 19 in the state of Oregon, offering advising and training for small business owners.

“Josh had something quite unique: the willingness to learn what he did not know, to commit to his plan, to engage in active inquiry, and to act with conviction on behalf of his business,” said Marquez-Oldham.

The idea for Jude’s Foods, Fegles’ now successful gluten- and dairy-free baking company, came about when his son Jude, 8, was diagnosed with autism and at the same time Fegles discovered he was gluten and dairy intolerant. By eating differently as a family, Jude and his father both saw improved health.

Fegles loved making homemade cookies, full of flour and butter, so he didn’t want his recipe to compromise on taste. Since he could no longer use wheat flour, he created a new recipe using oats and almonds. He and his wife Bethany worked with the Oregon Department of Agriculture to get their domestic kitchen certification, and Jude’s Foods took off.

“After only one month of sales, we realized we needed a much bigger space,” said the graduate of Portland’s Multnomah University. “Originally I was the sole baker. But as we grew, my wife started helping out and not long after that, the extended family started baking with us. It continued as a regular family affair all those years.”

Thanks to guidance from the SBDC, they rented a dedicated gluten-free commercial kitchen that offered everything they needed to meet the demand.

After three years of operation, they required even larger production capacity so they partnered with a local food producer. Fegles, who has no employees, uses local manufacturing, distribution, retail, graphic design and photography companies to make, package, and deliver the cookies. Jude’s Foods cookies are sold in all 15 locations of New Seasons Markets and in Nature’s Choice Lamb’s Market.

“Getting Your Recipe to Market’ and ongoing business advising have been critical pillars in the creation of my business,” Fegles said. “Without it, I most likely wouldn’t be in business. I probably wouldn’t have even known where to start.”

To learn more about PCC’s SBDC, visit pcc.edu/sbdc.

BIG RESOURCES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

PCC’s Small Business Development Center has opened a new location at the college’s Southeast Campus (2305 S.E. B2nd and Division). It’s the third SBDC office established by PCC (other locations include CLIMB Center near OMSI and at Willow Creek in Washington County). PCC’s SBDC supports small business owners and entrepreneurs with focused advising and training.

“The City of Portland has really focused its economic development efforts in Southeast and East Portland, and we can leverage that momentum from the small business perspective,” said Tammy Marquez-Oldham, director of the SBDC.

“We know that thriving small businesses raise the vitality of communities where they reside. And yet in this area of Portland, there is a large concentration of small business owners who may not realize that there are business development resources that can help them.”

As part of PCC’s Southeast Campus, the newest SBDC is located in the only census tract in Multnomah County where people of color are in the majority (53 percent) and has the greatest number of Asian residents, according to U.S. Census Bureau. Advisors are able to personally relate to a business owner’s experiences and challenges.

DID YOU KNOW?

PCC’s Small Business Development Centers serve five counties—Yamhill, Columbia, Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah.
Dan Gilsdorf opened his tattoo studio in North Portland 17 years ago at a time when there were only nine other shops in town. Fast-forward nearly two decades and the number of parlors now hovers closer to 150.

Staffing those shops are hundreds of tattoo artists licensed by the state of Oregon. New regulations passed in 2013 by the Oregon Board of Body Art Practitioners requires that tattoo artists complete 10 hours of Continuing Education each year in order to keep current on their licenses.

PCC’s Community Education Program has responded to the new requirements and now offers an array of classes for tattoo artists.

“People realize the value of furthering our knowledge as professional tattoo artists,” said Gilsdorf, who owns Atlas Studio and is a PCC instructor. “And Oregon is one of the most heavily regulated states when it comes to tattoo artists.”

Gilsdorf has taught PCC classes on the art and history of tattooing and the physics and metallurgy of tattoos since 2013. These classes are popular with both artists and community members.

New to PCC this year are law classes taught by an attorney covering intellectual property, focusing on legal principles related to copyright laws and art ownership. Another class addresses business concepts for tattooists. Students will explore important legal principles related to the business of tattooing, with special focus on general business contracts, employment contracts and liability issues.

The law and business classes are aimed at tattoo artists but all community members are welcome. Classes are held at the Cascade Campus (705 N. Killingsworth St.) and the CLIMB Center for Advancement on Southeast Water Street.

Gilsdorf draws in students as he’s well known and admired in the tattoo community. He specializes in bold work in the traditions of classic American and Japanese tattooing. He’s met, worked beside and been tattooed by renowned artists around the globe.

“We have a lot of fun in the classes and they are really interesting whether you are a tattoo artist or not,” Gilsdorf said. 

—Christina Holmes

Want personalized attention for your next workout? Visit pcc.edu/communityed or turn to page 48 to learn more.
Elizabeth Fitzgerald’s winding path to the Multimedia Program mirrors the journey many of her students take.

