

# PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMUNITIES

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See the sights with new  
bike tour classes

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Open educational resource  
project saves students \$1M

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New wayfinding initiative makes  
campus more accessible

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**Portland  
Community  
College**



**PCC Community Ed**  
Classes starting June – August  
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“When we create pathways to help students thrive, families thrive too. Our community thrives. Oregon thrives.”

**Ted Wheeler**  
Mayor of Portland

**Back to Class**

◆ **Summer term begins June 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**

◆ **cultureSEast**  
**May 16–18, 2017**  
Join PCC as we celebrate the diversity of cultures neighboring the Southeast Campus with this free event series. Visit [pcc.edu/cultureSEast](http://pcc.edu/cultureSEast) for details.

◆ **2017 PCC Commencement**  
**Friday, June 16**  
Celebrate PCC’s graduates as they receive degrees and certificates in front of thousands of friends, family and community members. 7 p.m., Memorial Coliseum, 300 N. Winning Way.

**Shared on Social Media**



@PCCPanther  
◆ Congrats to our student leaders for putting on a great #MulticulturalNight at PCC Southeast!



@portlandcc  
◆ Welcome to spring term, Panthers!



@margowagner  
◆ First look at the super cool new geodesic dome going up by the learning garden at PCC Southeast!



@pccthebridge  
◆ REPEAT, works by Jamison Carter and Margaret Griffith is in the Helzer now. Super fun show with not-so-subtle textures that literally pop out at you.



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# ROLL INTO SUMMER

Explore Portland and beyond by bike with PCC Community Ed and Pedal Bike Tours

By Celeste Hamilton Dennis

There's only one rule at Pedal Bike Tours in Portland: no spandex required or allowed.

For owner Todd Roll, who only wears street clothes when he's out riding a bike he's dubbed Pee Wee Herman the Third, he wants people to know that cycling doesn't always require looking like you're part of the Tour de France.

"My mission is to make biking more accessible to everyday people," he says.

So it made perfect sense when PCC Community Ed approached Roll about collaborating with Pedal Bike Tours to offer bike touring classes to the community. New to Community Ed, three tours will be offered this summer: Historic Downtown, Food Carts, and Columbia Gorge.

"I'm most looking forward to introducing Portlanders to places in their own city they may never have seen or heard of," Roll says. "And how safe, fun, and easy biking here is."

Roll says he's seen biking hit a plateau in the 13 years he's lived here. Despite Portland being dubbed as "America's bike capital," currently only 7.2% of people commute to work by bike — impressive compared nationally but not enough in Roll's opinion. A father of two, he commutes each day from his home in Northeast to his downtown shop and laments the fact that he rarely sees other "gray hairs" like him out on the road.

"Where are the 40–70 years olds?" he says. "They're not riding bikes. I rarely see them."

Most of Pedal Bike Tours' business comes from tourists, and Roll views the PCC classes as helping with his other not-so-secret mission

of getting more locals onto bikes. For him, there's nothing like hopping on a fitness commuter and feeling the wind at his back — as well as anticipating the possibilities that await.

"What I love about riding is just the total freedom of being able to do your own thing," he says. "My goal is not to be the fastest. My goal is to enjoy myself."

## A CHAIN REACTION

Roll's first bike was a hand-me-down Schwinn from his brother. Growing up in a small lumber town near Cottage Grove, Oregon, he learned to ride on a paved logging road. Later, at the University of Oregon where he studied English, he bought his first road bike and explored Oregon, California, and everywhere in-between.

His wanderlust only got stronger. After college he bought a mountain bike and flew it to Rome, where his passion for urban cycling solidified. He loved riding on the cobblestone streets, turning a corner and seeing the Colosseum one minute and taking another block and coming up on Piazza Venezia the next.

"The beauty of sightseeing by bicycle is you can see more than by walking, but more closely than by car," Roll says.

Rome was "a dream come true" for him and this experience helped shape the creation of Pedal Bike Tours — only Portland-style. It started with Roll parking outside his brother's bike shop, Metropolis Cycles, with a rack of bikes on his Honda Civic and giving tours before

the meter ran out. Over the nine years since, Pedal Bike Tours has grown into one of the city's top tourism companies.

