

Monthly News from Portland Community College

July 2015

ACTIVITIES and EVENTS

Cascade Campus

- A team of faculty and staff from Cascade and Sylvania campuses capped their recent Campus-Community Emergency Response Training (C-CERT) training program with a full-scale earthquake simulation drill at the Public Services Education Building at Cascade. The program, certified by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and led by Cascade Math & Science Division Dean Alyson Lighthart, trains citizens in how to effectively respond to a range of possible disaster situations. The June 5 earthquake simulation was incredibly lifelike, incorporating a host of volunteers in gory makeup, as well as a number of realistic earthquake scenarios. Lighthart is organizing similar training programs to be held at Rock Creek and Southeast campuses later this year.
- The Cascade Diversity Council underwent a “Bridge 13” training session on June 15. The training is designed to educate faculty and staff about transgender people, the challenges they face in mainstream society, and how to make them feel safe and welcome in the workplace. The training session is part of the Council’s ongoing effort to educate the larger campus community on issues of diversity, equity and inclusion.
- The next phase of bond construction at Cascade began in June with the relocation of staff from the Student Center and Library buildings in anticipation of the forthcoming demolition of the SC and renovation and expansion of the Library. Many of the decorative plants surrounding the SC and Library found new homes through a special “Free Plant Day” event in which faculty, staff, and neighbors were able to tag plants, remove them, and replant them at home. Personnel from the first and second floors of the Student Services Building were also temporarily relocated in preparation for extensive renovations.

Rock Creek Campus

- Twenty-five high school students and five middle school students engaged in hands-on electronics and computer science activities at the June 15-19 STEM Summer Camp sponsored by PCC Rock Creek Campus and Intel Corporation. The event served as the “grand finale” for the program which started last December. Students from Hillsboro, Forest Grove, and Tigard learned about electronics and wearable electronics, how to print with a 3D printer, and how to program with an Arduino.
- The last remaining C-45 from the original PCC Aviation Maintenance Technology Program fleet left Rock Creek Campus where it had stood for more than 30 years. The Beech 18, a vintage WWII aircraft was purchased at auction last December by the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base Museum. It will have a new life as a static display near the entrance of the museum in Cave Junction near Grants Pass. The first smoke jumper base in Oregon for the U.S. Forest Service used venerable models like the C-45 / Beech 18 for 22 years for dropping smokejumpers into difficult terrain.

Southeast Campus

- On June 25, Southeast Campus hosted Multnomah County Chair, Deborah Kafoury for a campus tour and discussion on college programs that are seeing positive community impact, as well as laid the foundation for a more formal partnership between the College and the County. In particular, the Career Pathways Program and PCC Links programs (Future Connect, Project Degree, Yes to College,

and Gateway to College) were featured. Campus President Dr. Jessica Howard led the tour, Pamela Blumenthal, Rob Wagner, Meghan Moyer, Chabre Vickers, and Kate Kinder ensured the time spent was well rounded and appreciated by Chair Kafoury.

- Southeast Campus President Dr. Jessica Howard presented at this year's American Association for Women in Community Colleges Oregon (AAWCCO) Institute of Leadership Development on June 24. The Institute gathers a selected group of women who come together to gain insight on work styles, consider community college issues, and reflect on professional ethics, personal value systems, gender dynamics, and leadership. Participants have an opportunity to hear from women in community college leadership roles; college presidents, deans, faculty, and support staff who come to share their stories of personal and professional growth.

