

PCC

COMMUNITIES

College News
Community Education Schedule
Portland Community College

Enroll now!
Classes starting
March - June

Talent Search

College counselors reach out to middle schools as they recruit future students
Page 73

Legislature in Session

Portland Community College boasts three citizen lawmakers
Page 76

Near the Finish Line

Deadline nears for challenge grant as donations roll in
Page 8

INSIDE: Community Education non-credit class schedule

Pages 9-71

Purpose

We're all about that.

My ultimate goal is to help others, not just to have a job. At PCC I can work full time while going to school to pursue my calling.

Jordan

Transfer Degree Student

Future Physician Assistant



We're all about
your future.



Contents

PCC Communities Spring 2009

President's Column 4

Dr. Preston Pulliams discusses the 2009 Legislative session, the tight state budget, Gov. Kulongoski's call for "greening" the economy and how the college offers a growing array of environmentally friendly programs and classes.

Politically Savvy 5

PCC alum Jesse Cornett began his college career in an attempt to impress a friend, but now he's the one impressing elected officials across the state.

Naturally Wonderful 6

Biology instructor April Fong receives kudos from her students, colleagues and community members for her determination to teach conservation and save the planet.

Ticking Clock 8

The deadline is quickly approaching for the James F. and Marion L. Miller challenge grant. The PCC Foundation must raise \$691,000 by March 31 to take advantage of the nearly \$320,000 provided by the Miller Foundation for student scholarships.

Early Decisions 73

They're still in middle school but educators say it's not too early to talk to students about college and life after high school. A federal program administered through PCC works with these students – many the first in their families to even think about college.

Turning in the Wind 74

With wind energy fast becoming a serious contender in the race to find alternative energy sources, PCC responds by adding a new academic degree option – Renewable Energy Systems.

New Career Opportunities on the Horizon 75

A program that partners PCC with area companies preps students for careers in the bioscience technology field.

PCC's Big Three 76

New legislator Michael Dembrow and returning legislators Larry Galizio and Margaret Carter increase PCC's presence in Salem during a year where everyone is fighting for funding from a dismal state budget.

Commuting to Class 78

Thanks to the bond measure voters passed last November PCC will reduce its carbon footprint by building an environmentally sensitive facility on the MAX transit line in Washington County.

More Class, Less Cash 79

During tough times, PCC's Community Education shows students how to make their own cards, give massages and cook inexpensive and healthy meals at home.

On the Cover:



David Jimenez, a freshman at the Rock Creek Campus, was mentored to attend college through the Educational Talent Search program while he was a student at Whitford Middle School in Beaverton.

Community Education Schedule pages 9-71

Creative Arts

- 12 Fine Arts
- 18 Performing Arts
- 19 Digital and Photo Art
- 20 Art of Writing

Home & Garden

- 22 Food and Wine
- 25 Green Living
- 25 Horticulture
- 26 Hobbies and Crafts
- 28 Home Improvement
- 30 Pets
- 30 Welding and Metal Work

Language & Culture

- 31 Educational Services
- 32 Driver's Education & Motorcycle
- 32 Languages
- 37 Personal Paths
- 38 World View
- 39 Travel

Professional Enhancement

- 42 Careers
- 44 Computer Skills
- 46 License Renewal and Continuing Education
- 48 Money Matters
- 50 Resources
- 52 Transitions

Recreation & Wellness

- 53 Dance
- 55 Health and Wellness
- 56 Mind-Body Fitness
- 58 Sports
- 61 Work Out
- 64 Registration Information

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Welcome to the spring edition of
PCC Communities!

The big news this season is that the 2009 Legislature has gathered. And the first order of business for the 90 lawmakers and the governor is to agree on a budget that balances tough economic times and the critical need to fund our educational system.

The state revenue shortfalls that have been projected will require our legislators to make some very difficult choices. Many of the lawmakers we've spoken to understand that this would be the worst time to cut back on community colleges. Enrollment at community colleges is up 10 percent across the state as laid off workers clamor for the retraining and education we offer. We are a fast, flexible, affordable avenue for getting into a new career, beefing up a résumé, or gaining access to a four-year school. Community colleges are economic engines that can create the kind of well-paid, highly trained workforce to get Oregon through tough times.

The other big news from Salem is that voters elected Michael Dembrow to serve in the House of Representatives. Michael is a longtime English instructor on the Cascade Campus and has been a key leader in our faculty union.

He joins Sylvania speech teacher Larry Galizio in the House and former Cascade adviser Margaret Carter in the Senate.

In other political news, Gov. Kulongoski called for a "greening" of the economy in his biennial State of the State speech. That's great news for PCC, which offers a wide and growing array of environmentally friendly programs and classes. Go to www.pcc.edu/sustainability to find course offerings, "green" jobs and a campus-by-campus breakdown of the ways our students, staff and faculty are working to use our natural resources sustainably. This issue of PCC Communities is dedicated to the environment.

Here's wishing you a successful term at PCC.

Sincerely,



Preston Pulliams
District President

PCC Alumnus **Jesse Cornett**

By Christina Holmes

Fresh off a trip to Washington, D.C., Jesse Cornett talks about taking advantage of opportunities that come his way. Take the Presidential Inauguration. The night Barack Obama won the election, Cornett and his wife decided to attend the swearing in. They won tickets through a lottery sponsored by Congressman Earl Blumenauer and on Jan. 20 he was about 75 yards from the podium where Obama stood.

