

FALL 2015

PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMUNITIES

A NEW LEAGUE

Yale-bound PCC student
talks transfer
Page 4

OPEN KITCHEN

Cooking up new opportunities
on Southeast Campus
Page 8

SOARING TO SUCCESS

Veterans Resource Centers
serve those who served
Page 86

BIG CATS, BIG DREAMS

Page 6



Portland
Community
College

PCC CommunityEd
Classes starting Sept.—Dec.
Find them inside:
Pages 9—79

“All Oregon students deserve access to strong learning environments that allow them to grow and thrive. Portland Community College gives students the tools to do just that. I have met many wonderful PCC students who go on to be exceptional community leaders in our state.”

Oregon Governor Kate Brown



**Portland
Community
College**

Back to Class

- ◆ **Fall 2015 term begins September 21**
Register now! There are thousands of credit and non-credit classes available at dozens of sites across the Portland metro area. For information about registration, visit pcc.edu.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **Harvest Fest, October 17**
Join PCC for fall fun with free pumpkins, face painting, a petting zoo, hayrides, music and Learning Garden tours at our annual Harvest Fest on the PCC Rock Creek Campus (17705 N.W. Springville Road) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$5 suggested donation.
- ◆ **Usagi Yojimbo, November 6–15**
Based on the beloved comic book Usagi Yojimbo by Stan Sakai, this play follows Usagi (a rabbit) as he seeks his own true path to become a Samurai. Tickets (\$10) are available in advance at PCC's Sylvania Bookstore or by calling (971) 722-4323. Visit pcc.edu/theatre for location and show times.

Get social with PCC:



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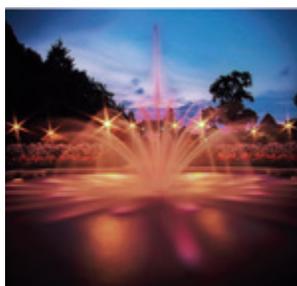
Shared on Social Media



- ◆ #pccgrad15 interior design group. Here we go!
[@lynnnguyen13](https://twitter.com/lynnnguyen13)



- ◆ Run, Poppie, run! PCC students showing their #PCCPride at Monday's Panther Prowl!!!
[@portlandcc](https://twitter.com/portlandcc)



- ◆ This is how I spent my break in class tonight #thinkPCCfirst
[@redfishingboat](https://twitter.com/redfishingboat)



- ◆ Here's to our future leaders. Wonderful to meet a sharp and motivated group of @PortlandCC legislative interns.
[@OregonGovBrown](https://twitter.com/OregonGovBrown)

Share your thoughts and photos with us on Twitter @PortlandCC.

Table of Contents

- 4 A New League
- 6 Big Cats, Big Dreams
- 8 New Community Kitchen
- 65 Future Engineer
- 66 Panther Postcards
- 68 Spotlights
- 70 Soaring to Success

Schedule 9–71

Arts

- 11 Dance
- 13 Music and Theater
- 15 Photography
- 16 Visual Arts
- 19 Writing

Home and Garden

- 23 Food and Drink
- 26 Nature, Yard and Garden
- 27 Green Living
- 27 Emergency Preparedness
- 27 Hobbies and Crafts
- 29 Home Improvement
- 29 Pets
- 30 Do It Yourself (DIY)
- 31 Woodworking and Metalworking

Language and Culture

- 33 Cultural Exploration
- 34 Languages

Recreation and Wellness

- 41 Health
- 42 Mind-Body Wellness
- 43 Sports
- 45 Work Out
- 46 Adult 55+ Fitness

48 Swim with Community Ed

- 50 Traffic Safety
- 52 Travel

Work and Life Balance

- 57 Careers
- 59 Career Skills
- 60 Computer Skills and Technology
- 65 Continuing Education and License Renewal
- 67 Personal Development
- 68 Personal Finance
- 69 Test Preparation



A NEW

Growing up, Frances Fagan imagined many possibilities for her life: world-class snowboarding instructor, illustrator, tattoo artist. But she couldn't picture herself as a college graduate.