From beer breweries to coffee shops to eclectic neighborhoods, Roll's experimented with showing off everything Portland has to offer — although the Historic Downtown and Columbia Gorge tours have remained people's favorites.

"My business is easy, fun, and safe cycling. We don't do hills. We don't do narrow, shoulderless roads," he says. "It's very much urban cycling. That's what I love."

## TAKE A BREAK FROM THE CLASSROOM

Students who sign up for one of the classes through Community Ed can expect three hours of expert knowledge about the Portland area. Roll knows the city inside and out, so much so that in 2014 he wrote the handy guide, *Portland: 25 Easy Rides for Exploring the City By Bike*. His enthusiasm is evident in the tours. With Historic Downtown, for example, there are about 30 sights to cover in eight miles.

"Downtown is a foreign destination for many Portlanders," he says. You're going to see a lot of things that would make you tired to see on foot."

Stopping every two to six blocks, sights include everything from the Chinese Garden to PSU Simon Benson House to the Willamette Greenway. On the Food Cart tour, riders get out of the downtown grind and into the SE neighborhoods with a beer cart and a fire pit — not to mention a double decker bus transformed into a vintage shop — the food cart pod Tidbits on SE Division is a popular stop.

With all of the tours, safety is key. Helmets are a must, as is going slow. Riders stay together in a group and take the safest routes possible. Roll says that's a mixture of car-free bike paths, cycle tracks, bike lanes, and quiet streets. But Portland car culture also helps.

"The other half of what makes Portland a great place to ride is the drivers," he says. "We have the most courteous drivers in the country here."

Outside of the city, the Columbia Gorge tour is a waterfall lovers' dream. There's the big six, of course — Multnomah, Bridal Veil, and Latourell to name a few — but also smaller ones tucked between neon green trees and looming cliffs that a car couldn't reach. Aside from enjoying nature, students might learn an interesting fact or two, including that the Historic Columbia River Highway was originally completed in 1922 as a roadway for Model T cars.

Roll's been to nearly every corner of Portland and its surroundings, and says the quality of life gets better each year with the influx of restaurants, bars, and bike-friendly

areas popping up. After his tours, his wish is for students to be as passionate about exploring the world as he is.

"I hope students walk away with an appreciation for cycling in Portland and their city in general," he says. "Also an excitement to get out there and get riding!" ♦

To find PCC bike touring classes, turn to page 43 or visit [pcc.edu/communityed](http://pcc.edu/communityed).



Todd Roll, owner of Pedal Bike Tours.



Tour guide Evan White leads a tour of downtown Portland.



# TEXTBOOK SAVINGS

Faculty tackle skyrocketing textbook costs with innovative resource project

by James Hill

Reference librarians Rachel Bridgewater and Jen Klaudinyi spearheaded PCC's alternative textbook sourcing project.



There've been times when Portland Community College student Kien Truong has had to decide between eating or buying a textbook.

"My biggest fear at the beginning of every term is buying textbooks," said the 20-year-old Truong, who is studying international relations at the Southeast Campus. "I normally take 3–4 classes every term which means I have to spend more than \$300 on books. I end up skipping my breakfast or lunch many times because I can't afford to eat."

A group of PCC faculty and staff are committed to reducing the financial burden on students like Truong by establishing an Open Educational Resources (OER) Program aimed at reducing the cost of books for an array of class sequences at the college. Since the project started in 2015, this effort to emphasize no-cost and low-cost textbooks has saved students more than \$1 million. Faculty organizers are projecting \$3 million more in savings during the next two years as the project grows.

Thanks to this movement, faculty are now able to adopt a complete open textbook to replace their commercial materials. To make it easier on students, PCC's course catalog indicates what courses have no-cost and low-cost texts available. Areas where OER has taken hold at PCC include classes in Math, English, English for Speakers of Other Languages, Management and Supervision, Writing, Psychology and Geology.

## RIISING COSTS A BURDEN

At PCC, most credit classes require a textbook, and the majority of them cost more than \$100. In the past three decades, the cost of textbooks has risen by 812 percent, outpacing the rise in costs associated with inflation, health care, housing, and college tuition and fees.

In response to these surging costs, college faculty reference librarians Jen Klaudinyi and Rachel Bridgewater called together stakeholders from across the district — from the Library, Bookstore, Distance Learning, Disability Services, student government and faculty — to brainstorm solutions.

