



**Portland
Community
College**
Foundation

The Power of *Possibility*

GIVING REPORT | 2024-25 Fiscal Year





Dear Friends,

Together, we are building something extraordinary. With your support, the PCC Foundation is making significant progress toward our vision of a community where anyone can thrive through education.

The impact of your generosity reaches far beyond the classroom — by advancing equity, learning, work-ready skills, and economic and social mobility for all.

Throughout this report, you will meet students pursuing their dreams with the help of scholarships, community members investing in supports that ensure students succeed, and industry partners creating pathways to professional opportunities.

Their stories reflect the true power of possibility — what happens when education, opportunity, and community unite. We hope you see yourself reflected in every success story.

On behalf of PCC and the PCC Foundation, we extend our deepest gratitude for your partnership and belief in our mission. When we work together to support students, we build a more vibrant, resilient community where everyone has the chance to succeed.

With gratitude,

Dr. Adrien L. Bennings
President
Portland Community College

Jans Dykhouse
Board President
Portland Community College Foundation



Scholarships open doors to opportunity — creating pathways to education, economic mobility, and life-changing possibilities for students. Your investments help shape a stronger, more vibrant future for our community.

HERE’S WHAT YOUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT LOOKED LIKE IN 2024-25:

\$2.5
million

Awarded in scholarships
by the PCC Foundation

1,630

Donors supported
PCC students

435

First-time donors
joined our community



Of donors gave \$1,000
or less — proving every
gift makes a difference

Together,
we are turning
possibility
into reality for
thousands
of students
each year.





The Power of *Expanding Access*

Saidu Yillah, a PCC student-athlete and scholarship recipient, and Rowena Paz Norman, an alum and PCC instructor, exemplify how scholarships unlock transformative educational experiences.





Saidu Yillah

PCC Student

Soccer has always been my anchor. My dad first introduced me to the game when I was little, and though I didn't like it at first, I quickly fell in love.

Today, I play on the PCC men's soccer team. Soccer keeps me grounded and I feel more connected to my dad when we talk about our love of the game.

It's also what led me to PCC, where I could keep playing while pursuing my education. I started in September 2024, studying business, and so far, so good — I'm having fun!

Getting here, though, wasn't easy. I moved to the U.S. from Sierra Leone at 16, after my grandma — the woman who raised me — passed away and the political situation became dangerous. My uncle and I made the journey through several countries, from Panama to Mexico, staying in shelters along

the way. I even taught myself Spanish to help make friends.

I wasn't always on the right path. When I was a kid, I fought a lot and got into trouble. But I've turned my life around.

As a first-generation college student, college didn't always feel accessible. I came to the U.S. with very little, and without

scholarships, I likely would have had to put college on hold. That's why I'm so grateful for my scholarships. They've lifted a huge burden and made it possible for me to focus on school, soccer, and building a future I once thought might be out of reach. I want donors to know I am determined to succeed and their investment won't go to waste.

“Now I want to set a good example for my younger siblings, to teach them to be good human beings, just like my grandma taught me.”



Saidu Yillah is a first-generation student from Sierra Leone studying business at PCC with support from Oregon Promise, a state program that helps cover community college tuition, and PCC Foundation scholarships. A member of the men's soccer team, he plans to transfer to Oregon State University to study business and sports management.



Rowena Paz Norman

PCC Supporter, Instructor, and Former Foundation Trustee

My own PCC journey started because numbers scared me — failing algebra in high school will do that to you. Despite a successful career at Google and Feeding America, I knew my financial skills were lacking. So I nervously enrolled in accounting classes, biking to evening classes after full work days, dreading spreadsheets and balance sheets.

Accounting 211 and instructor Lisa Whedon changed my life. Beyond teaching me debits and credits, Lisa helped me realize I was capable of so much more. Her encouragement inspired me to earn my Master of Business Administration and launch a new career in strategic planning, first at Tillamook and now as a strategy consultant at Propeller.

Lisa also gave me a challenge: “Pass it forward, and be the inspiration for another to reach beyond their dreams.”

Now I’m doing exactly that. I served on the PCC Foundation board, where we provided \$2.5 million in scholarships to students,

64% of whom face food insecurity. My husband and I also donate to the PCC Foundation because financial obstacles shouldn’t determine who gets to learn. And I’m back in the classroom at PCC, but now as an instructor teaching Business 101, making concepts relatable (Taylor Swift tickets as supply and demand!) and investing in my students just like Instructor Whedon invested in me.