"After the election we tried to find a reason why we wouldn't go and there just wasn't one," said Cornett, government relations director at Portland State University. "Being there was my little piece of history."

Cornett, 33, was raised near Seattle and also in Alabama and Kentucky and was the first in his family to go to college. After leaving PCC he earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration, both from PSU.

Q} Why did you attend Portland Community College?

A} I was 19 when I moved to the Portland area in 1995 with little planned for the future. In a rather dead-end job, I befriended a recent college grad and felt like I should attend college to impress her. I started taking courses and really liked what I was experiencing.

After a mediocre first year, I left and worked at a ski resort for much of the next year. I returned to PCC and adapted to being a student more than I ever had in my life.

Q} Are there any classes or instructors that you fondly remember?

A} Yes, Michael Sonnleitner at Sylvania who I took my first political science class from; perhaps most fondly I remember Jan Underwood, my Spanish professor. Jan inspired us to learn. While I've had some great professors, I don't remember a class I've ever looked forward to attending more than hers.

Q} Tell us about your job at Portland State University.

A} I report directly to the university president and I'm responsible for most things relating

to the government on behalf of PSU. In short form, I am the liaison between PSU and all elected officials.

Q} What can we expect from this year's Legislative session?

A} It's going to be a trying time for the state. We have the best, young class of new legislators that Oregon has seen in nearly 30 years, combined with a stable of skilled veterans and, unfortunately, a recession that will negatively impact the lives of most Oregonians.

The session will be a struggle between long-term investments and shorter term costs that are critical for saving lives. By the way, if you haven't ever called your legislator to advocate for funding for PCC or to thank them for their support, it's more important than ever. They really need to hear from you now and on an ongoing basis.

Q} How will the state budget impact post-secondary education?

A} Our support from the state will be limited as will every state agency or those that receive state support. It's uplifting that the governor continues to prioritize the Shared Responsibility Model, which is direct aid to students in Oregon.

Q} Do you love all things political?

A} Based on a course at PSU, I got really engaged in things political first by mentoring high school students for a model nominating convention and then attending the Democratic National Convention as a delegate in 2000.

In 2001 I helped found a nonprofit to get my generation (and younger) engaged in the political process. I also worked for Congressman Blumenauer and later for Oregon's Secretary of State as the Senior Policy Advisor. In 2006 I even ran for office myself, albeit unsuccessfully.

I don't hide from my political affiliation, but work well across the aisle. While I did co-found BlueOregon.com and served for a short time as the vice chair of the Democratic Party of Oregon, I also served as a graduate assistant for two years to (retired) Republican Senator Mark O. Hatfield.

Q} Tell us why you like your job.

A} As a product of an affordable, quality, public system of higher education, both PCC and PSU, I like my job because I am helping preserve that for future generations. ■



a natural wonder

Biology instructor April Fong leads the charge to protect the environment



By James Hill & Christina Holmes

It's easy to see why April Fong was selected as the 2008 Oregon Outstanding Teacher in Science and Mathematics in Higher Education by the Oregon Academy of Science. Just look at her work with Portland Community College's natural habitat.

Fong founded and now orchestrates the Sylvania Habitat Team – a group of students and staff dedicated to preserving and learning about the natural environment of the campus. The team identifies plants, removes weeds, plants indigenous species and maintains general watershed health.

"It has evolved into a little grassroots effort to teach students how to be proactive," Fong said. "People don't realize how big Sylvania's habitat is. It's great for the students, or even staff, as they can pull weeds along with me and talk biology."

Under Fong's guidance and the students' work, the team earned a \$10,000 Community Watershed Stewardship Program grant through the Bureau of Environmental Services to preserve the local runoff. That helped students from her biology classes concentrate on restoring Sylvania's two creeks – North and South Upper Ball.

"They get experience and get to be part of something that is good and positive," Fong said. "The students are worried about the health of the watershed. We're really a vital part of the whole watershed. We're the headwaters of it all because we're up so high."

The idea for a habitat team began during Fong's interview for a faculty position at the college 16 years ago when she threw out a few questions of her own.

"People don't realize how big Sylvania's habitat is. It's great for the students, or even staff, as they can pull weeds along with me and talk biology"

- April Fong

"I asked what they were doing out there and what they planned to do with the forest of firs and land," she said. "They looked at me like, 'Huh, we don't do anything out there. We guess we should use it.' I thought to

myself, 'Oh man, this college needs me.' PCC's natural areas are really wonderful."

Fong was raised in the San Francisco Bay area and Los Angeles, graduated with a biology degree from UC Berkeley ("I loved my time there," she says, "it was crazy fun"), earned a master's degree in entomology from UC Davis, served as a naturalist in the Los Angeles Unified School District and taught at American River College where she also conducted research on honeybees.

Honeybees research is now out of the question because she's allergic to bees.

While in high school and college she remembers herself as a quiet, shy Chinese girl, afraid to talk to anyone unless spoken to. "Then I realized that if I want to make a difference in the world I need to put myself out there," said Fong.

"April is tremendously dedicated, very compassionate, not to mention very knowledgeable. She takes care to provide a range of learning options. Classic examples included concept mapping (an option for more visual learners), as well as volunteer hour requirements (for those who learn by doing)," said former student Mitch Bixby, now an ecologist with the City of Portland.



