

PCC Board of Directors Update

March 2015

Monthly News from Portland community College

Dr. Jeremy Brown, President

CAMPUS EVENTS

- **Cascade Campus**

- The 25th Annual **Cascade Festival of African Films** commenced with a special gala celebration held at the North Star Ballroom. The festival itself kicked off the following night with a screening of “Half of a Yellow Sun” (Nigeria) at the Hollywood Theatre. The opening night featured remarks from Cascade Campus President Karin Edwards, state Sen. Michael Dembrow, and an appearance from the film’s director, Biyi Bandele. Screenings continued throughout the month in the Cascade Moriarty Auditorium.
- Renowned educator, writer, and spoken word artist Walidah Imarisha presented “Poetry in the Fight for Social Justice” on February 18th as part of the campus’ slate of **Black History Month** events.

- **Rock Creek Campus**

- **Intel** interviewed MT, EET, and CET students at the Rock Creek campus on February 18th for available positions. Sixteen graduating students will be moving forward in the selection process. The long-standing event is a huge motivator to students and a stellar example of how the PCC/Intel partnership serves the community and has significant impact on many lives.
- Approximately 100 Rock Creek students, staff, and faculty donned bright yellow vests and hard hats, grabbed a Sharpie, and left their mark on the new **Building 5**. The group signed a structural brace that will eventually be covered up as construction continues, but the inspiring words, small drawings, signatures, and well wishes will remain a part of the building always.
- As of Thursday, February 26, eight new **lambs** were born at the Rock Creek farm with more on the way! People are welcome to come by and see them, provided they are respectful, quiet, and do not feed the animals.

- **Southeast Campus**

- In early March, crews began razing the old **Kaiser Permanente building** at SE Division & 77th. PCC had hoped to renovate the building, but it became apparent that renovation would not be economically feasible. After the rubble has been cleared the site will be landscaped. No trees will be removed and no new construction is planned for the

foreseeable future. The parking lot will be improved with better lighting, a code blue emergency phone, restriping, and better storm water drainage.

- President Brown spent the day on the Southeast Campus on March 9th piloting **Presidency in Residency**. He began the day with Office Hours, attended the SE Managers' Meeting, took in a tour of the campus, visited with the LINKS program, attended an ASPCC General Council meeting, held a College Conversation, and met with Southeast Campus President Jessica Howard. The busy day getting to know Southeast campus staff and students was hailed a success.
- On February 2, the **Southeast Portland Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Advisory Council** met for the first time in its new location in the Southeast Campus Administration Hall (formerly the 1911 German American Society building). More than 25 people attended, including local business owners from Southeast Portland and representatives from the Jade District, APANO and IRCO. The 2015-2016 focus for the Advisory Council is on the SE and East Portland small business communities with special focus on the neighborhood businesses located around PCC SE Campus. Because the council is advisory, primary functions will be to provide insight on the needs of the small business owners and communities in the target area, serve as a community connection between the PCC SBDC and the SE and East Portland business community and promote the resources PCC SBDC offers to assist small business owners grow businesses, access capital, generate new sales, and create and retain jobs.
- **Sylvania Campus**
 - The first ever **Hackathon**, sponsored by Autodesk, Intel and PCC's MakerSpace, was held February 27 through March 1. The brainchild of student Eric Thomas, teams of student developers and entrepreneurs used 3D printers, laser cutters, Intel microcomputers, Autodesk software, soldering equipment, and even sewing machines to design and build innovative products. The teams showcased their accomplishments to industry professionals on the final day. The winning team, led by Blain Crabtree and Parker Snook, developed a temperature sensor that can remotely viewed by smartphone.
 - Sylvania hosted its annual **Preview Day** February 20th. More than 300 high school students, parents and counselors visited the campus to learn about PCC's programs and activities. Interim Sylvania Campus President Suzanne Johnson welcomed the group in the Performing Arts Center where they attended a sneak peak at a few numbers from the student production of *Hairspray – the Broadway Musical*. Students toured campus and attended a Resource and Program Fair. This annual event is held to entice students to enroll at PCC.