“As an adjunct instructor, I see the determination in my students’ faces every week: some taking their first business class, some the first in their families to go to college.”

They’re juggling multiple jobs, classes, and childcare, but what impresses me most is their resilience and grit to keep showing up for their education. They remind me exactly why expanding access to education matters so much. And every semester, I watch new students discover what’s possible — just like I did in Accounting 211.

Rowena Paz Norman is a PCC alum, former Foundation trustee, PCC business instructor, and strategy consultant at Propeller. She has supported the PCC Foundation since 2019 and, together with her husband, Luke, is a member of the Amo DeBernardis Legacy Society (p. 36).



Because of you, the power of possibility is alive at PCC.

In 2024-25, your gifts provided scholarships, encouragement, and opportunity, allowing students to pursue their dreams and move forward with confidence.

1,557

PCC students received scholarships

\$1,607

Average scholarship award to support a student's educational journey

\$7,158

Estimated annual tuition at PCC for a full-time student

1:3

Every year, the PCC Foundation receives three times more applications for scholarships than the available funds can cover



IN 2024-25, PCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS INCLUDED:

66%

First-generation college students

57%

Students who identify as people of color

The PCC Foundation's growing portfolio of scholarship funds continues to expand access and opportunity for PCC students.

260+

Individual scholarship funds

18

New scholarship funds in 2024-25

For more information about the new funds, visit pcc.edu/possibility



The Power of *Igniting Workforce*

PCC's partnership with LAIKA connects students to careers in film and animation. As an intern, Bryce Clyde worked with producer Sam Wilson (here with a model of Pittock Mansion from the film *Wildwood*) to gain real-world experience that led to a new dream opportunity.





Bryce Clyde

PCC Alum

The first film I ever made was about bloodthirsty penguins.

I was a child with an old VHS camcorder and a big imagination. My friends laughed, my family humored me, and I learned that storytelling could connect people.

But life has a way of meandering. I studied media arts at Brigham Young University, then shifted to construction management to join my parents' company. A few years ago, my wife, Mikayla, and I moved to Camas, Washington, with our two young kids. I thought filmmaking was behind me until Mikayla encouraged me to return to school. I took a video production class at PCC and I loved it!

At PCC, I learned more than just classroom training. I created videos for the Future Connect program to help students navigate the college. It was hands-on, creative work that helped me grow, make mistakes, and get better with every project.

Before I graduated in June, I told my instructors I wanted to apply

“PCC gave me the tools and confidence to step into this industry, which I’m now applying daily.”

for a LAIKA internship. They were so supportive and helped me tailor my résumé and reels.

I landed the role and spent the summer as a production management intern for the upcoming film *Wildwood*, assisting the production team and shadowing different departments every week. I worked with the producer, camera crews,

rigging, and puppet teams to make sure things ran smoothly. I learned how much detail goes into every little aspect of storytelling. Everyone is so welcoming at LAIKA and happy to share their knowledge.

LAIKA has just hired me full-time as a central production assistant — and I know this is only the beginning.



Bryce Clyde received critical support from the Native & Indigenous Student Scholarship as he balanced school and family responsibilities. He graduated from PCC in June 2025 with a degree in multimedia and now works full-time at LAIKA as a central production assistant.



Sam Wilson

LAIKA, Corporate Partner

Oregon doesn't have a large film industry presence, and that's what makes LAIKA's partnership with PCC so important. Together, we're creating opportunities for students that are almost unheard of here: internships, scholarships, curriculum development, and a professional-grade stop-motion lab on the Cascade Campus that will give students real hands-on access to the craft.

At LAIKA, everything happens under one roof, which is rare; other places are more specialized. Because we're a one-stop shop for filmmaking and production, PCC interns like Bryce Clyde get a comprehensive view of the craft — from concept to final frame.

This work can be challenging. To thrive in the industry, you need to understand the "how" — the detailed technical processes, creative problem-solving, and industry standards.

From day one of Bryce's internship, he built strong relationships across the studio, sought out conversations, and learned by engaging directly with the work. Bryce's experience shows how powerful early-career opportunities can be when they offer broad exposure.

