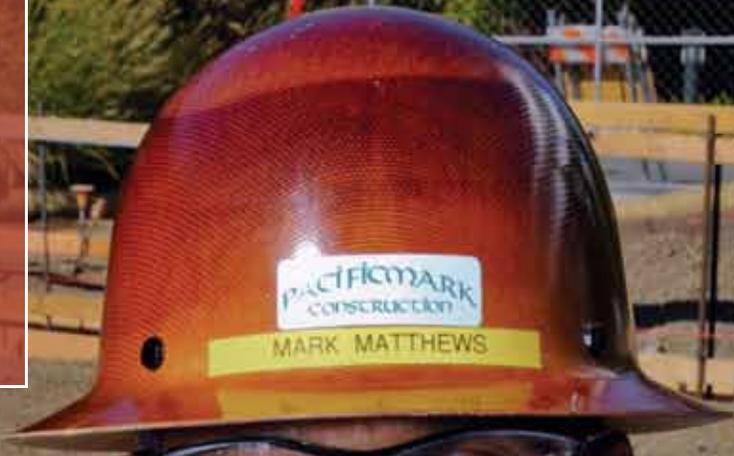


WINTER 2013

PCC

COMMUNITIES

College News
Community Education Schedule
Portland Community College



JOBS CREATOR

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OREGON'S 40-40-20

PCC plans for ambitious higher education goals
Page 4

Enroll now!
Classes starting
January – March

**Community Education
non-credit class schedule**

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**Portland
Community
College**



I am a
role model
because
of PCC.



Vernonia resident Tera Roberts was a single mother with eight children and few options when she came to PCC. Now a nurse practitioner just months from her doctorate, Tera is showing her children the value of higher education and inspiring them to follow in her footsteps.

Read more at opportunity.pcc.edu



**Portland
Community
College**

"In my thirty years at PCC, I've seen the college transform the lives of thousands of Oregonians, preparing them for new jobs, preparing them for the next adventure in their lives, making them solid contributors to our communities."

— **State Representative
Michael Dembrow**
Oregon House District 45
and former PCC instructor

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Photos by Vern Uyetake

EDUCATING OREGON

The state's new education policy aims for all Oregonians to have a high school diploma or higher education degree by 2025 By **Christina Holmes**

When today's kindergarteners graduate high school in 2025, the Oregon legislature hopes its ambitious 40-40-20 goal will be a reality, resulting in a state teeming with an educated and well-trained workforce.

This means that in just 13 years, all Oregonians will have the following as their highest level of education:

40 percent of adults will have earned a bachelor's degree or higher; 40 percent of adults will have earned an associate degree or post-secondary credentials; and 20 percent will have earned a high school diploma.

It's a tall order for a state where the numbers are now 30 percent for bachelor's degree, 18 percent for an associate degree, 42 percent high school only and 10 percent with less than a high school diploma.

With underfunded education budgets and no new money for incentives to achieve these goals, lawmakers are poised to see how higher education institutions respond.

"What's happened in the year since this law passed is that it has changed the paradigm of how people think about education. Every conversation I have about education policy is punctuated by 40-40-20," said State Sen. Mark Hass, who represents parts of Southwest Portland and Washington County and sits on the Task Force on Higher Education Student and Institutional Success. "College is no longer a dream but a plan."

As Oregon's largest higher education institution, PCC stands ready to do its part and help the state meet this challenge of student completion and success. College leaders have researched in depth the factors that prevent students from earning

a certificate or degree. Some of the barriers are financial, others more logistical.

"We've been studying this process for the last four years and we want to guide students to completion. We want to make sure our students are academically prepared and financially prepared to be successful in college and beyond," said Christine Chairsell, PCC's vice president of academic and student affairs.

Among the efforts at PCC are new programs that better track a student's progress toward graduation and an overhaul of the financial aid system to reduce

processing time. About 45 percent of PCC credit students receive financial aid, and lack of money is the top reason students cite for dropping out.

The reform efforts include an institution-wide, student-centered approach to deliver financial aid funds electronically. Automating part of the process frees up staff time to focus on students who need one-on-one assistance. PCC also has introduced a financial literacy program for new students.

Michael Dembrow, a former PCC faculty member and current Oregon House representative, says that while many states are looking at high school and bachelor's degree attainment goals, Oregon is unique because of the strong emphasis placed on attaining associate degrees.

"Half of the people who received bachelor's degrees from Oregon State University went to community colleges. That will continue to be the case based on cost and affordability," he said.

It's clear that state lawmakers are looking to colleges and universities to better track students, remove barriers to completion and create a qualified and diverse workforce in the next decade. ■

PCC IS A

OREGON'S VISION:

40%

of all Oregonians will earn a bachelor's degree

OREGON'S VISION:

40%

of all Oregonians will earn an associate degree or certificate

OREGON'S VISION:

20%

of all Oregonians will earn a high school diploma

ALREADY WORKING TO MEET THE GOALS:

Reverse transfer completion: Students who transfer to OIT or PSU could earn an associate degree at PCC by taking several more upper-division courses. A new unified system for all higher education students will notify them about missed opportunities.