The environment truly is her classroom: Biology instructor April Fong works with students during a weekend outing in January at the Sylvania Natural Area Park near campus. Students work together to manage the biodiversity by pulling weeds.

"I was taken by April's emphasis on and skill with scientific writing."

Student Vanessa Howard Morgan also appreciated Fong's varied approach to teaching as it showed her respect for different, off-beat ways of learning.

Morgan remembers her first day on Fong's class when she gave all her students a self evaluation to find out what type of learners they were: tactile, verbal-visual or auditory.

"As I recall it was mandatory, which some students grumbled about at first. But for me, and a number of other students I studied with that year, it was a valuable 20 minutes because it made us think of our individual strengths and areas where we could expand or improve," Morgan said. "It was very eye opening and I believe April has a lot of respect for different ways of learning - including getting nice and muddy."

Fong walks to work (she does own a 1991 Toyota Corolla) and is still amazed at the abundance of trees on campus. "Back in California I would have to drive three hours to see trees like this."

Thanks to her direction the Habitat Team has worked with the grounds crew to create

filtration systems around Sylvania to better eliminate pollutants from parking lot runoff. With a grant from the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Fong's students are able to manage the biodiversity at the nearby Sylvania Natural Area Park – a 2.5-acre Douglas fir forest.

"April is tremendously dedicated, very compassionate, not to mention very knowledgeable. She takes care to provide a range of learning options"

- Former student Mitch Bixby

In addition, Fong was instrumental in establishing Sylvania's Green Team, dedicated to improving sustainability at the campus. The goals: an annual waste audit, improved recycling, support for PCC's shuttle fleet to operate on biofuels and spearheading the hiring of a sustainability coordinator.

Fong's passion for the planet also reaches far into the community.

"April has volunteered for The Nature Conservancy's Oregon program for more than 10 years, contributing 1,400 tireless hours toward our mission of protecting the diversity of life in Oregon and around the world," said Molly Doherty, director of volunteer programs. "April's dedicated service to our organization is important because, in addition to sharing significant time with us, she brings a unique blend of skills in leadership, botany and biology, group coordination and public speaking. Plus, she completes every project with a rarely seen reliability and positive energy."

Fong has served as a volunteer crew leader, helping lead others in restoration work, and she's completed many other field and office projects. In addition, she has motivated countless others – many of them PCC biology students – to get involved by participating in field work parties or by serving in the Portland office. ■



To learn more about PCC's "green" practices, go to www.pcc.edu/sustainability

Every Gift Counts – *Twice*

By Eloise Holland

Thanks to donors and a challenge grant from the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, the PCC Foundation is poised to award students hundreds of additional scholarships next year.

Last summer, the Miller Foundation issued a challenge grant that commits to matching up to \$320,000 for every scholarship dollar raised over and above the amount raised last year by the PCC Foundation. For PCC to get the full match, the foundation must raise a total of \$691,000 by March 31.

Less than two months from the deadline, how are things looking?

"It's inspiring," said PCC Foundation Director Rick Zurow. "Despite the tough economic times, people are choosing to give."

The foundation has surpassed last year's benchmark of \$371,000, and the Miller Foundation is now matching every scholarship dollar donated through the end of March.

Zurow attributes this success to the fact that, even when money is tight, education remains a core value to both individuals and grant-making foundations.

This is certainly true for foundation board member and donor Barbara Raz. "After teaching at PCC for many years, I knew how many of my students struggled to afford an education," Raz said. "I want to keep supporting deserving students to encourage them to pursue an education, to motivate them to be the best they can be and to invest in the future of our community. The matching grant from the Miller Foundations gives me one more reason to support the PCC Foundation."

Students echo the importance of these scholarships. "Without the support and the resources and the opportunities that I've had through PCC, I wouldn't be in the place that I am now," said scholarship recipient

Ryan Prager, who turned his life around after spending time in prison, and who wants to help other young men do the same.

With the fundraising goal in sight, the PCC Foundation staff isn't taking any chances. They're working hard to raise the final \$75,000, which would allow them to claim the full \$320,000 in matching dollars from the Miller Foundation.

The good news? The PCC Foundation's annual "Superhero Campaign" is picking up steam.

Each year, internal teams of faculty, staff and retirees challenge each other to be "superheroes" by making a donation. The campaign, complete with capes and masks, is a fun way to involve employees throughout the PCC district. Last year, the campaign raised more than \$177,000 for the PCC Foundation.

"Many of our students are on their second or third chance," said PCC reference and instruction librarian Tony Grenier, explaining why he gives. "I want them to have every chance to succeed."

Grenier, the Cascade Campus team captain for the campaign, has spent the last few months asking other PCC employees to contribute.

Currently, faculty and staff donate about \$4,450 per month to scholarships through payroll deduction. With the Miller match, these donations will be doubled until the March 31 deadline.

"We are excited that faculty, staff and retirees – who best understand the struggles of PCC students – have the opportunity to put us over the top," Zurow said. "Every little gift counts."

Meeting the Miller Foundation challenge is important not only because it means matching funds for scholarships, but also because it puts the college closer to its goal of universal access to education. ■

*\$691,000
Needed*

*\$644,274
Raised*



How you can get involved? There's no better time to help a needy student get his or her education. Thanks to the Miller Foundation grant, scholarship donations count twice through March 31. To give, go to www.pcc.edu/foundation. Or call (503) 977-4382. To see an updated "thermometer" of the money raised, go to www.pcc.edu/foundation and, in the box marked "Do More With Your Dollar," click on "Learn More."