"I never thought a formal education was for me, that it was affordable, or even a possibility," said Fagan.

She was wrong about that part. This spring, Fagan graduated from PCC's honor college with a 3.9 GPA. In her capstone thesis project, she investigated how the addition of modern library structures could enhance the lives of individuals living in refugee camps. This fall, she'll continue her studies at Yale University.

Fagan has always been a self-motivated and self-directed learner. She moved with her family many times as a child, shuffling between schools. After graduating from high school, she followed her passion for snowboarding halfway around the world and became an instructor in the European Alps. She coached in Austria and Germany, and worked on the side as a freelance illustrator for sportswear companies.

This transitory life came to an abrupt stop in 2005 when she began suffering seizures.

A brain scan revealed a massive tumor.

Though the

V LEAGUE

Frances Fagan started at PCC with a fifth-grade math level. This fall, she's transferring to Yale University.

surgeries to remove it were successful, Fagan had extensive physical therapy and occupational rehabilitation ahead of her.

"It totally changed my life," Fagan said. "I was paralyzed on half of my body and I had to go through radiation treatments. I had to depend on other people like never before, and I couldn't work."

This was a huge change for a woman who had been supporting herself since she was 15. As she recovered from cancer, she began volunteering at local nonprofits—including KBOO radio and the Portland Institute of Contemporary Art—to find meaningful work that she could do at her own pace. These experiences caused her to rethink her self-guided education and to seek a deeper understanding of the world.

In the winter of 2013, Fagan enrolled in classes at PCC. Her entrance exams placed her at a fifth-grade math level, and she had a 1.7 GPA from some previous college courses. Despite her poor academic record, she applied for a PCC Foundation scholarship and got it.

"Someone out there, a complete stranger, had faith in me when I didn't even have faith in myself," Fagan said. "The scholarship allowed me time to focus on my studies, take a heavier class load and do as

well as I possibly could in my coursework. It changed my life."

Fagan credits much of her success in her coursework to the support and mentorship she received through PCC's ROOTS Program, a resource for low-income, first-generation college students.

With new confidence, Fagan dug into her studies. PCC instructor Phil Seder recognized her talent from the get-go. He steered her toward researching how public libraries are set up, which got Fagan thinking about how such spaces could enhance the lives of individuals living in refugee camps.

"I never thought a formal education was for me, that it was affordable, or even a possibility... PCC helped me change that."

"What ensued was an 18-month rambling conversation that spanned architecture, group dynamics, the future of labor, the nature of bureaucracy and gender equality," Seder remembered. "Frances has perhaps the most open and inquiring mind I have encountered."

Out of this conversation came the subject of Fagan's capstone honors thesis: how refugee camp designs could be enhanced with modern library infrastructures including child care centers, Maker-Spaces, internet access, job training and more. Refugee camps are hardly temporary spaces, she argues, and need to be

equipped with the same infrastructure as modern cities.

This fall, Fagan will continue her work on refugee camp design at Yale University's Race, Ethnicity and Migration Program—a 180-turnaround for the woman who didn't think she was the type of person who would get a lot out of going to college.

"Picking Yale was an intense decision," Fagan admitted. It was also a tough one, since Cornell and Mt. Holyoke also admitted her

"I'm pretty excited about the whole thing, surreal as it feels at the moment." ◆

CALLING ALL ALUMNI

If you've taken a class at PCC, you're an alum!

Since its founding in 1961, PCC has helped nearly 1.5 million students reach their education goals—and all students who have taken classes at PCC are considered alumni!

If you're an alum, join our Alumni and Friends Network to learn about events and networking opportunities, get access to PCC's career centers and libraries, receive a 10 percent discount at the PCC bookstore, and more!

Visit pcc.edu/alumni to stay connected.



BIG CATS,

Christa Fink runs with a pretty a wild crowd.