“Through our partnership with PCC, we're building a pipeline that allows students to grow, experiment, and prove themselves while connecting LAIKA with the fresh voices and emerging talent that will define the future of animation in Oregon.”

Sam Wilson is the producer of LAIKA's upcoming film *Wildwood*. In addition to overseeing the practical shoot, he works closely with the production team — supporting the PCC interns on set, helping them navigate real-world production challenges and grow into rising talent in the animation industry.



Career and Technical Education Powers Oregon’s Workforce

PCC’s Career and Technical Education programs equip students with hands-on skills and industry credentials that prepare them to thrive in today’s job market.

IN 2024-25:

10,291

PCC students who had a CTE-related major or credential intent

2,334

CTE degrees and certificates awarded

1,934

PCC students who completed CTE degrees and certificates

Explore programs at pcc.edu



A Landmark Partnership

In 2024, PCC announced a transformative partnership with LAIKA, the award-winning animation studio. As part of the collaboration, LAIKA pledged funds to the PCC Foundation to launch the LAIKA Scholarship and support new courses in animation and stop motion. Together, PCC and LAIKA are developing curriculum, offering portfolio reviews, and providing paid internships — giving students hands-on training and industry connections that prepare them for careers in animation.

4

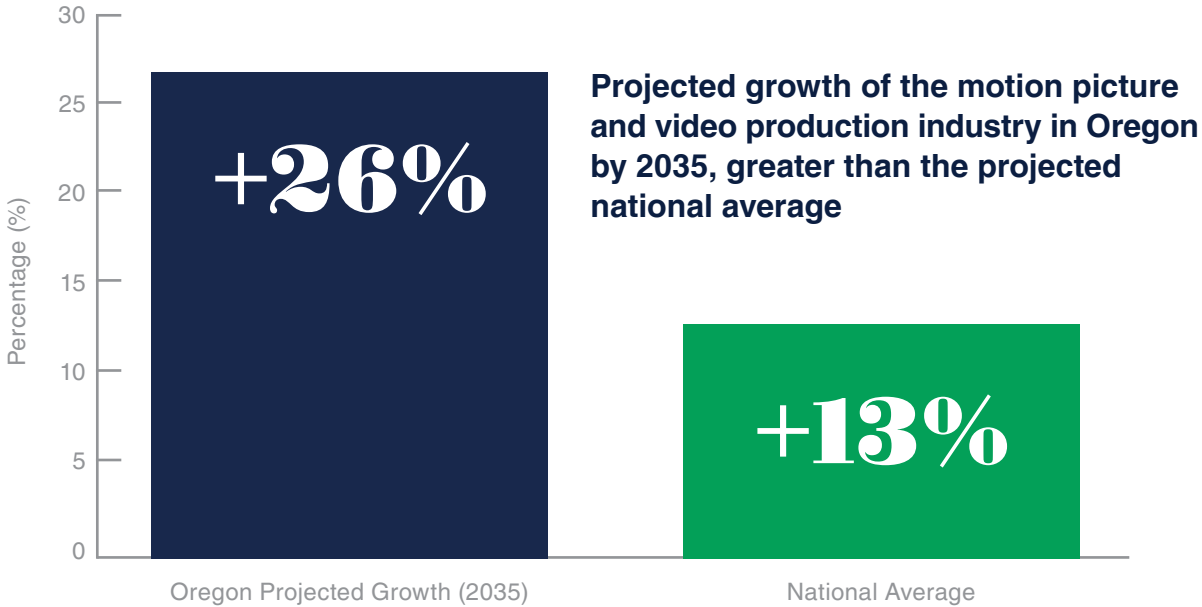
PCC students have interned with LAIKA since 2022

2

PCC interns hired on as full-time LAIKA employees since 2022

\$77,229

Average annual Oregon salary for motion graphics designers and stop motion animators





The Power of *Strengthening Supports*

Arantxa Hernández Santana came to PCC with lingering uncertainty about navigating college as a first-generation student. That changed when she connected with First-Year Experience program coach Andrea Chacon.





Arantxa Hernández Santana

PCC First-Year Experience Student

I was scared to start school again because deep down, I felt like I had failed. I started at Walla Walla University after high school but left after one semester, overwhelmed by the financial challenges. Even though my dad reassured me we could figure it out, I have two younger brothers and didn't want to burden my family.