PCC Programs

Degree programs and credit classes

PCC is also your one-stop resource for the following credit programs. Go to www.pcc.edu to learn more.

Transfer Degrees

Associate of Arts, Oregon Transfer
Associate of Science
Associate of Science, Oregon Transfer, Business

Other Degrees and Areas of Study

Oregon Transfer Module
General Studies
High School Completion
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
Adult Education (ABE and GED classes) (Non-credit)
Undecided

Career and Technical Education Degrees and Certificates

Addiction Studies
Administrative Assistant*
Administrative Assistant-Office Management
Agricultural Mechanics
Alcohol and Drug Counselor*
Apprenticeship (Industrial Technology)
Architectural Design and Drafting
Auto Collision Repair Technology
Automotive Service Repair Technology
Automobile Service Education Program (ASEP)
Aviation Maintenance Technology
Aviation Science
Biomedical Engineering Technology
Building Construction Technology
Building Inspection Technology
Business Administration
 Accounting
 Accounting Clerk
 Management
 Marketing
CAS: Web Site Development
Civil Engineering Technology*
Computer Applications and Office Systems
Computer Information Systems
CIS: E-Commerce
CIS: Networking Administration
Criminal Justice

Criminal Justice: Juvenile Corrections
Dealer Service Technology
Dental Assisting*
Dental Hygiene*
Dental Laboratory Technology*
Diesel Service Technology
Early Childhood Education and Family Studies
Electrical Trades
Electronic Engineering Technology*
Emergency TeleCommunicator (911)*
Emergency Medical Technician*
Facilities Maintenance Technology
Fire Protection Technology*
Fitness Technology
Gerontology
Graphic Design
Health Information Management
Interior Design
Instructional Assistant
Landscape Technology
Library/Media Assistant
Machine Manufacturing Technology
Management and Supervisory Development
Mechanical Engineering Technology
Medical Assisting*
Medical Laboratory Technology*
Microelectronics Technology*
Multimedia
Nursing*
Paralegal
Occupational Skills Training*
Ophthalmic Medical Technology*
Paraeducator
Professional Music
Radiography*
Refrigeration, HVAC and Trades Related
Sign Language Interpretation*
Veterinary Technology*
Video Production*
Welding Technology

*Program has special enrollment requirements.

Calendar of Events: A Look at What's Ahead

February

The Cascade Festival of African Films, the largest African film festival on the West Coast, celebrates its 19th year with more than two dozen films shown through March 7. Every year the college features films from or about the African continent that are brought to Portland by a small but dedicated group of local volunteers. Held annually at the Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth St., and other venues in Portland such as the Hollywood Theatre and McMenamins Kennedy School Theatre, the festival is free and open to the public. www.african-filmfestival.org.

March

The Theater Arts program presents "Godspell" at 7:30 p.m. on March 5, 6, 7, 13, 14 and at 2 p.m. on March 15 in the Performing Arts Center at the Sylvania Campus, 12000 S.W. 49th Ave. This 1970 musical began as a student workshop and vaulted to a record run Off-Broadway. Well known and often produced, the play holds up almost 40 years later as an entertaining and thought provoking celebration of the American musical landscape, ranging from pop, folk rock, gospel and vaudeville. For more information call 503-977-4949 or visit www.pcc.edu/theatre.

May

ArtBeat 2009, the 22nd anniversary of the district wide festival of art, will spread across all three PCC comprehensive campuses and the Southeast Center from May 11-15. This weeklong event offers students and the community access to local and national artists as well as an extensive collection of visual art, dance, music, theater and literary events. There are 80 separate events scheduled. All events are free and open to the public and even the parking is free during ArtBeat Week. For more information visit www.artbeat.pcc.edu or call 503-977-4270.



Can't wait for College

Early intervention is key to a successful PCC program that gets students thinking about college when they're still in middle school

By Christina Holmes

David Guillermo Jimenez's contact with Portland Community College began with weekly visits from college advisers.

Never mind that Jimenez was only in sixth grade at Whitford Middle School in Beaverton and more interested in playing soccer at recess than applying for college.

But the many years he spent with the federally funded Educational Talent Search program offered through PCC at the Rock Creek Campus proved valuable. As the first in his family to attend college, Jimenez is now a freshman at PCC and already has his eyes set on a mechanical engineering degree from Oregon State University.

"What the program helped me realize was that I did want to go to college," said Jimenez, 18, who was raised by a single mother and an older sister and visited his father in California. "For some Hispanic and Latino students they don't go to college because they're not informed and their parents don't speak English. I knew I didn't want to be another statistic and not go to college."

PCC is in the second cycle of a \$1.1 million U.S. Department of Education grant awarded to the college to provide an outreach program that helps students

who have the potential to be successful in college. The 600 students involved generally come from low income families where neither parent had the opportunity to attend college or receive a four-year college degree. Federal guidelines mandate that two-thirds of the students have both those requirements. The remaining one-third of students only have to demonstrate desire in order to participate.

"We help students with everything – from keeping them focused on graduating from high school, applying for financial aid and scholarships and finally enrolling in college," said program director Eduardo Martinez Zapata, who launched the program in 2002. "We get to these students very early on because research shows that it's never too early to start thinking about college."