A recent graduate of Portland Community College's Biology and Management of Zoo Animals Program (BMZA), Fink works as a zookeeper in the North American exhibit of the Oregon Zoo and spends her days kicking it with cougars, bobcats, black bears, otters—and even a mountain goat named Montane.

In the North American exhibit, Fink works closely with two very special members of the zoo: two cougars named Chinook and Paiute. It's apt that a PCC Panther (the college's official mascot) like Fink spends a fair amount of her time caring for big cats.

"Panthers and cougars have a lot of similarities, but they have some important differences. Cougars, for instance, fall into the Puma genus which is a group of big cats that are unable to roar," said Fink. "Panthers are members of the Panthera genus—and they can make some serious noise!"

Fink always knew that she loved animals, but it wasn't until recently that she transformed this passion into a career.

After graduating with her bachelor's degree in general science from Western Oregon University in 2012, Fink was having a hard time distinguishing herself while applying for jobs. She realized she needed more education to increase her chances of finding a good job.



PCC is the only community college in the nation to partner with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.



BIG DREAMS

PCC alum Christa Fink's "panther path" led her straight to the Oregon Zoo

A friend in a similar position had recently applied to study at a learning zoo in California, where students interested in zoological management and animal training could work directly with animals. This sounded like a perfect fit, so Fink started researching similar options in Oregon.

"When I saw that PCC had a biology and zoo management (BMZA) program, I knew I had found the right place for me," Fink said. "PCC is right in my backyard, and I knew I'd get to intern at my favorite zoo."

The BMZA Program is the only one of its kind in the state of Oregon. It has been recognized as an official learning partner of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) —a designation reserved for only 15 organizations in the country, only four of which are colleges/universities. PCC is the only community college in the nation to be an official AZA learning partner.

Students gain real-world experience working with partner zoos and wildlife centers all over the world. All students in the program spend one full year, beginning in their second term of the program, doing rotations two days per week at the Oregon Zoo.

Before they graduate, students must also complete a final full-time work experience internship with one of the program's regional, national, or international partners

(including conservation centers in China and Namibia, to name a few).

All BMZA classes are centered on hands-on learning. Fink recalled a particularly memorable day in class when she and her classmates practiced administering anesthesia on moving animals out in the barn on the Rock Creek campus.

"Terry Lookabill who runs the farm there put a picture of a cheetah on a hay bale and put it on a wheeled cart," Fink said. "As it went by us, we had to shoot a blow dart into the hay bale. I was one of the only people to hit it where you wanted the dart to land, so that was a day that I thought, if I can do this, I can be a zookeeper."

During her second term in the program, Fink began her work rotation with the Oregon Zoo. She worked with lions, cheetahs, wild dogs, dwarf mongoose, polar bears, sun bears, turtles, rabbits — and even hedgehogs. Thankfully, none of these experiences required her to put her blow darting skills to use.

Her last rotation was in the North American animal exhibit. After completing her coursework and gaining even more experience working with big cats as a full-time intern for Wildcat Haven (a nonprofit, no-kill sanctuary located in Sherwood, Ore.) Fink returned to the Oregon Zoo and was hired as a temporary zookeeper.



The best moments for Fink come when she's working directly with the animals. "As you get to know their personalities, you see that they're all so unique. One trick will work great for some animals, and won't work at all for others," she said. "That's the kind of stuff that you just can't learn from a textbook." ♦

To learn more about PCC's BMZA program, visit pcc.edu/programs/zoo-animals.

NEW COMMUNITY KITCHEN



With a newly renovated space for cooking classes and food preparation, PCC's Southeast Campus now offers aspiring cooks and seasoned taste-testers alike everything and the kitchen sink!

"PCC currently holds a variety of cooking classes all over the Portland metro area, but the kitchens are often small spaces that are not set up for teaching or learning," said Rachael Pecore-Valdez, PCC Community Education Home and Garden coordinator.