I then spent a year at home working as a teacher's aide. In Fall 2024, I started classes at PCC. Being a first-generation college student, navigating all the college systems and expectations was daunting. But the First-Year Experience program and my coach, Andrea Chacon, changed that. I would have been lost without her.

When I couldn't pay my tuition, Andrea sat with me, helped me contact financial aid, and connected me to a scholarship. She also helped me build my résumé, encouraged me to join clubs like tennis, and constantly reminded me I wasn't alone.

“The First-Year Experience didn't just help me find resources — it gave me the confidence to believe I could succeed.”

That sense of empowerment also led me to reflect on where I come from and what drives me.

My parents moved to the States from Mexico when I was four months old. They've always

been my biggest inspiration, teaching me to be grounded, self-aware, and to help others.

My dream is to pursue social work and eventually law school to practice family law. Working as a teacher's aide showed me how badly kids need advocates. I want to be the person who listens, protects, and ensures their voices are heard. My parents taught me that struggles can be overcome — and I'm determined to turn that lesson into action by standing up for others.



Arantxa Hernández Santana is a First-Year Experience student pursuing an Oregon Transfer degree at PCC with plans to study social work and family law. She is passionate about helping make sure children have the advocacy and support they need.



Andrea Chacon

PCC First-Year Experience Coach

As a First-Year Experience coach, I sometimes meet students who are ready to give up. One student came to me feeling completely lost in political science — unsure about the assignments, disconnected from the material, and on the verge of dropping the class.

Together, we worked through the situation step by step. I was able to understand what they needed and what the instructor was requesting. By the end of the term, the student had gained clarity about their grades, found support through tutoring,

and passed the class. Even better, they carried those lessons into the next term. That’s the power of the First-Year Experience program.

Support from coaches is very flexible. Students can text, email, hop on a Zoom, or drop in without an appointment. That makes reaching out easy, especially for first-time-in-college students who might not know where to begin.

I deeply admire the drive I see in my students. When challenges come up, they don’t give up. They find a way, they ask for help, and they keep moving forward.

“The most rewarding part of being a coach is knowing that even small acts of support, like taking one thing off a student’s plate, can make a huge difference.”

Andrea Chacon is a coach with PCC’s First-Year Experience program, where she supports students in navigating the transition to college. She is passionate about connecting students to resources, building their confidence, and ensuring they feel welcome and supported.





Michael Reyes Andrillón

Meyer Memorial Trust Foundation Partner

At Meyer Memorial Trust, we believe education is worth safeguarding — especially in a time when its value is being questioned. For many students, the barriers to college can be high. Yet we know the transformative role that higher education can play.

That's why PCC's First-Year Experience is so important. It goes beyond helping students navigate the system; it reshapes the system itself to be more inclusive and supportive, ensuring students are set up for success.

As a longtime partner in PCC's Future Connect program, we've witnessed the impact of centering first-generation students and advancing educational equity. Building on that success, the First-Year Experience scales those learnings to support more students during the critical transition to college, when they are most at risk of getting lost in the process.

“At Meyer Memorial Trust, we value PCC's commitment to inclusive excellence and know that supporting students early sets them up for greater success.”

Through the First-Year Experience program, we're investing in a future where higher education doesn't just serve some students — it's ready to serve them all.

Michael Reyes Andrillón is a senior program officer at Meyer Memorial Trust, where he advances racial, social, and economic justice across Oregon. His work focuses on expanding access to education and opportunity. Meyer has supported PCC since 1985 and was a founding partner in launching Future Connect in 2012 and scaling the First-Year Experience program in 2024.



Brigid Flanigan

PCC Supporter and Foundation Trustee

Whenever I meet a PCC student in the First-Year Experience program, I am amazed by their personal strength, optimism, and determination to create big plans for themselves.

The importance of philanthropy was instilled in me at a young age. My father, a banker in New York, created a program in the 1970s to fund the tuition of high school students with limited income and match them with mentors.

“Because of my father, I saw firsthand how an investment in a student's future can transform their life.”

Now that I'm in a position to give back, I've committed myself to supporting first-generation students and those with economic challenges in their transition to college.

We live in an age where education and constant skill upgrades are crucial to financial stability and well-being. The First-Year Experience program bridges the gap between the growing demand for education and the barriers students face in accessing it.

