

CAREER & EDUCATION

Gateway to College *Dropouts earn diplomas at PCC*

A Portland Community College program, which helps high school dropouts get their diplomas by taking college courses for dual credit, is turning 10 years old this June.

The 10-year anniversary of Gateway to College and related PCC Prep Alternative programs will be held from 4 to 8 p.m., Friday, June 4, at the Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth St. The event will include a barbecue, music, dance performances, ice cream and other family fun.

Gateway to College has become one of Oregon's biggest success stories in giving high school dropouts a second chance at completing their diploma and transitioning into higher education. It challenges dropouts in the PCC district, a traditionally underserved population, with rigorous, college-level curriculum and the opportunity to earn significant college credit.

The program started with three partner school districts and 19 students, but since then has served 1,983 students locally by using a network of eight school districts to identify at-risk students. These include Portland Public Schools, Beaverton, Tigard-Tualatin, Hillsboro, Lake Oswego, David Douglas, Centennial and Sherwood.

"We were a team of people trying to solve a student need," said program director Linda Huddle, the remaining founder at the PCC Gateway to College program. "It has been 10 years of really hard work. But then there has been all of this achievement that the students have made as they have become active private citizens. They are overcoming great challenges in order to catch up and surpass their peers. That is one of the big things about Gateway students; they're not just getting credits for high school graduation, but are getting these credits to move into a post-secondary career."

It might not be a surprise that Gateway to College has flourished in Oregon, where an alternative education law mandates school districts provide additional options for high school students who are not benefiting from their general comprehensive service.

Dylan Bartle and Rebecca Williams illustrate the second chance that the Gateway program has provided to so many students across the country.

In 2007, Williams was a junior at Madison High School and already a year behind her peers. Williams, whose step-mom went to Princeton



Gateway to College students Dylan Bartle and Rebecca Williams are high school age students who feel more at home at Portland Community College.

University and whose dad didn't finish high school, would have had to take night classes and summer school to catch up. But her counselor at the school mentioned Gateway as an alternative. After some

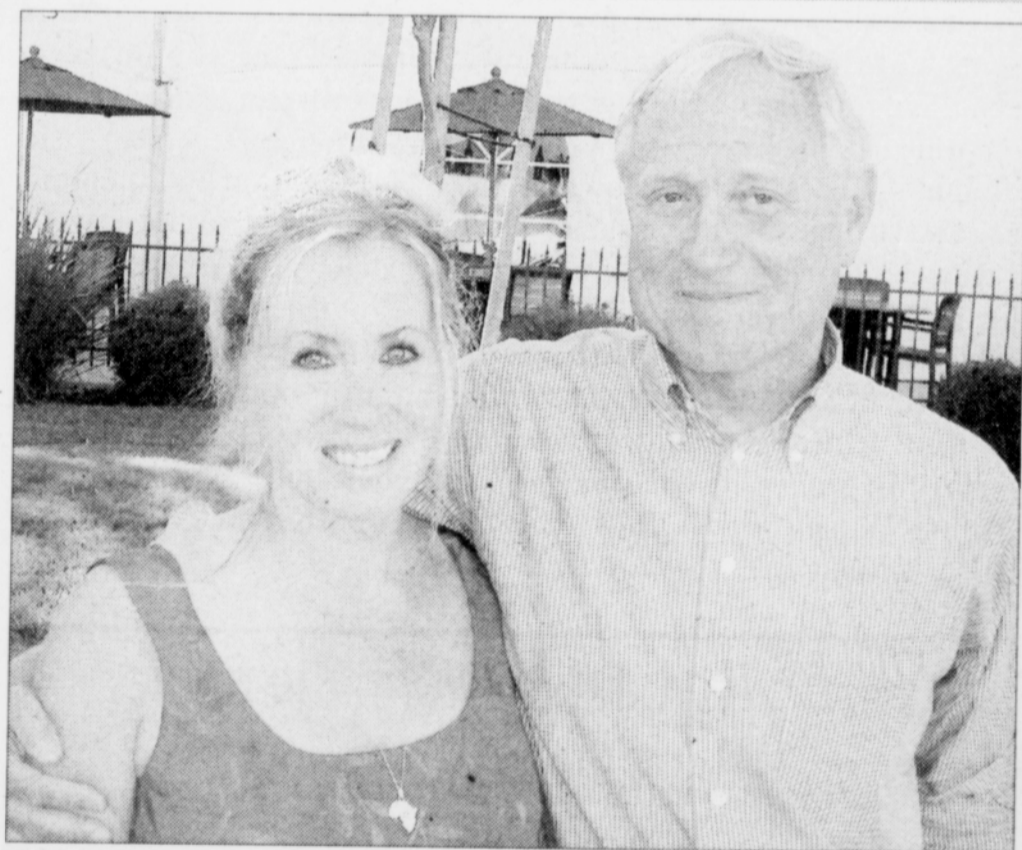
starts and stops along the way that many in her situation go through, she got back into the program last winter and is on target to get into PCC's nursing program.

"I like the college style of learn-

ing better than high school because there's less drama," Williams said. "When I was in high school, I was failing most of my classes and now, since I've been here, I get As and Bs and I do really well. I didn't understand math at all when I was in high school. Since I've been going here and taking college math classes and with the way the teachers teach, I don't know, it just clicks. I've been learning a lot more since I've been in the Gateway program than I did in high school. I pay attention more and learn more."

In 2008, Bartle was expelled from Barlow High School and, after being out of school for almost two years, he moved to Portland and enrolled in Gateway. He now wants to become a doctor and will apply to Portland State University to do pre-med once he's finished his transfer degree at PCC.

"It's my own responsibility to be here," Bartle said. "If I didn't want to be here they'd just drop me. Even though there is more homework here, I wanted my education more at Gateway because I'm treated as an adult."



Barry and Bonnie Hewlett are headed to Ethiopia on Fulbright Scholar grants to teach and conduct research.

Couple to Teach in Africa

The Vancouver campus of Washington State University has two professors who are headed to Ethiopia as Fulbright scholars.

Barry Hewlett is a professor of anthropology at WSU Vancouver. His wife, Bonnie Hewlett is a visiting anthropology professor at the school. Both have earned Fulbright Scholar grants to de-

velop an anthropology department at Hawassa University in the African republic. They will spend 80 percent of their time teaching and 20 percent pursuing independent research projects. Bonnie will be working on a women's life histories narrative and Barry will be researching how children acquire medical knowledge.



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