The goal of ETS is to increase the number of youths from disadvantaged backgrounds, who complete high school and enroll in college. The program serves students in the Beaverton and Forest Grove school districts of Washington County. Zapata along with college advisers Melinda Nuñez and Sylvia Barajas-Everson regularly visit five high schools and five middle schools. They build relationships with the students and become a go-to person when the teens

have questions about life after high school. "For many middle schoolers, college is beyond reach, it is too expensive or it will be too hard," said Jim Murai, a counselor at Five Oaks Middle School in Beaverton. "ETS gives students accurate information to dispel those myths – it gives them hope that they can attend college."

Each year about 85 percent of seniors in the program enroll in college – a community college, four-year university or trade school – more than twice the national average of students in general.

While advisers can't recruit students to PCC, about 60 percent of the Washington County students end up taking classes at one of the PCC campuses.

In addition to learning the ropes about applying to college, the students must also complete a service learning requirement where they volunteer at such places as the Oregon Food Bank. ■



For more information about the Educational Talent Search program at Rock Creek, call (503) 614-7572 or visit <http://spot.pcc.edu/ets>



New Options on the Horizon

With wind energy fast becoming a serious contender in the race to find alternative energy sources, PCC responds by adding a new academic degree option – Renewable Energy Systems

By James G. Hill

With the impending construction of a huge wind farm and big interest in alternative energy, Portland Community College is responding with a new option to its existing Electronic Engineering Technology associate's degree.

The Renewable Energy Systems option, which recently was approved by the state, prepares technicians to work in the maintenance of all renewable energy systems, including solar, fuel cell and wind manufacturing industries. This option is similar to the one at Columbia Gorge Community College and shares some courses. Students will get a chance to experience what it is like to be a technician in these fields, including having a chance to climb one of the windmills at the farm.

"This is the most comprehensive renewable energy systems training offering in the state of Oregon," said Sanda Williams, instructor in Electronic Engineering Technology. "Graduates can work in any of the areas and we have classes that they can take at different campuses. We are dedicated to serving the community and industry in the best possible way to direct students to jobs that remain local. We have great faculty and plenty of services. We are excited about what we've done here."

Three years ago, the electronic engineering program, based at the Sylvania Campus, was going through a reinvention of its curriculum, eventually adding Biomedical Engineering and Wireless and Data Communication Engineering technology options. More information about these new options can be found at: <http://www.pcc.edu/programs/electronic-engineering/>.

"This is the most comprehensive renewable energy systems training offering in the state of Oregon"

- PCC instructor Sanda Williams

But industry leaders mentioned the need for qualified technicians in renewable energies as well.

"The option has been very well received by the local industry and our community, and it is a timely and welcomed response to the energy situation confronting us," said John McKee, dean of the Science and Engineering Division at Sylvania.

The need is clear. Portland General Electric, an investor-owned utility that serves the majority of Oregon customers in the Portland metropolitan area, is actively building one of the larger wind farms in the state. The Biglow Wind Farm, located within Sherman County (in North Central Oregon), will have 217 turbines with a total installed capacity of 450 megawatts. One of the critical issues for PGE and other wind farm owners is an acute shortage of workers: it takes one wind turbine technician to service every 10 turbines. For the Biglow project alone, PGE estimates it needs more than 22 wind technicians plus about 10 management and support workers when fully built out.

"Regionally, the projected need for wind turbine technicians is over 300 in the next five years," said Gary Hackett, plant manager of PGE's Biglow Canyon Wind Farm. "As the demand for new wind projects continues to increase, as driven by customer demand and regulatory requirements, the need for new wind turbine technicians will continue." ■



For more information about this new option, contact Sanda Williams, instructor and department chair of Electronic Engineering Technology, at (503) 977-4527, or sanda.williams@pcc.edu.

Advancing Opportunities

By James G. Hill

At the start of 2008, Kelly Payne was busy in his job, fitting new houses with fiber options. It was a good career and the Hillsboro resident was content.

But when the housing market began spiraling, Payne faced a possible job loss. By last summer, he was out of work.

Instead of a long layoff and settling for a job for which he would be overqualified, Payne discovered a new program funded through the Oregon Employment Department. His school tuition and books would be paid for, and in the end, he would have a foot in the door with four of the top bioscience companies in the metro area.

"Personally, it has been great," Payne said. "It has been invaluable. It was a second chance for me and an opportunity to get into an industry that may be an entry-level position but has the potential for me to grow by leaps and bounds within a company."

Genentech, along with fellow bioscience firms HemCon, Welch Allyn and Precision Wire Components, selected students for PCC's new bioscience technology short-term training program. The Bioscience Technician Certificate of Completion is a 13-credit-hour program consisting of three classes: Bioscience Technology Basics, Quality Systems in Biotechnology and Exploring Bioscience.

Genentech has funded 40 scholarships for students who want to pursue a career in bioscience. After successful completion of the certificate, students will be eligible to interview with companies for entry-level operator positions. Last summer, 13 students were selected

for the first 13-week session from more than 500 applications, said Linda Browning, the business services coordinator at PCC's Capital Career Center. A second group of students recently began the 13-week session and, from all accounts, Genentech is pleased with the results, Browning said.

"Graduates will have access to stable, high-school manufacturing jobs with excellent benefits and advancement opportunity after only two terms of training," Browning said.

