

FALL 2016

# PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMUNITIES

## OPPORTUNITY ALWAYS

A photo retrospective  
of our growing campuses

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Shining a light on darkroom  
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support and celebrate  
LGBTQ students

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**Portland  
Community  
College**



**PCC Community Ed**  
Classes starting Sept–Dec  
Find them inside:  
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“Learning is something that can carry you through your whole life— learning never stops.”

**Oregon Senator Jackie Winters**  
2016 PCC Diamond Alumni Award Winner

## Back to Class

### ◆ Fall term begins September 26

Register now! There are thousands of credit and non-credit classes available at hundreds of sites across the Portland metro area. For information about registration, visit [pcc.edu](http://pcc.edu).

## Upcoming Events

### ◆ Jade International Night Market August 20 and 27

In partnership with Jade District and Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, PCC Southeast is proud to host the 4th annual Jade International Night Market. Family-friendly food, entertainment, and vendors, from 5 p.m.–10 p.m. each night. Visit [JadeDistrictNightMarket.com](http://JadeDistrictNightMarket.com) for more information.

## Featured Event

### ◆ Harvest Fest October 15

Join PCC for fall fun at our annual autumnal celebration. Free pumpkins, face painting, petting zoo, hayrides, building tours, and more. For more info, visit [pcc.edu/harvestfest](http://pcc.edu/harvestfest).

### ◆ PCC Theatre Arts presents Almost, Maine November 10, 12, 17–20

One cold, clear winter night, the residents of Almost, Maine find themselves falling in and out of love in the strangest ways. Visit [pcc.edu/theatre](http://pcc.edu/theatre) for tickets (\$10) and showtimes.

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## Shared on Social Media



@SylvaniaASPCC

◆ #rockingthepride #pccbirthday #pccpride



@TualatinRiver

◆ PCC Rock Creek Freshwater Biology class field trip today on @TualatinRiver. #ILovePCC



@luxehandleisure

◆ You're never too old to take classes that interest you!



@hollyberry21

◆ From soldier to grad! so proud of my husband #pccgrad16 #USArmyVeteran

Get social with PCC



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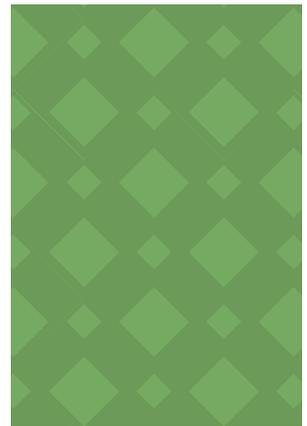
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# OPPORTUNITY ALWAYS

Oregon's largest institution of higher learning is transforming lives—yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Since 1961, we've opened our doors to any person who wants to learn. We believe that higher education changes lives, enriches communities and builds economic vitality for our region.



1961



During the cultural revolution of the 1960s, Portland Public School Administrator Dr. Amo DeBernardis dreamed about greater educational opportunities for Oregon. As head of PPS's adult and vocational educational program, he believed that all people deserved a chance to improve their lives through higher education. Portland Community College is born from this **founding vision**.

1968



President Amo DeBernardis and Oregon Governor Tom McCall open the Sylvania campus not with a ribbon cutting—but with a **blow torch** melting through a metal chain.



1971

The growing college launches a **traveling classroom** to teach sewing, household budget management, healthy diets, cooking and other home economics topics to those who find it difficult to get to campus.



1980

As state funding for community colleges dramatically decreases, PCC's **open door** policy remains in effect and enrollment surges.



1970



PCC's two-year nursing program is accredited, building a qualified workforce of **healthcare professionals** for the region.