Fitzgerald didn’t exactly see a future in digital media when she graduated high school at a time when electric typewriters were all the rage.

A Washingtonian who grew up on a Clark County farm, traveled the world with her military husband, and later followed the Grateful Dead across the country. Once Jerry Garcia died, Fitzgerald and her husband John stopped traveling to the concerts. “So we cut our hair and got jobs,” she laughed.

It was after a layoff from the comfortable job she had in the paper industry in North Portland that Fitzgerald realized she needed a new career. “I remember driving across the Interstate Bridge and crying thinking about how we were going to pay the mortgage,” Fitzgerald recalled. “I was working on different safety committees in the community and I figured I could go to school to make safety videos for different companies. I did my research. PCC was the best place to go.”

At PCC she learned to film on ¾-inch tape. She was always in the lab whether she had classes or not, and started answering questions from her classmates when the instructors were busy. “I just never left,” she said.

Today Fitzgerald is chair of the Multimedia Program at the Cascade Campus in North Portland, the place where she earned her associate’s degree and the department she’s helped build into an award-winning program. Graduates typically find work as media artists, animators, art directors, graphic designers in electronic media, digital video editors, desktop publishers, web designers and specialists in mass media production.

Many PCC students and grads currently work or have worked on movie and television productions filmed in and around Portland such as “Grimm,” “Portlandia,” “Little People, Big World” and “Leverage.” They get hired by local multimedia and production companies such as Bent Image Lab, Second Story and Picture This, she said.

There are about 350 students in the program, a huge jump from the 50 students taking classes when Fitzgerald first arrived at PCC. The average age of students is 34, and they come from all walks of life and experience.

“PCC offers intimate class sizes, access to industry standard equipment and applications, and approachable instructors,” said Evan Applegate, 25, a current student who lives in Southeast Portland. “PCC has definitely helped prepare me for the industry with a comprehensive focus on technical and theoretical knowledge. There are a few things I’ve learned here that just are not studied anywhere else.”

“I tell our students that being perfect at something doesn’t get you the job,” Fitzgerald said. “What gets you a job is being able to diagnose a problem. You need these diagnostic tools in this global economy and you need to know how to execute a plan.”

In 2009, Fitzgerald spent a week in Hollywood as a fellow for the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. She was the only fellow representing a community college, impressing her university counterparts with PCC’s well-regarded model.

For more information about the Multimedia Program, visit pcc.edu/programs/multimedia or call 971-722-5398.
Following the civil war that broke out in Syria, Hasan Alhamwi found himself in no man’s land. He was studying civil engineering in his northern Syrian hometown of Aleppo in 2012 when he abruptly left the country as rebel fighting and terrorist attacks encroached on his government-controlled city.

“Even my university in Syria was shelled many times,” Alhamwi said. “There was no chance to go back there after I left. It was a strange feeling. I felt my country had been stolen.”

He traveled to nearby Saudi Arabia and plotted a new course for his education. Alhamwi’s dream was to study abroad in an English-speaking country like the United States, so he began the complicated process of applying for a student visa without permanent residency. After nearly a year of waiting, he was awarded a student visa and started at PCC soon after.

“There are several reasons for choosing PCC, but the basic things are that it is accessible, affordable, and is in a very peaceful, beautiful city.”

Since enrolling in the Civil & Environmental Engineering Program at the Sylvania Campus, he’s cultivated a 4.0 grade-point average and has been involved with numerous student clubs and organizations. Most impressive is that he learned English in one term by using services where volunteers assist non-native speakers with their English.

“It was really fast. I was able to skip three levels of English classes in just one term. I love English, which is why I was able to learn it quickly,” he said.

This love of learning and volunteer work (he helps PCC’s Office of International Education assisting new international students with college life) has led to Alhamwi being selected as one of 10 students in the inaugural Student Ambassador Program.

The program is an honorary group of student volunteers that promote college activities and represent PCC at special events on campus and in the community. Those include PCC’s Day at the Capitol, Portland City Club, local rotary events, fundraisers and others. The program gives students like Alhamwi experience, skills and networking opportunities to assist in their professional pursuits.

Alhamwi is focused on earning his associate’s degree and transferring to Portland State University to get his bachelor’s degree in Civil & Environmental Engineering. After that, he wants to work in the U.S. for a few years before returning to Syria.
Ivette Martinez-Prudente laughed confidently and showed off the oil painting she’d been working on this week. It was a black-and-white portrait of a woman. She was proud of her work but with one caveat: “It’s not quite done—I’m still working on the hair!”