PCC is the education gateway to Oregon universities: PCC students represented nearly one-third of Oregon community college transfers to the Oregon University System in 2010–11, and 40 percent of PSU's 2012 graduating class took classes at PCC.



Transfer options: PCC offers three transfer degrees that allow students to complete lower-division bachelor's degree requirements at PCC.



Dual enrollment programs with seven universities: Students complete freshman and sophomore courses at PCC then transfer credits to complete junior and senior courses.

Dual Credit Program: PCC partners with high schools to develop high school courses that earn college credit and give students a head start on their bachelor's degrees. Forty-six high schools in the PCC District participate.



Career-technical transfer agreements: Students may transfer credits to many state universities.



Mandatory advising for targeted populations: Students who test into two or more developmental education courses meet with advisors prior to registering for classes, representing a cultural shift from "access for all" to "guided access to student success."

The Learning Assessment Council: Comprised of faculty, the group ensures that academic programs have the rigor and relevancy necessary for students to compete in today's educational environment.



ROOTS Program: This federally-funded TRiO program assists low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities.

Future Connect: An innovative partnership between PCC, the City of Portland and six Multnomah County School Districts that provides scholarships and services for low-income, first-generation college students. About 130 students enrolled in Fall 2011 and 200 students in Fall 2012.

Removal of fees not covered by financial aid: The application fee, transcript fee and fee to apply for graduation — once barriers to student transfer and graduation — have been discontinued.



Implementation of GRAD (Graduation Requirements and Academic Decisions) Plan: Program enables students to easily monitor and map progress toward degree and/or certificate completion.

Prerequisite policy: Students must demonstrate a certain level of proficiency in writing, reading, and math prior to taking a wide range of General Education courses.



Jefferson Middle College for Advanced Studies: Every Jefferson student takes PCC courses for high school and college credit.



Gateway to College: An innovative model that started at PCC and is now replicated across the country. High school dropouts are able to earn high school and college credits simultaneously.

Youth Empowered to Succeed (YES!) and Multicultural Academic Program (MAP): Programs support high school completion or its equivalent.



COMPOSING THE FUTURE

New Southeast/Extended Learning Campus President Jessica Howard starts work at a site she believes has endless possibilities

By **Christina Holmes**

Please excuse Jessica Howard for a moment and allow her to gush about Portland's people, landscape, food, culture, music and even the weather. The Texan transplant, her husband and daughter arrived in August and they've taken every opportunity to explore the Pacific Northwest.

"I love everything about this town," she said.

She talks just as excitedly about her new job at the helm of the Southeast Center and the college's Extended Learning Campus. A massive \$34 million construction project is underway that will add buildings, student resources, a bookstore, library and other facilities and eventually transition the center into a comprehensive campus in 2014.

The Southeast Center has experienced the largest enrollment growth of any PCC location, growing by 31 percent in the past three years. The student population for the center could reach 20,000 within the next five years.

"This is a burgeoning moment for the Southeast Center and the excitement is palpable," said Howard.

Howard's duties as the president of the Southeast Center and Extended Learning Campus include overseeing college transfer, developmental education, career-technical education programs and non-credit continuing education, workforce development and community education courses. In addition, the position leads professional training for businesses through the CLIMB Center for Advancement, and alternative high school programs such as Gateway to College.

In fact, Howard knew about PCC as the birthplace of Gateway, the program that allows students who drop out of traditional high school to earn a diploma and college credits at the same time. Gateway was later replicated at sites across the country and Howard's former college was an active Gateway campus.

Until her move to Portland, Howard served as Vice President of Academic Affairs for San Antonio College, one of five colleges in the Alamo Colleges System in Texas.

"Jessica is passionate about helping students reach their educational goals — whatever they may be. She is excited about representing the center in the community, a critical role given Southeast's expansion in its neighborhood and the myriad of community relationships advanced by the Extended Learning Campus," said PCC District President Preston Pulliams.

Howard replaces Craig Kolins, who served as interim campus president for the past two years, following the retirement of Nan Poppe.

A piano player since she was 7, Howard's undergraduate and graduate work at Rice University in Houston focused on English and music theory. "Reading and writing

music came naturally to me," recalls Howard, who continues to play, at times seated next to her 8-year-old daughter who is learning to tickle the ivories.

Howard's doctorate is in performance studies from New York University. She acted in college and contemplated a career on stage before concentrating on education and researching ways to help students learn.

Fresh out of college, she taught part-time at a community college and a university, and held a full-time position as a high school fine arts director. After earning a full-time community college teaching position, she moved through the ranks as a department chair, associate professor and vice president.