"We are thrilled to have a teaching kitchen on campus so that we can serve more students with delicious opportunities to learn about cuisines from around the world!"

The 1,000-square-foot kitchen adjoins the Community Hall on the Southeast Campus and has been renovated with features designed to enhance cooking instruction.

The renovation and new equipment were funded by the 2008 voter-approved bond measure. The new space offers students the use of three stoves, a large refrigerator

and separate freezer, warming oven, sinks, dishwasher, ice machine, and stainless steel preparation tables.

"Most importantly, there is a lot of counter space and a large prep area for students," Pecore-Valdez said. "There's enough room for everyone to learn, chop, stir—and eat!"

This fall, the kitchen will come alive with classes in Mexican cooking, Cuban cuisine, European one-pot meals, holiday cookies, Japanese Bento-making, seasonal soups, and others.

Much of the equipment in the kitchen – such as the refrigerator and freezer – is restaurant-grade. PCC renovated the space with students from the community in mind, selecting high-quality used materials to save costs and repurposing equipment formally used by restaurants.

In addition to Community Ed classes, the space will be used by PCC's Food Services to prepare food to cater college and community meals and events. ♦

Make Time to Write

A new Community Education Program writing class (aptly named "Time to Write") offers students a dedicated time and space to tackle writing projects, as well as one-on-one attention to help them achieve their goals.

Instructor Kristin Walrod explains that this class isn't so much about learning how to write (though they do discuss some elements of craft). It's more about providing structure and accountability to motivate writers to write.

Are you hoping to make time to write? Turn to page 19–21 or visit pcc.edu/communityed.

Try a Tri

Tom Campbell was in his 50s when he decided to train for his first triathlon. To make sure he did it right, he enrolled in a PCC triathlon-training course.



"My trainer was really supportive," Campbell said. "He taught us how to do the transitions smoothly, and we all felt really well prepared."

After training at PCC and finding a personal trainer

through PCC's Fitness Technology Program, Campbell ran the Blue Lake Triathlon as a novice and placed second in his age group.

"I had a lot of fun, I lost weight, and I finished well in my age category," said Campbell. "I've got the silver medal to prove it."

To learn more about fitness classes, turn to page 45 or visit pcc.edu/communityed.

To find cooking classes in the new learning kitchen, turn to pages 23–24 or visit pcc.edu/communityed. To learn about PCC's bond program, visit bond.pcc.edu.



ENGINEERING A BRIGHT FUTURE

Tuong Hoang hopes her recognition as a national scholar will inspire other women and international students in the engineering field.

When PCC mechanical engineering technology student Tuong Hoang comes up with a good idea, she builds it.

The 20-year-old international student came to Portland from Vietnam in 2012 and began taking English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes on PCC's Rock Creek Campus. Hoang, who lives in Beaverton with a host family, is now earning credits in PCC's Mechanical Engineering Transfer Program and will transfer to Oregon State University this fall.

The mechanical engineering field perfectly matches Hoang's love of problem-solving. As someone who grew up in Vietnam, Hoang appreciates the potential of emerging technologies like 3D printing to shape the lives of people in remote areas where shopping centers and delivery services are not readily available.

Her long-term dream is to start a company that will empower people to order products via the internet and print them at home on 3D printers.

Hoang's dedication to her studies shines through: She has a 3.9 grade-point average and is on the college's academic honor lists, as well as the All-Oregon Academic Team. She's also earned national kudos for her academic achievements.

This spring, Hoang was recognized as a New Century Scholar by the Coca-Cola Foundation and Phi Theta Kappa, an honor society for students attending two-year colleges. The New Century Scholars Program is a competitive award: Hoang was one of only 50 scholars selected out of nearly 1,700 students.

"I feel very grateful to my 'new family' here in Oregon," Hoang said. "Thank you to all of the people at PCC who helped me get this far."

