OPENING DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY

2018-19 PCC FOUNDATION
PHILANTHROPY & CAMPAIGN
FOR OPPORTUNITY REPORT
The PCC Foundation’s first-ever comprehensive campaign is a movement for giving Oregonians a better chance at success.

A thank you from the Presidents

Dear Friends,

Thank you for opening the door to opportunity—opportunities for students to succeed, opportunities for students to focus on their futures and opportunities that will change the trajectory of the rest of their lives.

Every day, Portland Community College is helping to launch future leaders and changemakers in our community. Whether we are bridging skills gaps, helping the underemployed get training to find a job, or guiding high school students to recognize their professional potential and pathway, we transform futures and strengthen our community.

The PCC Foundation’s donors have stepped up this year and because of you, we’re well on our way to reaching our goal of $30 million for The Campaign for Opportunity.

The following stories are a sample of the inspiring students and donors who make up the PCC community and embody what this campaign is working for.

Thank you for thinking PCC first and helping students walk through our doors and on the path to achieving their dreams.

Yours for PCC,

Mark Mitsui
President, Portland Community College

Susie Lahsene
2017-19 President, PCC Foundation Board of Directors

Why it’s time to Think PCC First

As the most relied upon institution in Oregon for providing pathways to opportunity for people in all stages of life, PCC is uniquely positioned to have a lasting impact on our local community.

The PCC Foundation is raising $30 million to provide funds for scholarships, mentoring, workforce development and urgent student need as part of The Campaign for Opportunity because for too many Oregonians, a PCC degree is still out of reach.

The Campaign

SCHOLARSHIPS

$15 million goal to double the amount of PCC Foundation scholarships awarded each year.

FUTURE CONNECT

$9 million goal to expand access to this renowned PCC student success program.

WORKFORCE

$5 million goal to strengthen the economic health of Oregon with a trained workforce.

URGENT NEED

$1 million goal to provide students a lifeline when they need it most.

pcc.edu/foundation | 3
For many students, affording college, even with PCC’s comparably lower tuition, can feel impossible. PCC welcomes every student who wants to learn. In 2018-19, the PCC Foundation granted $1.8 million to 1,350 students.

“This scholarship connected me to people and opportunities that I didn’t foresee. It’s opened a lot of doors for me.”

– Daniel Passera,
PCC Fire Protection Technology Student & Future Firefighter
I'm honored to pursue this career. It’s a noble profession. Even my six-year-old son thinks so, and it’s hard to impress him.

After finishing high school in Battle Ground, Washington, I didn’t go to college right away like my friends. Instead, I became a professional musician and started touring all over the country. For about six years, I played with a variety of bands—metal, country, rock.

I see now that being a touring musician taught me a lot of skills that transfer to being a firefighter. You’re with your crew, all operating in your given positions where you’re expected to execute. You have to be adaptable, personable and trust each other. You eat, work out, train and live in close quarters together.

After moving back to Portland and pursuing some other career possibilities, I was at a standstill in my life. A former bandmate of mine is a firefighter and told me about how great it had been for him and his life. He convinced me that it’d be a good fit for me and I was motivated to pursue something more stable for my son.

I immediately looked into training and there was one spot left in an EMT course starting the next week. I paid to put myself through that first course, and then I moved on to the Fire Academy at PCC with the help of a PCC Foundation scholarship. That was when I knew this was really a fit for me.

The camaraderie, teamwork and diversity of people to learn alongside at PCC was inspiring. It was challenging at first, but it taught me that it’s ok to make mistakes. When you are passionate about something, you set high expectations for yourself and rise up to meet them. They said, “You aren’t training until you get it right, you’re training until you don’t get it wrong.”

I’m honored to have been the first recipient of the Gus Waterford Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship connected me to people, like Teddy Mayes, and to opportunities I didn’t foresee. It's opened a lot of doors for me.

I’ve learned so much and I am right where I need to be. Currently, I’m a volunteer firefighter with Clark County Fire & Rescue and I’m starting to test and interview to be hired on full-time to a department. This career path has given me focus, discipline and clarity of purpose.

People have invested in me and I want to pay it forward. I want to support the next generation and give them the resources they need to be successful.
We will all leave a legacy and it’s important to make sure that we leave a meaningful one.

Last year, fellow firefighters Sultan Shabazz, Dave Barron and I had the unique opportunity of announcing our Gus Waterford Memorial Scholarship at City Hall in front of the Mayor and City Commissioners. During this ceremony, Mayor Ted Wheeler proclaimed February 14, 2018 as Gus Waterford Day in the city of Portland. None of this would have been possible without the support of our firefighting community and the support of the PCC Foundation.