In her previous role, Howard missed being around students. Now she's happy to be on a growing campus with frequent student interactions. ■



To learn more about the exciting plans underway at the Southeast Center visit www.pcc.edu/southeast

FINDING THE RIGHT FIT

John Mason didn't thrive in high school so he turned to PCC and received the education he needed to be workforce ready

By **Christina Holmes**

Twenty years ago, John Mason got his first introduction to PCC. A bright 17-year-old who grew restless of high school and eventually dropped out, he excelled in college and earned top grades.

By 1996, he had both a high school diploma and an associate degree in machine manufacturing technology. He headed straight into his family's plastics business, a company his father — a former Tektronix employee — started in 1975. Mason quickly found that the material covered in his PCC classes applied directly to his new role.

"The courses I took allowed my company to invest in new technology, which enabled us to gain new accounts and grow our business," Mason recounted. "One of the new machines we bought was a computerized milling/metalworking machine. The machine cost more than the total value of all the other equipment in our business at that time, but we knew that having the new equipment would allow me to start building all of our plastic injection molds in-house rather than having to deal with outside vendors. This gave us a major advantage over our competitors."

Added Mason, "The first molds I built were crude but with the fundamentals I learned at PCC, my skills improved quickly." Mason owns CF Plastics in Hillsboro, along with his two brothers, Joe and Glen, and parents, Lee and Barbara Mason.

Q. How did you end up at PCC?

A. I was failing high school due to truancy and boredom. During my junior year, I met with my counselor and was told to try harder and show up to class, get a GED or drop out of school. Talking to the counselor was a reality check. I knew I had to start taking school more seriously but I was having a

hard time sitting through classes. My parents knew I was capable but lacked motivation and focus. My mom called PCC and learned I would only have 15 hours of class a week and I could earn both high school and college credits.

Q. Looking back, what did you think about your time at PCC?

A. The combination of the condensed schedule, more interesting curriculum and the fact that the students seemed to want to be there just worked for me. The hands-on training I received in machine tech was invaluable and something I would have had a hard time finding elsewhere.

Q. Tell us about your business.

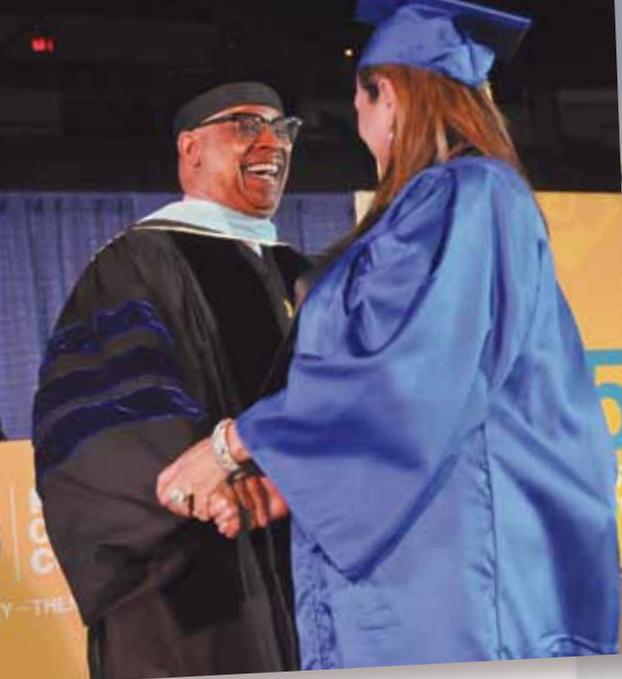
A. CF Plastics is a manufacturing company making plastic injection molded parts for several industries. We make the baseball and softball bat handles for sporting goods companies such as DeMarini Sports (located in Hillsboro). We also do work for the medical, dental and vision inspection system industries.

Q. Any advice for college students today?

A. Find a career you enjoy and, if it's not working out, don't be afraid to make a change. You don't want to be stuck doing something you hate for the rest of your life. I also would highly recommend PCC. I think the flexibility, affordability and option to transfer to a four-year college make PCC a great place for anyone. ■



Are you a PCC alum? You are if you've taken any class at PCC — whether you earned a degree, transferred credits to a university, learned English or developed a new skill or hobby. We want to hear from all of our alums! Contact us at alumni@pcc.edu to share your PCC story or sign up for PCC's Diamond Pride newsletter.



In his final year as district president, Preston Pulliams is focused on student success.

PRESIDENT PULLIAMS' PLAN

Campaign to raise \$1 million for first-generation, low-income students among the president's final goals

By **Christina Holmes**

During his eight years at PCC, District President Preston Pulliams led the college through a surge of record-breaking enrollment, built long-lasting partnerships with donors, community groups and corporations, oversaw the passage of a historic bond measure and advocated for all students who want a college education regardless of their ability to pay.

