Letters from the Heart

2017–18 PCC Foundation Philanthropy Report
PORTLAND STANDS AT A CROSSROADS. The cost of housing, childcare, and overall standard of living continues to rise—with the toll bridge to the middle class becoming increasingly expensive. Yet, there’s hope. Because of supporters like you, our students have a chance at crossing that bridge stress-free and debt-free.

As Portland grows, the opportunities PCC can provide grow right alongside it. To support our students on their road to success, we need to focus on strategies that help our students work less and study more so they can graduate. This past year alone, the PCC Foundation provided nearly 1,300 scholarships to help students.

Our students have big dreams. Already, many are working toward making our city more just, affordable and equitable.

We believe everyone has a right to cross the bridge to opportunity no matter their race, gender, family economic beginnings or other circumstances. Community is our middle name. Every day, we are amazed by the community of donors like you who are driving change.

Thank you for your continued dedication to PCC. The road may seem long and hard at times, but our students know that whatever challenges they face, you’ll be there to support them.

Yours for PCC,

Mark Mitsui
President, PCC

Susie Lahsene,
President, PCC Foundation Board of Directors
THE MOST MEANINGFUL GIFTS are always from the heart. What follows are letters inspired by the stories of donors, students, alumni, staff and friends whose profoundly personal connections to PCC have sparked some of the year’s most memorable philanthropic moments.
Dear little sister,

Honestly, Daniela, I’m really going to miss you next year. Our bus rides together to PCC were the best part of my day—well, that and those breakfast bowls. I never thought in a million years we’d both end up in Future Connect. You remember how I was in high school. Me, your big brother, who was supposed to be a role model but could hardly get it together to pass my classes. It wasn’t until I started at PCC that I actually wanted to learn and do homework. Seems crazy, but I never missed a day of college. It wasn’t always easy. That one term I struggled in math, it was you and the amazing Future Connect coaches who gave me the confidence to push through and keep trying. I won’t give up so easily now. I won’t give up at all. And Daniela, I won’t ever give up on you.

Love,

Adan

ADAN URIBE graduated this past year from Future Connect, a scholarship and mentoring program for first-generation and low-income college students. He recently transferred to Portland State University to pursue a degree in social work and hopes to return to PCC as a Future Connect coach.
We started this scholarship in the hopes that it would help a woman get a new start in life. And here you are. A DREAMer, a mentor, a fighter. You said you have to work twice as hard to prove to society that you’re more than an undocumented student. That because of your legal status you’re seen as “other.” Jhoana, let me assure you. You’re not seen as “other” to us—or to many. You’re seen as the positive and successful woman you are and will become. I know it feels like the odds are against you now. That will change. In the meantime, we’ll be watching and supporting you as you work toward realizing your dreams and contributing to your community—one that includes us, my friend.

Our best wishes,

[Signature]

PETE LORAIN AND JAN BURGESS

PETE LORAIN AND JAN BURGESS are former K-12 educators who created the Margaret Lorain Memorial Scholarship to honor Pete’s mother, Margaret Lorain. The scholarship supports students—usually single mothers or women who have overcome addiction or domestic abuse.
Not many people know this, but a few years ago I had to quit attending PCC. I was about to be homeless and didn’t know where my next meal was coming from. I didn’t know PCC could help. So I did what I had to do to support me and my two kids and eventually, I came back. Now, I provide students with access to free, healthy food—and let them know it’s okay to ask for help. Because of your gifts, students don’t have to bear the burden of food insecurity alone. They can go to class, nourished and able to focus on their future. They don’t have to quit. Thank you for giving students agency over their own lives. Next time you’re on campus, look for my red wagon. I’ll make you a fresh cucumber and tomato salad, drizzled with a delicious vinaigrette, and we’ll talk about how we can all do more together. The movement has only just begun.