The pathway also dovetails into PCC's new bioscience technology program, which started this fall and offers students a chance to earn an associate's degree. The college discontinued a similar biotechnology program five years ago, due to budget cuts. The state-approved bioscience technology program was resurrected and revised to meet industry needs. The program is based at the Rock Creek Campus.

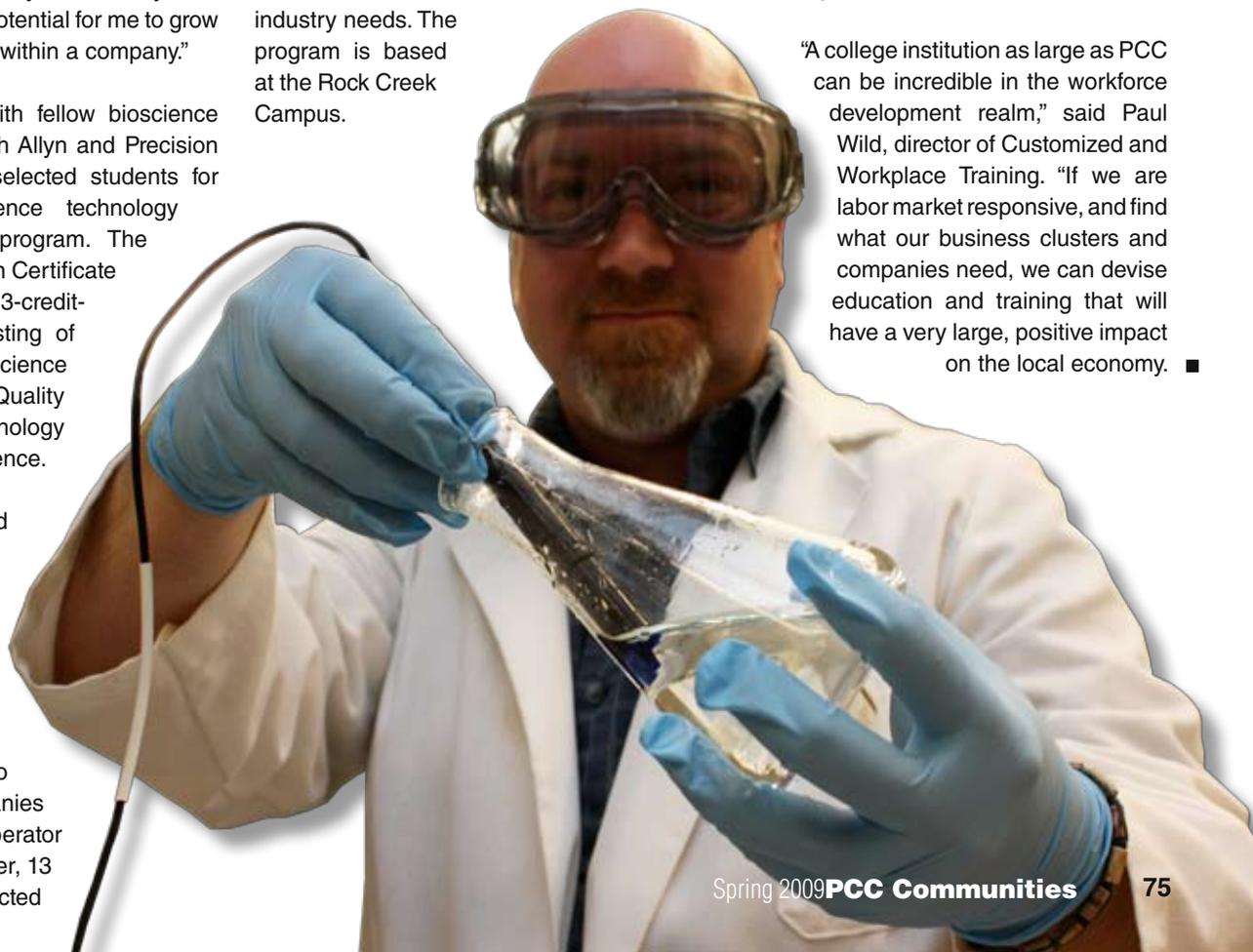
PCC partners with Genentech and other bioscience firms to educate students about the cutting edge field of bioscience technology

At the end of the short-term training, students interview with the bioscience companies in the consortium. They are equipped with the skills needed to work with relevant machinery and will know how to work in a sterile environment.

"They are looking for real team players," said Payne, 38, who is going through the second round of interviews with Genentech.

Genentech chose Hillsboro for a new warehouse partly because of the quality workforce training provided by PCC. A partnership between the PCC Capital Career Center, PCC Customized and Workforce Training, Genentech and the college's Bioscience Technology Department was formed to create the process of building a "pipeline" of trained workers that will meet the needs of the emerging bioscience industry well into the future.

"A college institution as large as PCC can be incredible in the workforce development realm," said Paul Wild, director of Customized and Workplace Training. "If we are labor market responsive, and find what our business clusters and companies need, we can devise education and training that will have a very large, positive impact on the local economy. ■"



PCC's Big 3

The college's delegation to the state Capitol gets stronger for the 2009 legislative session



Rep. Michael Dembrow



By Dana Haynes

If Portland Community College gets one more lawmaker in the Salem, we could officially rename the Capitol the PCC Annex South.