From her direct eye contact and clear voice, you wouldn’t think that Martinez-Prudente had ever struggled with an inability to express herself—either artistically or verbally.

“When I first came to PCC, I was super shy. I never raised my hand or spoke. I was kind of like a shadow,” Martinez-Prudente said. “It was really because of student leadership that I came out of my shell.”

The 20-year-old student came to PCC through Future Connect, a mentorship and student success program that removes barriers to college for low-income and first-generation students. Martinez-Prudente is the first in her family to attend college, and this is a big deal for her family. “Where I’m from in Mexico, it’s not really done,” she said.

Now in her second year of the Future Connect Scholarship Program, Martinez-Prudente serves as a peer mentor to four other first-generation students. She’s also an involved student government participant, having served as a media support specialist for student groups on the Rock Creek and Sylvania campuses.

Because of her involvement in student government and Future Connect, Martinez-Prudente was selected to be one of PCC’s Student Ambassadors.

“Student leadership has helped her grow as a person and that has given Martinez-Prudente the confidence to explore her many academic interests. With the encouragement of one of her math teachers, she’s recently changed her area of study from graphic design to math education with her eye on becoming a high school teacher.

Martinez-Prudente’s interest in teaching is driven by the same commitment to serving others that drives her to be a student leader.

“When I was in high school, I was put down by a lot of my teachers. They didn’t believe that I was capable of very much—either because of my race, or because I was a girl, or both,” she said.

“But I had one teacher who told me that I can do anything—that my future’s not up to anyone else, it’s up to me.”

“I got to meet an Oregon state legislator, which was a big deal for me,” she said. “And giving presentations to huge groups of people and working events…it’s a total 180 from where I was just a year before.”

Meet two PCC student ambassadors who have found the path to leadership

Story by James Hill & Rebecca Olson
PCC SPOTLIGHTS
WHAT’S NEW AT PCC?

Red cedar PCC totem pole gets spruced up
Portland Community College’s prized 30-foot red cedar “Welcoming Pole” at the Sylvania Campus is getting a second life from rot, insects and woodpecker damage. Award-winning Kwagiulth Native Artist Richard Hunt and Sylvania’s Division Dean of Visual & Performing Arts Gene Flores spent two days last winter fixing damage and repainting the totem pole with bright colors to restore it to its previous glory. The two were readying the pole for its final resting space inside the new semi-glass atrium entrance to the College Center at the campus.

Hunt traveled down from his home studio in Victoria, B.C., to lead the effort to restore the last totem pole he ever carved and the only one of his that resides at an American community college.

The pole will be lifted into its final resting space in mid 2015.

Students create giant mural about PCC’s bond work
Graphic Design Program students created a giant wall mural that informs the public in the Sylvania Campus Answer Center about PCC’s Bond Program projects at the campus. Led by Angie Martorana, design studio instructor, the students painted a tree branch across the 75-foot-long, 13-foot-tall wall.

The 3D design includes half-circles of plexiglass panels that have information about the four phases of construction and intricate shingled birdhouses and birds created in the MakerSpace lab. In addition, there are picture window frames that contain snapshots of the new spaces at the campus.

For more details, visit bond.pcc.edu.

New kiln yard opens at Sylvania Campus
PCC’s Sylvania Campus has a new ceramics kiln yard next to the CT Building to the delight of students and faculty. The yard, which took four months to construct, offers students in the ceramics and sculpture classes a dry and bright space in which to create. The 40-by-40-foot space has an open air design to allow circulation during the firings. The 14-foot high roof is fire treated and is supported by galvanized steel columns. The yard will ultimately house four kilns: down-draft forced air, raku, wood-burning and soda. Storm water cells, recessed concrete boxes filled with rock and filtering plant material, will collect rain runoff and send it to the storm drain.

The yard was made possible through a partnership of PCC’s Facilities Management Services, Visual and Performing Arts Program, the college’s Safety & Risk Management Office and design firm THA Architecture Inc.

Check out the video about the kiln yard on YouTube: youtube.com/PCCvideos.
Port of Portland and Working Waterfront Coalition support trades scholarship program

The Port of Portland and the Working Waterfront Coalition (WWC) presented $20,000 to the PCC Foundation last month. All funds received benefit the Working Waterfront Scholarship Fund, which assists students participating in training at Vigor’s Swan Island shipyard.

“The Working Waterfront Coalition is a coalition of businesses on the Portland harbor that employ thousands of living-wage jobs,” said WWC Executive Director Ellen Wax. “We’d like to do everything we can to offer support to the training programs that prepare young people to enter trades and join in on our companies.”

The funds were raised through proceeds from the Industry & Art exhibit and art sale at the 2014 Seaport Celebration. Industry & Art is a juried art exhibition that displays Portland’s working waterfront through the eyes of Pacific Northwest artists representing not only national and regional artists, but actual shipyard employees working in the trades who created art pieces for the show.

