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NAME A NEW CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN
COMMUNITY HISTORY AT CASCADE CAMPUS IN
HONOR OF EVELYN CROWELL

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REPORT: Retired professor and librarian Evelyn “Evie” Crowell shares PCC’s passion for helping students advance their learning and life opportunities through the pursuit of higher education. As the first member in her family to attend college and later as a single parent, she experienced firsthand the challenges required to earn a degree and establish a successful career. Today, Evie’s generous donations to the PCC Foundation help students overcome similar barriers by providing financial support through annual and endowed scholarships.

Born in Saginaw, Michigan, Evie moved to North Portland with her family in 1942. She attended Boise Elementary and Girls Polytechnic High School before enrolling at Portland State College (now Portland State University) with the help of a four-year scholarship from the Women’s Society of Christian Service. A member of Portland State’s third graduating class, she went on to earn a master’s degree in library science from the University of Washington. Evie worked at Linfield College and Fisk University before returning to Portland State University, where she inspired students for several decades as a much-loved teacher and librarian.

Evie’s generosity, volunteer service, and support for education can be felt throughout the community. She has deep roots in the Humboldt neighborhood surrounding PCC’s Cascade Campus, where she purchased her home as a single woman in her 20s, raised her son and daughter and lived for more than 55 years. Evie served on the Portland School Board and the Oregon State Library Board of Trustees, Portland Center Stage, the Oregon Symphony and became the first African-American board president to lead the YWCA of Greater Portland. She has been an active member of the

Portland Chapter of The LINKS and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

PCC and the PCC Foundation are profoundly grateful to Evie for her strong commitment to PCC students. In all, Evie has donated more than \$109,000 to the PCC Foundation. With a \$48,000 gift of property Evie established the Evelyn Crowell Endowed Scholarship at PCC in 2013. In 2016, Evie made a \$50,000 gift to create annual and endowed scholarships for students enrolled in technical programs at PCC's Swan Island Trade Center. "It was always thrilling to work with students and watch the light bulb turn on in their faces," she says. "Through my career and now as a donor, I can touch people's lives."

Ms. Crowell's generous contributions to the PCC Foundation represent a significant proportion of the wealth accumulated her long and distinguished life. This level of generosity warrants a commensurate gesture of respect and appreciation on the part of the College. Therefore, we propose that an "Evelyn Crowell Center for African American Community History" be created within the Cascade Campus Library, and that it be dedicated to housing a collection of artifacts, artworks, and information illustrating the history of the African American community of North and Northeast Portland.

RECOMMENDATION: That the PCC Board of Directors authorize the creation of the Center for African American Community History in honor of Evie Crowell; and that it be dedicated to housing a collection of artifacts, artworks, and information illustrating the history of the African American community of North and Northeast Portland.