With only eight months left in his tenure as president, Pulliams has one major item on his to-do list: create an opportunity fund for first-generation, low-income students who might not otherwise attend college because of costs. His goal is to raise \$1 million in contributions to benefit these students who face the greatest barriers to college success.

"The heart of my work for the last 40 years has been helping young people succeed in college who wouldn't otherwise have had the chance. It's the legacy I want to leave this community," Pulliams said announcing his "Campaign for Opportunity."

"Before I leave PCC I want to be sure I have raised the next million dollars for our students," he said. "I want to ensure the next plank is laid in the road to student success."

During the past five years, the PCC Foundation has awarded 3,000 scholarships, as well as provided student support services, enhanced faculty innovation and offered cultural programming. And yet, the fundraising is still meeting just a fraction of student need across

the district. The Foundation was only able to award scholarships to 40 percent of the 1,600 students who applied this year. Since almost half of PCC degree-seeking students receive financial support to attend college, the overall scholarship need is still great.

"Launching this campaign will help more PCC students, now and in the future," said Pulliams. "At PCC, financial support can mean the difference between attending college or not going at all. I believe those who come to PCC will have a better chance of realizing their academic aspirations and life dreams."

A first-generation college student himself, Pulliams is the consummate leader with a memorable personality. He's strengthened relationships with the community, always reminding Oregonians of the importance of a college education.

Pulliams has been instrumental in steering a partnership between PCC and the City of Portland to create the Future Connect Scholarship Program, and he championed efforts with Portland Public Schools to redesign Jefferson High School to become the Jefferson Middle College. Both initiatives took a critical step toward realizing his vision for some of the region's most needy students.

"I want to leave PCC knowing that there are at least four cohorts of Future Connect

students — nearly 800 first-generation college students — whose opportunity to earn a degree at PCC is secure, and that I have positioned the college and the PCC Foundation to provide these opportunities for hundreds more young people in the years to come," he said. "I know that this initiative is only the start and will grow with PCC's next president and future fundraising."

Future Connect currently serves more than 300 Multnomah County students. Along with scholarships, they receive one-on-one academic advising and support through student services for two years. This approach has proven to double the retention and completion rates of these youth.

Added Pulliams, "Without contributions of all sizes from our community, hundreds of students would not be pursuing their dreams of a college education and career training. Alums, PCC faculty, staff and retirees, corporations, community organizations and foundations have all been thoughtful donors to the PCC Foundation over the years. With my 'Campaign for Opportunity,' we will build significant support for PCC students of today and tomorrow." ■



To learn more about the "Campaign for Opportunity," visit www.pcc.edu/foundation or call 971-722-4382.

DETERMINED TO SUCCEED

Mia Marie Smith-Baldwin suffered through the worst economic downturn in decades but she's back on track with a new career

By **Christina Holmes**

The Great Recession hit hard for Mia Marie Smith-Baldwin and her family. her college story at the 50th Anniversary Gala last spring.

The job she enjoyed and excelled at with a luxury motorhome company ended with little warning. With no income she and her husband — who also was let go — lost their home, their car and almost their positive outlook on life.

To make matters more challenging, Smith-Baldwin didn't have the education needed to find a new job. Years earlier she dropped out of high school to care for her younger brother. She was lucky enough to find work at 19 — starting out by detailing the coaches and before long she was in quality assurance. She was with the company for seven years.

After the layoff in 2008 she applied for plenty of jobs but her lack of a GED or any higher education courses was noticeable. She rarely got interviews.

"The application process had changed so drastically from when I was last hired. Most job postings were online for 24 hours or less. No longer could I walk into an office and shake an employer's hand and hope that, while I had no education background, my confidence and experience could win me an interview," said Smith-Baldwin, who moved to Hillsboro in 2010 for her husband's new job.

Frustrated yet knowing that only she could decide her professional future, she marched into PCC's Willow Creek Center, learned how to get a GED and figured out a new career field.

"I was so scared and I didn't think I could go to college because I didn't have a diploma. I felt like a failure," said Smith-Baldwin.

Fast forward to today and Smith-Baldwin is enrolled in PCC's Medical Laboratory Technology Program, with dreams to earn an associate degree and continue on at a university. Her end goal: to study epidemiology at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"I would like to travel and work with impoverished communities on AIDS research and curb the transmission of AIDS from mom to child," she said.

Smith-Baldwin, a Ford Foundation Scholarship recipient, is grateful for the academic and financial resources and support she's found through PCC. Her story is such an inspiration that she was chosen as one of three students to compose and read a poem about

**I knew I needed an education
But inside I feared it didn't need me
A failure, I was nobody special
Just some girl with a hope, and a GED**

**But the gift of education
Was bestowed upon me
Not just education
But the gift of opportunity
To help me see
My new beginning was inside of me**

*Spoken word poem written by
Smith-Baldwin and recited at the
PCC Evening for Opportunity Gala
in May 2012*

"This college is the perfect choice for me. The diversity of the students and commitment of the instructors has been unparalleled to any learning institution I have attended," she said.