“The Port of Portland looks forward to continuing this partnership and providing education opportunities for the future of the working waterfront,” said Keith Leavitt, Commercial Services Director for the Port of Portland.

Since 2011, the WWC and the Port of Portland have produced and promoted this event with proceeds going to the PCC Foundation.

PCC celebrates new buildings at Cascade Campus

After years of planning and construction, the Cascade Campus in North Portland unveiled its new Student Union and Cascade Hall buildings. On January 20, the community and PCC celebrated the milestone with a “New Beginnings” celebration at the two buildings. Hundreds of attendees enjoyed music and speeches from local officials. Visitors were also treated to a Zumba flash mob, tours of the buildings, cake and a large explosion of streamers.

Cascade Hall is a 49,000-square-foot academic building with faculty workspace and 14 general-purpose classrooms. It houses the Center for Careers in Education, Portland Teachers Program and new childcare center.

The Student Union is a 36,000-square-foot building that houses food service and dining areas, student clubs and government offices, a study/lounge area, flexible meeting space, Women’s Resource Center, Multicultural Center and the International Education Program offices.

Both buildings are part of the college’s 2008 voter-approved $374 million bond program with $58 million going to the construction and improvements at Cascade.

Hairspray, the Broadway Musical

Can the youth of 1960s Baltimore change the division between black and white by bringing the city to its feet, or will the adults who can’t change bring them to their knees? The beloved musical, “Hairspray,” will certainly bring you to your feet, if you can stop tapping them. Cast includes students, college faculty, staff and leaders from the community.

The curtain rises at 7 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, March 6–7 and 13–14 with a special matinee showing at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 15 at the Performing Arts Center, Sylvania Campus (12000 S.W. 49th Ave.). “Hairspray” tickets ($10) are available in advance at PCC’s Sylvania Bookstore, or by calling 971-722-4323.

For more community news and highlights, visit news.pcc.edu.
Roger Hinshaw, Bank of America president for Oregon & SW Washington, knows a good investment when he sees one.

Hinshaw was one of the catalysts of Portland Business Alliance’s Value of Jobs coalition a few years ago, which promotes healthy community growth through private-sector living-wage jobs. So it was a natural extension when Bank of America Foundation began investing more of its philanthropic resources with local nonprofits that are focused on job creation.

Under Hinshaw’s leadership, Bank of America supported PCC’s workforce development and training — and in recent years, that’s led to six-figure investments through grants to support programs like PCC’s Future Connect and Career Pathways, which prepare students for careers in high-demand fields such as accounting, business administration, facilities maintenance and healthcare.

“On behalf of my 1,600 local colleagues at Bank of America, Merrill Lynch and U.S. Trust, we are all so proud to support PCC and Career Pathways,” Hinshaw said. “Programs like this have an immediate impact on our community by helping to put young people to work and providing living-wage jobs.”

The Career Pathways Program connects students to educational opportunities for the purpose of gaining employment and continuing education, preparing students for careers in high-demand fields such as accounting, business administration, facilities maintenance and healthcare. PCC’s Future Connect Scholarship Program supports first-generation and low-income students on their path to college by providing scholarships, academic support, and one-on-one mentoring.

“I believe that when our region’s young people are able to pursue their career goals through education, it benefits all of us,” Hinshaw said. “That’s why I think PCC first.”

THINKING PCC FIRST
Why does Bank of America’s Roger Hinshaw think PCC first?

“Why do you thinkPCCfirst? Tell us on social media using the hashtag #thinkPCCfirst.”

Bank of America has been a long-time supporter of workforce development at PCC, preparing students to enter high-demand fields such as healthcare.
PCC FOUNDATION PRESENTS

BLAST OFF WITH US!
Join the PCC Foundation for our annual gala for scholarships and success programs — this year, in retro space age style!

Inspired by the 1969 lunar landing, meet us at “mission control” as we help PCC students shoot for the stars.

Friday, April 10, 2015
5:30 p.m.
Pure Space
1315 NW Overton St.
Portland, OR 97209

Visit pcc.edu/gala for tickets
My Project:
To keep my tattoo business skills sharp.
— Olivia Britz,
Tattoo law & licensing student

PCC mails this schedule of classes to households four times each year to let you know about upcoming Community Education classes and share what’s happening at PCC. It is printed and mailed for about 20 cents per copy and can be recycled. Because it is addressed “Residential Customer” we are not able to remove individuals from our distribution route. We hope you find it informative and enjoy the stories inside.

Make YOU the project!
If you can dream it PCC 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 spring.

PCC CommunityEd