Sylvania Campus

- The Sylvania Multicultural Center hosted its Completion Ceremony and celebrated its student leaders, the Men of Color Leadership Program, and the Center's successful work throughout the year. The year-long Men of Color Leadership program is designed to increase the recruitment, retention, and completion rates of men of color. This year's cohort of 19 students all successfully completed the program.
- Sylvania Future Connect students assembled more than 200 all-in-one computers from parts donated by Intel. The computers will find homes with local STEM education partners, as well as with each assembler. The effort was supported by the PCC Foundation, and faculty and staff in Electronics Engineering Technology, Automotive, and Computer Science, and by student leaders in the ASPCC club +STEAM ("A" for arts, and "+" for business and entrepreneurship).
- The Sylvania Learning Garden community is growing. The Garden's cob oven (complete with a decorative coyote resting on top) was fired up for the first time during the Sustainability Leadership Council's end-of-year meeting. Council members and guests enjoyed organic wood-fire pizza from the oven, as well as other organic goodies made by PCC's food service staff members. Students who completed the requirements for the PCC Sustainability Focus Award were recognized at the event.
- The Game-a-thon "Game Maker" camp, a week-long event for high school students who recently completed the dual-credit ENGR100 Exploring Engineering class took place. Supported by a grant from the Oregon Department of Education, students worked in teams to design, manufacture, and "consumer test" novel board games. Students developed skills in basic coding, laser etching, and 3-D modeling and printing, as well as communication skills. In addition to students, several high school teachers attended. Teachers of ENGR100 picked up a 3-D printer and computer for their school's next year's ENGR100 dual-credit class.
- Some offices at the Sylvania campus began piloting a new recycling program in June. The Mini-Max Desk-side Recycling is a self-service trash and recycling system in which users bring their own refuse to a centralized area. The system, similar to one instituted at Rock Creek last year, is intended to help meet PCC's sustainability goals and increase efficiency. Studies suggest that when people handle their own waste they are more mindful of it and ultimately produce less waste and/or recycle more. Additionally, custodians will be able to focus on other important work, such as cleaning restrooms and dining areas, and tackling deep cleaning.
- The Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream Truck, a new, retrofitted Tesla, visited the Sylvania campus as part of its "Save Our Swirled" tour. The company is on a nation-wide tour to call on leaders of developed nations and the United Nations to tackle climate change, and is visiting organizations to talk about the 100% Clean Power Petition it is promoting through a global web movement to bring people-

powered politics to decision-making. Rhett Russell, Senior VP for Technology and Ice Cream Testing said the visit to Sylvania was one of the best ever for the company.

- Sylvania's Dean of Math and Industrial Technology, Dan Findley, Ph.D. has taken on the role of Director of the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development. Dr. Findley will lead the Higher Education Coordinating Committee (HECC) office responsible for the collaboration and coordination of Oregon's 17 community colleges and seven local workforce investment boards, with a focus on student transitions, career pathways, academic programs adult education, and workforce initiatives. Gregg Meyer, Engineering Instructor and Maker Space founder and coordinator has accepted the role of Interim Dean.

Newberg Center

Newberg Center student Bethany Quist was selected by the Newberg Rotary to attend this summer's Youth Leadership Award seminar. The week-long event provides young people the opportunity expand their perceptions and ideals about leadership, enhance their communications skills, and explore conflict resolution. Bethany, who works at Newberg as a student services assistant and has been enrolled at Newberg for five terms, is working on a non-profit certification. Her goal is to transfer to Linfield College and eventually Pepperdine University where she plans to pursue a doctorate in organizational leadership or non-profit management.

ACTING PRESIDENT ACTIVITIES

June 24-26 – Participated with Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Christine Chairsell in follow-up interviews with NWCCU Board of Commissioners regarding April's accreditation review.

COLLEGE-WIDE ACTIVITIES

Grants Office

- **US Department of Education – High School Equivalency Project (HEP) - \$2,227,224 over 5 years**
The HEP will help migrant and seasonal farmworkers and members of their immediate family obtain a general education diploma (GED) and subsequently to gain employment or be placed in an institution of higher education or other postsecondary education or training. The program will serve the PCC District and will be located at the Rock Creek Campus. Seventy-six students will be served per year, including academic advising, intensive GED instruction, tutoring, college skills building, career exploration and development, and cohort educational experiences. Financial assistance will be provided, including GED instruction/materials and fees, bus passes, meal vouchers, and childcare assistance.
- **Oregon Department of Agriculture – Specialty Crop Lock Grant (partnership with Oregon State University) – \$23,000**
The grant will expand the reach and effectiveness of training for beginning specialty crop operators in the Portland metro area by integrating and strengthening existing educational programming offered through a partnership with Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Services. PCC Rock Creek will offer the established Beginning Urban Farmer Apprenticeship (BUFA) certificate. Through this collaboration, BUFA participants will be able to earn academic credit and take advantage of academic scholarships to pay for their tuition. PCC will also perform outreach to Beaverton' Terra Nova High School by hosting field trips for about 100 students at the Rock Creek Campus to explore specialty crop production and related educational opportunities.