1973

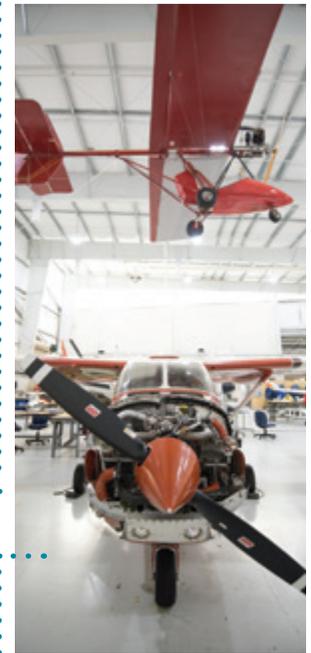
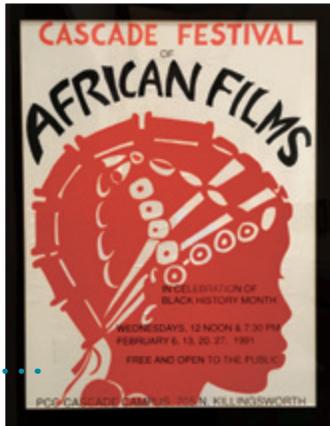


PCC's Cascade Center provides **literacy tutoring** for the large number of Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees that come to Portland after being displaced by war. Today it is known as PCC Cascade Campus.

1990



A group of faculty and staff at the Cascade Campus launched a **film festival** dedicated to Africa. Today the Cascade Festival of African Films is the longest-running African film festival in the United States.



1999



PCC's **online registration** system goes live on the college website. The college breaks its single-term enrollment record with more than 42,000 students enrolling fall term.



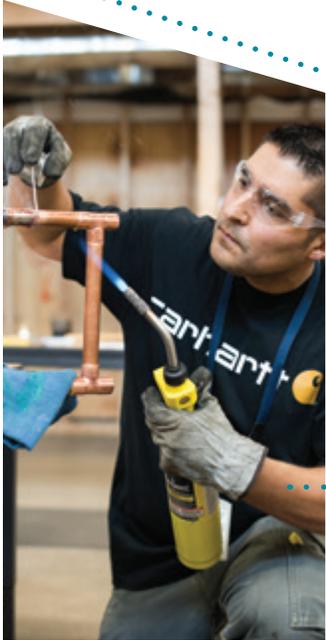
1997

A brand new 17,000-square-foot **aviation hangar** is built on the Rock Creek campus, enhancing a program to support the region's burgeoning aviation industry.

2008



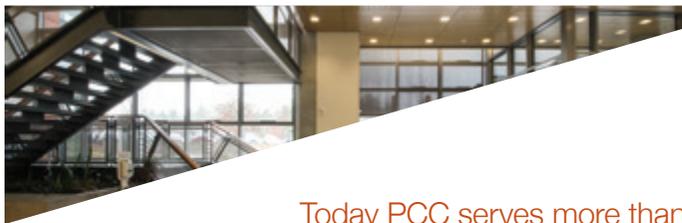
Oregon voters pass the largest educational bond in state history. The capital investment creates space and program enhancements to help thousands of Oregonians get the **training and skills** they need.



2012



The largest **solar array** in the state of Oregon is built on PCC's Rock Creek Campus, demonstrating the college's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint. Sheep from the school's farm help keep weeds away from the panels by grazing around and under the array.



2014



PCC Southeast Campus opens, bringing a full slate of educational opportunities to one of the most diverse and traditionally underserved areas of the city.



2011



PCC's model **Future Connect** program is founded, showcasing the power of coaching and peer support to help first generation, low-income students succeed. Since its inception, this program has helped more than 1,200 students who would not otherwise have found a path to college.

Today PCC serves more than 87,000 individual learners each year — making the college Oregon's largest institution of higher learning. As needs increase, PCC will continue this vital work. Access, opportunity and community vitality — always.

◆ **To learn more about PCC and fall open houses, visit [news.pcc.edu](http://news.pcc.edu).**

# EDUCATION ONLINE



As the demand for online educational options continues to surge, new classes and hybrid class structures are helping to meet the needs of the community.