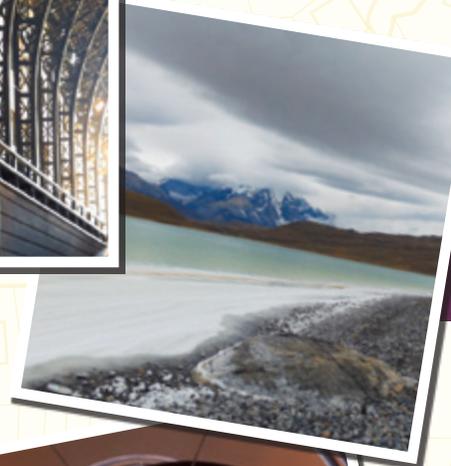
While Hoang is fully engaged in her academic career, she's also committed to serving her community by mentoring women of color in the engineering field. She has worked with the college's +STEAM Club to inspire children and women to enter the science and math fields. She has also volunteered for the 2014 Rock Creek Campus Harvest Festival and organized a campus food drive for students as coordinator for the International Club.

"One of my goals is to continue my community engagement," Hoang said. "I would love to mentor new international students or women and minority groups who want to be in the engineering field. I want to give them support to show that they can do it." ♦

For more information about PCC's mechanical engineering programs, visit pcc.edu/met.

Panther POSTCARDS

This summer, Portland Community College took over the world! Check out our favorite photos of PCC panthers on the move.



Santiago, Chile

PCC student Rocks Zayda earned two prestigious study abroad scholarships that allowed her to live and study in Santiago de Chile at the Universidad de Andrés Bello where she took an introduction to Latin American Photography class taught entirely in Spanish. In addition to the classwork, Zayda volunteered with a local group that helps marginalized people in the community with self-publishing projects and sponsors monthly events in and around the Chilean city.

"Chile is by far my favorite country," she said. "There is so much diversity. The variety of landscapes, people and places is unforgettable."

Eugene, Oregon

In July, PCC English faculty Cynthia Kimball, Caroline LeGuin and Laura Sanders attended a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities in Eugene. The scholarly team was chosen from a national applicant pool to attend one of only six such gatherings in the U.S. and the only one designed specifically for community college faculty.

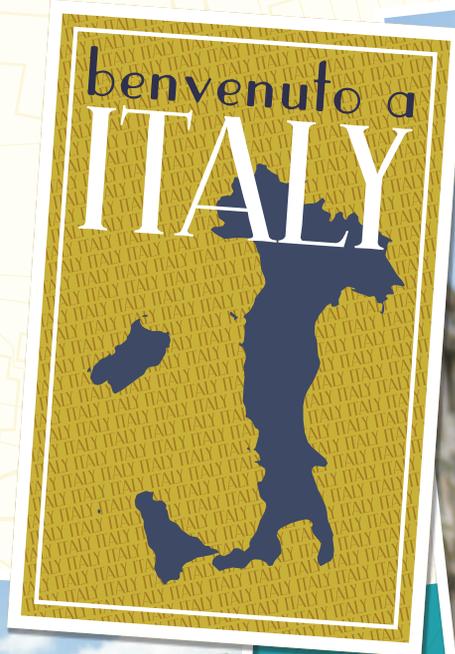


Yukon Territories, Canada

Physics instructor Toby Dittrich returned to the Atlin Provincial Park in British Columbia and the Yukon Territories in Canada to continue work on climate change and its effects on the Juneau Icefield. His team GPS-mapped the Cathedral Glacier on the Cathedral Massif—a continental high altitude cirque glacier that has been down-wasting for 30 years and is almost gone.

Italy

Poppie the Panther took a break from cheering on graduates at the 53rd commencement ceremony and traveled abroad to Italy for the summer. Poppie enjoyed such Italian sights as the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Colosseum, Pompeii, and the Venice canals. Poppie returned to PCC more cultured and worldly than ever before—and plans to enroll in Community Education Italian language courses!



SPOTLIGHT

WHAT'S NEW AT PCC?

Congratulations to the PCC class of 2015!