Her enthusiasm encouraged her husband to also seek a new career. He's now enrolled in the Microelectronics Technology Program at the Rock Creek Campus.

The parents of a 3-year-old daughter reminisce about how their lives have changed in four short years.

"PCC is giving me the opportunity to do the job I want," she said. ■



For more information about the Medical Laboratory Technology Program, visit www.pcc.edu/mlt





Pacificmark Construction, owned by Mark Matthews (at left), is one of several minority, women and emerging small businesses that is benefiting from the PCC Bond Program's partnership and mentorship initiatives.

BUILDING

New construction at PCC of minority-owned and emerging

Mark Matthews can't wait to wear his hard hat at PCC.

Matthews, owner of Pacificmark Construction, a smaller, minority-owned business, is working closely with industry giant Hoffman Construction at the Cascade Campus as part of a new program, developed by PCC, that has larger firms working with and mentoring emerging companies.

"This is a great step for my company because it will take us to the next level," said Matthews. "We have a lot to learn from Hoffman."

When voters approved PCC's \$374 million bond measure in 2008, the college promised to use taxpayer dollars wisely and efficiently to renovate buildings and add new facilities to handle the surging student population. PCC, long known for its diversity of students and staff, wanted to give minority-owned and emerging businesses a chance to work on these massive projects that typically are awarded to the larger, established firms in town.

So the Bond Program leaders came up with a plan: hire construction managers/general contractors who oversee the entire project. Those general contractors partner with minority, women and emerging small businesses and mentor them through the entire process. Working in tandem with the general contractor, the smaller firms perform a portion of the work and are paid for their services.

"The college has set a goal that 20 percent of the construction project bond money will go to minority, women and emerging small businesses," said Linda Degman, PCC's bond program director. "This is very important to the college because we want to spread the bond dollars around as best as we can."

While it's common practice for many government projects to require that a certain percentage of construction

IG TO CAPACITY

Campuses has larger Portland contractors mentoring
ng small businesses

By **Christina Holmes**

dollars be awarded to state-certified minority and emerging businesses, PCC steps up the game with the 20 percent goal and the mentorship piece.

Hoffman won the bid to remodel and upgrade the Cascade Campus, add two buildings and construct an underground parking structure. The firm is partnering with Pacificmark on part of the \$40 million job.

"This is about helping people and building businesses and relationships," said Derrick Beneville, Hoffman's project manager. "At Hoffman, our own mission is about getting small businesses involved and helping other contractors. This is our home office and working with the community around us is very important."

Across the district the partnerships are working well and each side — the mentor and mentee — is already seeing huge benefits. Most of the smaller firms are looking for guidance on job estimating, bidding and billing and organizing systems and processes.

"What we learned during the in-house estimating experience from Walsh Construction was incredible," said Todd Duwe, vice president and senior project manager of INLINE Commercial Construction. "They've allowed us to be on our own and responsible but any time we have a question they are very helpful."

Walsh Construction Co. joined forces with O'Neill Electric Inc. and INLINE to complete work at the Southeast Center. The \$34 million project will see construction of two new buildings and renovation of the nearby former German American Society Building.

The most noticeable challenge so far is the time involved to mentor two other firms, said Walsh's project manager Don Geddes.

"It's not the easiest thing I've done and if you ask all three of us, we're so accustomed to being results driven and deadline driven and doing things on our own ... I have to

remember we are three members of this team and that means triple the amount of communication," he said. "I have all the faith in the world in them but the reality is I need to know what they're doing. So it's a learning process."

In recent years there has been an increase in the awarding of contracts to smaller, minority firms, compared to the network the big firms worked with for decades, said Ali O'Neill, project manager for O'Neill. "But Walsh sets themselves apart and they want to get more people involved, just as PCC does, and I really appreciate that," she said.

There is no doubt that working with the smaller firms involves a lot more planning, said Hoffman's Beneville. As the construction manager/general contractor, he involves his whole company in mentoring the smaller firms — everyone from the safety department to accounts payable.

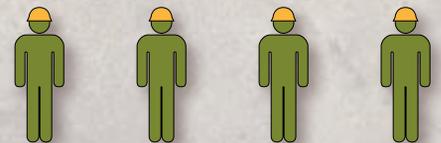
"It's a lot of work and there is a steep learning curve. It's as much of a commitment on the smaller firms as it is on us," said Beneville. "But my hat's off to these smaller companies because we put a lot of demands on them."