It's this collaborative approach which has made a huge impact.

"Even when open texts are available for courses, it takes a lot of work to redesign classes," said Klaudinyi. "It's the faculty who deserve congratulations for achieving these savings."

## OER MOVEMENT GAINING MOMENTUM

OER involves open textbooks, which are texts released under flexible copyright licenses, like Creative Commons, that facilitate copying, printing and adapting at no cost. They are often written by scholars and published by grant-funded projects or universities. Other PCC instructors can customize existing open materials, adopt the pieces

that work, and incorporate other free or low-cost materials like library eBooks or articles. Some instructors even create their own materials, like brand new, complete textbooks.

Several college faculty teams have received outside funding to implement open materials for their courses from Open Oregon Educational Resources — a legislative initiative dedicated to making textbooks affordable in the state.

"Without external funding from the state, especially grants from Open Oregon, we would not have been able to achieve these savings for students," Klaudinyi added. "At the heart of this work, faculty are able to reconnect with their learning objectives and incorporate relevant materials that help students learn."

## SAVINGS EXAMPLE: THE MATH SEQUENCE

One of the proposed textbook adoptions under way is in PCC's Math Department, where another \$1 million in annual savings could happen in the near future. The project focuses on math courses, which are some of the highest enrolled at the college: Math 60 and 65 attract 6,000 and 3,000 credit students every year. The classes use the same commercial textbook, which runs about \$117 new at the PCC Bookstore. The next class, Math 95, uses a different textbook, which also costs \$117. That's a lot of money for students struggling financially.

"It's a shame that so much money is spent on these textbooks for basic algebra when knowledge in these topics has not changed in hundreds of years," said Alex Jordan, math instructor and project lead.

Jordan said his Open Resources for Community College Algebra Project aims to create a single set of course materials that covers the algebra series and uses attractive features found in commercial textbooks, such as online homework, interactive reading, and embedded videos. The final product will be freely available to students as an eBook, with print versions sold in the bookstore for reasonable prices.

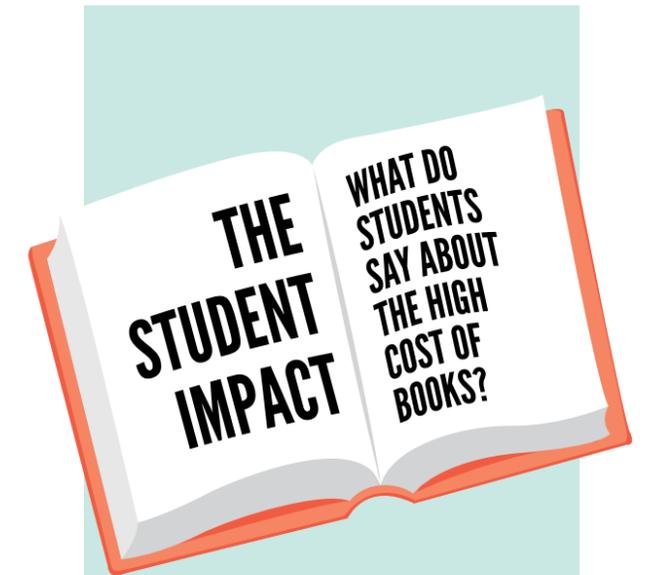
**PCC faculty have already saved students more than \$1 million — just by rethinking the kinds of materials they assign for their classes.**

"PCC will own the copyright to the book, but it will be openly licensed with a Creative Commons Attribution license, meaning that other schools have permission to use or modify and use the book as they like," Jordan said.

In Fall 2017, some sections of math will pilot phases of the new project and by spring term of 2018, all materials will be piloted in some sections across PCC with wider adoptions to follow.

PCC leaders are hoping projects like OER will continue to grow.

"The work that has been accomplished through the college and state's investment in OER has provided a great returns," said PCC Rock Creek Campus President Sandra Fowler-Hill. "It is just one of many strategies our faculty are implementing to address the rising costs of higher education." ♦



"I rarely use the textbook in most of my classes. I prefer studying from online slides which the instructors share rather than reading from a giant book."

**Nista Shrestha, 20, International Relations**



"I normally try to take the class that does not require the textbooks. If it does, I then go and borrow or buy used books from my friends."