This, the 75th session of the Legislature, sees three lawmakers from the college serving in Salem. Newly elected Rep. Michael Dembrow teaches English at the Cascade Campus. Rep. Larry Galizio teaches speech at the Sylvania Campus, and Sen. Margaret Carter is a former adviser for Cascade. The Skill Center at that campus was named in her honor.

Preston Pulliams, president of PCC, said he is pleased to have so many strong links to the 2009 session. "These are people who get community colleges. They understand that, in tough times, a community college serves as the 'first responder' for those facing layoffs or the mortgage crisis. They understand that a community college is an economic engine, providing the trained workforce to help build us out of recession."

The legislative session began on Jan. 12 and Dembrow, the newcomer, started it with a bang: He was selected as vice chairman of the House Education Committee, a rare show of trust for a rookie lawmaker.

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- Preston Pulliams

"This is really amazing. There's so much to get done," Dembrow said on his first day on the job, his wife, Kiki, at his side. Kiki Dembrow is a part-time instructor at Cascade.

Beyond his many years teaching at Cascade, Dembrow also is a founding member of the Cascade Festival of African Films. His House district includes part of Northeast Portland, the city of Maywood Park and the Parkrose area.

There's more big news in the '09 session for the three-member "PCC Caucus" – Sen. Carter has taken on a leadership role as co-chairwoman of the budget-writing Ways and Means Committee.

"I want people to know that we won't balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable," Carter said. "Are there winners and losers? No. All of us in Oregon lose when the economy gets as it is today."

Adds Carter, "We will be challenged with a billion dollar or more shortfall in state revenues. It is critical that all of us work in a spirit of collaboration, prudence and cooperation. We need to fund our schools, work for affordable health care, insure economic fairness, maintain the dignity of our citizens and keep safe neighborhoods. We

PCC's 2009 Legislative Priorities

- A funding level that maintains services and programs for students
- More funds for the Oregon Opportunity Grants
- Support for a Center for Careers in Education at the Cascade Campus



Senator Margaret Carter



Rep. Larry Galizio

need a viable and safe public infrastructure for our economy to thrive and grow.”

Carter, the first African American woman elected to the Legislative Assembly, took office in the Oregon House in 1984. Her Senate district includes North Portland and part of Northeast Portland.

Galizio is keeping busy this session. He is serving as vice-chairman of the House Sustainability and Economic Development Committee and co-chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction. He also sits on the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education.

“As Co-Chair of the Ways & Means Capital Construction Subcommittee, I will be very involved in economic stimulus packages, as well as the myriad infrastructure projects that will not only facilitate job creation and retention, but maintain and extend the usable life of the buildings, roadways, and communication facilities that are essential to all Oregonians” said Galizio, who represents portions of both Washington and Multnomah counties.

Like the others, he’s keeping an eye on the state economy, which is weak and getting weaker. “It’s going to be an extraordinary challenge because of the economic situation we find ourselves in,” he said.

But on the House floor, Galizio also compared the 2009 Legislature and its challenges to the pilot who, back in January, feathered a powerless Airbus A320 into the Hudson River without sinking it, thus saving all aboard. “Who knows?” Galizio said. “That may end up being the metaphor for the 75th Oregon Legislature.”

Oregon lawmakers are “citizen legislators” and are available to their constituents. All House and Senate floor sessions are open to the public, as are committee hearings. All lawmakers take meetings in their offices. ■



To follow the 2009 Legislature, go to www.pcc.edu/capitol, for committee schedules, links to lawmakers’ Web sites and a daily blog.

Contact Information:

Sen. Carter can be reached at sen.margaretcarter@state.or.us. Her Web site is www.leg.state.or.us/carter. She can be reached by phone at (503) 986-1722. All Senate members’ numbers begin with 503-986-17...

For Representatives, it’s 503-986-14... The last two numbers correlate to the lawmaker’s district; Sen. Carter represents District No. 22. Knowing this code, you can figure out any lawmaker’s phone number just by knowing his or her district.

For Dembrow, it’s rep.michaeldembrow@state.or.us and www.leg.state.or.us/dembrow. He can be reached at (503) 986-1445.

Galizio’s contacts are rep.larrygalizio@state.or.us and www.leg.state.or.us/galizio. He can be reached at (503) 986-1435.

Training on the Transit Line

PCC reduces its 'carbon footprint' by building an earth-friendly new building on the MAX transit line



TriMet Senior Planner, Jillian Detweiler and Linda Degman, PCC's Facilities Planning Manager, outside the new Willow Creek Center

By Christina Holmes

The three-story building rising on the MAX line in Washington County is a first time endeavor for Portland Community College as it teams up with TriMet to make it easier for students to commute to classes.

The new Willow Creek Center at Southwest 185th Avenue and Baseline Road allows students to travel on the MAX light rail train to take workforce development, computer education, allied health care and other PCC classes. The facility will house classes currently at the Capital Career Center, which PCC will vacate by the end of the year. Willow Creek is about one mile from the Capital Center.

"It makes sense to have a facility on the MAX line to accommodate workforce development students and displaced workers," said Linda Degman, PCC's facilities planning manager. "We realized the Capital Center was hard to get to and we want to make it easier for these folks. TriMet had the land available and they were excited about having a facility at that site."

Crews at the Willow Creek building are working toward a LEED certification, a building rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council. The nonprofit coalition of building industry leaders

promotes design and construction practices that increase profitability while reducing the negative environmental impacts of buildings and improving occupant health and well-being.

