

Fitting College In

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And she's contributed to lobbying efforts on behalf of the college in Washington D.C. Last spring break she joined other student leaders from PCC in lobbying for various issues that were near and dear to their hearts. Herrera was there to lobby for the restoration of funding for the federal Trio program, which serves low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities. The national Trio budget got slashed due to the sequestration cuts last year.

At the Cascade Campus alone, she said around 2,000 students at Cascade are eligible for the campus' ROOTS Program, but there are only 140 spots available due to the current funding level.

After President Barack Obama restored 95 percent of the funds, Herrera and fellow student Madeline Rider were able to join Trio advocates from around the nation in D.C. to fight for the remaining 5 percent to be restored, which it eventually was.

Kendi Esary, Cascade Campus' student leadership coordinator, said Herrera has developed her public speaking skills, is civically

engaged, supports the work of other students on campus, is a natural team builder and isn't afraid to get her hands dirty helping people out.

"Yesenia is an excellent facilitator and consensus builder," Esary said. "Her organizational skills, excellent oral and written communication coupled with her work ethic and drive for excellence make her a superior student leader. She is a coveted member of campus and college committees and she is highly respected for her dedication, fairness, and effective representation of students on local and state levels. Her leadership style brings out the best in all of our students."

Herrera moved to Oregon from California in 2008. She attended Lincoln High School and was active in extracurricular programs such as serving on Lincoln's Rose Festival Court, working as a camp counselor in a gang prevention program and co-teaching a class on Dialectics Behavioral Therapy. After high school, she had hopes for the future, but didn't know how to apply for scholarships or to colleges. She just was too shy to ask for help, Herrera said.

Her mother, Teofila Gonzalez,

was taking English for Speakers of Other Languages classes at Cascade and would bring Herrera to campus all the time. One day, her mother was meeting with one of her instructors who noticed notes Herrera had taken. The instructor recommended she look into teaching as a career and recommended the Portland Teachers Program based at Cascade.

Even though Herrera wasn't accepted into the program, her mother wasn't going to accept the possibility that Herrera wouldn't attend college. So she took her daughter and son to the PCC registrar, who promptly enrolled them.

"I was too shy to ask for help and didn't know who to ask for help," Herrera said. "I would open up the different college websites and close them back up. Eventually, I just didn't think it was a route for me. But my mom wasn't taking no for an answer."

Her mom is a good role model. She earned her GED and certificate in pharmacy technology at PCC and now works at Rite Aid. Quite a journey for a person who started at the college with no more than a sixth grade education earned in Mexico.

"She's a very strong presence in my life," Herrera said. "She is definitely what keeps me moving forward."

Next fall, Herrera's journey con-

tinues at WSU-Vancouver where she will major in psychology and minor in neuroscience, and hopes to eventually earn doctorates in those same fields. She wants to eventually work as a bilingual therapist for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. But for

now she hopes fellow graduates will find inspiration in the obstacles she's overcome and the success she has found along the way during her graduation speech.

"It has been a big struggle and I think I'm doing pretty well overcoming obstacles," she said.

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The New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
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Guest for Friday will be Rev. Calvin Hailstock of Columbia SC. Music guests include Derrick McDuffey & Kingdom Sound, Saxophonist Jaqueine Echols of Seattle, WA and the trio of Lorene Wilder, Roslyn Wilder and Tanesha Chiles.



On Sunday at 10:00 am the guest will be Rev. Shawn Roberson of Columbia, SC. The finale will be Sunday at 3:00 where the Rev. Charles B. Jackson Jr of Columbia will be preaching. Music guests will include local saxophonist great Eldon "T" Jones and the New Hope and Friends choir.

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Activate Summer!

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keeping violence down is primarily about offering opportunities to young people entrenched in a particular lifestyle where productive opportunities may not seem readily available.

For the 18th year, Portland Police will conduct 'Operation Safe Summer' with special programs to help kids find new hobbies, play sports, and stay engaged in positive activities during the summer break.

Several community members at the meeting announced upcoming opportunities for young people, including a free basketball league for young people, ages 8-25 at the Salvation Army on North Williams Avenue and Moore Street, and a mentorship program running right along one of the police "hotspots" at 162nd Avenue and Stark Street that matches young men with job opportunities.

Another event announced was an all-day hip hop concert to be held at Pioneer Square dedicated for homeless youth entitled "Stories from the Streets." Hosted by New Avenues for Youth, the affair includes headliners like Blacque Butterfly, Tope, Mic Crenshaw, Talilo, Bad Habitat, with various homeless youth who will also get a chance to perform their original music.

Dr. Alicia Moreland Capuia, the Portland physician the Portland Observer featured in December with her trauma-informed program focusing on young men of color wounded in gang activity, says keeping kids safe is primarily about giving them an avenue to engage.

"If kids have a sense of purpose, something to do, something fun to do, we're more likely to stay out of trouble," she said.

Community staples like the

Blazers Boys and Girls Club, McCoy Academy, and Portland Community Media are still accepting enrollment applications for summer vacation students, while Portland Parks and Recreation offer many free programs for all ages throughout the summer.

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In Loving Memory

James C. Crolley

A memorial service for James C. Crolley will be held on Saturday, June 14, at 1 p.m. at Life Change Christian Center, 3635 N. Williams Ave.

