

Monthly News from Portland Community College

May 2015

ACTIVITIES and EVENTS

Cascade Campus

- The 18th annual Cascade Job Fair drew an estimated 1,000-plus job-seekers to the Cascade Gym on April 28. Eighty-nine employers from across the region were represented at the Job Fair, the highest total since before the recession of 2008. The fair was featured during KOIN TV's live midday news broadcast and a delegation from PCC's accreditation evaluation team was able to witness the job fair firsthand.
- Cascade ASPCC and The Green Initiative Fund installed several solar-powered, umbrella-covered picnic tables in the campus' new plaza during April. Each table is sheltered by an umbrella covered in photovoltaic cells, which enable people to charge their computers and mobile phones using charger stations located at the base of each umbrella.
- In honor of Earth Day, Cascade ASPCC hosted a special event featuring the "Yes Men" on April 23. The Yes Men are a group of environmental and social justice journalists and activists who work to expose industrial pollution and document its consequences.
- As part of its ongoing partnership with the Humboldt Neighborhood Association, Cascade Campus served as the home base on April 25 for the annual Humboldt Neighborhood Cleanup, which used a campus parking lot as a drop off point for the yearly community beautification effort.
- Cascade hosted its spring Preview Day on April 17, drawing approximately 100 students from high schools across the area. The students received a tour of the campus and listened to presentation from PCC faculty on the many academic options available at Cascade.
- Cascade ASPCC hosted its spring Bike Fair on April 8 in the campus' new plaza. The fair offered free repairs and maintenance to attendees, along with maps and information on Portland cycling culture and safety information and equipment. The annual event is part of Cascade ASPCC's robust support of the campus' extensive bike commuting populace.
- Washington State University–Vancouver Chancellor Emile Netzhammer visited Cascade on April 22 for a tour and a conversation with Campus President Karin Edwards. Cascade is working to strengthen its ties with WSU-V with which the campus currently enjoys two curriculum articulation agreements, as well as the annual WSU–V Community College Presidents' scholarship, which is awarded each May to a Cascade Campus student.
- Cascade ASPCC voted to donate all of the proceeds from their Spring Barbecue – more than \$500 – to Mercy Corps' relief efforts in the areas struck by the devastating April 25 earthquake in Nepal, and provided the Cascade community with the opportunity to add their support as well.

Rock Creek Campus

- Rock Creek Campus hosted the state's legislative Joint Ways & Means Committee open forum on April 21. More than 250 people packed the Event Center and, while 129 people signed up to testify, only 49 people were able to address the 12-member panel within the two-hour format. Rock Creek was the fifth of eight hearings focused on education funding.

- The 9th annual *Semana de la Raza* celebration, April 21-24 at Rock Creek, was a week of music, food, films, guest speakers, Aztec and Afro-Cuban dancing, an immigration memorial wall, and the presentation of the Cesar Chavez Distinguished Service Award. Approximately 1,000 people participated in the week-long event. This year's award was given to Maria Alanis Ruiz, former director of PCC's TRIO program and life-long activist for social justice and equity.
- The Rock Creek Campus Women's Resource Center partnered with *Adelante Mujeres* to bring 69 elementary students from the Forest Grove and Hillsboro School District to *Semana de la Raza* Education Day festivities.
- The Rock Creek Campus Learning Garden team has officially opened "Portlandia Farm Standia" and will sell flowers, vegetables, and fruit from the garden every Tuesday between Noon and 4 pm through October. The team also received approval to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cards from eligible individuals and families. Between the farm stand and a plant sale, the grand opening event raised \$625 to be used for garden development.
- Plant sales, chalking contests, the joy of all things reusable, gardening skills, habitat restoration, and prizes made Earth Week at Rock Creek a very successful event. Approximately 29 students, faculty, and staff contributed 86 volunteer hours focused on the Learning Garden and its various projects.
- Portland Community College was selected for this year's Princeton Review Guide to 353 Green Colleges from a study of 861 colleges across the country. The Guide, now in its seventh year, "profiles colleges with the most exceptional commitments to sustainability based on their academic offerings and career preparation for students, campus policies, initiatives, and activities."
- Prom preparations typically involve hair appointments and tux rentals. At the Rock Creek Campus "Prom Tech" workshop, approximately 15 Latina high schoolers created flashing belts to wear to prom. They programmed patterns that caused the lights to flash and change color. The workshop, funded by Intel and PCC Professional Development, was led by Rock Creek Campus instructors Dorina Cornea-Hasegan from Microelectronics Technology and Gayathri Iyer from Computer Science.
- Approximately 175 elementary and middle school students from Banks to Madras gathered at Rock Creek April 25 for the Science and Math Investigative Learning Experience (SMILE). Organized by Oregon State University, the program encourages young students to attend college and consider a career in STEM. The labs were led by Rock Creek science faculty Dean Betsy Julian and students from the Vet Tech and Biology and Management of Zoo Animals programs. Future Connect students discussed what students should know about college and volunteers from the Women's Resource Center provided campus tours.
- With what the Rock Creek music department hopes is the first of many, an enthusiastic crowd responded with a standing ovation for the international touring artists *Trio Brasileiro* April 28 in the Forum on campus.
- There were 27 winners from 16 states and Rock Creek Campus student Peter Marth was the only finalist from Oregon to take home a major award at the May 1 National Kitchen and Bath Association 2015 competition in New Jersey.
- The perfect record goes back many years so no one was surprised to hear that this year's Vet Tech students at Rock Creek aced the Veterinary Technician National Examination. The 100 percent pass rate is well beyond the national pass rate of between 68 and 73 percent.