**Kien Truong, 20, International Relations**



## BONUS FEATURE!

Watch PCC students explain how the high cost of textbooks impacts their lives.

[youtube.com/pccvideos](https://youtube.com/pccvideos)



There's a renaissance in learning happening at the Portland Art Museum. With drawing and art history classes offered through Community Ed, art lovers have the opportunity to be surrounded by masters — whether reexamining classical favorites or discovering new treasures.

Tucked up on the fourth floor, for example, is a collection of Northwest art featuring everything from 19th century sculpture to modern landscape paintings.

"Many of my students visiting the museum for the first time aren't aware we have a gallery devoted to Northwest artists," said Community Ed Art History instructor Karin Whalen.

Whalen studied Art History as an undergrad at PCC after a career in banking. She's been teaching at the Portland Art Museum for the past 12 years, and believes the museum's robust collection is perfect for students to see the evolution of art side-by-side through the ages. Right there in the space they can view how landscapes in the Renaissance period began to dominate backgrounds, for one, or how figures developed from flat to volumetric.

It also gives the experience another dimension — both figuratively and literally.

"There's a Kandinsky on loan right now in the modern art gallery. If you get up close to the canvas, it looks like he put sand in it," Whalen

said. "You wouldn't see that if you had a digital image because you don't get that depth."

This summer, Whalen is especially excited to teach about Ghissi's St. John Altarpiece, a 14th century painting consisting of nine panels that were later sawed apart and sold. One went missing, and one went to The Portland Art Museum. Whalen sees the mystery surrounding the altarpiece as an opportunity to engage her students further.

"I'm going to ask my students what they would create," she says. "It'll give them a chance to think about something and draw it."

Whalen's class usually takes place on Saturdays for two hours and involves gallery exploration and discussion. While it attracts a broad range of ages, most of her students are also avid travelers. Often they wish they'd taken her class before hopping on the plane.

After her class, she hopes they feel more comfortable exploring museums on their own, whether in Portland or elsewhere.

"I think art can put people off because they think they don't understand it," she said. "I enjoy the light that goes on when people understand what the artist is trying to do." ♦

For more information about PCC Art History classes, turn to page 21 or visit [pcc.edu/communityed](http://pcc.edu/communityed).

## CONNECT WITH CUBA

After working 38 years at Chemeketa Community College, Jill Ward felt lost in retirement.

To find herself again, she started taking Community Ed classes upon moving to Portland — including community choir, Spanish, and an educational trip to Cuba in 2015.

One of the best moments was being on the rooftop of a local's house, listening to live music.

"We got into places that as a tourist on my own I would never have known about," she says.

Ward loved Cuba so much that she went back to Havana last year to run a half-marathon.

"I learned I wanted to go again," she says. "So I did!"

*Interested in Community Ed travel courses? Check out the PCC Travel Fair on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the PCC CLIMB Center.*

For travel classes, turn to page 50 or visit [pcc.edu/communityed](http://pcc.edu/communityed).

## Healthy Community

PCC, OHSU and PSU will partner with City of Portland on new public health center

By James Hill



Portland's three largest public colleges are teaming up with the City of Portland to build a new \$100 million education and health center on the downtown campus of Portland State University.

The historic project will turn a surface parking lot at Southwest Fourth Avenue and Montgomery Street into a new home for the Oregon Health & Science University-PSU School of Public Health, PSU's Graduate School of Education, Portland Community College's dental programs and City of Portland offices.

PCC's entire Dental Program will find a new home in the space, including the Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, and Dental Laboratory Technology programs — all high-demand oral health care specialties capable of training more than 130 students annually. The PCC dental clinic, which treats about 2,000 patients a year, also will be moving from Sylvania to downtown.

"What you see here today is an example of how local investment in higher education can open doors and create incredible opportunities — ones that benefit students and the community at large because we are pooling our talent and resources for the greater good," said PCC President Mark Mitsui.

The move will enable PCC to be located in close proximity to PSU and OHSU, two of its largest higher education partners.

Closer access will encourage even more collaboration among the three institutions, strengthening opportunities for students to smoothly transfer from PCC to PSU to pursue advanced degrees. It also enables PCC to build on its training with the OHSU School of Dentistry, where clinical rotations with PCC students already take place.