Hillsboro Center celebrated their 13th anniversary the week of February 16. Over the past 13 years, the Hillsboro Center has served nearly 25,000 credit and over 10,000 ESOL students.

Distance Education rolled out a new prerequisite course for spring term aimed at first-time online learners at PCC known as *Virtual Backpack: The Start Guide for Online Learning*. The mini-course introduces students to the basics of online learning, basic technology needs and academic integrity, provides an overview of PCC support services, and gives a readiness assessment that helps students consider non-cognitive skills and needs to succeed in online classes. As of March 3rd, nearly 1,800 students have completed the course.

The PCC **Women's Basketball** team qualified for the post-season Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC) tournament for the first time in College history. The Panthers traveled to Kennewick, WA, for the tournament, which took place from March 6-8.

President Brown welcomed more than 180 chess players to the Sylvania Campus for the 2015 **Oregon High School Chess Team Association Championship Tournament** on February 27th. Since its inception in 1960, this was the first year the competition was hosted at a college. Thirty varsity, junior varsity, and middle school teams came from 15 schools throughout Oregon to the two-day tournament.

The spring issue of **Communities magazine**, PCC's signature quarterly publication was published. The features in this issue—which profile student ambassadors, as well as PCC's extraordinary multimedia, trades education and small business programs—were selected to align with strategic objectives of relevance this quarter, particularly our legislative agenda.

The **Foundation** is happy to report that the Port of Portland and the Portland Business Alliance donated \$20,000 to support the Working Waterfront Scholarship.

- Other donations include: Wells Fargo has committed to \$15,000 to **Future Connect** Scholarship program, and the Juan Young Trust donated \$11,200 to their scholarship fund.
- The Cascade Festival of African Films is raising \$25,000 to build the **CFAF Endowment Fund**. They have nearly met their Challenge Match thanks to a variety of donors.
- Our first official **Phonathon** has successfully secured 722 pledges for nearly \$35,000.
- **PCC Alumni participation** is up 100% compared to a year ago thanks to the impressive legwork of staff members.
- We have currently reached 75% of the goal of 720 donors for our **“Give Boldly” campaign** for faculty, staff, and retirees; 540 donors have been secured to date.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Government Relations

- President Brown testified in front of the Senate Education Committee February 24th on **Senate Bill 81**, the “free community college” bill. He shared his support of the intent, while expressing some concern. His testimony can be viewed at

http://oregon.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=6&clip_id=8310 and starts 35 minutes in.

- Government Relations had an informational hearing on the **Future Connect** program in the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee on March 4th. The hearing can be viewed at http://oregon.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=6&clip_id=8321 at 55 minutes in. It was a great hearing and we received positive feedback. The next day was the public hearing on House Bill 3063, which will be the funding vehicle for Future Connect. PCC Government Relations Director, Meghan Moyer, and OCCA representatives testified in favor of that legislation. On Friday, March 6th House Bill 3063 passed unanimously out of committee and is now headed for the Ways and Means Committee to vie for funding.
- **House Bill 2410** passed out of committee Friday, March 6th and is headed to the House Floor for a vote. This bill will allow community colleges to award certificates for non-credit coursework.
- On a less positive note, it is likely the personal income **tax kicker** will kick in, resulting in a loss of \$349 million from the projected 2015-17 budget. The report released by the Legislative Review Office can be found at <http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/OEA/docs/economic/executive.pdf>. This development will negatively impact our ability to reach the \$550 million funding request for the Community College Support Fund.

GRANT ACTIVITY

Metro Regional Travel Options (RTO) - \$156,822

PCC's proposed Active Transportation Plan is a two year grant that will build on the successful student-led efforts to increase bicycle and walking awareness and safety. The plan includes a 0.5 FTE Active Transportation Coordinator who will assess walking and biking access, safety and security across the District. Tasks will include conducting outreach events, promoting bicycle and walking options, and acting as a liaison to bicycle coordinators at Cascade and Southeast campuses, student groups, as well as PCC's own Transportation and Parking staff. In response to concerns about bike thefts at Cascade and Southeast campuses, grant funds will also be used to purchase 24 bicycle lockers for these locations, with parking for up to 48 bicycles at any one time.