Nearly 900 PCC graduates walked across the Memorial Coliseum stage to receive their degree or certificate during the college's 53rd commencement ceremony.

Thousands of family members and supporters cheered the graduates on from the coliseum seats, applauding their accomplishments. More than 5,400 degrees, certificates and awards were given to the 2015 class.

"We should all feel proud of our graduates," said Sylvia Kelley, PCC interim president. "We're especially proud of those students who may have been working toward this goal for many years."

The program included an emotional speech by transgender student Kole Myrick and words of inspiration by commencement keynote speaker Jeff Pettit, who is a Rock Creek Campus math instructor. Festivities kicked off in style with a rousing rendition of the national anthem by 2015 graduate Lisa Bennett.



Watch the video of the 53rd commencement ceremony at youtube.com/pccvideos.

■ Dressed in bright turquoise T-shirts and carrying rainbow flags, more than 50 PCC students, staff and faculty members marched in the **2015 Portland Pride Parade** organized by Pride NW. Stepping in time alongside a big red truck blasting Daft Punk, the PCC marchers chanted "PCC Proud" as they made their way toward the parade's end at the downtown waterfront.



■ Liberty High School has its own **fire engine** thanks to a recent gift from PCC's Fire Protection Technology Program. The engine will be used by the high school's Fire Science Program, a series of dual credit courses offered through PCC at the school. Sixty-six students in the program will benefit from hands-on learning with the truck, which carries 1,000 gallons of water and can pump up to 1,250 gallons per minute.

HITS



■ PCC's Sylvania Campus has unveiled the new home for its "**welcoming pole**" and new east entry to the College Center. First commissioned in 2001 by Kwa-Gulth artist Richard Hunt, the pole was recently refurbished and relocated to a new two-story atrium marking the east entry to the hub of student life on campus. The renovations to the space were made possible by the 2008 voter-approved bond measure.

■ PCC's Southeast Campus held its inaugural celebration of **CultureSEast** this May. The week-long cultural festivities included a series of performances, lectures, panels and presentations focused around uniting identities, stories and communities. "CultureSEast is designed to bridge as well as celebrate differences," said Southeast President Jessica Howard. The event was so successful that it will become an annual signature event for the campus.



SOARING TO SUCCESS

How PCC's Veterans Resource Centers serve those who served.



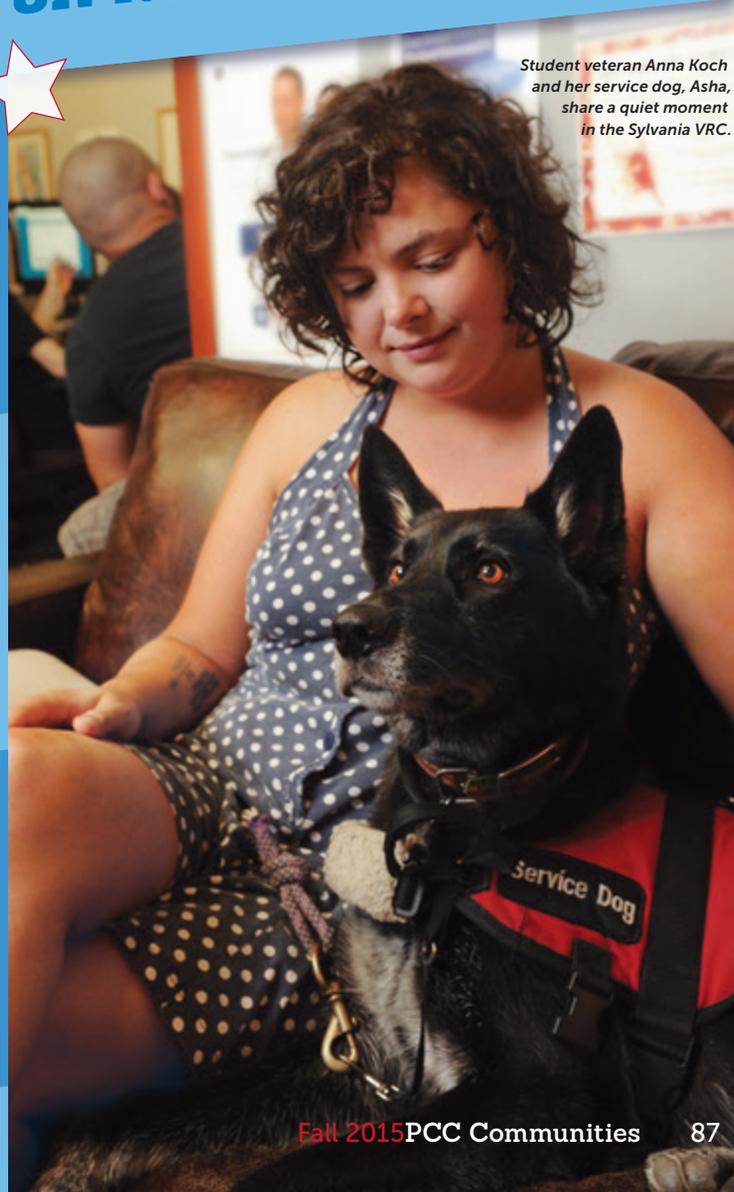
Jon Culbreath isn't sure what kind of flying he wants to do, whether it's piloting a news chopper, flying a helicopter that carries timber, or teaching others how to operate an aircraft. He just knows he wants to fly.

