

PCC Winter Update

While the primary focus at Portland Community College (PCC) is now winter term, which begins January 9, it is worthwhile to remind everyone of the success stories tied to fall term when 628 students from Columbia County enrolled at PCC.

- Included in that group is the first cohort of students from Columbia County who joined PCC's Future Connect Scholarship Program. Future Connect supports students who are low-income and/or are the first in their families to go to college. Each student receives a scholarship, the support of a College Success Coach and a unique first year experience that helps connect them to their college experience. This cohort was funded through a partnership with the PCC Foundation and a state grant that resulted from HB 3063.

- The goal at PCC is to create sustainable funding to continue to support Columbia County students in the coming years. Each month they convene a group of Columbia County stakeholders (Columbia County Future Connect Coalition) to develop strategies to make this happen. If you would like to learn more or would like to support this effort, please contact Pam Blumenthal pamela.blumenthal15@pcc.edu or Tony Erickson at tonye@oregonaero.com.

- The PCC team has been busy the past few months, working on several Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center (OMIC) activities. Among these have been land purchase negotiations, as well as assessment of a temporary facility in which to offer manufacturing training in advance of the soon-to-be-built PCC center in Scappoose.

- Other critical efforts have included outreach to industry partners to kick off new registered apprenticeships in machining and additive manufacturing; the development of PCC Early College options for students at St. Helens and Scappoose High Schools; and articulation and resource sharing agreements with the Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT), to create academic pathways from PCC into more advanced degrees in engineering and applied manufacturing research.

- PCC's Training Center Director Gregg Meyer returned from a trip to England last month, where he and a team of more than a dozen other regional OMIC supporters toured Sheffield's Advanced Manufacturing Research Center (AMRC). Meyer and the others - including regional economic developers, ad-

ministrators from OIT, financial investors and manufacturing representatives - spent an entire day exploring the AMRC Training Center. They were universally impressed with the scale, technology, and high degree of professionalism exhibited by both their leadership team and apprentices. It's a remarkable operation in every way, one PCC hopes to replicate to the greatest extent possible as it continues to progress through the planning and implementation phases in the coming months.

- If you wish to be distracted over the winter weeks, PCC's Community Education program offers eight diverse classes in both St. Helens and Scappoose. These include woodworking, sewing, tote bag and travel bag making, and two kayaking classes that focus on migratory birds and their habitat. You can learn more about this by visiting the PCC class schedule, or by calling (971)722-8888 and select option 2 from the menu three times.

- There are 15 credit welding technology classes offered in winter term at St. Helens High School.

- PCC Rock Creek Women's Resource Center is recruiting students for the spring 2017 New Directions class to be held in St. Helens at the OSU Extension Service classroom on N. Columbia River Highway. The class is designed for non-traditional women who are interested in either attending college for the first time, re-enrolling after an absence, or who are currently enrolled at PCC and in need of assistance. The class offers personality and career assessments, communication workshops and resume and letter of recommendation workshops. For more information or to register, please contact Kristen Martin at kristen.martin1@pcc.edu or call (971) 722-7448.

- The PCC Outreach team visits Columbia County high schools throughout the year to prepare students for college enrollment. Now those students will come to Rock Creek for Preview Day January 13. The deadline to register is January 6 and 120 students from Columbia County have already registered to attend.

- Beginning in January, PCC will offer a free College Readiness & Scholarship class at St. Helens High School on select Saturdays. The class will help students navigate the college experience, work on scholarships and payment options, in addition to learning about college deadlines. For more information students can email Heidi Edwards at hedwards@pcc.edu.

Schools Update: Safe, Kind, Respectful, Responsible

By Aaron Miller

In the Vernonia School District (VSD) students have four rules that spell out expectations for all behavior while they are in class, on the athletic field, or anywhere else at school: Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Respectful and Be Responsible. While these rules are not very specific, they do cover just about every aspect of what we expect from students in our schools.

Positive Behavior and Intervention Support (PBIS) is a program used by many schools throughout the country, including VSD schools. These general rules are typical of any PBIS school's expectations. They cover just about every aspect of positive behavior that we expect from our students.

The idea behind PBIS is to explicitly teach consistent school-wide expectations to all students, re-teach those expectations when necessary, acknowledge and reward positive behaviors that are demonstrated by most students in most situations, and have clear and consistent consequences when negative behaviors arise. The

PBIS Committee in Vernonia Schools consists of teachers and instructional assistants from all buildings, and the group works hard to develop a positive behavioral system that will truly help students learn how to handle themselves in a positive manner while at school.

Upon our return from Winter Break teachers will be conducting refresher lessons on these expectations, to help maintain our positive learning environment after a long break from school.

Maintaining health and safety, treating others the way we would want to be treated, respecting others' unique qualities, and just doing what is right... these are the main points of our behavioral system, and what we really want for everyone in our community and society.

We hope that during your holiday break you are able to rest, relax and enjoy time with family and friends. As you do so we encourage you, as we constantly do with our students, to be safe, kind, respectful and responsible in all your ventures.

May you have a very happy holiday season!

Vernonia's Voice is published twice each month on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Look for our next issue January 5.

Vernonia Students of the Month

November 2016



Riot Eriksen Grade 3

Riot is a hard-working student who has a great attitude and dives right in when given new work to do. His teacher says he is kind, respectful, responsible and safe. Riot says his favorite subject is math. He plays basketball, likes to build things with wood, and play video games. He also enjoys taking care of his cat Felix and says he loves animals.

Kylie Haney Grade 6

Kylie is known as a polite and respectful student who works above her grade level and can find creative solutions to problems. "She is the sweetest, most helpful, cooperative and creative young lady," says one of her teachers. Kylie says her favorite subjects are math, science, and PE. She plays basketball and softball. In her free time she likes to go snow skiing, sew and crochet, and do other arts and crafts.



Payton Wolf Grade 12

Payton is an excellent student/athlete who was an All League volleyball player, is basketball team captain, and All League softball player. Payton says she really appreciates all the help Mrs. Hyde gives with scholarships and college selection. Payton is the Student Body President and is also in the leadership class. Payton says she plans to attend Linn-Benton Community College before heading to OSU to study to become an ultrasound technician.



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