

Monthly News from Portland Community College

May 2016

ACTIVITIES and EVENTS

Cascade Campus

- In collaboration with the City Club of Portland, Cascade Campus hosted a **mayoral candidates' debate** April 18 in the Moriarty Auditorium. The debate, which featured the entire slate of mayoral candidates, focused on issues surrounding community safety.
- The **19th Annual PCC Job Fair** took place during April in the Cascade Gym. More than 1,000 job-seekers turned out to interact with more than 100 local and regional employers from a broad range of industries. Attendees were able to take advantage of onsite workshops and services, such as free professional "headshot" photos and a seminar on using social media to aid in the job search process. The annual event continues to be among the best-attended in the region.
- Cascade Campus hosted the college's inaugural **Leaders in Diversity Awards** during April. The awards, originated by PCC's Office of Equity and Inclusion, honored employees and students for outstanding effort in service of the college's core values of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Cascade Campus hosted a special world premier screening of "**Jazz Town**," an Oregon Public Broadcasting documentary film about the post-war jazz scene in North Portland. A capacity crowd filled the Moriarty Auditorium for the April 21 event, which included a live jazz trio and a Q&A session with the film's director.
- The Cascade ASPCC held its annual **Community Engagement Fair** during April. The event connects students with volunteer opportunities with a range of nonprofit community service organizations.
- In observance of PCC's **Whiteness History Month**, Cascade Campus hosted a busy slate of events throughout the month of April, ranging from film screenings to art installations to lectures to performances and more. The event was conceived by members of the Cascade Diversity Council as a means of facilitating a community-wide dialogue on the antecedents, origins, and consequences of racism and white privilege in the United States, with an emphasis on the social construction of "whiteness."

Rock Creek Campus

- On April 10-11, six Rock Creek biology students traveled to Tennessee to present scientific posters at the **Community College Undergraduate Research Initiative 2016 Colloquium** at Volunteer State Community College. Adjunct biology instructor Ksenia Everton accompanied the students. All research presented was conducted as part of the Principles of Biology courses at the Rock creek and Sylvania campuses. One poster abstract was recognized with an honorable mention. The six students are Brian Heck, Justin Amesbury, Joseph Kincaid, Cali Clements, Leslie Villela and Austin Waibel. The trip

was funded by CCURI, the Rock Creek Division of Science and Technology and the Rock Creek Women's Resource Center.

- The **6th Annual Women's Empowerment Retreat** Friday, April 15 in the Rock Creek Event Center offered a full day of events focused on the theme, "Women Talk About Race in Oregon." Sponsored by the Rock Creek Women's Resource Center, the retreat offered workshops, breakout sessions, a "Wise Women's Lunch Panel," and keynote speaker Carmen Suarez, Portland State University Vice President for Global Diversity and Inclusion.
- Five representatives from the PCC Men of Color Task Force presented "Addressing the Needs of Men of Color at Portland Community College" at the **4th Annual TRIO Association Professional Development Conference** in Ashland on May 11.
- From April 18-23, the Rock Creek Campus celebrated the 10th anniversary of **Semana de la Raza**, a student-facilitated week of lectures, music, art exhibits, poetry workshops, a talent show, and films focused on the Latino culture and its history and journey. The annual event, sponsored by Rock Creek ASPCC and the Multicultural Center, ended with the first Semana Gala which raised more than \$25,000 for Dreamer Scholarships.
- Rock Creek celebrated **Earth Week** during the week of April 19. Students, faculty, and staff enjoyed habitat restoration, a plant sale, a food recovery club table, documentary films, a workshop on the relationship between the "construction of whiteness and the current ecological crisis," garden art, a bee lecture, and a Learning Garden work party.
- The west side courtyard was one of the last remaining fixer-uppers in the remodel and expansion of **Building 7** at Rock Creek. On the first day of Arbor Week, Elizabeth Brewster's plant establishment and maintenance class embraced the **courtyard design** completed by students the previous year and, in short order, planted 263 plants and trees in the challenging space. With the concrete path and art work already in place, all that remains is the installation of six benches. That work has been scheduled for this month.
- What is an annual event for Hillsboro, is also an annual event for Rock Creek volunteers who staff a table at the wildly successful **Latino Cultural Festival** held this year on April 24. Volunteers spent the Sunday afternoon greeting visitors and sharing information about the college, admissions, and financial aid. The event draws more than 10,000 people to downtown Hillsboro.
- More than 400 high school students from Washington and Columbia counties joined the fun on **Diesel Day** at Rock Creek and learned what it takes to become a diesel technician, a job that's becoming harder and harder to fill due to lack of skilled workers. The May 6 event challenged students to a series of troubleshooting sessions and allowed them to network with heavy equipment and heavy-duty truck representatives from throughout the region.
- The Rock Creek Science & Technology Division welcomed approximately 100 fourth and fifth graders to campus on Saturday, April 23, for a **STEM day**. In conjunction with OSU's

