

PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMUNITIES

WINTER 2024

Laser Focused

Instructor Josh Berg is putting
modern fabrication technology
in the hands of more students

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**Portland
Community
College®**

PCC Community Ed

**Classes held remotely
and in person**

Jan. – Mar. (pages 3 – 61)

Registration opens

Nov. 22 at 7 am



Life on your terms starts next term

No matter where you are in your journey, Portland Community College is here to help you get to the destination you're dreaming about. Let our flexible schedules, online classes, and wide range of degrees, certificates, and programs open the door to your best life.

**Get started, start again, or explore a new course:
You can do it at PCC next term.**

Don't miss the Winter Term application deadline: Dec. 21, 2023
Apply now, and start Jan. 8, 2024. For more info, visit pcc.edu/admissions.



APPLY FOR FREE

pcc.edu/go



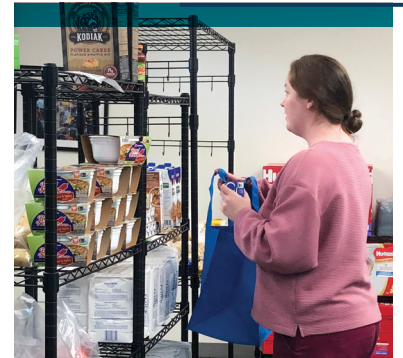
**Portland
Community
College**

Meeting Student Needs

Oregon college students grappling with basic needs insecurity are receiving crucial support from Portland Community College.

Last year, PCC secured an \$867,839 grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students Program. Over the next three years, the college will prioritize mental health services, housing support and trauma-informed care training for faculty and staff. ♦ **For more on PCC's basic needs support, visit pcc.edu/single-stop.**

Spotlights



Vibrant Jade Night Market Entertains

Last August, the Jade International Night Market turned PCC's Southeast Campus into a vibrant oasis. Themed "Together Again," the event was an eight-hour extravaganza of cultural celebrations and culinary delights. Attendees savored local artisan crafts and delicious cuisine while enjoying free face painting and balloon art. As night fell, the stage lit up with captivating dance performances and music, uniting the community and celebrating the spirited Jade District. ♦

PCC's Day of Pride

The college proudly turned out in force at the annual Portland Pride Waterfront Festival, a major donation-based LGBTQIA2S+ Pride event on the West Coast. Over 100 enthusiastic college staff, students and members of PCC's Queer Resource Centers joined the festivities, expressing their pride and solidarity. This colorful and impactful celebration showcased the college's commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where LGBTQIA2S+ individuals are encouraged to be themselves. ♦ **Learn more about PCC's Queer Resource Center: pcc.edu/queer**



Firm Highlights PCC's Economic Impact

Study shows the college demonstrates significant economic impact and investment returns

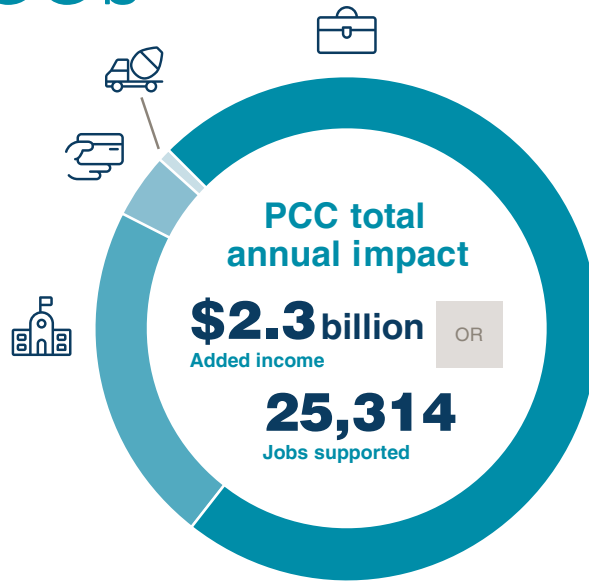
Portland Community College continues to showcase its vital role in the community by generating substantial economic value and delivering excellent investment returns for its stakeholders. The college's contributions extend beyond education, fostering economic growth and improving the overall quality of life in PCC's primary economic impact region.