- **Spencer Foundation (partnership with Oregon State University) - \$26,750**
PCC is a partner on Oregon State University faculty member Dr. Ann Sitomer's grant. Susan Stein, Math Faculty at Cascade is the PCC lead. This is a research grant to study the effects of professional development in teaching mathematics.
- **Oregon Community College Distance Learning Association – Open Educational Resources in Oregon Higher Education**
Open Educational Resources (OER) in Oregon Higher Education is a high-impact, collaborative program that supports open education and reduced textbook costs for students. PCC was awarded three grants:
 - \$18,500 - To support the creation of an OER Math textbook via WebWork and MathBook XML Bridge.
 - \$6,000 - To support the creation of a RD 115 online OER textbook.
 - \$5,580 - To support the creation of an OER Health Studies textbook.

Advancement/Foundation

- The Foundation is pleased to announce that we had a record breaking year raising over \$3.65 million! We send our deepest gratitude to the hundreds of faculty and staff members who gave a charitable donation, a gift of time, or opened a door to increase our connections in the community. 600 generous employees raised almost \$260,000 to support students and success initiatives; a 21% increase from last year. Results from our first ever alumni phone-a-thon include: close to 9,500 contacts, a 10% participation rate, which helped the Foundation increase alumni giving by 134% this year.
- Hundreds of students received congratulations messages and received scholarships for 2015/16. We project that the Foundation will award over \$1.1 million for the next academic year.
- Some other particularly great statistics are:
 - Alumni giving increased 135% over last year to \$47,655
 - Board giving increased 35% to \$253,380
 - Employee giving increased by 21% to almost \$260K from 600 donors
 - Jurisdictional support increased 36% to \$790K
 - Private philanthropic support increased 23% from last year

Communications

PCC's spring "think PCC first" enrollment campaign concluded with a June advertising blitz: wall-scapes in Portland's downtown core, billboards near campuses, and bus shelters throughout the District. The eye-popping campaign introduced the College's official turquoise color while advancing the claim that PCC should be the first choice for savvy students and innovators. The communications team also completed a marketing focus on the Hillsboro Center, including updated building graphics, targeted print ads and mailings, maps, and other branded collateral.

AWARDS and HONORS

- The Sylvania Students for Life Club received the District Club of the Year award. Angela Batchelor, Instructor of Visual Arts and Advisor to the club; Andrea Salyer, assistant student leadership coordinator; and Caleb Knezevich, student club leader accepted the award at the District Club Awards Ceremony June 6, at the Cascade Campus. The award is given to the club that has exhibited the most activity and accomplishments, and most embodies student leadership throughout the past academic year.

- In late June, Rock Creek art instructor Ben Buswell was named one of five Hallie Ford 2015 Fellows in the Visual Arts. Sponsored by The Ford Family Foundation, the \$25,000 unrestricted prize is awarded to “those who have demonstrated a depth of sophisticated practice and potential for significant future accomplishments.” The award also includes time at the Caldera artist-in-residence center near Sisters, OR and future support with exhibits and travel. Buswell has been teaching sculpture at the PCC Rock Creek Campus since 2007.
- Ryan Walker, a Rock Creek Campus Think Big student won the National Skills USA title in Diesel representing Oregon and PCC. The competition was held in Kentucky in late June. Special thank-you to Trace Phillis, Rock Creek Diesel Instructor who assisted with Ryan’s registration for the national competition, and to Sander Torgeson, CAT Dealer Service Technician for traveling to Kentucky as an advisor and helping Ryan to prepare for his competition.

IN THE NEWS

- June 3: **The Oregonian**. Portland Community College adds gender-neutral bathrooms for transgender students.
- June 3: **Portland Sun Times**. Portland Community College is making big changes to make its transgender and gender nonconforming students feel more comfortable on campus.
- June 11: **Portland Tribune**. PCC adds all-gender bathrooms.
- June 12: **The Oregonian**. Two years ago he was homeless; now Kole Myrick is Portland Community College's commencement speaker.
- June 16: **The Oregonian**. Chris Chairsell writes an op-ed about how the state audit underscores need for more higher-ed funding.
- June 17: **OPB**. Eastern Promise Spanish test offers college path to Latino students at Riverside High School, one of which is headed to PCC.
- June 18: **Portland Tribune**. Pam Blumenthal is interviewed about Future Connect and its services to low-income, first-generation students.