In solidarity, 

VENUS BARNES

VENUS BARNES is an AmeriCorps volunteer in charge of the Learning Garden at Sylvania, and a graduate of PCC’s Transitions and ROOTS programs. With nearly 50% of PCC students reporting being food insecure, Venus partners with resource centers around the college to ensure students know that help is available. Last year’s PCC Foundation Giving Tuesday campaign raised more than $17,000 for Panther Pantries, the food banks on each of PCC’s campuses.
Dear Michael Allen Harrison,

You hear that sound coming out of Room 128? It’s the sound of my favorite piano—a small Steinway your foundation donated to PCC. Every day, for hours at a time, I sit down on the bench of this beautiful baby grand piano. I run my hands over the keys and play Chopin’s Mazurka Op. 17, No. 4. I get lost in its bittersweet melodies. Anyone who plays piano knows that to get good—like, really good—it’s all about perfecting the small things. That’s what you’ve given me: a chance to practice on a true, quality instrument so that I’m prepared for the real world. Since I didn’t start playing until high school, I feel like I’m already behind. I know that the music business can be cutthroat, but I’m determined. Someday, I hope to help other musicians like you’ve helped me.

With gratitude,

Jacob

JACOB MCKEE is currently pursuing an Associate of Applied Science degree with a focus on music production and hopes to have his own studio in the future. He and other Rock Creek students are benefiting from the donation of seven pianos from famed Oregonian musician, songwriter and pianist Michael Allen Harrison and his Snowman Foundation.
For 52 years, I was lucky to have you as my coach and mentor. You’re gone now, but I still can hear your voice: “You have to give back.” You’re the reason why I started a nonprofit to mentor student-athletes. You taught me to take advantage of all an education has to offer—and now I pass that wisdom to our teams. I tell them: “Get your money’s worth.” I make sure they attend class, use the study labs and go after those scholarships and grants. And let me tell you, our young men this past year were something else! They were champions on the court and in the classroom. Our team won the Northwest Athletic Conference’s South Region title, and all our starters had a 3.0 GPA or better. They’re special people. Real special. I wish you could’ve met them, Show. I know you’d be proud.

Love,

DR. ELAHI BRADLEY-MUHAMMAD
You’ve probably done it dozens of times without realizing it. In the first days of a term, you see a student looking down at a slip of paper and up at a maze of campus buildings. You walk over with a smile and ask if you can help. Maybe it’s more serious, and you find yourself walking with them to a resource center or counseling office. These small things can make a big difference. A big institution like ours becomes a bit smaller and friendlier, and we all know that extra effort can change someone’s life. There are only two jobs here at PCC; you’re either educating students or supporting their education. Seeing the impact I can have today tells me how important my contribution will be tomorrow.

Thanks for being part of it,

RIC GETTER
PCC STAFF MEMBER

RIC GETTER and his wife, Shigemi, have made provisions in their will for a generous scholarship endowment that will continue their support of PCC students in perpetuity. Ric has worked in IT and Media Production at PCC since 2006. He is the current Educational Advisory Council Membership Chair, where he advocates for technical equity across the college.
Fifty-two thousand babies. That’s how many babies I told my mom I wanted to have when I grew up. Well, I fell short of my goal and ended up with only two boys. They’re the reason why I’m back in school. I want to show them what it looks like to succeed. As a single mom, every day is hard. I hear that when you were alive your doors were always open to people who couldn’t afford medical care. Now you’re helping us afford education and have given me the best gift—a gift any parent knows is worth more than anything—time. The ability to take a breath, study harder and, if I’m lucky, sleep longer. That’s what I want to give other parents when I become a pediatric nurse. More time to kiss their baby’s cheeks, or wipe away tears. A chance to see their child grow. Because of your generosity, I just might make my goal after all.

Thank you.

BRANDI KAMNA
ALFONSO TORRES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

BRANDI KAMNA is a recipient of the Alfonso Torres Memorial Scholarship, a new award established through the estate of Dr. Alfonso Torres-Vincenzi that will provide scholarships each year to at least 20 students with high financial need. Currently studying nursing at PCC, Brandi ultimately hopes to become a physician’s assistant specializing in neonatal surgery.
To my mentor W.B.S.