Fortis Construction Inc. is the construction manager/general contractor for the Rock Creek Campus. It is working with two smaller but growing firms, Faison Construction and Northwest Infrastructure, on the \$44 million project. Senior project manager Rob Fallow said PCC's approach benefits the industry and the community.

"This is a large project funded by taxpayer money and it makes sense to involve multiple sectors of the community because this community supported the growth of the college," he said. "PCC is not just building the buildings, but building the capacity of firms who might not have had the opportunity to participate." ■

HOW PCC'S BOND PUTS CONSTRUCTION CREWS TO WORK

The PCC Board of Directors hired four main general contractors to perform work for the Bond Program: Hoffman Construction at Cascade, Fortis Construction Inc. at Rock Creek and Walsh Construction Co. for the Southeast Center. Because of the scope of its work, Sylvania's general contractor, Howard S. Wright, was hired prior to the college implementing this special mentoring program. The Bond Program is working with them to introduce a similar workforce arrangement.



Hoffman partnered with Pacificmark Construction, Fortis is working closely with Faison Construction and Northwest Infrastructure and Walsh partnered with O'Neill Electric Inc. and INLINE Commercial Construction. Each firm will have crews working at the campuses during the next several years.



The general contractors will also hire other subcontractors to perform the construction work. Some of those subcontractors will be minority, women and emerging small business. Those subcontractors will then have their crews at the campuses. Ultimately, hundreds of people will be working on bond program projects throughout the college.



For more information about the Bond Program, visit bond.pcc.edu

A WILD CLASS

New animal management program is only one of its kind in the Pacific Northwest

By Janis Nichols



Ready to get up close and personal with giraffes, reptiles or some exotic birds?

A new PCC program focused on the biology of animals, some of them endangered species, is perfect for animal lovers hoping to answer the call of the wild.

This fall the college launched the two-year associate of applied science degree in Biology and Management of Zoo Animals in partnership with the Oregon Zoo and the Oregon National Primate Research Center at Oregon Health & Science University. Housed at the Rock Creek Campus, the program is one of six in the U.S. and the only one in the Pacific Northwest.

"The response to the program has been strong," said Joyce Kaplan, BMZA faculty department chair. "The program is unique in this region and its strength comes both from the curriculum and from our program partners. In addition to the Zoo and the Primate Center, students will be working in their first term with animals at the Rock Creek campus farm, the Alpacas of Tualatin Valley and the Audubon Society of Portland Wildlife Care Center.

"Our community partners provide opportunities for on-site experience and the mentors at these facilities who work with our students are among the best in the country," she added. "Through the conservation programs at the Oregon Zoo, for example, students will study the current best practices involved with captive rearing of endangered species and restoring them to their native habitats."

Most of the coursework will be based at Rock Creek and the zoo. Students can expect a rigorous science curriculum focused on biology and zoology, as well as required courses that engage students in animal training and exhibit design and construction. A total of 16 students have enrolled in the program.

Kaplan is enthusiastic about the number of students from across the country who have inquired about

the program. High school students have discovered they can get a head start on prerequisites through dual enrollment programs, and other students who have two-year degrees and even four-year degrees are visiting the website to learn more.

"What's really required," said Kaplan, "is a passion for animal welfare and wildlife in general."

Student Kate Van Raden is ready for this new adventure. "I've taken care of strays all my life," said the Glencoe High School graduate and 2007 graduate of Willamette University. "I've always been protective of animals. It's part of who I am."

Recently, Van Raden lived in Costa Rica to work on a sloth preserve for orphaned or wounded adult sloths. These odd looking members of the anteater family played a key role in her decision to pursue a career dedicated to helping animals. "These animals don't thrive once they return to their native habitats and need extended care in order to survive. Their situation really made me aware of how animals are challenged by changes in their environment, changes often man-made."

While watching television, Van Raden saw a man who works with endangered species. He mentioned a zoo program at Pensacola State College, a program that was directed by Kaplan at the time.

"When I heard that Dr. Kaplan was moving to PCC, I knew I had found what I was looking for. My goal is to become a curator or a zoo keeper," she said. "Animal enrichment is about making life for animals in captivity safe, engaging and humane. The PCC program is hands-on and it incorporates animal enrichment which is what the Costa Rica experience was all about."

She added, "The Oregon Zoo is ranked third best in the country after the San Diego Zoo and the Bronx Zoo. I can easily see myself staying here for my entire career and this PCC program is the first step toward that goal." ■

Students in PCC's Biology and Management of Zoo Animals Program will learn to work with a variety of animals. Photos courtesy of the Oregon Zoo.



For more information, please visit www.pcc.edu/zoo-animals.

READY TO WORK

PCC's team of employment specialists assists students through the job search process

By Christina Holmes

Tucked in a small office at PCC's Sylvania Campus are a trio of professionals who know how to get the job done when it comes to finding students work.