The growth of online classes shows no sign of slowing. Last year at PCC nearly half of all students took at least one online class. The majority cited convenience as the primary reason for enrolling, and a whopping 61% of students surveyed said that they prefer the online class format to traditional in-person classes.

While many people have come to accept online college classes for credit coursework, taking community education or personal enrichment classes through a college is still a novel idea to some.

Melissa Bierman is a licensed therapist and business owner who has taken PCC's self-directed online Community Education classes in Excel and statistics. She says that

the convenience of being able to learn at her own pace is what drew her to these options—plus the added flexibility needed when she's juggling the demands of running a small business.

"The Excel classes helped me so much by giving me templates that I could use for work—these are not resources that I could have found online, so the class was definitely more valuable than watching a YouTube video," she said. "It was an amazing class that helped my business a ton." ♦

**PCC Community Education** offers three different kinds of technology classes in a variety of subjects—from computer skills to communication—to meet the demands of students:

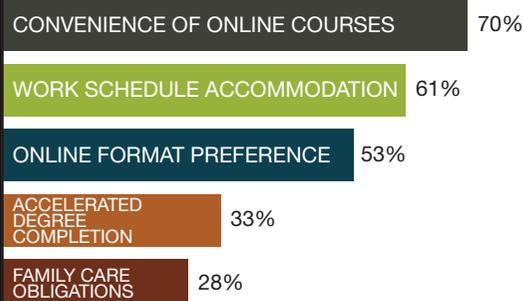
◆ **In-person classes** take place in campus computer labs. For students interested in learning computer fundamentals—how to use a mouse, how to save a document or cut and paste—these classes offer hands-on learning options and an instructor right there in the room available to answer questions and offer support.

◆ **Guided independent learning classes** are taken online and students do not meet on campus. As a hybrid option, these classes have a dedicated local instructor and a textbook, but students are allowed to work through the material at their own pace.

◆ **Instructor-led learning classes** are distance education courses in a variety of topics—from guitar basics to computer programming. A partnership between PCC and Ed2Go, lessons can be accessed and downloaded twice weekly and students take them at their leisure.

To browse the selection of in-person and online computer classes, turn to page 60-66 or visit [pcc.edu/communityed](http://pcc.edu/communityed).

## WHY DO PCC STUDENTS CHOOSE ONLINE CLASSES?



# LEARNING THE LANGUAGE

Isabelle Mcrae is the first-ever PCC student to earn a Critical Language Scholarship to study in Turkey



Mcrae (second from left) in her village in Baku this summer.

Isabelle Mcrae's dream of becoming an international translator got a huge boost this past summer.

Mcrae is the first-ever PCC student to earn a prestigious Critical Language Scholarship to Bursa, Turkey. The U.S. government uses the scholarship program to expand the number of Americans mastering critical foreign languages such as Russian, Turkish, Hindi, Arabic and Japanese. Mcrae is in rare company as only 10 percent of the 5,000 applicants nationwide are selected.

"When I heard that I had won, I was on the phone with my sister and I started screaming," said Mcrae, who is a student at PCC and Portland State University as part of the institutions' dual enrollment pact. "I couldn't believe it. It was a competitive program, and it validates everything I've been doing. It's an amazing feeling."

It was a few years ago while traveling the world, Mcrae detoured to Turkey where she volunteered in small villages, and gained an understanding of its language. This brief exposure, coupled with wanting to transfer from PCC to Portland State University's Turkish language program, made applying for the CLS opportunity a no-brainer.

The trip almost didn't happen. A terrorist attack in the city a month before the program was to begin caused the U.S. State Department to move it out of Turkey to Baku, Azerbaijan on the Caspian Sea. She still got to study Turkish for two months with her airfare, housing, meals, tuition and cultural activities paid for.

Mcrae's teachers are thrilled to see her earn this opportunity to study abroad.