I know I tell you this all the time, but I’m going to say it again: I really look up to you. My old man instilled in me to be the best at what I do. PCC gave me the skills to do it. You’ve taught me to take “It can’t be done” out of my vocabulary. I’ve seen you look at a problem and figure out how to fix it in two minutes in the most unconventional way. You’re going to retire someday and I’m making sure to learn everything I can from you so that when you go, all that knowledge you’ve acquired over the years won’t be gone. You know how competitive I am. I’ve worked hard to win competitions at home and across the globe. But the best prize of all? It’s been getting to work next to you.

Thanks for everything.

RYAN WALKER

is a power generation technician for Western States Equipment in Tri-Cities, Washington. He graduated three years ago with an associate degree from the ThinkBIG Program, a partnership between PCC, the PCC Foundation, and regional Caterpillar dealers that aims to address the skilled worker gap the industry is facing. This past spring, Walker won top prize at Caterpillar Inc.'s Top Apprentice competition in Melbourne, Australia.
SPECIAL THANKS TO THE DONORS, business partners and community leaders who have given from the heart this year. Your gifts to PCC have supported scholarships, workforce engagement and student success programs—and have made a profound difference in the lives of students, their loved ones and our community.
THE PCC FOUNDATION is dedicated to expanding access to higher education by addressing the wide range of student needs at Portland Community College.

Foundation audited financial statements are available at pcc.edu/foundation/who-we-are/mission.html.
2017-18

Year in Philanthropy

ACROSS OREGON AND BEYOND, PCC Foundation donors helped ensure that all students in our region have access to an excellent PCC education and the support needed to succeed. Here are a few of the year’s many special stories.

SUMMER

- PCC ALUMNA AND RETIRED CRITICAL CARE NURSE JUDY SEARS announced a significant estate gift to support scholarships for PCC nursing students.
- CITY OF PORTLAND, CITY OF BEAVERTON AND CITY OF HILLSBORO contributed almost $800,000 to support the Future Connect program, a nationally-recognized program that provides scholarships and coaching to help low-income, first generation students. The PGE Foundation, Bank of America and KeyBank Foundation also awarded $65,000 to support this innovative program.
- THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF THE CRAIG H. NEILSEN FOUNDATION, nearly $130,000 in scholarships was awarded to empower students living with spinal cord injuries. The Foundation has given more than $315,000 to help PCC students access education and gain independence.
- INTEL CORPORATION donated $50,000 to help fund PCC Rock Creek's Science Technology Engineering Art Math (STEAM) Pathways project. Through unique learning opportunities at Rock Creek, as well as secondary schools and partner venues, the initiative creates specific pathways to recruit students into PCC’s Microelectronics Technology program.
- THE PCC FOUNDATION hosted a lunch celebrating PCC’s Diamond Alumni and presented awards to: Sana Goldberg, registered nurse and healthcare writer; Tyrone Poole, president and founder of OneApp, which reduces costs for renters seeking housing; Ian Williams, entrepreneur and owner of Deadstock Coffee; and PCC Foundation Board Member Thach Nguyen, co-founder of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO).

FALL

- THE ESTATE OF PCC RETIREE JANET ELLINGTON made a significant gift to establish the Will B. and Janet A. Ellington Endowed Nursing Scholarship to provide financial assistance for PCC nursing students.
- THE OREGON IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE FUNDERS COLLABORATIVE awarded $50,000 to help launch a DREAM Center within Rock Creek’s Multicultural Center to provide outreach, education and emergency funding for undocumented and DACA students and their families. Thanks to this generous support from the Funders Collaborative — a partnership between The Collins Foundation, MRG Foundation, The Oregon Community Foundation, Pride Foundation and Meyer Memorial Trust.