Well-connected in the community and with years of experience, Employment Specialists George Knox, Kathleen Kuba and Glenna Barrick-Harwood help PCC students look for and ultimately land jobs and internships.

PCC employment specialists have offices at Sylvania, Rock Creek and Cascade. Last year about 1,220 students worked internships, getting their feet wet in careers they hope to pursue. The internships are as varied as the students, everything from automotive and manufacturing to gerontology and early childhood education. Among employers, PCC has a reputation for providing smart, focused students.

"Students are very interested in getting internships because they know it may be the only way they can get experience," said Barrick-Harwood.

The duties performed in the internship must be relevant to the student's academic program and employers and interns agree upon goals. Interns work about 10 hours a week and receive academic credit.

"By and large they have all the responsibilities that go along with a job," said Knox.

At 57, Brett Hall was laid off from his job and began a new career by enrolling in PCC's Electronic Engineering Technology Program. By June 2011 he had completed all his courses except for a required internship.

Thanks to the student employment specialists, Hall learned about an internship at Intel. He was hired for the position with the stipulation that he would complete his degree. He did so and continues to work at Intel today.

"My training has been very rewarding," he said. "I'm so happy with my decision to continue my education."

Aside from internships, the office also works with students searching for "survival jobs" — short-term jobs that are not always related to their careers. Nearly 4,000 students take advantage of these services each year.

The specialists also advise students on résumé writing, networking and interviewing.

"We see each person as an individual and we give them options about different jobs," said Kuba. "And the number one thing we are is supportive." ■

7 TIPS TO LAND THAT JOB

- 1 Research companies, careers and job openings:** Informational interviews are useful to build contacts.
- 2 Network to gather information and job leads:** Use your social network to build a professional network.
- 3 Customize your materials for a particular company:** Each résumé, cover letter, application, portfolio and presentation should be targeted to a specific employer.
- 4 Don't wait for job openings to be advertised:** Contact potential employers directly.
- 5 Don't rely on job search web services alone:** Monster.com and LinkedIn are useful but websites don't hire people.
- 6 Prepare for the job interview:** What do you want employers to know about you?
- 7 Work your way into a job:** Internships, volunteering or contract work may be the best way to get your foot in the door.

For more information about career resources for students or hiring PCC students and graduates, visit www.pcc.edu/careers



PCC Employment Specialist Kathleen Kuba (right) advises Rachel Down, a student in PCC's Nursing Program.



WATERFRONT WELDING

Portland harbor coalition scholarships support welding students training for industry jobs By **Christina Holmes**

At first Francesca Berrini took welding classes simply because she loved working with her hands, but soon enough, she realized that she could pursue a career in welding and fabrication. As she considered a longer college journey she worried about paying for it.

That's when the Working Waterfront Coalition stepped in and funded scholarships for six students in the Welding Technology and Diesel Service Programs, allowing the men and women to train for key industry careers and positioning them for high-wage jobs.

"Being awarded the scholarship feels like finding the final piece of the puzzle of completing the program," said Berrini. "I cannot believe my good luck of living in a city that values its industrial base and supports training for people like me who are interested in learning how to build and create things to the highest possible standards."

The scholarships totaling \$12,500 are also a strong example of the benefits of building corporate-public partnerships — the waterfront coalition and the PCC Foundation — with both entities working to put more skilled workers in a vital trade. PCC's Swan Island Training Center at Vigor Industrial is crucial in providing career training opportunities for students, particularly on Swan Island and Portland's east side.

Established in 2005, the coalition is an organization of businesses concerned with the environmental health and economic vitality of the Portland harbor. The group advocates for sound public policy that promotes environmental, social and economic sustainability. The 50 industrial marine businesses in Portland contribute more than \$1 billion to the local economy. About one out of nine jobs in the Portland/Vancouver area is located in or supported by the work of Portland's Harbor Industrial district.

the harbor offers our community is the nearly 40,000 family-wage jobs that are the result of the manufacturing firms and businesses on the rivers. But, unless we provide training for the next generation of skilled workers, those jobs will leave Portland and potentially devastate our economy," says Larry Harvey, the coalition's executive director. "We must remain vigilant about supporting those businesses and offering the training necessary to sustain our local economy for the sake of our children and their children."

Funds for the PCC scholarships were raised through the annual Industry & Art Exhibit organized by the coalition. The juried art exhibition celebrates the people and businesses of the working waterfront and all proceeds go to initiatives that benefit job training and the environment.

"PCC does an incredible job of responding to the needs of Portland when it comes to working with local companies and training future workers," said Alan Sprott, Vice President and General Manager of Vigor and a member of the PCC Foundation Board of Directors. "Vigor Industrial has been in partnership with PCC for several years with the Swan Island Training Center and during that time dozens of welders have been educated and trained and are now working in the field. This is the exact type of partnership cities need with community colleges. Vigor saw a deficit of qualified, skilled welders and we turned to PCC for assistance. It's a partnership that will strengthen Portland's economic base."