Achieving LEED certification is the best way to demonstrate that a building project is truly "green." PCC architects and planners are on track for a LEED platinum certification, the highest ranking possible.

Funding for Willow Creek comes from PCC's bond measure, which voters OK'd in November, plus a \$7.5 million matching grant from the 2008 Legislature.

Fred Hansen, TriMet's general manager, said this is a win-win situation because it provides convenient transit access using existing investments in MAX and buses and it will generate new ridership.

"The partnership between PCC and TriMet demonstrates public agencies overcoming short-term obstacles to provide long-term

public benefits. PCC had to design its building around an oddly shaped site. TriMet had to move its bus operations during a phase of the construction," Hansen said. "But both organizations saw the benefit of using publicly owned land served by high-quality transit to provide critical adult education opportunities. When TriMet can be part of a strategy that will actually improve opportunities for people who depend on transit, we will stretch to do that."

Construction crews headed by Skanska, in conjunction with Gerding Edlen Development Co., broke ground on the 97,000-square-foot center last summer. Some work has been delayed because of the heavy snow in December but plans call for the building to be completed by fall 2009.

While TriMet has worked with other organizations to promote redevelopment in MAX station areas this is the first partnership involving the lease of TriMet land for a new education building.

PCC has a 99-year lease with TriMet for the property.

Willow Creek will offer job-search and training classes for the unemployed and underemployed on the first floor. The second floor will have classrooms for computer education and Community Education. ■

Short on cash Long on learning

Community Education offers inexpensive options to get through tough times

By Eloise Holland

Money-saving Meals

Class: NW Inspired Dishes (page 23)

What you learn: Certified executive chef and co-owner of Simply Thyme Catering, Tamara Leibfarth, uses fresh, local ingredients to introduce students to recipes like hazelnut-crusted chicken with pesto sauce, balsamic blueberry-glazed wild Alaskan salmon and baked halibut with saffron cream sauce.

How you save: Just because you're buying organic, doesn't mean you have to sacrifice savings. For example, "Instead of buying pulled chicken meat, buy the whole chicken, cook it down, take it off the bone," Leibfarth said. That way, you have meat for the dish you're making and a base for a future soup. Leibfarth notes that buying whole foods and processing them at home is almost always a money saver.

"She's a master," student Rondi Leonard said. "She really wants everyone to understand what she's teaching."

The bottom line: The class itself is a feast where you're able to sample six different Northwest-inspired dishes in one night. What you take away is money-saving tips and the ability and confidence to prepare restaurant-quality meals at a fraction of the price.

Tender, Loving Care

Class: Massage for Couples (page 55)

What you learn: Nationally certified massage therapist John Johnson says that, over the years, people have the same response when he asks what they want from his class. "Mostly they want to eliminate pain," he said. Johnson helps couples achieve his goal by teaching basic techniques for learning to massage each other.

How you save: Students take Johnson's class precisely because they can't afford

expensive trips to the spa. Johnson said, "The idea is, in four hours (students) can learn simple techniques that they can go home and use for the rest of their lives."

The bottom line: With professional massages costing an average of \$75 per session, savings with home massage are immediate and significant. But more than the dollar savings, the class promotes communication and closeness between couples. "It helps build relationships," Johnson said.

Gifts from the Heart

Class: Card Making (page 16)

What you learn: When paper artist Micki Selvitella teaches card making, she encourages students to think outside the box. "People do some really surprising things," she said. "Everybody is an artist."

Selvitella teaches the class with fostering creativity as the main goal, rather than having students "spend their whole paycheck at a DIY store."

How you save: Selvitella teaches students to use inexpensive, recycled materials like old wrapping paper, buttons, string, jewelry and tin foil. She said she started making cards herself because, "I didn't want to give four dollars to Hallmark every time it was somebody's birthday."

The bottom line: The sky's the limit on how much you can save by making your own heartfelt cards. You'll leave the two-hour workshop with three cards of your own creation and a virtual toolbox of ideas and techniques.

The classes here are a great place to start, but it's easy to get new ideas just by flipping through the class schedule and seeing what's available. Whatever your interest, Community Education has a class that can help tame your tendency to splurge. ■

From "stay-cations" to staying in for dinner, Community Education offers alternatives to pricey fun.

In tough economic times, people look for places to trim the fat from their household budgets. We all want to save more, but it can be tricky to know where to start. Fortunately, PCC's Community Education classes offer opportunities to inexpensively satisfy your cravings for luxury and learning.



Spring term classes start March through June. For more information, turn to Page 9 or visit www.pcc.edu/community.

PCC mails this schedule of classes to households four times each year to inform you about what the college offers. It is printed and mailed for about 40 cents a copy and can be recycled with your newspapers. Because it is addressed "Residential Customer," we are not able to remove individuals from our distribution route. We view this schedule as our "report card" to the public and hope you find it informative.

Project: YOU

with PCC Community Education

My Project:

Name: Erik Gilson

Occupation: Nursery manager

My Project: Learn about second
career opportunities in solar energy

Class I Took: Solar Installer Series

And Now: I have a retirement plan
to convert my house to a bed
and breakfast with a money-saving
"green" element - solar power!

CommunityEducation

Make YOU the project!

If you can dream it, Community Education's hundreds of classes can help you achieve it. Go online to pcc.edu/community and get started on your own Project:YOU this Spring.