WINTER

- FORMER PCC DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER DAVID SQUIRE made a generous donation and pledged an estate gift that will establish a scholarship in memory of his wife. The Carol and David Squire Endowed Scholar Award provides financial support for students who need assistance beyond traditional scholarships.
- MEYER MEMORIAL TRUST awarded a $175,000 grant to support the Future Connect program, an innovative pilot project designed to improve career readiness for first-generation and low-income high-school students through career technical education pathways to living-wage jobs in STEAM and trade careers.
- HILLSBORO ELKS LODGE #1862 provided a $25,000 grant to support a digital radiography system for PCC’s veterinary technology program to upgrade aging analog equipment with modern technology that meets emerging industry standards.
- THE CITY OF PORTLAND proclaimed February 2018 as Pioneer Black Firefighters of Portland Month. In conjunction with this historic proclamation, the Gus Waterford Memorial Scholarship — honoring Portland’s first African-American firefighter — was created at PCC to support first-generation college students studying fire protection technology.
- THE ZIDELL FAMILY FOUNDATION awarded a $10,000 grant to support PCC’s Small Business Development Center, allowing the center to double the number of small businesses it serves each year through training and advising.
- THE STEPHANIE KEYES ACCESSIBILITY CENTER was dedicated at the PCC Sylvania campus in honor of a generous estate gift from Stephanie Keyes. In her will, Ms. Keyes recognized the PCC faculty and staff who assisted her with coursework following her brain injury, including Ruth McKenna, Sharon Allen, Susan Watson, and the TypeWell transcribers.”
SPRING

Nearly 500 people attended the PCC Foundation’s seventh annual An Evening for Opportunity Gala, which raised a record-breaking $609,757. Generous contributions from top event sponsors Oregon State University, Pamplin Media Group, The Renaissance Foundation, Howard S. Wright, NW Natural and Marion Levitan and Howard Werth combined with individual gifts from Robert Quillin and Vanessa Morgan, Michael Gentry, Mary and Robert Holmström, Dave Nicoli, Dale Pellow and David and Christine Vernier along with many others to make An Evening for Opportunity an outstanding success. To cap the evening, the Foundation recognized generations to come.

New Amo DeBernardis Legacy Society members were welcomed by PCC President Mark Mitsui during a luncheon in the Michael D. Reese Hangar at PCC’s Aviation Science Center. These generous friends have remembered the PCC Foundation through a bequest, life income plan or other type of planned gift. Newly declared estate gifts totaling $1.8 million will support student scholarships and programs to ensure a legacy of philanthropy for generations to come.

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

Anonymous (7)
James and Janet Aulberg
Russell L. Abraham
Julian M. Abrecht
*Florence Anderson
*Andie and *Muruell Arrivill
David and Jean Avison
Susan K. Bach and Douglas Egan
*Elizabeth Bates
Peter and Dana Rauer
Nancy B. Bennenni
*Mollie Bihn Trust
Cami Bishop and Bill Edwards
*Mabel Bliss
*Robert Bloodworth
*Belford F. Buck
Cheryl A. Burgermeister
Leonard Cahn
Robert C. Candello
Ugo and Sima Carpinteri
*Dr. Howard Cherry
Cherie D. Chevalier
Jan D. Coulton
Mary K. Dalla
*Auta H. Dawson
*Dr. Amo Debernardis
Fred DoWitt
*Ms. Betty J. Domas
P. Michael Drake
Gary R. Eaton ’91 and Joy Eaton
Joan Edwards
*Janet A. Ellington
*Deborah A. Erickson
*Virginia and *Lee Finders
*Thelma E. Fisher
*Dorothy Fisher-Jones
*Rob and *Betty Fisk
*Gordon Gullbrandsen
*Michael J. Gentry
*Carl and Sue George
*Ric and Shagmni Gatter
Susan D. Gillette
David M. Goldberg and Deborah Spanton
Daniel and Loretta Goldy
*Mary Goss
*Helen T. Cohn
*Martin D. Nance
*Kathleen Hartman
*Anna V. Hay
*Marie E. Hermonson
*Gary Hildebrand
*Cheryl A. Hine
*Alice L. Hulse
*Ervin Hummel
*Patricia Hunter
*Marjorie L. Hutchinson
*Jeffrey E. Jacobs
*Albert E. Jacobs
*Jill F. Kantor
*Florence Kavanagh
*Sylvia J. Kelley
*Betty and Dr. John Kendall
*Stephanie S. Keyses
*Ema Kiger
*Miryang Kim
*Annette Kraft
*Richard J. Knoll
*Dana Kulp
*Peter Lorain and Janet Burgess
*Nancy Madsen ’96 and 1980
*James Madsen
*Phillip Mangolin
*Ami Mangolin Rome and Andrew Rome
*Marcia L. Marvin
*Lynn Mayer
*Marshall D. McCollum
*Peggy J. McVitty and *Frank McVitty Jr.
*Frank McVitty Jr.
*Rebecca A. Meyer
*Dan and Karen Morrissey
*Michael W. Morrow and *Ruth Petersen Morrow
*Eugene P. Nelson ’82
*Dr. Scholastica L. Njoki
*Terry and Mary Owen
*Eric Porshman
*Marjorie and J. Richard Powell
*Preston and Joan Pulliams
*Juliette M. Pump
*Edythe M. Pynchon
*Janet L. Ray
*Barbara Ray Neu
*Dr. Linda Reisser
*Sherry A. Robinson
*Vic Rosenfeld
*Ruthanne Rusnak
*Annette C. Saarinen
*Stefan E. Schmidt
*Laura H. Scott
*Betha L. Seaberry
*Judy Sears
*Robert Shelker
*David Squat
*Elaine G. Sterle and HM Steak
*Johnnie and *Julius Stokes
*Jean Stone
*Ronald and *Margie Summer
*Michael Trigoboff and *Patricia Leonard
*Lynnda D. Trout ’91
*William and *Lilia Ulrich
*Mary and *Frank Wales
*Gordon D. Walker
*Ron and Karen Wilkinson
*Milkcent M. Williamson
*Robert C Wimmer and *Howard A. Butzer
*Walton and Marilyn Wittke
*Richard and *Glenda Worthington
*Roger E. Wulf
*(deceased)