SMILE program (Science and Math Investigative Learning Environment), the event targets first generation, low income students. Some 25 Science & Technology faculty and students assisted with the workshops along with students from PCC's Future Connect program.

- On Tuesday, April 26, Rock Creek welcomed a delegation of 12 education and workforce professionals from upstate New York who are hoping to duplicate PCC's workforce education and planning success with the regional semiconductor industry. Upstate New York is one of the newest **nanoelectronics** clusters and the delegation views the greater Portland nanoelectronics cluster as the premier region in North America. Eric Kirchner, microelectronics instructor at Rock Creek, facilitated the visit.

Sylvania Campus

- In conjunction with the Bond Office, Sylvania hosted an **Open House** on April 14 to showcase the new spaces for the following offices: Academic Advising, Career Exploration, Counseling, Disability Services, Health Admissions, Jobs & Internships, Orientation Center, Testing and International Student Services. Visitors were given 10-minute tours of each space and provided with information about services offered.
- The PCC Newberg Center participated in a **community-planning event** with local government and elected officials for the cities of Newberg and Dundee on April 14. Board Vice Chair Gene Pitts, Willie Fisher from CLIMB, Sylvania CRM Celina Baguiao. and Newberg Center Director Lynn Montoya Quinn engaged in roundtable discussions about the future of Newberg and Dundee and how PCC can fit into that vision.
- Sylvania hosted its annual **ice cream social** on April 14. Deans served more than 12 gallons of ice cream and helped collect more than \$120 and 20 canned food items, which was donated to ASPCC's food canteen.

COLLEGE-WIDE ACTIVITIES

Advancement/PCC Foundation

- PCC Foundation enjoyed its most successful gala ever. More than 500 people gathered at the Portland Downtown Hilton to celebrate student success and the fifth anniversary of Future Connect. A record-breaking amount of \$430,000 was raised to benefit PCC students. A special thank you for the attendance and support received from our PCC Board of Directors.
- Retired PSU library faculty member Evelyn Crowell honored PCC by establishing her second endowed scholarship. Ms. Crowell donated \$50,000 to support underserved students in the trades enrolled at Swan Island Trade Center. She is especially interested in marketing the award to women. Ms. Crowell lived near the PCC Cascade campus for more than 55 years and in total has contributed nearly \$100,000 to the PCC Foundation.

Communications

- Communications played an enormous role in the preparation and rollout of PCC's **Whiteness History Month** throughout April. Responsibilities ranged from bringing the right players to the table for planning and prep to crafting and executing the communications and media relations campaigns, setting/participating in interviews, drafting and rehearsing talking points, determining public safety needs, de-escalating sensitive situations at the campuses, and mitigating concerns related to resources and service lines for those in need, among many other activities.
- As the college continues its work in Columbia County related to the **Advanced Manufacturing Research Center**, activities include having offered communications help to Public Affairs Council as the business plan is finalized, as well as media coverage with local publications – South County Spotlight:

<http://pamplinmedia.com/scs/83-news/304421-182290-pcc-preps-for-scappoose-land-purchase>

- Additional efforts include:
 - Marketing's key role in conceptualizing, design, and production of gala.
 - Planning for the bond renewal levy with the help of a consultant, as well as planning for bond completion celebrations for both Rock Creek and Cascade campuses in the 2016-2017 academic year.
 - Fielding inquiries from local media about the PSU ballot measure, which we're handling thoughtfully given the legal limitations we face. We've developed talking points around the project for the Board of Directors and administrators.
 - Confirming our sponsorship of Community Newspapers' annual "Amazing Kids" event held May 9 and the Oregon Food Bank's annual Waterfront Blues Fest to be held over the July 4 weekend. Planning for ads, event logistics, and more began in earnest in April.
 - Completing selection of the 2016 cohort of PCC Diamond Alumni. The stories of this year's winners will be shared on the PCC website and social media channels the week leading up to graduation as a way to build excitement around alumni achievements.