"She's a focused and highly engaged student," said Andrew Cohen, her PCC creative writing instructor. "In our creative nonfiction class she showed her colors as a real travel writer, recounting her first big trip to Turkey in memorable color and detail, while thoughtfully exploring the risks and rewards of international travel."

PCC has had eight students win Critical Language Scholarship opportunities to Russia. But Mcrae is the first to win an immersion experience to Turkey.

"Isabelle was competing with applicants from across the U.S, including students from all of the Ivy League institutions, major research universities and others," said Anne Haberkern, director of the Curriculum Support Office at PCC. "It's truly exceptional to win this." ♦

—James Hill

PCC students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of education abroad program options. Scholarships and financial aid can be applied to the costs of studying abroad, and specific scholarships—like the Critical Language Scholarship—are available.

For more information, visit [pcc.edu/studyabroad](http://pcc.edu/studyabroad).

# COMING INTO FOCUS

Non-credit photography student Jady Bates shines a light on her darkroom experiences

by James Hill



**P**hotographer Jady Bates has an eye for art.

Jady Bates has always framed images in her mind, but it had never occurred to her to learn photography until she almost lost her eyesight a couple years ago. She has immersed herself in the art form through PCC Community Ed classes and this September she will have her solo photography show at Soho Photo Gallery in Manhattan. Utilizing her Holga film camera, and printing her photos by hand, Bates explores transgender life experiences in her series, “Transgender Beautiful.”

“I want to promote a positive message of acceptance and love for others in this work,” Bates said. “There are not enough spaces in this world to honor positivity, inclusivity, collaboration and the expansive feelings of love and acceptance. There is great power in all of these, and that is what this series hopes to inspire.”

Her interest and skill would suggest a lifelong passion in the realm of photography. However, Bates, 42, picked up a camera only two years ago to develop her photography skills despite having just recovered from major eye surgery that saved her vision. She checked out PCC’s Community Education program webpage and discovered classes at Southeast Campus’ state-of-the-art darkroom. Guided by the skills of instructor and mentor Mike Riches, Bates developed her darkroom skills.

“In two words: ‘mentor legend,’” she said. “Mike Riches knows everything about photography. He invests in anyone who wants to learn. He is passionate and has this wonderful approach in inviting everyone to feel welcome in the world of photography.”

