

Student Seated on Commission

Portland Community College student Charlene Gomez of Lake Oswego has been named to the Legislature's Higher Education Coordinating Commission, which sets goals and accountability measures for the state's colleges and universities.

Gomez attends classes at the Sylvania Campus in southwest Portland and serves as that campus' student government director of legislation. She has worked at PCC to organize voter registration drives and represent student interests at the campus and the college.

She is pursuing degrees in business and the ophthalmic field.

"I am a first-generation American and the first in my family to go to college," Gomez said. "I would have never imagined myself having the opportunity to work with state representatives, and that's why I am so excited and honored for the opportunity to serve my community and the state of Oregon."



Portland Community College student Charlene Gomez has been appointed to the state's Higher Education Coordinating Commission. She is the first member of her family to go to college.

Math Major has Colleges Calling Him

PCC student named national scholar

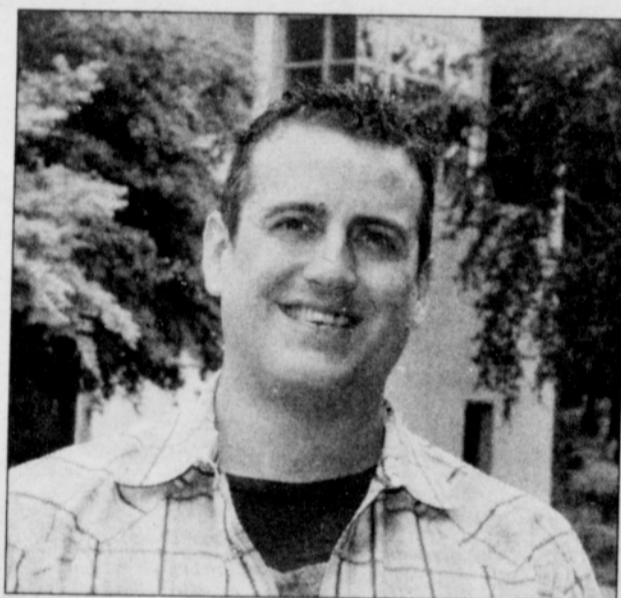
It's not every day a Portland Community College student is told by Columbia University to "please, apply."

For Adam Eide, 33, that day did come as a result of The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation awarding him its Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. It will provide him with up to \$30,000 a year for three years towards tuition and a stipend, beginning in the fall.

The northeast Portland resident is the first PCC student to win the scholarship in five years and is the first-ever male to represent the college. He is one of 60 scholars that were picked from 786 applicants nationwide.

As a result of this honor, the math major has been earning inquiries from prestigious colleges and universities all over the United States that would love it if he applied to their institutions.

Eide, who has already been accepted into



Adam Eide

Pacific University and the University of Portland, said that list of possible transfer destinations includes Columbia, which sent him an application shortly after being named a scholar.

"All throughout college, you kind of have to compromise your education a little bit because of costs," he said. "Now that my

finances are taken care of, I can say 'What do you have to offer me?' I don't have to compromise my education. I can go and pick the school that is the best."

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship Program supports achieving community college students with financial need as they transfer to and complete their bachelor's degrees at the nation's top four-year colleges and universities.

Eide's goal is to become a mathematics teacher. This trajectory toward reaching this goal probably wouldn't have happened if it weren't for his tight-knit family growing up in Vernonia.

He admits his family struggled during those times as his single mother worked hard to raise seven children (Eide's dad left when he was just 2 years old). He helped out the family when he was older by working at a Beaverton car dealership. He had been an honors student as a freshman, but his grades dropped off his senior year and missed 58

days of school, which he attributes to the family situation.

Wanting to do more in life than just manage an auto dealership, Eide enrolled at PCC in the fall of 2010 where he re-kindled his love of math. After burning through savings to pay for his first year, he earned a \$2,000 Howard S. Wright Scholarship from the PCC Foundation for his second year. At the same time, he became so proficient at math that he was hired on as a math tutor five days a week at the Cascade Campus Learning Center.

As he exits community college, Eide has one last problem to solve - what university will he transfer to? The pressure is on to find an answer.

"Not only do I have myself not to let down, but all my family - my mom, my aunt that has always helped and pushed me, my friends," he said of making the most of the scholarship. "And now I have a foundation that invested a great deal of money because they believe in me, and I can't let them down. I have to make sure I succeed for those people."



Blues on the Waterfront

continued ▲ from page 3

performances, four stages, zydeco, blues and swing dances, workshops and artist interviews, and Health Net Health Pavilion. You can sign up for free health screenings for blood pressure, visual sight, glaucoma, diabetes

Harmonica virtuoso Charlie Musselwhite, one of the headliners for the Waterfront Blues Festival.

and hearing.

The Waterfront Blues Festival also offers eight Delta Music Experience Blues Cruises on the beautiful Willamette River and four After Hours All-Stars Concerts at the Marriott Hotel Ballroom. For details, visit waterfrontbluesfest.com.

Regular festival entry is a suggested donation of \$10 (or more) plus two cans of food (or more) per person per day, making this festival one of the great entertainment bargains of the summer.