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PCC CommunityEd
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“Future employees graduate each year from Portland Community College filled with the knowledge, skills and determination that are necessary to succeed. We are thrilled to include ourselves among the ranks of strong supporters of this outstanding institution of learning.”

Junki Yoshida, CEO, Yoshida Group
Linda Yoshida, Fiction Author, Creative Edge Publishing LLC
Back to Class

◆ Summer 2015 term begins June 22
   Register now! 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

◆ cultureSEast: Bridging Identities, Stories and Communities, May 18–21
   Join PCC as we celebrate the diversity of cultures neighborhood the Southeast Campus (2305 S.E. 82nd and Division). Free and open to the public. Visit pcc.edu/cultureSEast for details.

◆ 2015 PCC Commencement, June 12
   PCC’s graduation ceremony is 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.

◆ Portland Pride Parade, June 14, 11 a.m.
   Watch for PCC students, faculty and staff wearing turquoise T-shirts in Sunday’s parade, kicking off on W. Burnside at NW Park. Special congrats goes out to PCC alum Mia Macy, winner of this year’s 2015 Spirit of Pride Award.

Stay connected with PCC:

- pcc.edu
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- pccvideos
- portlandcommunitycollege
- portlandcommcollege

Shared on Social Media

◆ Oh @PortlandCC Rock Creek. You are beautiful even when it’s raining. @HioaBrianilia

◆ Thanks @PortlandCC for educating more students than any other higher ed institutions in Oregon! #pccgala2015 @angelaadelle

◆ Congrats to @PortlandCC women’s basketball for making the tourney for the 1st time in school history! #NWAC-Champs @NWACSports

◆ Not sure if I said or not but I got a 4.0 for Winter Term. #ThinkPCCFirst @KoleBigEars

◆ Loved PCC Hairspray. It’s a must see. The best play I have seen at PCC. Well done! @j_piper

◆ “When people live up to their potential, Oregon lives up to its potential.” @tobiasread #PCCDayatCap @pyle_melissa

◆ How wonderful to be here at #PCCDayatCap to share our stories at PCC w/ the legislators #thinkPCCfirst @HakimaHakima

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

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Introducing PCC’s 2015 Diamond Alumni

PCC is proud to announce the winners of the 2015 Diamond Alumni Awards. This annual award series celebrates alumni who exemplify what it means to be a “PCC Diamond” through leadership, achievement and community service. Past winners have included Rep. Chris Gorsek, master mechanic Betty Kendall and award-winning author Rebecca Skloot, among others.

“As a PCC graduate and Diamond Alum myself I can say I am truly impressed by the caliber of this year’s winners and honored that they represent our community college,” said PCC Board Chair Deanna Palm, president of the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce. “From service to their communities to their academic accomplishments and successful endeavors, these PCC Diamond Alumni shine brightly.”

Joshua Fegles
Owner of Jude’s Foods

Joshua Fegles of Corvallis has grown his food business, Jude’s Foods, into one of the region’s fastest growing companies specializing in gluten- and dairy-free products. Fegles got his business start by taking the “Getting Your Recipe to Market” class at PCC’s Small Business Development Center. “My hope is that what I do in my life is a blessing to others,” he said.

Carmen Thompson
PCC History Instructor

Carmen Thompson of Northeast Portland is a PCC history instructor at the Sylvania Campus who teaches the classes “African-American History” and “Race and Racism.” She began her educational career at PCC and went on to get her master’s degree in African-American Studies from Columbia University and a doctorate in U.S. History from the University of Illinois. “I am honored to be named a PCC Diamond and to be included in such august company,” Thompson said.
Larry O’Dea  
Portland Police Bureau Chief  

In January, Larry O’Dea was sworn in as Portland’s new police chief, capping a 29-year career with the Portland Police Bureau. He earned an associate degree in criminal justice from PCC and a bachelor’s degree in social science from Portland State University. “I believe strongly in PCC as it provided me a gateway into the career that I always wanted,” Chief O’Dea said. “I am confident that had I not attended PCC, I would not be where I am today.”

Barbara Gladue  
Parent Involvement Advocate, Native American Youth and Family Center

Barbara Gladue, a mother of three, obtained her GED and associate degree in philosophy from PCC. She went on to get her philosophy degree from Portland State University and now works at NAYA, where she is a parent involvement advocate helping Native families stay together. “I owe all my educational aspiration to the strong foundation I was able to build at PCC,” Gladue said.

