

PCC Unveils 50 Diamonds That Sparkle

The college is honoring outstanding alumni for their contribution to the community and how they exemplify the values of the college

Fifty Portland Community College alumni are being honored as PCC Diamond Alums in tribute to the college's 50th anniversary.



Tera Roberts was honored as a PCC Diamond Alumni by District President Preston Pulliams.

The list of alumni is long and diverse. From recent graduates to older retirees, they were selected because they all have overcome adversities, achieved success that made a difference in the community, and have opened the doors to opportunities for others.

"They all each have their own great story to tell and how the college positively impacted their lives," said PCC District President Preston Pulliams. "The award is a symbol of those opportunities they received at PCC."

Some of the winners include

former Portland Mayor and Police Chief Tom Potter; Oregon State Representative Julie Parrish; former state senator and current Deputy Director at Oregon Department of Human Services Margaret Carter; best-selling authors Heidi Durrow and Rebecca Skloot; Executive Director of Brooks Staffing Samuel Brooks; Portland City Commissioner Randy Leonard; and English Channel swimmer Karen Gaffney.

Tera Roberts of Vernonia was also one of the fifty PCC Diamond Alums selected to be honored.

The college sought public nominations for outstanding alums with the goal of honoring 50 people who exemplify the values of PCC. A panel of judges from both inside and outside the college reviewed the nominations and selected the final 50 alums in February.

At the awards ceremony on March 21 at The Oregon Historical

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Young Lady Makes Donation

Natalie Groshong of Vernonia is doing something really great.

In August of 2010 at the age of seven, she donated 11 1/2 inches of her hair to Locks of Love. Last month Natalie

when she was seven that some little girls who are really sick lose their hair, she was more than willing to donate," said TaBetha.

Locks of Love meets this unique need for children by using donated hair to create high quality hair prosthetics. Most of the children helped by Locks of Love have lost their hair due to a medical condition called alopecia areata, which has no known cause or cure. The prostheses they provide help to restore children's self-esteem and their confidence.

Natalie says she plans to donate her hair again when it grows back to the required 10 inches in length. And her little sister Grace says she would like to donate her hair as well.



Natalie Groshong in 2010.

did it again.

Locks of Love is a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under age 21 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis.

On March 30th for her 9th birthday Natalie donated another 10 inches of her hair by going to Pigtails and Crewcuts at the Streets of Tanasbourne in Beaverton. According to Natalie's mother, TaBetha, Pigtails and Crewcuts provides a free cut for any child that donates their hair.

"When I explained to Natalie



Natalie Groshong in March, 2012.

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(donations appreciated)

VCT operates under the auspices of Vernonia Hands-on-Art, a non-profit organization whose mission includes the performing arts.

Poster created by Sicily Scott, VHS Digital Arts Student
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