We want firefighters and scholarship recipients to recognize and celebrate the rich legacy of all those who’ve come before us, and to remind us of the importance of the legacies we will all leave behind.

When I graduated from high school at Jefferson, I thought sports were my only career option. Looking back now, I realize a wealth of other opportunities like firefighting were waiting to be discovered right across the street at PCC’s Cascade campus.

I believe it’s important for students to know that if option A or B doesn’t work, there are 24 or 25 other letters in the alphabet.

In 1995, there was an apprenticeship I read about in The Skanner News that featured Sara Boone (who is now the first African American woman Portland Fire Chief) and I was inspired. She opened the door to firefighting for me and I’ve been trying to pay it forward for the last 23 years.

In firefighting, there’s an ethos of “leave everything better than you found it.” Our main goal with this scholarship is to one day hire our recipients and see Gus Waterford’s legacy live on.

If everyone gives a little, we can do a lot.
Without Future Connect, I don’t know if I would’ve pursued college...Being at PCC has helped me in my own personal evolution.

– Dimitri Ivanor, PCC Creative Writing Student & Future Author
Old books have dusty hints of past readers. Newer books are more like buried treasure. I love being the first to discover their untouched pages. My dream is to write a book so good that someone will want to steal it.

Sometimes, I’ll go into Powell’s and wander the aisles for hours. I did this a lot during my senior year of high school, when I experienced homelessness.

Growing up, I was a nerdy kid who got grounded for reading too much. My parents, immigrants from Laos and Thailand who didn’t go to college, tried to push me into math and sciences. I wasn’t very good at those subjects. They also tried to push strict gender norms onto me. I identify as trans—my pronouns are he/him and it/its. It’s a struggle every day to know who you are, then have other people tell you who they think you are.

I’ve also struggled with depression, and chronic pain. It’s a wild toss up each day on how my body is going to act. Writing is a way for me to cope. I can let my mind float and create my own world and be in control of what happens. Poetry has a space in my heart.

A high school teacher first pointed me toward the Future Connect program at PCC. I didn’t think I’d get in and was really surprised to see the email that I did.

Without Future Connect, I don’t know if I would’ve pursued college. I thought I wasn’t going to get too involved at PCC but then all of a sudden I was meeting a lot with Dana, my Future Connect coach, and signing up for classes and joining clubs. I love Dana with all my heart. She’s always had an open door, and is so patient and supportive. Sometimes, I drop grapefruits off at her office because I know she likes them.

I used to be loud-mouthed and rebellious, and I still sort of am. But I’ve done some growing and realized that I’m in charge of the change that happens in my community. I’ve got a job as a classroom aide in Disability Services, and I’m a student advocate at the Queer Resource Center.

And my favorite book right now? *Octavia’s Brood*. It’s a collection of sci-fi stories with a social justice lens. It’s motivated me to take a step back and make room for other people, and helped me realize I need to make room for myself, too.

Being at PCC has helped me in my own personal evolution. It’s really cool that there’s such a mix of people here. I especially love seeing older queers and older disabled folks. They’re doing fine. They’re still here. And that gives me hope.
Michael and Alice Powell are the founders of Powell’s Books, the largest independent bookstore in the country. Longtime Future Connect supporters, Michael is a former PCC Foundation Board Member and together, Alice and Michael are honorary chairs of The Campaign for Opportunity. Seventy-five students have been named Powell’s Scholars since the Powells established the award in 2017.

You can’t do anything more for a student than to give them a boost up into community college and get them on the road to a college degree.

Nothing comparable will affect their life as much. And not just their life, their family’s life too. Their friends who saw they could do it. The community around them. We’re so impressed by the PCC students we’ve met; how comfortable and confident they are. And we like hearing from Future Connect coaches how they’re instilling in students the idea of mentoring others, because that makes a huge difference.

Our store is about literacy and reading, and intellectual growth. So we have a predisposition to helping people learn. We also have employees who are Powell’s Scholars. For us, opportunity means the ability to reach goals and possibilities that you don’t know you’re heading toward. That’s what education does.

Out of all the organizations that approach us, we singled PCC out because it seems to have the most immediate impact. It’s a blessing. In Hebrew, it’s a mitzvah to be able to do something like this.
I came to PCC because I’d heard that many students find jobs after they graduate, as Portland has a lot of opportunities in healthcare. This career is my dream.