Mitchell Jackson  
Author and Professor at New York and Columbia universities

Mitchell Jackson is a novelist and essayist as well as writing professor at New York and Columbia universities. He is the author of the autobiographical novel “The Residue Years,” which he started in prison. He earned an associate degree by taking classes at both the Cascade and Sylvania campuses. “PCC is wonderful place to launch your dreams,” Jackson said. “Believe it.”

WHAT DOES THE DIAMOND MEAN?

The Diamond is the official symbol of PCC, representing the transformational power of education. Like diamonds, our alumni are strong and bright. They come from many backgrounds and have different experiences, and come to PCC to find life-changing opportunities. Access to higher education has the power to transform not only the lives of individuals—but families, communities, and our entire region—for the better.

Since its founding in 1961, PCC has helped 1.3 million students reach their educational goals—and all students who have taken classes at the college are considered alumni.

Do you know inspirational alumni who are making a difference in their communities? Nominate them for the 2016 Diamond Alumni Awards. Visit pcc.edu/diamondalumni for details.
As the burgeoning tech and health industries draw more people to Oregon’s Silicon Forest, the population of Hillsboro is rapidly expanding. Now Oregon's fifth largest city, more services are needed to keep up with the growing demand.

Portland Community College has responded by developing new courses at its Hillsboro Center that allow students to complete their first year of college close to home. With core classes such as fundamental writing, math and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), the Hillsboro Center provides an educational foundation for more than 800 resident students.

“We are re-focusing our classes and schedules to be more convenient, flexible and better suited for the Hillsboro community we support,” said Steven Swint, the coordinator for Hillsboro Center. “The changes are very exciting.”

Mylan Rakich is a veteran art teacher at the Hillsboro Center and nearby Rock Creek Campus. He is a strong advocate for students who choose to pursue an education at Hillsboro Center.

“I encourage anyone who is interested in advancing their education, taking an art class art for fun, or seeking a career change to drop by the Hillsboro Center or the center closest to your home,” he said. “Hillsboro Center feels like a hometown college, and the faculty and staff are welcoming and supportive.”

While the center offers a convenient entry point for Hillsboro teens to get a head start on earning college credits, students of all ages can find opportunities at the center.

“I love the fact that I have students ages 16 to 60 taking my art classes,” said Rakich. “That’s the power of a community college and why I’ve been teaching for Portland Community College for 15 years.”

Rakich knows first hand the value of community colleges. He started his post-secondary education at Mohawk Valley Community College in upstate New York before earning his bachelor's degree and master’s degree in fine arts. He has been teaching art classes at Hillsboro Center since 2002.

Hillsboro Center, a satellite facility of the Rock Creek Campus, is located close to the Max Line at 775 SE Baseline in the new Inter-modal Transit Facility. The center comes equipped with updated classroom technology, five classrooms including special areas.
PCC’s Hillsboro Center gives local students a running start

Story by James Beriault

for art and computer classes, and a commons area. Academic advising and placement testing are also available at the center.

“We see great value in having PCC in our community,” said City of Hillsboro Mayor Jerry Willey. “As we approach 100,000 residents in Hillsboro, we’re hopeful that PCC’s Downtown Hillsboro presence expands to serve even more students.”

For a full list of class offerings visit pcc.edu/hillsboro.

**CENTERS OF ATTENTION**

In addition to the Hillsboro Center, PCC has a network of educational and training centers across its expansive district where residents can start their post-secondary education or get career training.

Neighborhood centers include CLIMB Center for Advancement in Southeast Portland, Columbia County Center, Newberg Center, Portland Metropolitan Workforce Training Center in North Portland, Swan Island Trades Center and the Willow Creek Center in Washington County.

The network of centers assist residents in starting their two- or four-year degree path, developing careers and finding work, or simply offering places to go and take a fun class.

Students can take general education, lower division transfer and trades classes in Columbia County; enroll in credit and non-credit courses in Newberg; take advantage of career training services at Willow Creek and Portland Metro; earn a certificate or degree in facilities maintenance at Swan Island; and find computer education, customized workplace training, health profession and small business help at CLIMB.
LEARN THE ROPES

Outdoor enthusiasts who want to take to the open waters around Portland should check out PCC’s popular Community Education sailing classes.

During the last two decades Community Ed has initiated plenty of new sailors to the wonders of the water with courses held at the Portland Sailing Center on the Columbia River. Summer classes often are in high demand as the weather warms and the river beckons experienced and new sailors to its shores.

Portland sailing season runs year-round with peak involvement between April and September, said Cliff Mason, a Community Ed sailing instructor for 20 years.

“Students should start taking classes early so that when July comes they can exploit the season,” said Mason, whose own introduction to sailing came from a Community Ed class in 1994.