Many students juggle jobs, families, and coursework. Having a coach who understands their journey and connects them to PCC resources can mean the difference between persisting and giving up. Success is built step by step, and the First-Year Experience ensures students don't have to take those steps alone.

Brigid Flanigan is the founder and principal of Tenfold Senior Living, where she has created senior living retirement communities since 1992. She has been a steadfast partner to PCC since 2015, supporting the Future Connect program and the launch of the First-Year Experience program. She has been on the PCC Foundation Board of Trustees since 2024.



Future Connect Sets Students Up For Success

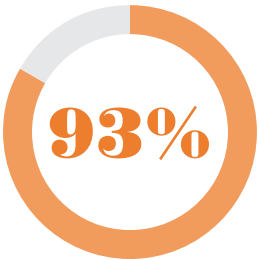
Future Connect is PCC’s nationally recognized college success program, providing scholarships, career guidance, and one-on-one and group coaching to students who are the first in their family to attend college or who have limited resources.

1,054

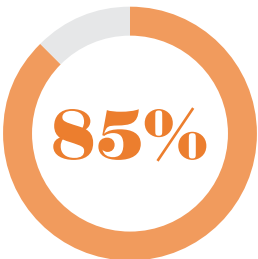
PCC students served by Future Connect in 2024-25, with 342 first-year students

4,640

Future Connect students served since its founding in 2011



Future Connect students who have limited income



Future Connect participants who are first-generation college students

Learn more at pcc.edu/future-connect

First-Year Experience Helps That Success Grow

Building on this success, PCC launched the First-Year Experience to extend these supports to thousands more first-time-in-college students. FYE provides coaching, mentoring, and resources that strengthen belonging, improve retention, and reduce debt — ensuring more students can thrive in their first year and beyond.

1,931

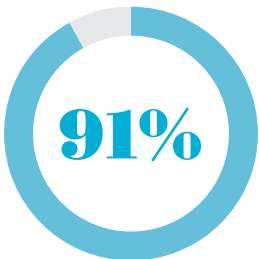
FYE students served in 2024-25

5,000

Expected number of FYE students served in 2025-26



FYE students who accessed a PCC resource or service due to information from FYE



FYE students who say the program made them feel welcome at PCC

Learn more at pcc.edu/first-year



The Power of *Investing in Tomorrow*

After decades in the workforce, scholarship recipient Collin McFadyen earned a PCC degree and is now exploring a new career — a journey that supporter Laurel Dickie understands personally and is committed to helping others navigate.





Collin McFadyen

PCC Alum

I never went to college because it honestly never occurred to me that there was a reason to do so. In high school, I lived on the streets for about a year and a half, hitchhiking between Portland and Seattle with other teens. It was a scary time.

It took a while, but I got back on my feet. I started washing dishes at The Roxy diner and discovered that I was good at cooking breakfast. I went on to own the Byways Cafe from 1999 to 2019. When our lease fell through, it all ended so suddenly that I barely had time to process it or plan my next steps.

That's when I turned to PCC. I began with Community Education writing classes and enrolled as a credit student at age 55. With the help of the TRIO program, which provides personalized advising, I learned to navigate college and see myself as a capable student.

I graduated this year and am exploring careers in nonprofit work. I might use my Spanish to support newcomers navigating

life in Portland or work with older adults to help them stay active and independent.

Right now I have a job that truly feeds my soul — coaching skateboarding with Skate Like a Girl, a nonprofit that uplifts girls, women, and LGBTQ+ and BIPOC youth. I also work at New Seasons, where my food skills and customer service shine.

The scholarships I received equaled about a month's pay at New Seasons, so they literally bought me time.

“I could hardly believe I got a scholarship. It was so exciting to realize that someone believed in me.”

More than that, they gave me a huge boost of confidence.

Through it all, my wife and two sons have been my biggest supporters — and I proudly rock PCC gear every chance I get!



Collin McFadyen completed their general studies degree in 2025. They received the Lou Gandy Humanities Endowed Scholarship and the Deborah Evind Women's Leadership Endowed Scholarship. Collin loves being a skateboarding coach and hopes to one day expand their impact by working at a nonprofit that helps build stronger communities.



