

Construction Apprenticeships at South Waterfront

Wednesday, June 6 / 12 - 6 PM



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At the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME)
4134 N. Vancouver Ave. at Skidmore. Come by anytime. No cost to participate.



Beryl McNair (right) with her daughter Cicely Oaks celebrate graduation from college at the same time.

Mother, Daughter Earn Degrees

A mother and daughter from Portland are both members of the Class of 2007, showing the possibilities of earning college degrees no matter what age in life.

Beryl McNair graduated from Concordia University in northeast Portland on May 5 while her daughter Cicely Oaks will graduate from the University of Oregon in June.

The two women want others to know that a college education is not as hard as it can seem.

McNair first received her Associates Degree in general studies from Portland Community College in 2002. She was then accepted at Concordia and enrolled in 2003. At the same time, her daughter received a full scholarship at the University of Or-

egon.

"I am so proud of both of us taking the time to take charge of our educational responsibility and get it done," McNair said.

She said the timing of the degrees was not as important as just getting it done.

"Then you can say, 'well done' and move on to your next journey in this life. I give a shout out for us both!"

A Gateway to Opportunities

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Senior Abby Ilias has just a few weeks left at Jefferson, but she wants to leave something behind and said this conference rises to the occasion.

Leily Villea is also a senior who wants to be a part of the Jefferson legacy. Villea is no stranger to the constant change and can boast her school's dubious distinction of having five principals in the past four years. But what many people don't know about her education at Jefferson is that she has nearly completed the Health Sciences and Biotechnology magnet program.

The school's science and technology studies have put Villea's college goals within grasp and has enabled her to graduate this spring with more credits than required.

Villea said the specialized course of study is a bit of a secret, because many students from other high schools don't realize Jefferson offers competitive programs.

Above all, these students say they want to be known as individuals, not just a building where inside and out things always go wrong.

"We're setting a positive example that not everyone is making bad decisions at Jefferson,"

said Celeste Jackson.

Progress in the classroom is in stark contrast with media coverage at the school, like a recent a fight inside a boy's restroom that was videotaped and posted on the Internet. The video resulted in four students' suspension and arrests and has sparked a police investigation.

Word of the fight got out quickly and went citywide as usual, but Friday's conference helped balance the negative press with talented and bright students.

"It's a shame people outside the school don't recognize the Jefferson Dancers instead of the YouTube video, Villea said.

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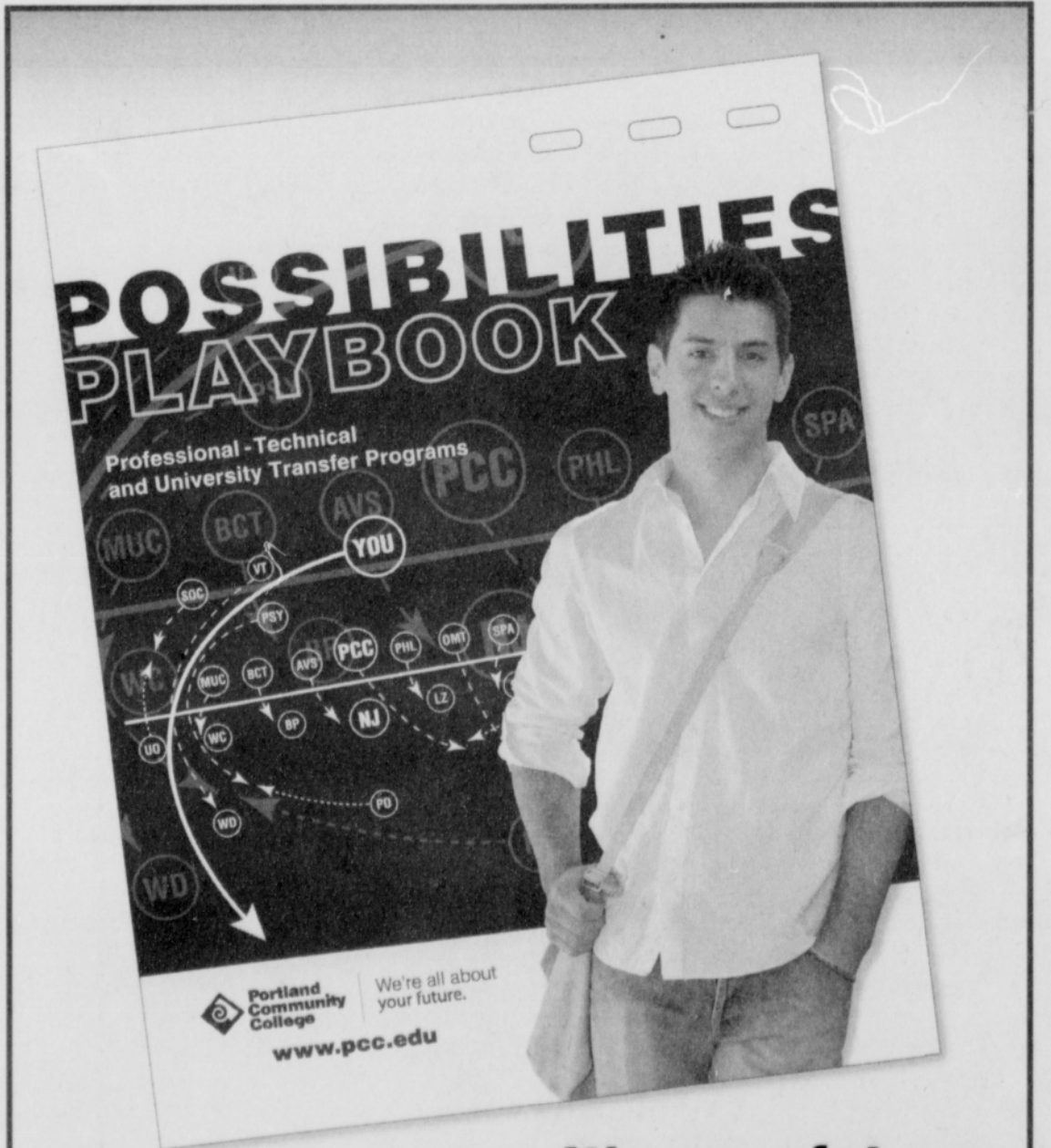


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