According to a 2021-22 economic impact study by Lightcast, a provider of labor market data, PCC plays a crucial role in shaping students' futures, providing them with education, training and essential skills for successful and fulfilling careers. Additionally, the college serves as a catalyst for economic growth by attracting students from outside the region, creating new opportunities for regional businesses and vendors.

"This study by Lightcast reaffirms the critical importance of PCC and the far-ranging impacts the college has on not only the local economy but the state and the region as a whole," said PCC President Adrien Bennings. "Every day the college empowers students for success, drives economic growth, and enriches communities through education, innovation and holistic well-being."

The study also evaluated the college as an investment from the perspectives of students, taxpayers and society. Notably, the students' benefit-cost ratio was 5.1, meaning for every dollar invested in PCC, students could expect a cumulative value of \$5.10 in higher future earnings.

From a taxpayer's perspective, the investment analysis revealed significant benefits, with a benefit-cost ratio of 1.6. For every dollar of public money invested in PCC, taxpayers will receive a cumulative present value of \$1.60 over the students' working lives. ♦



Operations spending impact

Impact of annual payroll and other spending

\$293.2 million
Added income



Enough to buy **6,227** new cars

3,026

Jobs supported



Student spending impact

Impact of the daily spending of PCC students attracted to or retained in the region

\$78.7 million
Added income



Enough to buy **6,354** families* a year's worth of groceries

1,152

Jobs supported



Construction spending impact

Impact of expenditures for ongoing construction projects

\$22.2 million
Added income

233

Jobs supported



Alumni impact

Impact of the increased earnings of PCC alumni and the businesses they work for

\$1.9 billion
Added income



An economic boost similar to hosting the Super Bowl

OR

20,904 Jobs supported

5x





Meet your future your own way



No two paths are the same, but all paths lead you forward at Portland Community College. No matter who you are, who you want to be, or where you want to go, all your possibilities begin at PCC.

AT PCC YOU CAN:

- ◆ Choose from **90+ academic programs**
- ◆ **Save about 48%** compared to four-year public universities*
- ◆ **Apply for free** in less than 20 minutes
- ◆ **Get one-on-one help** during the admissions and enrollment process



Get started today!
pcc.edu/start



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*Estimated 2023-24 cost of attendance for a full-time, resident student (12-18 credits per term). Calculation based on publicly available recruitment materials. For up-to-date costs, visit pcc.edu/tuition.



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History Corner:

Restoring a Native Treasure

In 2014, renowned Kwagiulth Native artist Richard Hunt and Gene Flores, division dean of Visual & Performing Arts at PCC, joined forces to breathe new life into a cherished 30-foot red cedar “Welcoming Pole” at the Sylvania Campus.

The totem pole had endured damage from rot, insects and even woodpeckers since first being installed outdoors in 2000. In an inspiring two-day restoration effort, Hunt and Flores meticulously repaired and repainted the pole, restoring it to its former glory. The totem pole was then moved to its new permanent home inside the semi-glass atrium entrance of the College Center Building, symbolizing the enduring legacy of Native artistry and cultural preservation. ♦



Career Checkup

Recently, the Providence Career Workshop & Job Fair, held in collaboration with PCC Community Workforce Development, opened doors to exciting career possibilities at the college’s Willow Creek Opportunity Center. Attendees, including students and job seekers, explored Providence’s work culture, benefits and application processes through virtual reality experiences and hands-on medical simulations. The event showcased PCC’s health care training programs and career pathways, emphasizing the correlation between higher education in health care and increased lifetime earnings. ♦

Honoring Foundational Leaders

The PCC Foundation bid farewell to two board members and area executives, Susie Lahsene and Karen Kervin. Lahsene, principal at Lahsene and Associates, and Kervin, vice president and director of operations for the U.S. Bank Foundation, have been pivotal in shaping the PCC Foundation and elevating its success. Their tireless commitment to the Foundation’s mission and their genuine passion for empowering students have left an indelible legacy. ♦

For more information, visit pcc.edu/foundation.