– Nghi Tieu-Jacobson,
PCC Radiography Student & Future Mammographer

PCC is a pathway to opportunity for thousands who are working toward a better life. It’s a critical talent pipeline that provides the skilled professionals needed to support our growing region.
I treat each patient like they’re my family.

When you’re in the hospital, you need a warm smile instead of a cold face. So I’ll ask my patients questions about themselves and what’s going on. How they’re feeling. I listen. Explain what they can expect and tell them, ‘I’m here to help.’

Me, I feel better when I’m wearing blue scrubs. There’s so much power in that uniform. At the hospital, everyone wears the same color—nurses, doctors, X-ray techs. It’s a sign we’re all on the same team, that we’re all in this together to make people feel better.

I grew up in a suburb of Ho Chi Minh City surrounded by rice fields. Healthcare is really different in Vietnam. One time my mom fell and broke her lower back. The doctor handed us an X-ray without really explaining what was in the picture. He gave her medication and sent her home. She used all of her savings to have that small amount of care.

My parents never went to college, so I didn’t even know what was possible. After I came to the U.S. and settled in Portland, I discovered PCC. It was my amazing medical terminology instructor who inspired my fascination with radiography.

This career is my dream. The program is competitive, and can be hard and intense at times. I don’t do much else besides go to class and work—and it’s even hard to find time to do that.

My scholarship came at a time when I couldn’t work much because of the heavy course load, and my housing situation was unstable. With that extra money, I was able to pay for classes and find a place to rest my head at night.

I feel so supported at PCC. I love the trees on campus that give shade, the modern technology we use in the classroom and the chef at the Sylvania campus who makes a good and healthy lunch to get me through my day.

It’s a dream of mine to bring my mom over to Portland, and give her the healthcare she deserves. I like taking care of women because I know how they feel. Someday, I hope to become a mammographer and help women detect breast cancer before it’s too late.

Nghi Tieu-Jacobson is a recipient of the George Burgermeister Endowed Memorial Scholarship for radiography students. She is in her final year of the program, which for the past five years has had a 100 percent job placement rate.
I grew up with PCC. That’s why I give.

When I was young, both of my parents passed away and a foster family raised me. I was fortunate to have a good life and female role models who stressed the importance of education.

I first went to Portland State University, but didn’t know what I wanted. So I left college and got a full-time job at Providence Hospital working in patient admission and transport. There, I learned about PCC’s Radiography program. It was just starting at the time, and a friend encouraged me to apply.

The program was phenomenal. We spent two days per week in the classroom, and three days at Providence getting hands-on experience in radiography.

I loved helping patients, the camaraderie with hospital staff and tinkering with technology. Back then, we had physical X-ray machines. We’d dip the X-rays into a solution, and hang them up to dry. When I became the Chief Radiologic Technologist, at age 27, I’d run around the hospital with a screwdriver in my pocket in case the machines broke down.

I met my husband George while working. He was a great radiologist, but what he really loved to do was teach. Sometimes, he’d come to PCC to teach students about chest X-rays.

George was passionate about healthcare and passionate about education. When he passed away a few years ago, I wanted to honor him by creating a scholarship in his name at an institution that was meaningful to both of us.

The best thing I did for my education was to come to PCC. It gave me the foundation to be able to go further in my life, and the confidence to aspire to do anything I wanted. Because of my education, I’ve had a lot of opportunities.

I hope this scholarship does the same for others, including Nghi.”
The scholarship I received helped me focus on school, instead of how I was going to get the money to pay our rent.

– Lauri Chambers, PCC Business Administration Student & Owner of Celestial Aromatherapy

Too many students are navigating a tightrope where a flat tire or an unexpected medical bill can cause their educational dreams to collapse. The Foundation supports a variety of programs that provide for PCC students when they most need it.
I know what it’s like to not have stable housing.

Not too long ago, my landlord raised the rent on us and we had to leave. The shelters were full so me and my youngest son, Kristopher, stayed at a friend’s house for more than a year. I felt really alone, afraid I was going to lose custody of my son. My skin suffered.

From that experience, I learned that homelessness doesn’t equate to helplessness. Now, I bring my skin products to the local homeless shelter because something as simple as a decent bar of soap can help you feel normal.

I started making my products when Kristopher was diagnosed pre-diabetic as a kid. I knew I had to get him healthy, which meant changing not only what he ate, but what he put on his skin. I made soap first, and then lip balm. Everything is handmade and vegan, with recyclable packaging. The flavors are taken from nature: lavender, vanilla, lemon. I’m proud to say Kristopher never developed diabetes.