"We are very excited to leverage the power of PSU, OHSU and PCC to train Portland's future health and education leaders," said PSU President Wim Wiewel.

The building — expected to open in September 2020 — marks the first time all three institutions and the city will share one space.

At 200,000 square feet and up to nine stories tall, it will be one the biggest academic buildings on PSU's main campus and bring low-cost mental health services, a community dental clinic, city offices and ground-floor retail and restaurants to a newly revitalized area of south downtown.

"New educational options and public services will be available to Portland residents, right there, in the heart of PSU's campus," said Mayor Ted Wheeler.

"Access to this building is prime — street car, max and several bus lines are just steps away. The new downtown development is going to provide unparalleled opportunities for students and the community at large for years to come." ♦



## Quick Facts

**What:** New health learning center to be located downtown at SW 4th Avenue and Montgomery Street.

**Size:** 200,000 square feet, seven to nine stories.

**Cost:** Estimated \$100 million.

**Timeline:** Construction is scheduled to begin in 2018, and the building is expected to open in September 2020.

**Features:** First floor will be mixed use space leased by restaurants and retail, PSU Graduate School of Education will have counseling clinic at low cost to the public, and PCC will offer a community dental clinic serving about 2,000 patients per year.



# THE PATH TO SUCCESS

**New wayfinding initiatives make PCC a leader in accessibility**  
by Katherine Miller

Visiting a new college campus can be bewildering. Even with appropriate signage it isn't necessarily easy to navigate to parking, the enrollment office, classrooms, restrooms and other vital services. For people with disabilities or mobility issues, things can be a lot tougher.

Adding to the challenge is that since voters approved the 2008 bond measure, PCC has seen extensive construction or renovations at all four campuses and most of its centers, bringing with it temporary detours, closures and office moves.

A collective of staff from Disability Services, Facilities Management Services (FMS) and the Web Team is working to make it easier for everyone in the community to find their way around campus by launching a new digital tool that has made PCC a national leader in accessibility.

Federal law requires the college to ensure access to its programs. But according to Kaela Parks, PCC's director of Disability Services, there are a variety of ways to achieve that — and not all of them as helpful as others.

Many schools' websites offer static maps that show the location of accessible building features such as automatic door openers, elevators, and accessible restrooms and water fountains, she said. Individuals who rely on assistive technology often experience barriers that require them to request an alternate format, such as tactile graphics or text-based descriptions.

"We're trying to honor the spirit of the legal imperative to ensure access to programs as a whole by reducing the need to trigger those accommodation-related requests," Parks said. "We do this by making sure it's more accessible on the front end."

## Mapping Accessible Features

The solution, which is still a work in progress, lays in creating user-friendly maps of floor plans that show the accessible building features and are easily updated.

To begin, Disability Services inventoried the accessible features for all buildings at all campuses and centers. The PCC Web Team then created a plugin — software that can be used with a WordPress website — that allows PCC personnel to add placemarks to maps indicating the accessible features.

Architecture and drafting students, who served as interns on the project, used computer-aided drafting software to generate the floor plans. The Web Team optimized the floor plans to be readable on mobile

devices and uploaded the maps, after which the interns added the placemarks.

Sylvania Campus' maps went live in December 2013, and the remaining campuses and centers were added over the following year. PCC's Bond Program works with FMS to ensure updated floor plans are supplied to the Web Team, and Disability Services edits and adds placemarks to keep the maps current.

Now, anyone with a computer or mobile device can go to [pcc.edu/AccessMap](http://pcc.edu/AccessMap), choose a particular building and a floor, and receive a map that clearly indicates the location of all accessible building features, each with its own text-based description. The maps are keyboard navigable and screen-reader friendly, so the visually impaired can listen to synthesized voice directions. Tactile versions that complement the electronic maps are also available upon request.

"The bottom line is that this collaboration allowed these different groups to work together," said Parks. "None of us could have done this alone, but together we were able to create something that had not existed before."

## Going Above and Beyond

Parks said that from the outset the team "wanted to make sure that we could do something more robust than the standard offering.

"What's unique about it is that this system was tested by end users throughout the entire process to ensure it's accessible," she said. "So often maps are not accessible to individuals who are blind or to individuals who use assistive technologies — which is a really important part of this project."