Culbreath's dream is coming true at Portland Community College. The Hillsboro resident, who served in the U.S. Marines for more than five years, returned to Oregon to begin his educational path in 2014 by enrolling in PCC's Aviation Science Program at Rock Creek Campus.



From left: Disability Services counselor and Veterans Club advisor Megan Jasurda, VSOC counselor Steve Gordon, and veteran resource specialist Kim Douthit.

PCC has more than 1,800 military vets on its campuses.



Student veteran Anna Koch and her service dog, Asha, share a quiet moment in the Sylvania VRC.

But without Rock Creek's Veterans Resource Center, Culbreath admits he may not have been able to begin his education—let alone complete his courses.

"I think it's vital," Culbreath said. "A lot of times there is a disconnect between veterans who are re-entering the civilian populace and getting back into school. When we go back to college, we can feel really old and out of place. It's great to have the centers here for us."

The full-service centers at PCC's Rock Creek and Sylvania campuses connect veterans with resources including work study and volunteer opportunities, career counseling and academic advising, and help enrolling in VA healthcare. Perhaps most importantly, the centers serve as a safe space where students can relax between classes with fellow vets.

"They are great places to feel at home and be yourself," Culbreath said.

The centers also offer support to students through the VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) Program, a partnership with the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Counselors in the VSOC program help ease veterans' transitions to student life, assist them in achieving their educational and career goals, and help them access state and federal benefits.

PCC, which has more than 1,800 military veterans on its four campuses, is one of only a handful of U.S. community colleges selected to host the VSOC program. The centers at Rock Creek and Sylvania provide space for VetSuccess counselor Steve Gordon to connect with PCC vets. Since the program began, Gordon said, it has helped provide assistance to 1,375 veterans and their eligible dependents.

"By reaching out to students directly, the VSOC helps as many veterans as possible understand and maximize their VA benefits," said Gordon. "We want to make sure our student veterans have all the tools they need to be successful."

For students like Jon Culbreath, that's the sort of support that keeps him flying high. ◆

To learn more about PCC's Veterans Resource Centers, visit pcc.edu/resources/veterans.



**Portland
Community
College**

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

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PCC mails this schedule of classes to households four times each year to let you know about upcoming Community Ed classes and share what's happening at PCC. It is printed and mailed for about 21 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.



My Project:
Finish strong at my
upcoming triathlon.

— Tom Campbell,
Personal fitness student

Read more about Tom's story on page 8.

project:
YOU

Make YOU the project!

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

PCC CommunityEd