As a single mother of three boys, I’ve always put my children first. When they were growing up, I poured all my time (and money) into their wrestling, football, and track. I volunteered at their school. I made sure my boys had everything they needed. Somehow I managed to do a good job. They’re all grown now and are amazing men. But a couple of years ago I knew I needed to fill that hole, and I turned to PCC. At age 51, I went back to school.

I skipped out on most of high school, and didn’t think I’d be able to hold my own in college. But one class led to another and now I’m in my second year. I’ve taken marketing and social media classes, which have really helped me gain more interest in my business. I discovered I love poetry. Almost every term I’ve been on the President’s List. PCC is my chance to finally finish something.

Last summer, I almost didn’t make it. We were on the verge of being evicted from our home. I have financial aid, food stamps from SNAP and my son helps out with rent. Still, it wasn’t enough.

The support I got from the PCC Foundation helped me focus on school, instead of where I was going to get the money to pay our rent. It took the stress off, allowing me to keep making my business stronger.

This business, I’m doing it because I want to be able to provide a service that brings comfort and peace to people. No matter our life circumstances, we all deserve to feel good.

Lauri Chambers is the inaugural recipient of the Future's Doorway Endowed Scholarship for single parents. She will be graduating this year.
I want to give another single parent a chance. It’s as simple as that.

Growing up in a small town on the Oregon coast, I had ambition but never knew how to direct it. I married way too young, had two sons and got divorced. I worked many jobs—from sorting mail for a gas company to serving hamburgers to selling pick-up trucks to farmers.

Being a single mother was hard. But I put one foot in front of the next like most of us do and kept going. My boys grew into two men who are fiercely independent. For most of my life, I was a caregiver. I took care of my kids. I took care of my mom. I took care of my grandmother. When I turned 40, it was time to take care of myself.

I found a temp job at Intel, where I met a woman who was the first person who ever saw me for who I was and who I could be. She sent me back to school at PCC for business. She gave me the push and support I needed.

At PCC, I found out I was pretty smart, you know? I learned how to have faith in myself. I recently retired from Intel, where I was the Northwest Region Community Engagement Manager in Oregon for almost thirty years. I helped start the “Intel Involved” volunteer program, including creating its bylaws so the program could expand worldwide. Me, a kid from Coquille, Oregon.

My scholarship is for all the single parents out there who are looking to gain sovereignty over their lives. We all go through so many doorways in life. But education gives you something invaluable: choice. It allows you, and only you, the opportunity to pick the door you want to go through.

Janet Rash is on the PCC Foundation Board and was a 2016 Diamond Alumni Award recipient. She started the Future’s Doorway Endowed Scholarship in 2018, and has included PCC in her estate, which will support more students in need for years to come.
The goal is to raise $30 million in four focus areas to support students on their path to prosperity by June 30, 2020.

With these funds, we will help close the gap for people who are being left behind and open the door to a more equitable future—for individuals and families, and for Oregon.

We want to thank all of the generous donors who have stepped up thus far to be a part of this historic campaign.

The following honor roll recognizes cumulative giving of $25,000 or more from December 15, 2015 to June 30, 2019.

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It’s powerful knowing there’s a community behind me supporting me every step along the way.

– Hannah Govan, Future Connect Scholarship Recipient & Future Social Worker
Denise Frisbee is a former lawyer and nonprofit executive director, and current PCC District Board member. Robert Frisbee is a former entrepreneur and CEO of Green Electronics Council. Together, Denise and Robert are part of The Campaign for Opportunity’s leadership team and also support an annual scholarship for legislative interns.

“We became Champions for Opportunity because it’s time to step up.

Ours is undeniably a world of contrasts. In Oregon, for example, there is beauty in so many places. But it exists side by side with heartbreaking shortfalls in financial security, housing, education, food and opportunity for too many of our fellow humans. People of good will, exhibiting a sincere effort to improve their lives, are denied success by fate and lack of fairness.

These barriers to opportunity have deep roots and complexities. As we considered how we might be part of a solution, education seems the best contribution to a more equitable world. And the best ways for us to promote education focuses on opportunities that are: 1. local, 2. focused on giving people the opportunity to move ahead, 3. accessible to people from a wide range of backgrounds and ambitions, 4. sincere, 5. skills-based and 6. provided in a healthy, supportive, multi-cultural environment.

That is a perfect description of Portland Community College. PCC has become the major “give back” path for our lives, and we are so pleased to be able to help the college help the community. Every gala leaves us in tears—and pulling out the checkbook. Giving to PCC provides us a direct way to help with the myriad of issues: a path to successful self confident work, food, excellent educational guidance, a committed faculty and administration and a body of students committed to building a better future.