AWARDS and HONORS

Rock Creek Dean of Students, Narce Rodriguez, received the Distinguished Latino Educator Award from the Oregon Association of Latino Administrators (OALA) on Saturday, February 7. Each year this award is given to a Latino educator who has exhibited leadership in educational administration, serves as a role model for aspiring administrators, serves the Latino community

through active involvement in addressing critical Latino issues, demonstrates leadership in the areas of equity and cultural competence and has implemented strategies or activities aligned with OALA's mission.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- The Sylvania **Illumination Project**, an innovative social justice theater project, presented several performances around the District in February focused on racism and immigration. The program is aimed at teaching non people of color about oppression and being better allies, and people of color how to advocate for themselves. Performances were also held at Chemeketa Community College, and Marshall and Roosevelt high schools.
- Sylvania Engineering students held a **hard drive smashing** event in the CC mall February 25th. Large, frightening-looking machines designed and built by the students destroyed 234 hard drives. They also collected 152 other computer items as part of this winter's eCycling event, for a total of 351 pounds of debris that was then given to locally-operated Total Reclaim, specializing in recycling used electronic equipment.
- Thirteen students are finishing their associate's degrees in **Biology and Management of Zoo Animals (BMZA)** at PCC Rock Creek and are preparing for their specialty rotations (similar to internships). "These are not fluffy bunny types of internships. They involve lions, pandas, cougars, monkeys, rhinos, various reptiles, and more." Rotation sites include the Cheetah Conservation Fund Centre in Namibia, the China Conservation & Research Center for the Giant Panda, the Wildcat Have Sanctuary in Oregon, and the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium Asian Forest Sanctuary in Washington.
- Congratulations to **Phi Theta Kappa** student Tuong Hoang, the top scoring student from Oregon who was named a 2015 Coca-Cola New Century Scholar. Nominees were evaluated on academic achievement, leadership, service, and a response to a significant endeavor. Tuong will be presented with a \$2,000 scholarship from the Coca-Cola Foundation and Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and will be recognized at the annual Phi Theta Kappa Presidents Breakfast during the AACC Convention in San Antonio, TX in April.

IN THE NEWS

Feb. 4: *Portland Observer*. The newspaper ran a front-page, full-page story on the Cascade Festival of African Films.

Feb. 5: *The Skanner*. The Cascade Festival of African Films celebrates its silver anniversary with a special film made in Portland.

Feb. 6: *The Oregonian*. The newspaper showcased PCC's Cascade Festival of African Films with a quarter-page story on the history of the event and this year's main films.

February: *Hollywood Star*. The African film festival garnered attention in the Star Briefs section of the paper.

Feb. 9: *The Oregonian*. Portland Community College has been gifted a \$300,000 Williams International turbofan engine for its Aviation Maintenance Technology Program.

Feb. 11: *The Oregonian*. The 13 students are finishing their associate's degrees in the Biology and Management of Zoo Animals Program, better known as BMZA at Portland Community College Rock Creek.

Feb. 17: *Hillsboro Tribune*. Jet engine donation helps PCC aviation maintenance program.

Feb. 18: *Forest Grove News-Times*. Donation of newer turbofan engine will help PCC's Aviation Maintenance Technology Program.

Feb. 23: *OPB*. Many in Oregon likely sat up and listened recently when President Barack Obama made this announcement in the State of the Union: "I'm sending this Congress a bold, new plan to lower the cost of community college to zero!" Anita Magana, a Portland Community College student, said she is happy to hear it.

Feb. 27: *The Oregonian*. Portland Community College recently won a \$157,000 grant from Metro to hire an active transportation director and install dozens of bike lockers at its Southeast and Cascade campuses.