Laurel Dickie

PCC Alum and Supporter

I love to learn, and I'm never bored. Every term, I take Community Education classes at PCC — everything from Mysteries of Dying to quilting, tree climbing, and vegan cooking. I also love architecture, sew my own clothes, and take exercise classes five days a week.

Growing up, I was a mediocre student. After finishing PCC's Dietetic Technician program, I discovered there weren't many positions available. I worked in a hospital kitchen for 20 years and later at the Oregon Food Bank.

That's why I started the "Left Turn" Scholarship: to support students who, like me, discovered their first path wasn't quite the right fit. Maybe they had to take a break from their education,

"My path hasn't always been a straight one, but along the way, I kept learning and giving back."

or they're looking to change fields. If this scholarship can ease their way and cover essentials like books, then hopefully their learning will be a bit easier.

I've also included the PCC Foundation in my will, so future students will benefit long after I'm gone. I don't live extravagantly, but you don't have to be wealthy to make a difference. Whatever you can give, whenever you can give it, helps students keep moving forward.

A PCC alum, **Laurel Dickie** is endowing a "Left Turn" Scholarship to support students whose paths take unexpected turns and has launched a companion scholarship to help students now while the endowment builds. Laurel has included a future gift to PCC through her estate plans and is a member of the Amo DeBernadis Legacy Society (p. 36).



Amo DeBernardis Legacy Society

Dr. Amo DeBernardis, PCC’s founding president from 1961 to 1979, championed the belief that higher education should be accessible to all — a vision that still guides our work today. The Amo DeBernardis Legacy Society honors donors who have included the PCC Foundation in their estate plans through a bequest in their will, life income plan, or other type of planned gift.

We are deeply grateful to these supporters for investing in future PCC students and the college. If you’ve named the PCC Foundation as a beneficiary, please let us know so we can recognize your generosity and welcome you to the Legacy Society.

Anonymous (14)	Dr. Amo DeBernardis*	Helen T. Grim*
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Russel L. Abraham*	Fred DeWitt*	Diane Hardiman Smith, RDH, M.Ed.*
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	Stanley E. Schmidt*	Richard and Glenda Worthington
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*deceased

Leave a Legacy with the PCC Foundation

When you include the PCC Foundation in your estate plans, you ensure that future students have the resources they need to succeed. It’s a powerful way to carry your values forward and foster the long-term health of our region.

Planned giving:

- Supports scholarships
- Provides wraparound services
- Helps meet urgent student needs
- Creates pathways to opportunity long into the future

Learn more at giftplanning.pcc.edu

The PCC Foundation serves as a catalyst, optimizing individual, foundation, corporate, and public support to provide scholarships, essential wraparound services, and vital programs for PCC students.

OUR MISSION

Removing barriers to education at Portland Community College through the power of partnerships.

OUR VISION

A community where anyone can thrive through education.

OUR VALUES

Every person deserves the opportunity and support necessary to achieve their educational goals.

- We actively seek out and invest in prospective and current students, especially those who experience systemic barriers.
- We boldly and creatively respond to address the needs of our students and community.
- We are transparent, fiscally responsible, and ethical in our communication, interactions, and intentions with our collaborators.



YEAR END JUNE 30, 2025

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2024-25 TOTAL
Grants and contributions	5,126,187
College in-kind support	1,721,139
Donated assets, materials, and services	97,776
Special events revenue	194,578
Investment income, net	947,610
Change in value of investments	2,038,967
Net change in fair value of split interest agreements	(7,139)
Total support and revenue	10,119,118
EXPENSES	
<i>Program:</i>	
Scholarships	2,121,766
Future Connect	1,567,150
Other program expenses	2,508,716
Total program	6,197,632
<i>Supporting services:</i>	
Administration	883,016
Fundraising	1,223,548
Total expenses	8,304,196
Change in net assets	1,814,922
NET ASSETS	
Beginning of year	29,101,786
End of year	30,916,708

Portland Community College supporters came together in a powerful show of generosity on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at *Together for Tomorrow*, a new celebration hosted by the PCC Foundation at the Sylvania Campus. The event raised \$326,640 to directly support Bridges to the Future scholarships and other critical student needs.

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Oregon State University College of Business
PCC Director Dan Saltzman and Liz Burns



Thank you to our
generous sponsors for
supporting the event!

PCC Foundation 2025-26 Emeritus Board

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