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PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE 2018
DISTINGUISHED PATRON AWARD NOMINEE

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REPORT: In 2007, the PCC District Board established the Portland Community College Distinguished Patron Award to recognize extraordinary levels of service to the College. Nominees are made by the PCC President to the Board for approval. The award, an annual college honor given by the PCC Board of Directors, goes to a person or organization that has made a significant contribution to ensure student access to education. Since 2012, commencing with the first gala, the award has been presented during the PCC Foundation's "An Evening of Opportunity" celebration in the spring of each year.

To date, thirteen Patron Awards have been bestowed. Award recipients include: Richard and Sharon Helzer; Doreen S. Margolin (*posthumously, 2007*); Norma Jean Germond (*2008*); Barbara Raz; Mary Holmström (*2009*); Lee and Virginia Finders (*posthumously, 2010*); The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation (*2011*); Intel Corporation; The Oregon Community Foundation (*2012*); No award in 2013; Ross Lienhart and Sheila Edwards-Lienhart (*posthumously*) (*2014*); The Renaissance Foundation—Irving Levin and Stephanie Fowler (*2015*); Meyer Memorial Trust (*2016*); and Betty Duvall (*2017*).

For the 2018 Patron Award, we continue this tradition by nominating Chris and Tom Neilsen.

Longtime PCC supporters Christine (Chris) and Tom Neilsen owned Neilsen Manufacturing Inc., a Salem-based family business serving the high-tech industry, before retiring to Portland in 2007.

Chris served on the PCC Foundation Board of Directors from 2010 to 2015, including a term as president, because she wanted to make a difference in the lives of

PCC students. Today she and Tom both remain actively involved in the Foundation as chairs of the Foundation's first comprehensive campaign, which is in its silent phase with a \$20 million fundraising goal. Chris is also a member of the Foundation's new Emeritus Board.

The Nielsen's proudly count PCC among their top philanthropic priorities. The Nielsen's are strong proponents of the Future Connect program, which helps young people and returning workers gain the skills they need to find employment in today's economy and become thriving members of the community. Earlier this year, Chris and Tom generously pledged a \$280,000 scholarship gift, signaling their strong and early support for PCC's comprehensive campaign.

In an interview after the donation, Chris said, "Every student story is an inspiration. Both of us are humbled by the persistence and desire by PCC students to make their lives better. We are proud to support them in accomplishing their dreams. And we know that as they do that, they impact their own families and the community positively."

RECOMMENDATION: The PCC Board of Directors recommends presenting the 2018 Patron Award to Chris and Thomas Neilsen.