Portland Sailing Center is the only locally-owned and independently-operated sailing school in the Portland area. Instructors have years of experience and hold a U.S. Coast Guard Master’s License.

The basic PCC sailing class out of the center is about 15 hours divided between six sessions. Students initially spend time in the classroom but before long they’re on the boat learning how to tie knots. Soon after they’re pulling ropes, steering and raising sails. Aside from the basic class there are also courses for intermediate and advanced sailors.

“The essence of sailing is about working with wind, a medium we’re not naturally attuned to. Ropes, knots and sails are just the tools,” said Mason, who now owns the sailing center and also works as an HVAC repair technician when he’s not teaching or maintaining boats.

One thing that sets this class apart from others is that the textbook, “A Forest of Sails,” is written and produced by local authors with years of experience sailing on Portland waterways. Included are references to local waters, winds and currents, river ship and barge traffic, bridges and locks, the Columbia River bar and nearby coastal waters.

Classes attract a range of students—from those who have sailing on their bucket list to those who just want to get involved in a fun summertime sport. Mason says you don’t need to be a high-performance athlete to take the classes but you do need to come ready to participate.

“You really learn by doing in this class and everyone gets a chance to be part of the crew,” said Rachel Monfils, a current sailing student. “When Cliff says ‘all hands on deck,’ he means it!”

—Christina Holmes

For more information, turn to page 38 or visit pcc.edu/communityed

Eyes on the Skies

Head to Scappoose and enjoy summer nights looking at the stars in the first-ever astronomy class offered in Columbia County. Whether you’re a longtime stargazer or have trouble finding the Big Dipper, this non-credit class is for you. Well-known local astronomy instructor Howard Knytych guides students through topics related to our galaxy and the expansion of the universe.

“I like to share my enthusiasm for the sky,” he said. Telescopes, astronomical binoculars and other viewers are provided during classes.

For more information, turn to page 28 or visit pcc.edu/communityed.

Teen Cuisine

A new course called “Gohan Desu Yo” will introduce teens to Japanese language through food.

The title literally means “It’s rice!” and is the Japanese equivalent of “Soup’s on!” Longtime Community Ed instructor Leila Wice came up with the idea by reflecting on her own successes in language learning as a high school exchange student. Along with a basic understanding of the language, students will learn new recipes and tips to make the most of area markets and restaurants. Menus will include noodles, pickles, and sushi. The Summer Teen Program is open to students between the ages of 12 and 17.

For more information, turn to page 11 or visit pcc.edu/community/teen.
AN EVENING FOR OPPORTUNITY
LUNAR LANDING: A SPACE AGE GALA

On April 10, more than 500 community members gathered to support PCC’s student scholarships and success initiatives.
LAUNCHING EXTRAORDINARY FUTURES

Galactic gala raises $425,000 for student scholarships

“Live long and prosper” from Patron Award Winners Stephanie Fowler and Irving Levin of the Renaissance Foundation.

Student speaker Keith Jones shared the powerful story of how receiving a scholarship changed his life.
More than 500 friends and supporters of Portland Community College channeled their “inner astronaut” and touched down at Pure Space on Friday, April 10, for the PCC Foundation’s annual gala. Spearheaded by Honorary Gala Chairs Junki and Linda Yoshida, the event raised a record-breaking $425,000 to support student scholarships and success programs.

The retro lunar landing theme pays tribute to the space race of the 1960s—PCC’s founding decade—while underscoring the bold vision and ingenuity of students who dare to shoot for the stars.

Keith Jones, a student leader on the Southeast Campus, delivered the keynote speech for the evening. “PCC has changed everything for me,” he said in his remarks. “It’s given me ambition. It’s given me confidence, and it’s given me hope.”

Jones will graduate from PCC this spring and plans to attend Pacific University in the fall. A PCC Foundation scholarship recipient, he said that he would not have been able to attend college without this support.

“The tremendous generosity of our guests empowers deserving students to take control of their futures,” said Kimberly Cooper, PCC Foundation Board President. “The best part is that so many more students will have stories like Keith’s to share.”

A pillar of the gala was the celebration of the PCC Patron Award. This year’s recipients are Stephanie Fowler and Irving Levin of The Renaissance Foundation, a private philanthropic organization that creates educational opportunities, in part for first-generation, low-income students. The Patron Award honors a person or organization that has made a significant contribution to PCC to ensure access to education for students.

Special thanks goes out to our event sponsors: Yoshida Group; Pamplin Media Group; Carol and Max Lyons, Hillsboro Aviation; Jon V. Jaqua and Kimberly B. Cooper, Advised Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation; Northwest Natural; and Intel.