Southeast Campus

- On May 13, Southeast hosted a forum with two prospective childcare providers who shared with us their history, programmatic highlights, and vision for childcare center at Southeast Campus.
- Southeast Campus supported and marched in the 9th Annual SE 82nd Avenue Parade of Roses on April 25. Our own Frank Harris was the event emcee, and Campus President and ASPCC leaders marched in the parade. PCC Southeast Campus was an event sponsor as well, and was heavily involved in the event planning.
- SE ASPCC student leaders hosted a Pizza with the President event on Wednesday, April 22. The event, held in the Mt. Tabor Great Hall was well attended by students and staff. SE ASPCC President Miranda Kuntz moderated a panel which included Campus President Jessica Howard, Dean of Students Miriam Friedman, Dean of Instruction Craig Kolins, and Community Relations Manager Christine Egan.
- Our Southeast Campus students were featured in an article on Oregon Metro's website that promotes alternative transportation options: <http://www.oregonmetro.gov/news/metro-pcc-southeast-team-get-students-hooked-new-travel-options>
- Campus President Jessica Howard testified in support of the Powell-Division Transit and Development Project at City Council on May 13. The project is committed to connecting this rapid bus transit line to PCC SE on behalf of SE Portland and Gresham: <http://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/powell-division-transit-and-development-project>

Sylvania Campus

- Earth Week 2015 at the Sylvania Campus was the largest, and some say the best ever. More than 20 events took place throughout the week, with community partners joining us at six locations across campus. From learning about the future of transportation in our area, making worm composting bins, smashing hard drives, kicking off the composting program, installing the new bike repair station, learning from speakers, watching environmental-themed movies and restoring wildlife habitat, the event went a long way towards informing and engaging our students in sustainability. Best of all, the cob oven at the Learning Garden got a huge boost and is nearly complete!
- Two second-year Russian language students from the Sylvania Campus have been selected as participants of the Critical Language Scholarship Program for summer study in Vladimir, Russia. Chase Riegel and Hadrian Kyle McQuillan are two of 50 students selected across the nation from a pool of about 550-700 applicants. A program of the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Critical Language Scholarship Program is considered one of the most prestigious language scholarships in the nation. It offers intensive summer language institutes overseas in 13 critical need foreign languages; nine PCC students have earned scholarships from this program since 2010. The Russian program consists of language training with 20 hours per week of classes and a full slate of cultural events, home stays with a family, and side trips to St. Petersburg and elsewhere.
- Two Sylvania students joined six other PCC students in being awarded scholarships in the Oregon Community College Association 2015 All-Oregon Academic Team Recognition Program. Patrizia Bentivegna and Kristina DeWhitt are among 39 students on the All-Oregon Academic Team. The students come from each of Oregon's 17 community colleges and were selected based on their classroom achievements and community involvement. The students were introduced at a luncheon

at the Salem Conference Center on April 30 before meeting with Governor Kate Brown for remarks and a group photo. Legislators in the House and Senate also recognized the students during their respective floor sessions.

- The Sylvania Women's Resource Center hosted the Clothesline Project during the month of April. The project is a visual display of t-shirts with graphic messages and illustrations that have been designed by survivors of sexual, domestic and/or gender-based violence. The purpose of this project is to increase awareness about the impact of violence, to celebrate the strength of survivors, and to break the silence that often surrounds a survivor's experience. The center hosted two events where students had the opportunity to create their own t-shirt to represent their personal experience with sexual assault and/or domestic violence. The shirts were then displayed in the College Center and the PAC from April 17 - May 1st.
- In celebration of April's Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the PCC Sylvania Women's Resource Center partnered with Portland State University's Women's Resource Center in its annual Take Back the Night event. The event on April 23 focused on raising awareness about sexual violence and educating communities and individuals about how to prevent sexual violence.
- *Powerhouses of PCC*, a photo display of PCC Sylvania women students who are excelling despite experiencing challenges, is on display in the College Center through April and May. The photographs, created by WRC advocate and student Madison Powell, illustrate challenges students face related to being women of color, single parents, or working toward a degree in a traditionally male-dominated field, among other subjects.

