

CAREER & EDUCATION

Associate Degrees for Transfer Students

Adds new tool for job-seeking graduates

Thanks to a statewide pilot program, Portland Community College and Portland State University have agreed to recognize students' past credit work by awarding associate's degrees to those who have already transferred from PCC to PSU.

Students affected will be those that didn't formally complete a degree via current data measures when they transferred to PSU, but have since fulfilled two-year degree program requirements. A main benefit is that the degree can help gauge a job-seeker's skills on a resume.

PCC President Preston Pulliams and PSU President Wim Wiewel officially signed the agreement last month.

"This is cool stuff as far as I'm concerned because it's really recognizing the role that community colleges play in preparing students to succeed at completing their baccalaureate degrees," Pulliams said. "We're an important part of that pipeline."

In October, the Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development and the Oregon University System were awarded a two-year, \$450,000 grant



Portland Community College President Preston Pulliams (left) and Portland State University President Wim Wiewel sign an agreement to award associate degrees to those who have transferred from PCC to PSU and fulfill two-year degree program requirements.

from the Lumina Foundation to develop reverse transfer agreements. State Rep. Michael Dembrow,

who has spent 31 years at PCC as an English instructor at PCC, helped develop the Transfer Student Bill of

Rights and Responsibilities that paved the way for reverse transfer agreements in Oregon.

Dembrow said the intention is to bolster the state's "40-40-20" goal where 40-percent of Oregonians have at least a bachelor's degree, 40-percent have an associate's degree or certificate, and 20-percent have a high school diploma.

"I know first-hand that many of my students transfer with the best of intentions of completing their bachelor's degree within four years or less, but life then happens and they find themselves with no certification, or affirmation for the work they have done," Dembrow said. "Those should be counted as having an associate's degree; they've earned it and colleges and universities have done their bid in educating them. They should be recognized for that."

Student Sean Jefferis, who transferred from PCC to Portland State, but never got his associate's degree, said the agreement will recognize his past work and spur him on to complete not only his bachelor's degree, but possibly attend to graduate school.

"The moment I complete my requirements, to know that there's going to be an associate's degree that is signed and given to me, that is a huge validation of my efforts and of the time and the energy that I have put into receiving a higher education," Jefferis said. "It's a wonderful feeling."

Breaking Barriers to Attend College

Mt. Hood screens 'First Generation' documentary

"First Generation," an award-winning feature-length documentary narrated by Golden Globe nominee Blair Underwood, will be screened free for audiences this week at Mt. Hood Community College.

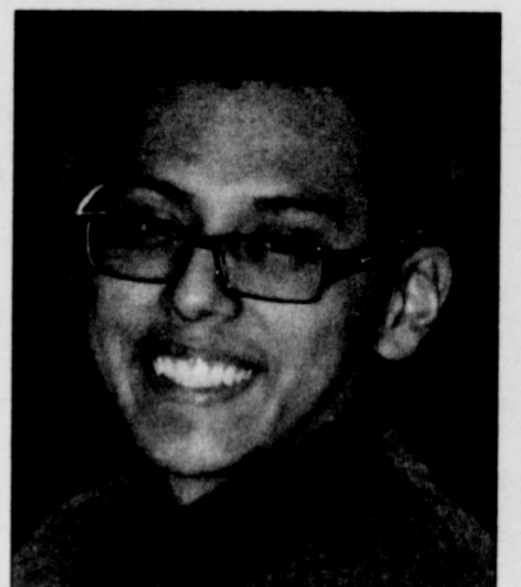
Many MHCC students will view the movie as if it were their own story. One such student is Clemente Tescahua, a 20-year-old Sandy High School graduate and the first in his family to attend college.

Before he was born, Tescahua's parents moved from Mexico, in search of a better life for their family, which would later grow to three sons and a daughter.

"I learned valuable life lessons

watching my father, a laborer, struggle to support his family," says Clemente. "These hard lessons about the realities of life motivate me every day to work harder at everything I do, especially school."

"First Generation" tells the story of four high school students: an

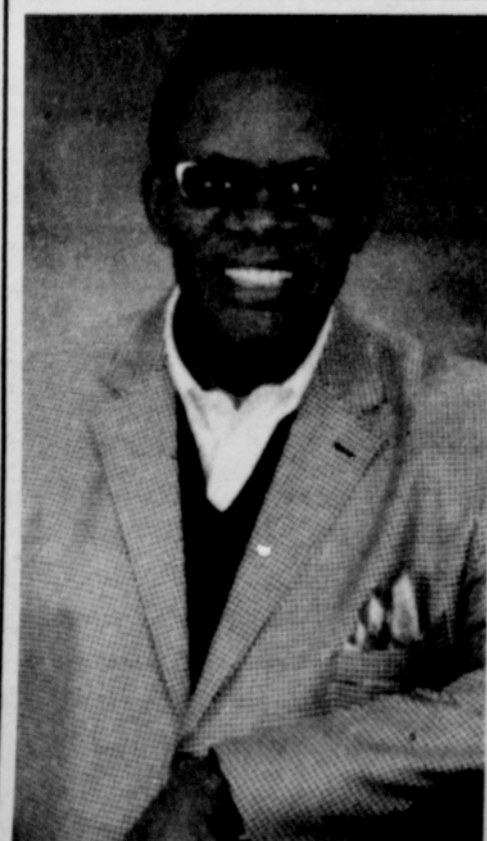


Clemente Tescahua.

inner-city athlete, a small-town waitress, a Samoan warrior dancer and the daughter of migrant field workers. They set out to break the cycle of poverty and bring hope to families and communities by pursuing a college education—the first in their families to do so.

The award-winning documentary was created with mission to increase the percentage of Americans with college degrees.

Students, MHCC employees and the general public are welcome to attend the screenings on Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 3 p.m. in Room AC1600 and Thursday, Dec. 6 at 1 p.m. in the Student Union, Room AC50 on the Gresham Campus, 26000 S.E. Stark St.



Dr. Billy R. Flowers

THE SPINA COLUMN™

An ongoing series of questions and answers about America's natural healing profession.

Q: My lower back has been aching for months. But I'm afraid of chiropractors, so I haven't seen a doctor. What should I do?

A: Back pain is one of the most common medical complaints for people ages 45 to 65. It's also one of the most common reasons people miss work. Fortunately, not many people need back surgery because non-invasive treatments help control most back pain. If you have recurring back pain that makes it difficult or uncomfortable to complete your day-to-day activities, experts suggest you see a doctor who specializes in spine

diseases and injuries, and who works closely with other specialties related to the spine. A chiropractor will first rule out any serious conditions you might have, and then work with you to determine the best way to treat you pain.

Flowers'
Chiropractic Office
2124 NE Hancock, Portland Oregon 97212
Phone: (503) 287-5504

Part 31. Treatment for Lower Back Injury