



Portland Community College President Preston Pulliams takes time to be a photography student in the college's non-credit Community Education classes.

College President also a Student

Moving his hobby to an expertise

He's not only the president of Portland Community College, but Preston Pulliams is also a customer.

Pulliams, a resident of Beaverton, is a budding photographer and student. He has applied his hobby all over PCC and the world, from small things like flowers to huge ones like the presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C., and an excursion to China.

"I was just a point-and-shoot kind of guy that took pictures at family outings and vacations," Pulliams said. "When I arrived here five years ago I decided since I had this nice camera why not take some courses?"

Now, the camera is Pulliams constant companion on business trips, vacations and any other kind of free time.

The instructors in PCC's Community Education program helped foster his interest in the art and helped him

develop his talent. One area, composition, Pulliams said he learned that it is much more than a technical process that involves understanding your camera, how you look through the viewfinder and how you make a print. It's the challenge of composition and comparing work with others and getting new perspectives from instructors that keeps him coming back.

"I do get a sense now of what a well-composed print should look like," he said. "I'm not producing perfect prints but I do have a sense of what to look for. The composition piece of photography is really what gets me excited. And I'm excited because the instructors have been so engaging."

So how do his fellow classmates and his instructors treat PCC's commander in chief?

"It's been interesting," Pulliams said. "Students connect with me in terms of their experience at the college and I often hear how things are going, how they enjoy their classes, and what their experiences are. I get a different perspective of PCC inside the

classroom, which is really fascinating."

You never know where a Community Education class might take you and, for Preston Pulliams, he wants to parlay the skills he's learned to not just benefit himself but the college, too.

He plans to get other PCC photographers together such as Christine Chairsell, vice president of Academic and Student Affairs for an exhibit to sell their work to benefit the PCC Foundation and student scholarships.

"It has been fun observing a hobby turn into his discipline," said Pulliams.

PCC's Community Education program, one of the biggest in the nation, offers hundreds of non-credit and continuing education classes across the district and online. It contains 4,000 classes each year, including 22 different language courses, many educational trips to 12 countries, 15 varieties of dance classes, a plethora of sustainability courses and is home to a nationally recognized online program.

in diversity Print

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The Portland Branch NAACP membership meeting is Saturday September 12 at 11:00 A.M., and the Executive Committee meeting is at 10:00 A.M. It will be held at PCC Cascade Campus, Terrell Hall-Room 107. Everyone is invited to the membership meeting. You are welcome to come, give your support and assistance in developing "Unity in the Community." Bishop H.L. Hodge, PhD., Portland Branch President.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Public Notice
On behalf of the Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) of the Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington WIRED Region, the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) is seeking proposals for career expo planning, marketing and coordination services. This project will focus on planning, marketing and executing two Engineering Talent Expos in the Portland Metro area. This effort is funded by a WIRED grant from the US Department of Labor.
The Request for Proposals (RFP) will be available on the SWWDC web site at www.swwdc.org. Proposals must be received by September 4, 2009.
For additional information please contact Jerry Petrick at jpetrick@swwdc.org.
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