Newberg Center

- Motoya Nakamura, Newberg Center faculty, is a featured artist on display at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, March 7 – June 14 (121 NW 2nd Ave). Over the course of a year, Motoya trained his camera lens on the *sakura* (cherry blossom) trees that frame the Oregon Nikkei Endowment's Japanese American Historical Plaza and Bill of Rights Memorial along the Willamette River in downtown Portland. With the changing of the seasons, ***Sakura Sakura*** shows how these blossoming gifts from Japan bring Portland's Tom McCall Waterfront Park alive each year. The exhibition and its public programs are made possible in part through a grant from the Oregon Heritage Commission.
- The Newberg Center hosted Senator Jeff Merkley and Representative Suzanne Bonamici for their spring Yamhill County town hall meeting Wednesday, April 1. The two were in town to update constituents on their work in Washington, DC and to answer questions and accept suggestions about how to tackle the challenges facing Oregon and America. More than 150 people attended the town hall, including several PCC students who spoke about HR 476, proposed legislation which would cap flight training fees paid for by the GI Bill.

Willow Creek Center

- During the month of April, Willow Creek Center hosted the "Science Cafe Lecture Series" in partnership with OHSU and ONPRC (Oregon National Primate Research Center). Nearly 160 students, faculty, community members, and medical practitioners attended lectures on topics such as "Gene Therapy for Inherited Mitochondrial Diseases" and "Body Weight, Fertility and the Brain: Understanding How Body Composition Controls Reproduction" presented by award winning scientists, physicians and researchers.

The **Workforce Programs** were awarded a 3-year contract to offer Career Link, a 3-week career exploration class for job seekers who have been unemployed for over 6 months and are interested in exploring careers in high tech manufacturing or IT (information technology). Workforce is partnering with Community Education and the Sylvania Campus Maker Space to integrate 3-D printing and other Maker Space activities into the class.

On April 30, **Portland Metro Workforce Training Center** partnered with Portland Development Commission Neighborhood Prosperity Initiative, Worksource, and Straight Path to host a "Second Chance" Job Fair for job seekers with challenged backgrounds. Over 130 customers attended with 20 employers participating. Interviews and job offers were made on the spot.

The **Foundation Gala** on April 10th was a stellar night for PCC! The setting was galactic, the students were amazing, and a super nova time was had by over 525 guests. We topped our goal by moon-leaps and bounds and set a new bar for the years ahead by raising over \$425,000. The best part of that is that it means that many more students will have stories of success to share. Thank you for the amazing contributions you bring to PCC every day to ensure our students are successful.

IN THE NEWS

- April 9: **Corvallis Gazette**. Jeremy Brown is quoted by the Gazette about President Obama's proposed two free years of community college at the 2015 State of the Union address.
- April 9: **Beaverton Valley Times**. Rock Creek's hosting of Trio Brasileiro, the virtuoso/jazz choro group, made the Out&About section.
- April 10: **The Oregonian**. Portland Community College has announced that Lisa Avery will serve as president of the college's Sylvania Campus beginning July 1.
- April 10: **Community College Daily**. Lisa Avery made the Newsmakers column, announcing she will become president of Portland Community College's Sylvania Campus on July 1.
- April 14: **Portland Observer**. Karin Edwards penned a byliner about the power of education to renew, begin and grow.
- April 16: **Tigard-Tualatin Times**. PCC choose Lisa Avery to lead the college's Sylvania Campus.
- April 22: **Hillsboro Tribune**. State Ways and Means members get an earful on education funding.
- April 23: **Times Newspaper's Out&About**. The Rock Creek Campus is hosting the Brazilian virtuoso jazz/choro trio for a community concert.
- April 23: **Lake Oswego Review**. In a half-page spread in its Neighbors' section, the paper reported the PCC Foundation gala raised a record \$425,000 at its recent gala.
- April 24: **Business Journal**. PCC Foundation hosts record-setting gala by raising \$425,000.
- April 24: **The Oregonian**. Two PCC college students are among just 50 nationwide selected to study Russian in the ancient city of Vladimir, Russia, this summer, on a U.S. State Department scholarship.
- April 26: **Portland Sun Times**. A pair of PCC students are among just 50 nationwide selected to study in Russia this summer on a U.S. State Department scholarship.

- April 27: **Community College Week**. The national trades publications announced that PCC had picked Marc Goldberg to be its new associate vice president of Workforce Development and Community Education.
- April 28: **KOIN**. The station reported from the Cascade gym that thousands attended the Cascade Job Fair with 89 businesses attending.
- April 29: **KATU**. Homeless Rock Creek Campus student aspires to a promising future.