We have complete confidence that every dollar given is well managed, and that PCC students will pour their efforts into magnifying that investment by tenfold. We are constantly reaffirmed that our contributions give the world a nudge toward more fairness, equity and opportunity for all.

Champions for Opportunity

As a capstone to our Campaign for Opportunity, Portland Community College Foundation is looking for 100 people to say yes to opportunity by donating $10,000 each.

With the help of these 100 Champions for Opportunity, the PCC Foundation will establish the Student Success Endowed Fund, a $1 million endowment to support our students’ greatest needs. This will ensure that PCC has the resources to be responsive to the needs of students today, tomorrow and long into the future.

Please consider becoming a Champion today!

Contact the Foundation office for more information at 971-722-4382.
In 2018-19, the PCC Foundation awarded $1.8 million in scholarships to deserving students—more than ever before.

The PCC Foundation is dedicated to expanding access to higher education by addressing the wide range of student needs at Portland Community College.
When we started Portland Community College in 1961, the name of the game was **students come first and everything else about the college is supportive and secondary.**

– Dr. Amo DeBernardis, PCC historical book “They Just Did It”

When we started Portland Community College in 1961, the name of the game was students come first and everything else about the college is supportive and secondary. Dr. Amo DeBernardis, or “Dr. De” as he was known at the college, served as PCC’s founding president from 1961 until 1979 when he retired.

His strong vision helped establish PCC’s footprint that the community knows today. DeBernardis pioneered concepts that are still integral to PCC’s mission, such as access to higher education for all citizens.

Donors who remember the PCC Foundation through a bequest, life income plan or other type of planned gift, whether intended or received, become members of the Amo DeBernardis Legacy Society, named in honor of the college’s first president.

We thank this group for their thoughtful generosity.

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If you have named PCC in your will or estate and would like to be listed in our Legacy Society, please contact our office at 971-722-4382.

* Deceased

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Thank You for Your Generosity

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PLATINUM $100,000 to $249,999
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GOLD $25,000 to $99,999
Anonymous (2)
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D.P. Nicoli, Inc.
Theresa E. Debock
David L. Detrich and Doug Elwood
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David L. Dotlich and D.P. Nicoli, Inc.
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Howard A. Butzer and Bank of America
Anonymous (2)

SILVER $10,000 to $24,999
Anonymous (6)
Alfonso Torres-Vinciucini
Private Foundation
Ruby Apple
AFAR
Associated Students of PCC
Martha Campbell
Chancellor to ExceL
Jean Cristillo and Roger A. Cooke
Angelina and Paul Covino
Vocational Scholarship Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
Cracker Barrel Old Country Store
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Robert McAlister Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation Metropolitan Land Group, LLC
James and Lora Meyer
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Paul C. Phillips Trust
Dr. Preston Pulliams and Joan Pulliams
Rask Family Memorial Fund
Barbara Ruz Neu and Paul H. Neu
Daniel R. Saldanha and Liz Burns
Shoreline Fire Department
Social Workers Partners Portland
David and Christine Vernall
Oregon Community Foundation
Wells Fargo
Western States CAT
Ziddell Family Philanthropy

BRONZE $5,000 to $9,999
Anonymous
Anonymous (4)
Alfonso Torres-Vinciucini
Private Foundation
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Angelina and Paul Covino
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LEADER OF OPPORTUNITY $2,500 to $4,999
Anonymous (4)
AAUW Portland Branch
Nancy G. Bennett
Anne J. Rosenthal
Camilla L. Bishop and Andrew E. Berlinberg
Sten Campion
The Emergency Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation

Scholarships have made my education possible and have given me the opportunity to serve others.

Julio C. Morales Alvarado,
PCC DREAMers Scholarship Recipient & Future Paramedic

* Discontinued

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Thanks to a PCC scholarship, I was able to afford the first couple of terms of classes. And I started working at Vigor, the shipyard that my classes were located in.

- Jess Kurzt, OCF Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation Scholarship Recipient & Professional Welder

Receiving a scholarship has given me the ability to focus on my education and my position as a student advocate. But more than that, it gave me confidence that I am worth the investment.

– Hannah Alzgal, Stan Schmidt Speech Scholarship Recipient & Future Community Organizer
On Saturday, April 27, 2019, PCC celebrated the launch of The Campaign for Opportunity with a steampunk-themed “Voyage to Success.” We raised over $636,600 to support students.

Scholarships help a lot. When donors give, they make a big difference. Your intention to help impacts lives forever.

– Mariamou Abdoulaye, Future Connect Scholarship Recipient & Future Pediatric Nurse

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