For now, PCC is looking to expand the project's utility and effectiveness, and part of that work is encouraging users to share their experiences with the maps. A link at the bottom of the website's accessible building features map page makes it simple to "give feedback, report barriers and suggest improvements."

The next step is to help people navigate the connected pathways between buildings for the whole campus, rather than just interior spaces, said Parks. The college is currently testing Click and Go, a digital system that provides detailed walking directions and low-vision maps for routes between several landmarks — such as the bus stop and the College Center (CC) building. The low-vision maps are created as scalable vector graphics, which allow users to zoom in on a map from different sized devices without any loss in clarity. ♦

**800k**

More than 800,000 Oregonians age 18 and older have a disability. This is almost one third of the adult population of Oregon.

**22%**

Nationally, about one quarter (22.2%) of adults age 18 and older has a disability.

**1,500**

1,500 students receive accommodations from PCC Disability Services each year.

**11%**

According to the US Government Accountability Office, students with disabilities represent nearly 11% of all postsecondary students.

PCC Disability Services is here for you. To get started, visit [pcc.edu/disability](http://pcc.edu/disability)

# SPOTLIGHTS

## WHAT'S NEW AT PCC?

### Record-breaking “An Evening for Opportunity” Raises \$514,000 for Student Support!

Nearly 500 supporters, community leaders and advocates gathered on April 22 for the PCC Foundation’s annual “An Evening for Opportunity” gala. The record-breaking event raised a half million dollars to support PCC scholarships and success programs.

“The generosity of our donors and supporters is truly inspiring,” said Ann Prater, Executive Director of the PCC Foundation. “With this level of investment from the community, we’re able to offer access and opportunity to more students than ever, helping them and our community to thrive.”

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler opened the program and expressed the value of investing

in PCC as a community resource. Supporting remarks were made by PCC President Mark Mitsui, PCC Board Chair Kali Thorne Ladd and PCC Foundation Board President Marion Levitan.

The keynote speaker for the evening was student leader Melissa Lamproe, who shared her personal story of overcoming homelessness and becoming an honors student. A scholarship allowed her to succeed at PCC, which has become an inspiration to her family.

“Getting a scholarship is so much more than financial support,” Lamproe said. “It means that someone believes in you.”

Betty Duvall, a long-time champion for community colleges, received PCC’s 2017 Patron Award, the college’s highest honor, for her ongoing support of faculty development programs.

The tradition of the gala began in 2012 as part of the college’s fiftieth anniversary celebration. Since its inception, “An Evening for Opportunity” has raised an estimated \$2.2 million to create opportunity for PCC students.

Special thanks to the evening’s major sponsors: The Renaissance Foundation, Pamplin Media Group, Howard S. Wright, and NW Natural. ♦



■ Student leader Kien Truong, the “Unity Through Diversity” student club and neighborhood partners hosted PCC’s 2nd Annual **Multicultural Night**. Almost 700 people attended the celebration aimed at highlighting the rich diversity of PCC students and community members.



■ Be on the lookout for new **PCC buses** and billboards around town. The new campaign focuses on student success and completion by asking prospective students to “think about where you want to be” — and how PCC can help you get there.



■ PCC biology student **Tran Nguyen** won first prize at the 2017 Community College Undergraduate Research Initiative colloquium. Her original research focused on the genome of a single-celled bacterium called desulfurobacterium thermolithotrophum — a microorganism that lives in the deep-sea vents under the Pacific Ocean. Nguyen discovered several errors in the existing data about the bacterium’s DNA and won the award for her findings.



■ PCC Newberg Center students, staff and faculty dedicated a new Peace Pole in the **Newberg Center Learning Garden**. The Peace Pole was a part of larger project to plant fifty poles in Newberg, sponsored by the Newberg Rotary Clubs and the Jubitz Family Foundation.



**Today at PCC**

PCC staffers Katie Miller and Chinh Le share a moment by the blossoms on the first day of spring term. For information about PCC's many beautiful campuses, visit [pcc.edu/locations](https://pcc.edu/locations).

Photo by Erin Berzel

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:**  
"Never stop learning  
about the world."

— Jill Ward  
*PCC Cuba travel participant*

**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 summer.



**PCC Community Ed**