

November 17, 2022

23-080

2022-23 PATRON AWARD NOMINATION

PREPARED BY: Crystal Froembling, Director of Major Gifts, PCC Foundation

APPROVED BY: PCC Foundation Board
Dr. Adrien L. Bennings, President

STRATEGIC THEME: Belonging: Transform our learning culture toward creating a sense of belonging and well-being for every student

REPORT: In 2007, the PCC District Board established the Portland Community College Distinguished Patron Award to recognize extraordinary levels of service to the College. Nominees are made by the PCC Foundation and the PCC President and then submitted to the PCC Board for approval. The award, an annual college honor presented by the PCC Board of Directors, goes to a person or organization that has made a significant contribution to ensure student access to education. Since 2012, commencing with the first gala, the award has been presented during the PCC Foundation's annual Gala fundraiser and celebration. The Patron Award will be presented during the 2023 Annual PCC Gala fundraiser on April 29, 2023, at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Portland.

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE PCC DISTINGUISHED PATRON AWARD:

- 2007 – Richard and Sharon Helzer;
Doreen S. Margolin (*posthumously*)
- 2008 – Norma Jean Germond
- 2009 – Barbara Raz; Mary Holmström
- 2010 – Lee and Virginia Finders (*posthumously*)
- 2011 – The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation
- 2012 – Intel Corporation; The Oregon Community Foundation
- 2013 -- *No award was made*
- 2014 – Ross Lienhart and Sheila Edwards-Lienhart (*posthumously*)
- 2015 – The Renaissance Foundation: Irving Levin

and Stephanie Fowler

- 2016 – Meyer Memorial Trust
- 2017 – Betty Duvall
- 2018 – Robert Wimmer and Howard Butzer
- 2019 – Chris and Tom Neilsen (no relation to the 2022-23 nominee)
- 2020 – PCC Retirees (*no Gala event held*)
- 2021 – Senator Margaret Carter and Anne Naito-Campbell

2022-23 Nominee: The Craig H. Neilsen Foundation

Since 2014, the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation has contributed almost \$700,000 to empower PCC students living with spinal cord injuries to access education and gain independence. Through the Craig H. Neilsen Annual Scholarship, the Foundation has provided tuition, fees, books, adaptive equipment and assistive technology to support PCC students, both on campus and in remote learning environments, as they pursue their educational dreams. The Foundation was established in 2002 by Craig Neilsen, an attorney and entrepreneur who was left with a severe spinal cord injury following a vehicle collision. His life experience following his injury motivated him to improve the quality of life for others living with spinal cord injuries. In addition to funding for student scholarships, the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation focuses on identifying gaps in educational access for students and families living with SCI, training the next generation of SCI physicians, and funding SCI research to address the psychosocial impacts of spinal cord injuries.

RECOMMENDATION: The PCC Board of Trustees confirms the nomination of the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation as the 2022-23 Patron Awardee.