Show your support of PCC students and help us launch extraordinary futures by visiting pcc.edu/give.

For more photos and highlights, visit pcc.edu/gala.
Day at the Capitol gives students, staff a voice

Dressed in bright PCC spirit T-shirts and waving colorful pennants, hundreds of staff, faculty and students gathered at the Oregon State Capitol Building in Salem on March 12 to participate in the 2015 PCC Day at the Capitol. The annual event provides students with a glimpse into the workings of the state capitol, and gives community members a chance to meet with their legislators to discuss the importance of accessible, affordable education for the state of Oregon.

Participants attended floor sessions in the house and senate, which included a performance by the PCC Rock Creek Campus Choir. Groups of college staff, faculty, students and leaders then met with state representatives and senators to tell their “PCC story” and discuss the importance of funding higher education. Currently, Oregon ranks 47th in the nation for higher education funding.

“I take some pleasure in asking people around the state, ‘What’s the most important institution of higher education in Oregon?’” said keynote luncheon speaker and Speaker Pro Tempore of the Oregon House Rep. Tobias Read (District 27-Beaverton).

“Some people will say Portland State or Oregon State, but more and more people say PCC. You are the biggest, and I think, the most important in helping people access opportunities,” said Read.

The 2015 PCC Diamond Alumni Award winners were honored at a luncheon at the Salem Convention Center held in tandem with the PCC Day at the Capitol.

For more information on this year’s Diamond Alumni Award winners, turn to page 4.
The community put their mark on the newly renovated Building 5 on PCC's Rock Creek Campus. Faculty, staff, students and community members gathered for a support beam signing ceremony, writing their wishes for the future on the beam. When completed, Building 5 will be the hub of student life and activity on campus. The renovations were made possible by the 2008 voter-approved bond measure.

The 2015 Roger Frank Memorial Ping-Pong Tournament hosted at Pip's & Bounce this spring raised $2,000 for student scholarships. The event was created in memory of PCC counselor Roger Frank, a psychologist who helped many students during his 20-plus years at PCC. Frank was a warm, funny man who loved playing Ping-Pong with his family.
Portland Community College student Eric Thomas, 22, is hacking his way to a better future.

Thomas, who is studying mechanical engineering, is actively involved with PCC’s STEM programs. He is the volunteer coordinator at the Sylvania Campus MakerSpace lab and works as the lead student lab assistant on the Rock Creek Campus, helping people with 3D printing and scanning, laser cutting and design.

A team of students Thomas helped put together, aptly named Brain Storm, recently won top prize at the Portland hackathon called “Hack to the Future” held at the Portland State University Business Accelerator in early spring.

The students created “Storm-Safe,” which is a personal storm-warnıng device with real-time lightning detection within 40 kilometers. It also has a GPS-based weather alert system to keep you safe as you walk, hike, or bike. The students split a cash prize of $1,000 for creating the lightning detector.

“We sold it as a protective device for industry and the general public,” Thomas said. “With enough of these devices spread out and connected through an online logger, we could triangulate the location of strikes. Users could use the data or warnings to move away from the strikes and get to safety.”

The Portland hackathon was sponsored by the online community Hackster.io, which traveled across the country with a DeLorean made to look like the one from the film “Back to the Future.” The idea of the event was for students to hack the DeLorean. Team Brain Storm’s detector served as a sort of “flux capacitor” for the car. Thomas said the character Marty from the film could use the lightning detector to find the needed energy (lightning bolt) to power the DeLorean.

Thomas said he’s tackling another experimental idea involving a cubesat that was proposed by the Portland Aerospace Society. Cubesats are 1,000-cubic-centimeter-sized satellites that are typically launched from the International Space Station.

“NASA or another rocket would take it to the station where it would be queried for an ejection (into orbit),” said Thomas, who is currently an intern at Autodesk, a Bay Area tech company.

“PCC will launch an experiment in collaboration with Portland State University to see if we can communicate with the cubesat launched from the International Space Station at a height of 400 kilometers,” Thomas explained. “From our records, it will be considered the longest wifi communication.”

Thomas will present on all that he’s accomplished to executives at Autodesk at the start of the summer in San Francisco.

—James Hill

Learn more about STEM classes at PCC at pcc.edu/stem
Sometimes the best idea is right in front of you.

#thinkPCCfirst

Watch for profiles of PCC students on local billboards this summer. Their stories encourage others to take the first step toward college...and so can you! Join the conversation with #thinkPCCfirst.
My Project:
Find harmony between my creative interests.
— Tatania Harrison,
T’ai Chi and creative writing student

project: YOU

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 summer.

PCC CommunityEd