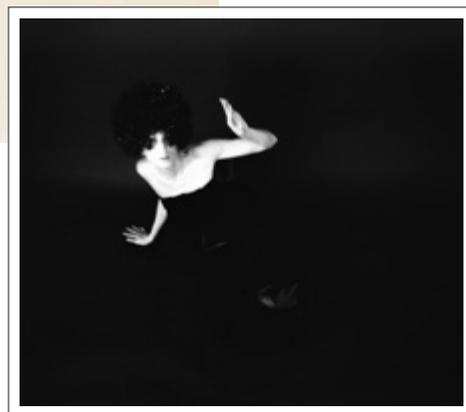
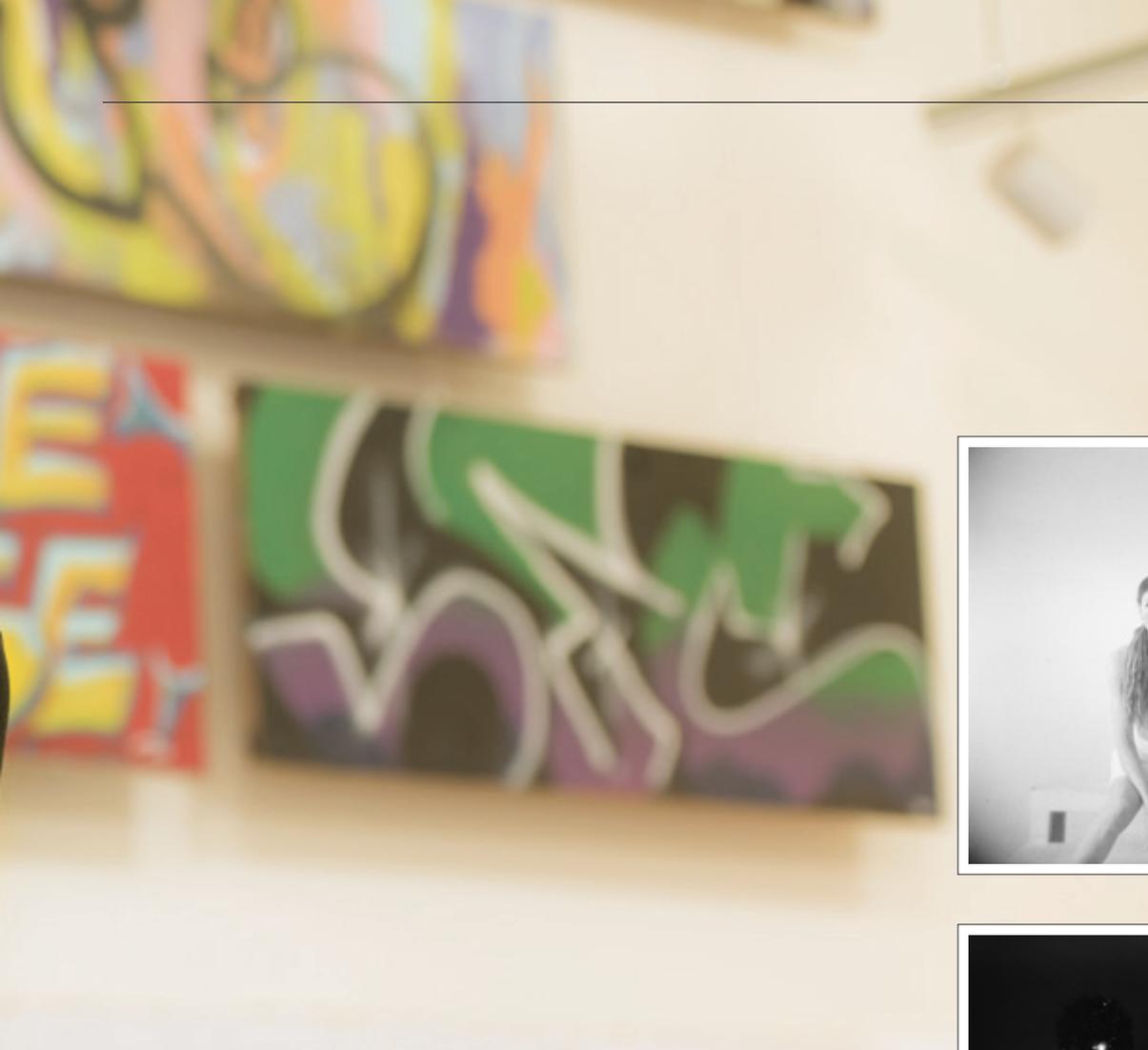
Riches teaches the classes held in the darkroom for PCC Community Ed and counts Bates as one of his super stars.

“Jady is an exceptional student,” Riches said. “I am lucky to have her in my classes. She worked very hard to get accepted into Soho Photo in New York, which is one of the top galleries in the country.”

“Portland is lucky to have one of the best darkrooms on the West Coast at PCC.”

With the prevalence of digital photography and complementing computer programs, anyone can be a photographer these days. However, the Southeast Campus darkroom classes rely heavily on “vintage” film techniques. In a time when functioning darkrooms are disappearing, PCC has one of the city’s best, according to students.

“The darkroom facility at Southeast Campus is wonderful,” Bates said. “I don’t say that lightly. Portland is lucky to have one of the best darkrooms on the West Coast at PCC. I wish that more students would learn the art of film photography. I hope to see this area of PCC’s outstanding art program grow.”