Student August Gunderson said his scholarship eases many pressures in his day-to-day, school life. "Now I can worry more about Gas Tungsten Arc Welding and joint penetration which, as an aspiring welder, I actually enjoy fretting over," he said. "Before coming to PCC, I had very little income, employable skills and vision for my future. Now, I expect I could enter comfortably into almost any area of the welding world upon graduating." ■

"The most significant contribution



For more information about the Welding Technology Program, visit www.pcc.edu/weld and for the Diesel Service Program, visit www.pcc.edu/diesel

Instructors (from left to right) LaRay Harmon, Linda Harmon, Larinda Peterson and Kim Janik teach students to create plans, protect themselves and even grow food in emergency situations.

SURVIVING THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE

New Community Education classes prepare students for a zombie attack... or any other emergency that comes their way

By **Christina Holmes**

If the Mayans' doomsday prediction or an impending zombie apocalypse have you worried, help is nearby thanks to a series of emergency preparedness classes offered through PCC Community Education.

While the end-of-the-world catastrophes get the attention, it's the smaller-scale events closer to home that are too real: tsunamis, fires, droughts, earthquakes, winter storms and floods. Those disasters have individuals preparing for long stretches without running water, food, shelter and safety.

"We're woefully unprepared," said Kim Janik, who teaches the Zombie Apocalypse Survival Workshop. "There are some people who have cans of food and bottles of water, and they think they are good, but there is still so much more that can be done."

The class title is lighthearted to draw in people, but the material is serious. Students learn about survival tools, what they need to protect their homes and families and what to do if they face an emergency far from home.

Linda Harmon is a preparedness guru with years of research on emergency essentials.

"We're vulnerable to so much, and I think a lot of people realize they don't have enough if a widespread emergency happened here," said Harmon, who teaches classes on emergency cooking, emergency food storage and first aid kits for cars, purses, outdoors, children and pets.

Though Oregon values local, sustainable food systems, there is great dependence

on food shipped from other parts of the world, which complicates matters in an emergency. Too few people know how to grow their own food or store it for long periods by canning, preserving or drying.

Larinda Peterson, a landscape architect, teaches the Gardening for the Emergency Prepper classes, providing a plethora of information on the seeds and plants that are best for year-round food. She touches on gardening tools, top soil, compost, water supply and organic plants, as well as protecting your garden from diseases, animals, pests and even a major emergency.

She also shows how to grow food in a garden, planter box or pot. "People should not be deterred by the small space they have," she said.

Harmon recommends that households have supplies for a short term emergency — those that could occur in the next two years — and long term which could happen in 25 years.

The PCC emergency survival classes have received overwhelming interest, especially after they were mentioned on a recent Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) blog. Now in the works are classes focused on emergency-specific gadgets and technology.

The zombie apocalypse may be a myth but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that if you're prepared for that attack, you're prepared for anything. ■

CHECKLIST FOR SURVIVAL

Shelter: Keep yourself warm, dry and out of harm's way. Tents, tarps and pre-made emergency shelters are great choices.

Water and Container: Fresh, clean water will be scarce. Have plenty of potable water as well as a container to store and boil it in.

Non-Perishable Food: Freeze-dried, canned and dehydrated foods will have a long shelf life. Make sure you check dates and rotate your stock.

First Aid Kit: Prepare yourself with medicine to cover normal sickness, as well as a first aid kit to treat bumps, bruises and ... zombie bites!

Appropriate Clothing: Dress for success! Dress in layers, dress warmly and make sure you have some good rain wear in the Pacific Northwest.

Tools of the Trade: Nothing beats a good knife in a survival situation.

Proper Training: Knowledge is the best tool in your arsenal for survival situations — zombie or otherwise.

To learn more about emergency preparedness classes turn to page 23 or visit www.pcc.edu/community and select "Home and Garden."



Portland
Community
College

P.O. Box 19000 Portland, Oregon 97280-0990

Residential Customer
ECRWSS

PCC mails this schedule of classes to households four times each year to let you know about upcoming Community Education classes and share what's happening at PCC. It is printed and mailed for about 22 cents per copy and can be recycled. Because it is addressed "Residential Customer" we are not able to remove individuals from our distribution route. We hope you find it informative and enjoy the stories inside.

Project: YOU

with PCC Community Education

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 winter.

My Project:

Name: *Nathan Sanborn*

Occupation: *Sales Representative*

My Project: *Learn to play the songs I love on guitar.*

Class I Took: *Beginning Guitar*

And Now: *Once I mastered the fundamentals, I realized how much more I wanted to learn. I have taken three more Community Education guitar classes since then, and I plan to keep on rocking!*

CommunityEducation