We thank this group for their thoughtful generosity.

Honoring his legacy are the members of the Amo DeBernardis Legacy Society who are making a lasting and transformative impact on the lives of PCC students by committing financial contributions through their wills or estate plans. We thank this group for their thoughtful generosity.
THE FOLLOWING HONOR ROLL of donors recognizes gifts received between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018.

We make every effort to maintain an accurate list. If you find an error, please let us know by calling 971-722-4382 or emailing pcxfoundation@pcc.edu.

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City of Portland
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AAUW Tigard Branch
Janice L. Abushakrah, Ph.D.
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Clarice G. Anderson
Peter and Madeline Andrews
Ken Austin
Dr. Lisa Avery
Susan Bach and Doug Egan
Cedric and Sandy Berry
Lisa S. Bedsole
Congressman Earl Blumenauer
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Kendra and Daniel Caswell ’01
Cherie D. Chevalier
Kyle and Amber Clark
Jane and Brian Cleland
Jeffrey G. Condit
Custom Automated Prosthetics
Doris Wright Tremaine
Barbara A. Deferrari,
Mike Martin and Molly Martin

“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue
in school and, one day, to make a difference in
someone else’s life, just
as you have made a
difference in mine.”

LAUREL OSORI, Alfonso Torres
Memorial Scholarship recipient
and future bilingual educator

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City of Hillsboro

GOLD $25,000 to $99,999
This scholarship provides me with something that does not only have monetary value. It will allow me to spend a few more hours every week with my son instead of having to work extra to make ends meet.

ANISSA LEON, Pauline Ferguson and Anna Burns Scholarship recipient and future nurse
Karen A. Tosi
Jeff and Kathy Van Raden
Barbara and Richard VanAmersoten
Mark A. VanDommelen ’03

Terri Peterson
Ann Pettrasomes
M. Kay Piacentini
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Portland Fire Fighters
Association
Portland Public Schools
Portland State University
PSU Foundation
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Qor Semiconductor
Quantum Spatial, Inc.
Regional Arts & Culture Council
Richard Kaiser ’81 and
Henningsen Cold Storage

The Poppe/Larsell Fund
Gary and Juneann Taylor

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LAURA A. MASSEY

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