

PCC Board of Directors Update

November 2014

Monthly News from Portland Community College

Dr Jeremy Brown, President

CAMPUS EVENTS

- **Cascade Campus** hosted a group of Japanese ophthalmic students as part of PCC's ongoing educational and cultural exchange with Osaka Jikei College. The students received an official welcome to the campus, followed by a tour and orientation in Cascade's Ophthalmic Medical Technology lab.
- **Rock Creek Campus** welcomed more than 1000 visitors on October 25th for their Harvest Festival. Community members experienced the Learning Garden, hay rides, pumpkin decorating, a petting zoo, face painting, and refreshments. The annual event is funded and facilitated by Rock Creek ASPCC.
- **Southeast Campus** officially launched on October 18th with a grand opening celebration. This is PCC's fourth comprehensive campus. More than 1200 faculty, staff, students, and community members attended the event. Senator Jeff Merkley and Representative Earl Blumenauer spoke during the program.
- **Sylvania Campus** received certification for its student government for the 2013-14 academic year from the Council of Student Services Administrators. The campus received a commendation for outstanding example of online submission.
- PCC participated in the 2014 National Alternative Fuels Day Odyssey on October 17th at the Sylvania Campus. The event, sponsored by the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium at West Virginia University, showcased electric cars and bicycles, compressed natural gas vehicles, and other modes of transportation that improve air quality and help lessen dependence on fossil fuels.
- President Brown and Vice President Kelley participated in a series of campus-hosted **College Conversations** at all four campuses. Faculty and staff posed questions in a conversational setting. The conversations will continue during November and December at the four major Centers.

Finalists are being determined for the **Government Relations Director** vacancy. The screening committee convened multiple times during October and November to select and interview candidates. Three finalists will visit the college in December.

“My Major” was added to MyPCC. The new feature highlights students’ major/degree and incorporates program diamonds introduced during PCC’s 50th birthday year. Student feedback is very positive.

Officials from PCC met with constituents of south **Columbia County** on October 21st to discuss the creation of an education center in the area by 2017.

PCC was a host institution for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) annual conference held in Portland this year, October 26-29. This conference is the largest gathering of sustainability higher education professionals and students, drawing over 2100 registrants from around the world this year. President Brown spoke briefly at the event and introduced the keynote speaker.

President Brown was invited to present for the Portland State University Physics Department. His lecture was entitled, “Exploring a Parallel Universe: The Transition from Nuclear Physicist to College President.” The event was well attended by PSU faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students.

Financial Aid provided \$69,440,867 to 18,011 students and parents to date. The Financial Aid Office received 52,636 applications from prospective students who listed PCC as one of their college choices. The Financial Aid Office is up-to-date on these applications and made 27,229 awards to current and potential students.

Veteran Services is up-to-date on VA certification and has provided \$6,578,809 to 1793 student veterans over summer and fall terms.

PCC Library began coordinating a collaboration between the College and Multnomah County Library in support of Everybody Reads 2015 (<https://multcolib.org/explore/everybody-reads-2015>). This year’s community read is *The Residue Years* by Mitchell S. Jackson. Activities will take place across the college at campuses and college locations and some events will be included in MCL’s print and web publications.

GRANT ACTIVITY

- **US Department of Education – GEAR UP – \$104,572**

As a partner to Portland Public Schools’ extension of their current GEAR UP program, PCC’s Future Connect program will provide mentor and leadership training to 50 student leaders per year and will also provide an all-day summer bridge workshop for 150 high school students.

AWARDS and HONORS

- Cascade Dean of Student Development, Linda Reisser was keynote speaker at the Northwest Association of Student Affairs Professionals conference in Redmond, Oregon. Dr. Reisser spoke on “Blazing Trails: From Theory to Evidence-Based Practice.”
- Congratulations to Rock Creek Bioscience faculty member, Josephine Pino for her work with the EXITO grant funded by NIH. The grant will Enhance Cross-disciplinary Infrastructure Training in Oregon (EXITO) by aligning institutions from Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and the US Pacific Islands. It will increase the number of undergraduate and underrepresented students pursuing careers through undergraduate research programs. EXITO was one of 10 centers selected nationwide to increase diversity in the biomedical workforce.
- Rock Creek Campus was selected to join the Energy Trust of Oregon Strategic Energy Management (SEM) 2014-15 Cohort. Rock Creek will develop an energy management plan involving facilities operations and maintenance, training needs, and best practices for energy waste reduction. The Energy Trust of Oregon offers financial incentives for successful engagement.
- Six Sylvania faculty members from the English, Philosophy, and Religion departments gave presentations at the Community College Humanities Association conference in Seattle. Their presentations included “Changing the Role of Humanities on Campus,” “Turkish Sufi Architecture: The Heart of the Journey,” and “Mythology in the Classroom.”

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- Voter registration events sponsored by the ASPCCs took place at Cascade, Southeast, Rock Creek and Sylvania campuses.
- ASPCC Cascade and the Native Nations Club teamed up to host the 9th annual Northwest Indian Storytelling Festival on October 10th. The event featured traditional native drumming and storytelling from around the Pacific Northwest.
- Congratulations to two former Rock Creek Bioscience Technology students for their article posted in the journal *Nature*. Elizabeth Terhune and Kimberly Nevonen were part of the research group that penned the article, “Gibbon genome and the fast karyotype evolution of small apes,” published online.

IN THE NEWS

- The *Portland Skanner* reported on the new Albina Head Start Center located at PCC’s Cascade Campus. *Portland Skanner*, Sept 24, 2014

- The Swan Islands Trade Center made the cover of the *Portland Business Tribune* September 30th with an article recapping the grand opening event. *Portland Business Tribune, Sept 30, 2014*
- Local *Bike Portland* blog commended PCC for reducing car traffic to Cascade Campus and spurring economic benefits to retailers along Killingsworth and Mississippi. *Bike Portland, Oct 2, 2014*
- Six PCC students, including four from Washington County, won \$5000 scholarships from NASA to continue pursuing their career goals. *The Oregonian, Oct 24, 2014*
- PCC is partnering with OHSU, Chemeketa Community College, Clackamas Community College, Clark College, University of Alaska, University of Hawaii, University of Guam, American Samoa Community College, and Northern Marianas college to increase diversity in science. *Salem Statesman Journal, Oct 30, 2014*