Images from Bates' photo series "Transgender Beautiful," on display this fall at the Soho Photo Gallery in Manhattan. (Pictured) Transgender model & activist: Rebekah Katherine Brewis.

The Oregon native and Beaverton High School graduate earned a bachelor's degree in Communications and master's in Conflict Resolution at Portland State University. Before photography, Bates worked as an administrative assistant as she attended PSU. Afterward, she started a promotion business and discovered how important photography was to her social media efforts.

"I think in some ways, my experience of almost going blind three years ago manifested this pursuit of photography for me," Bates said. "It is a very literal, tactile way of expressing my 'vision.' Surgeries saved my sight, and I suddenly got transfixed by photography."

As she attended classes and worked in the darkroom facility, Bates found out how much film is still regarded as an art form. She said there's a community of local artists who regularly attend the courses with her.

"I happily fell into the group," she smiled.

"Photography is truly my lifestyle now," she explained. "I don't think I could live without taking photos." ♦

For information on photography and darkroom classes at PCC, visit [pcc.edu/communityed](http://pcc.edu/communityed) or turn to page 17.



# BRAVE SPACES

PCC's growing Queer Resource Centers serve students of all identities

by Rebecca Olson

**I**t took Ryley Ha'o-Magno a few months to get the courage to actually go inside the Queer Resource Center (QRC) on PCC's Rock Creek Campus. He'd seen the colorful decorations and free coffee sign on the door, and was curious about what it was all about—but he was worried about what people would think of him. He waited for an afternoon when no one was around, and then, practically sprinted inside.

"When the person at the desk said hello to me, I dropped my voice down really low. I didn't want people to think I was gay, and I thought that would help for some reason," he laughed. "It seems really ridiculous to me now."

*Ryley Ha'o-Magno*

Faking the sound of his own voice is something that Ha'o-Magno doesn't do anymore. Thanks to the support and affirming experiences he's had at the Queer Resource Center, he's a lot more accepting of himself.

For the last two years, Ha'o-Magno has served as a student advocate helping to empower and educate other students. His focus has been outreach and education, and he's visited dozens of high schools in Washington County to speak to students about being queer, being an ally and being a PCC student.

"Many people don't realize this, but PCC's Rock Creek QRC is the only resource center of its kind in all of Washington County," he explained. "Everyone in the community is welcome there—you don't have to be a PCC student to get help."



The Rock Creek QRC is the oldest and most established of PCC's four queer resource centers. Although each of the campus centers vary in their size and offerings, each of the campuses has a dedicated physical space and plans to expand their programs in the coming year. All of the queer resource centers welcome and support students of all gender expressions and identities. The centers host activities and events; offer students free coffee, tea and snacks; and staff and student advocates are there to connect students to campus and community resources in everything from tutoring to affordable sexual health care.

"Most of all, what we offer is a place where students can feel heard," said Becky Springer, coordinator for the Rock Creek QRC. "This is a place to have community and to feel welcomed and embraced."

One of the questions that the QRC's get often is why they are called "queer" resource centers.

"Queer is an umbrella term that encompasses LGBTQ+ identities," explained Springer. "Not everyone identifies as 'queer' within the community, but it's a negative term has been reclaimed and transformed into something positive."

The need for queer resources at PCC is great—and growing. According to a 2013 study by the Oregon Student Alliance, PCC has the most queer and trans-identified students of any college in the state with 14 percent of the student population self-identifying as lesbian, gay or bisexual, and 6 percent as transgender.

"Supporting trans, genderqueer and non-binary students is especially important given the recent legislation attempts at restricting people's abilities to use a bathroom they identify with most," said Springer. "It doesn't matter if it's a classroom or a bathroom—PCC students should feel welcomed wherever they are on campus."

One of the ways the centers have worked to support trans students is by advocating for the addition of more campus gender-inclusive restrooms, which can be used by students of all gender expressions and identities.



