February 20, 2025

<u>25-054</u>	<u>APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL LEAVES FOR FY 25-26 FULL-TIME FACULTY AND ACADEMIC PROFESSIONALS</u>

PREPARED BY: Jennifer Ernst, Vice President, Academic Affairs
Isla Carl, Executive Assistant, Academic Affairs

FINANCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY: Jennifer Ernst, Vice President, Academic Affairs

APPROVED BY: Dr. Adrien Bennings, President

STRATEGIC THEME: Belonging: Transform our learning culture toward creating a sense of belonging and well-being for every student; Delivery: Redefine time, place, and systems of educational delivery to create a more learner-centric ecosystem; Workforce: Respond to community and workforce needs by developing a culture of agility; Enterprise: Cultivate a long-term sustainable college enterprise

REPORT: Applications for professional leave were received and processed in accordance with Article 20 of the Agreement between Portland Community College and the Portland Community College Faculty Federation. The President has reviewed the applications and recommendations of the district-wide administration.

RECOMMENDATION: That the following Portland Community College faculty be granted professional leaves for the purpose, time period, and salary payments indicated:

Allison Gross
Full-time Faculty: English, Reading, & Writing
Three Terms: Fall 2025; Winter 2026; Spring 2026
Salary: 65% of Annual Scheduled Salary

Purpose of Leave:
This Professional Leave application proposes a year of study and resource development focused on addressing gaps in current reading and writing curriculum in the ERW program. Time would be spent on research, developing proposals for curriculum changes, development of SAC resources, and design of professional development opportunities that support equitable teaching practices.

Relates to PCC's Strategic Plan themes:
This proposal supports the Strategic Plan themes of Belonging and Delivery as the updating of PCC's Reading and Writing curriculum, and providing professional development to ERW faculty, with particular attention to anti-racist pedagogy, is intended to create more inclusive classrooms that celebrate student strengths and address student needs.

Cara Tang
Full-time Faculty: Computer Information Systems
Three Terms: Fall 2025; Winter 2026; Spring 2026
Salary: 65% of Annual Scheduled Salary

Purpose of Leave:
This Professional Leave application proposes to (1) develop the faculty member's skills in AI and how it relates to Cybersecurity and (2) create proposals for incorporating AI into PCC programs, including a focus area in AI in PCC's Cybersecurity AAS degree.

Relates to PCC's Strategic Plan themes:
This proposal directly supports the Strategic Plan theme of Workforce by focusing on the impact of AI on Cybersecurity and related programs. Belonging and Delivery are indirectly supported via the curriculum proposals that will be a product of this professional leave, in which equitable student success will be incorporated.

Nick Hengen Fox
Full-time Faculty: English, Reading, & Writing, & RING
One Term: Spring 2026
Salary: 100% of Annual Scheduled Salary

Purpose of Leave:
This Professional Leave application proposes time to bridge the faculty member's work with the RING (Race, Indigenous Nations, and Gender) SAC and English, Reading, and Writing, deepening knowledge of the disciplinary growth in antiracist composition, bringing that knowledge into shared work at PCC.

Relates to PCC's Strategic Plan themes:
This proposal supports the Strategic Plan Themes of Belonging and Delivery as part of the work will support addressing equity gaps in the FYW sequence (WR 115 - 121- 122) and help develop practices that will guide PCC in state-mandated co-req work and beyond.

Elizabeth Rodrigues
Full-time Faculty: Biology
Two Terms: Fall 2025; Winter 2026
Salary: 75% of Annual Scheduled Salary

Purpose of Leave:
This Professional Leave application proposes a two-term sabbatical to integrate research from the faculty member's autoethnographic publication and bioethics workshop series into the course series BI 231-233 Human Anatomy & Physiology. These pedagogical and curricular changes aim to increase culturally-responsive and asset-based curriculum in anatomy and physiology to increase representation and equitable outcomes in health and medicine.

Relates to PCC's Strategic Plan themes:
This proposal supports the Strategic Plan themes of Belonging, Delivery, and Workforce. Belonging by revising anatomy and physiology curriculum so diverse students see themselves reflected in science curriculum and know their personal identity has value. Delivery by using culturally-responsive and anti-racist pedagogies. Workforce by serving to increase representation among our healthcare professionals.

Andrea Lowgren
Full-time Faculty: History & Humanities
Two Terms: Fall 2025; Winter 2026
Salary: 75% of Annual Scheduled Salary

Purpose of Leave:
This Professional Leave application, Contextualizing Oral Histories of Immigration at Portland Community College, builds upon the faculty member's prior creation of an OER set of oral histories with the PCC community on the experiences of immigration by the use, employment and teaching of a new, powerful, yet intuitive software called StoryMaps. With this tool, students can exercise culturally-responsive historical analysis of oral histories while also learning a dynamic technology that is widely applicable. Both the StoryMap templates that will be created by the faculty member, as well as the students' finished projects, can be shared widely with the PCC community and used by a variety of disciplines, advancing a more nuanced and empathetic world citizenship.

Relates to PCC's Strategic Plan themes:

This project supports the Strategic Plan themes of Belonging, Delivery, and Workforce via learner-centric technologies that contribute to a collaborative and agile workforce. The content contributes to creating a sense of Belonging by humanizing learning through centering the stories of members. Participants can see their own experiences as valued sites of learning. Readers can see the connections between everyday people's lives and historical factors; through Delivery by asking students to not passively consume, but to contextualize, illustrate, and share analysis; and Workforce by introducing a multifaceted and widely applicable technological tool to present information.

Jaimie Powell
Full-time Faculty: Biology
Three Terms: Fall 2025; Winter 2026; Spring 2026
Salary: 65% of Annual Scheduled Salary

Purpose of Leave:
This Professional Leave application proposes exploring barriers to student success in Bi112, the most highly enrolled Biology class with one of the lowest success rates, by analyzing IE data and getting student feedback through surveys and interviews. It will also develop program-specific academic and social resources for Bi112 and other pre-healthcare students increasing student success and fostering students' sense of belonging and community.

Relates to PCC's Strategic Plan themes:
This project supports the Strategic Plan theme of Belonging by increasing student success in Bi112 and other pre-health occupation classes by fostering students' sense of belonging and community. It will develop program-specific resources for students outside of the classroom and provide opportunities to build community.

Robin Shapiro
Full-time Faculty: Library
Two Terms: Fall 2025; Winter 2026
Salary: 75% of Annual Scheduled Salary

Purpose of Leave:
This Professional Leave application proposes to learn more about the changes taking place in information production and distribution, examining a variety of proposed information literacy approaches with the intent to return to the college with a curated

collection of the most useful approaches, their strengths, and weaknesses.

Relates to PCC's Strategic Plan themes:
This project supports the Strategic Plan themes of Belonging and Workforce by meeting students where they are in information literacy and providing relevant instruction around current and future information platforms and publications, understanding that employees, entrepreneurs, and community members all need new ways to look at information.