Buttigieg Hails PCC Efforts on Transportation

Congressman Earl Blumenauer and U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg embarked on a thorough exploration of community support and partnerships during their 82nd Avenue Bus Tour last summer. The tour stopped by the Southeast Campus where Adrien Bennings, PCC’s president, hosted a walk-and-talk with media and dignitaries, including Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici, U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley and Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek. The visit highlighted PCC’s integral role in workforce development and connecting students to transportation options. ♦

Embracing Welding's Transformative Power



PCC's 'Discovery' class empowers students to dream big for their careers

“The beauty of welding is that you can travel the world,” said Juanita Lopez-Escobar. “You can work anywhere if you’re a welder.”

Lopez-Escobar of Forest Grove found her true passion for welding through Portland Community College’s “Discover Manufacturing and Construction Trades” on-ramp class. Taught by Kali Giaritta, the course opened doors for Lopez-Escobar that she never thought possible.

“They had different companies there that represented welding, manufacturing and construction,” said Lopez-Escobar. “You get to see what is interesting and what works for you and then talk to Kali to see what the program is about.”

Her journey into welding began in the fall of 2022 when she joined the on-ramp class after discovering a flyer from the Oregon Employment Department. The experience proved to be life-changing as

“‘Discover’ classes offer a chance for students to explore their options so they can make a confident decision about which path to choose. They foster a welcoming environment where prospective students can learn about resources for student success, and connect with other students who are starting a similar journey.”

— Kali Giaritta, Discover Class Instructor

she got to tour a PCC welding class, met a welding instructor, and connected with PCC's Career Pathways – a program of stackable, short-term training certificates.

“‘Discover’ classes are open to anyone in the community who wants to learn more about their options for careers and college,” Giaritta said. “Most people don't know what a career in machining, CADD, welding or microelectronics would look like. This class helps students envision the end goal, and helps them map out the path to that goal.”

For Lopez-Escobar, learning a trade was not just about earning a living; it was about empowerment and personal fulfillment. Lopez-Escobar added, “I had a dream to learn a trade so I could say, ‘I did this! I know how to do this!’”

Her determination only grew stronger as she realized the support network she had in Giaritta and her instructors. They

reassured her that age was no barrier to learning something new, and with their guidance, she began her journey into welding.

Through PCC's new Integrated Education and Training Program in welding, she found an efficient career pathway to achieve her dream at the new welding shop at the Rock Creek Campus. The program promised to train her in just two terms, and the best part was that her tuition would be fully covered. This opportunity allowed her to continue working while pursuing her certification during the summer.

“‘Discover’ classes offer a chance for students to explore their options so they can make a confident decision about which path to choose,” Giaritta said. “They foster a welcoming environment where prospective students can learn about resources for student success, and connect with other students who are starting a similar journey.

“Juanita came into the ‘Discover’ class with a great attitude,” she continued. “She was motivated to learn and wasn't afraid to try new things. When our class visited the PCC OMIC Training Center and welding instructor Lucas Briggs asked for a volunteer to help with a demo, Juanita was the first student to raise her hand.”

Lopez-Escobar's path to welding was not without challenges. Her family immigrated to the United States from Mexico when she was just 12 years old, and she faced difficulties adapting to a new culture and language. Nevertheless, she persevered, raising her first two children by working in the manufacturing industry and seizing every chance to acquire new skills.

After the birth of her third child, she realized she needed to secure a higher-paying trade to provide a better life for her family. Her determination led her to welding when she noticed a demand for welders in her workplace. Despite her initial struggles, she knew this was the path she wanted to take.

Lopez-Escobar's journey exemplifies the beauty of welding and serves as a beacon of hope for those aspiring to find their passion and build a successful career in the welding industry.

“Don't be scared,” she advised. “There are always people here to help you out as you start something new. Doesn't matter what age you are, it will be hard, but you can do it.” ♦



To learn more about PCC's Discover classes, visit pcc.edu/opportunity-center



Kali Giaritta (left) and Juanita Lopez-Escobar



Portland Community College mails *Communities* to most district residents to let them know about upcoming Community Ed classes and share what's happening at the college. The magazine is printed and mailed four times a year for about 32¢ per copy. It can be recycled. **Because the magazine is addressed to "Residential Customer," PCC cannot remove individuals from the mailing list.**



Capture winter's beauty.

 **PCC Community Ed**

   @PCCcommunityed

pcc.edu/communityed

Dozens of painting and drawing classes this term will have you discovering your creativity. Join us on campus or from home.

Get started on pages 11-13.