(From right): QRC coordinators Kole Myrick, Bobby Waldner, and Becky Springer at the 2016 PCC Pride Parade.

PCC plans to have 33 all-gender bathrooms at its locations by 2017, and is in the process of passing a bathroom policy allowing students to access spaces in accordance with their gender identity and/or gender expression.



Sylvania's Queer Resource Center Coordinator Bobby Waldner started at PCC as a student in 2011. He came back to school at age 30, before there was a QRC on the

Sylvania Campus, and his transition was tough to say the least.

"I was already feeling nervous being one of the oldest people in my math class," he said. "You can imagine how I felt then when I heard one of my classmates calling me a faggot."

Waldner's experiences inspired him to seek out a place on campus where students could find support and community. He began volunteering at the Sylvania Women's Resource Center, and thanks to the encouragement of its director, Jeannie LaFrance, Waldner started a student Q club. This club became the foundation for Sylvania's Queer Resource Center, where Waldner now works on staff as a part-time resource specialist.

"I grew up in a small town where people were not very accepting or nice to me," he said. "To grow from there to where I am now is incredible. Never in my life did I ever think I would be this person for other LGBT people."

Among his many responsibilities at the QRC, Waldner was one of the key organizers who coordinated PCC's participation in the Portland Pride Parade.

Nearly 200 PCC students, staff, faculty and supporters marched with PCC in the Portland Pride Parade this year, which was held a week after the tragic mass shooting at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida. The PCC contingency marched in bright turquoise Panther Pride T-shirts, carrying rainbow signs with messages of love and solidarity for the LGBTQ community. For Waldner, the outpouring of support in the wake of a tragedy was bittersweet.

"It was the first time in a week that I cried happy tears," said Waldner. "To see all of the love and support that came from our PCC community—it was overwhelming." ◆



PCC flying the Pride flag at half mast in the wake of the Orlando tragedy.

# SPOTLIGHT

## WHAT'S NEW AT PCC?

### Congratulations to PCC's newest graduates!

Thousands of new PCC graduates gathered at the Memorial Coliseum for the college's 54th commencement ceremony. PCC conferred more than 5,400 degrees, certificates and awards to nearly 900 students, who were cheered across the stage by family and friends.

The festive program kicked off with an inspiring rendition of the national anthem by graduating student Colleen Kelly, followed by remarks from Rock Creek Campus President

Sandra Fowler-Hill, Board Chair Deanna Palm and Interim President Sylvia Kelley. The main event featured a keynote by psychology student Paula Heine followed by words from faculty speaker Blake Hausman, who teaches composition, literature and creative writing at the Southeast Campus.

Before the festivities, the new college graduates participated in photo booths, took selfies with Poppie the Panther and signed celebration cards, to name a few. ♦



Missed the fun? View the entire ceremony at [youtube.com/pccvideos](https://youtube.com/pccvideos).



■ Art students in Marie Sivak's "3D Foundations" class paraded through the Sylvania Campus to show off their final projects at the end of spring term. The students created **sculptural art costumes** to be used for fashion or performances.

■ Dozens of students from Osaka Jikei Technical College showed off their traditional Japanese line dance skills at the Cascade Campus while also learning American **country line dance** from PCC staff. Every year, the technical college sends a delegation to tour PCC's career-technical programs.



# HITS



■ PCC and Marylhurst University signed a **dual enrollment** partnership, making it easier for students to take classes at both institutions.

■ The owners of **Hillsboro's Five Star Guitars**, clients of PCC's Small Business Development Center, were given the 2016 National Small Business Person of the Year Award. The business participated in the Retail Small Business Management Program at the Willow Creek Center, strengthening its retail activities through education and one-on-one advising.





**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¢ 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:**  
Grow my small  
business by  
improving my  
Excel skills!

— Melissa Bierman,  
Small business owner

**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](http://pcc.edu/communityed) and get started on your own Project: YOU this fall.



**PCC Community Ed**