Grants Office

- The PCC Foundation and the PCC Grants Office are pleased to announce a **Community College Student Success Grant** of \$1,324,063 from the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission for the Future Connect program. This is the Foundation's largest contribution to support Future Connect. The proposed project will broaden the reach and impact of Future Connect throughout PCC's District, providing nearly 3,000 students with critical program services and support. The grant will support 480 new students with coaching, instruction and transfer assistance. It will provide recruitment services to more than 2,500 students in high school students residing within Future

Connect's current service region. In addition, the project will build a network of support among Student Success Grant recipients across Oregon to better serve students in these programs throughout this year and 2017.

HONORS and AWARDS

- PCC recognized 14 faculty and staff members April 18 who were named **John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Award** winners by the League for Innovation in the Community College, in an intimate ceremony. In recognition of their long tradition of excellence in community college teaching and leadership, the League established the John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Awards in 2012. PCC's recipients were also recognized in March at the League's Innovation's national conference in Chicago.

Rock Creek congratulates microelectronics technology instructor Dorina Cornea-Hasegan, bioscience technology instructional support technician Carla Moentenich, and veterinary technology instructional support technician Dolores Galindo for receiving the **2015 John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Award**.

- Architectural Design and Drafting, Landscape Design, and Interior Design students won a contest for their design of the **Rainier Transit Center**. The students were asked to present their winning proposal to the Rainier City Council and will be presenting to the Columbia County Commissioners in the near future. Firms interested in submitting a proposal for the design and architectural work for the Transit Center will incorporate elements of the students' designs in their presentation, so students will see their design ideas come to life.
- Rock Creek Teaching Learning Center instructor Heather Mayer and sociology instructor Ben Cushing received the **Equity & Inclusion Advocacy Award** for the 2015-16 school year from the District Leaders of Diversity Council at PCC. Mayer and Cushing were selected for consistently promoting concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion at PCC and for supporting efforts across the college that promote equity and inclusion. They were both honored at the April 29 awards celebration at Cascade Campus.

IN THE NEWS

- April 1: **KATU, Willamette Week, The Skanner, KGW**. "Whiteness History Month" launched Friday at all Portland Community College campuses. Also, members of the WHM committee appear on Live at 7 program.
- April 3: **Jezebel**. A College in Portland Launches 'Whiteness History Month,' Nothing Can Go Wrong, Right?
- April 4: **The Oregonian & Railways, Tracks & Structures**. Southwest Corridor planners recommended dropping a proposal to build a tunnel to provide service to Portland Community College's Sylvania Campus.
- April 5: **OPB**. Think Out Loud program explores PCC's Whiteness History Month.

- April 7: **The Oregonian**. If Mt. Hood CC's bond is approved, it would be the second largest bond to benefit a community college in state history. In 2008, Portland voters passed a \$374 million bond for Portland Community College.
- April 11: **Portland Patch**. More than 100 companies will be on hand when Portland Community College hosts its 19th annual job fair on April 26.
- April 13: **Hillsboro Tribune**. Portland Community College will host the 10th Annual Semana de la Raza celebration the week of April 18 to 23.
- April 13: **The Progressive**. 'Whiteness History Month' Is About Discomfort, Not Celebration.
- April 15: **The Oregonian**. Editorial on PSU Foundation \$250,000 in donations to the payroll tax campaign said it will hurt colleges like PCC.
- April 19: **The Oregonian**. Portland Community College is cutting a free literacy tutoring program for refugees, immigrants.
- April 27: **St. Helens Chronicle**. PCC to showcase skills in Diesel Day event.
- April 29: **South County Spotlight**. PCC preps for Scappoose land purchase and state to review business plan.