



Mississippi
 Alberta
 North Portland

METRO

Vancouver
 East County
 Beaverton



Yesenia Herrera of north Portland is Portland Community College's student speaker for Friday's commencement ceremony at Memorial Coliseum. Herrera is being honored for her work ethic, professionalism and leadership skills while studying at the PCC Cascade Campus where she served as director of student programs and diversity retention coordinator for Latino students.

Fitting College In

Student speaker no longer has to put her dreams on hold

After graduating from Lincoln High School, Yesenia Herrera wasn't sure how college fit into her life. Now, she can't imagine it not fitting in.

The 20-year-old St. Johns resident was named the student speaker for the Portland Community College's commencement ceremony on Friday, June 13, at Memorial Coliseum. She was also recently awarded the

Community College President's Award at Washington State University-Vancouver.

"I no longer have to put my dreams on hold," Herrera said. "I'm very excited to be student speaker, which is a bit of an understatement; more like I'm ecstatic. I want to talk about my journey, how I got from here to PCC from high school and the difficulties I had to face in getting to college being a first-genera-

tion student. I want to encourage people to take chances and see the different opportunities that are out there."

Herrera's development in work ethic, professionalism and leadership skills has been impressive while studying at the Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth St.

She served as Cascade's campus director of student programs and then as its diversity

retention coordinator for Latino students where she mentored and tutored fellow students. Heavily involved with student government, she helped organize clubs, program activities and direct social outings such as Cascade's Dollar BBQ and the college's End of Year Party.

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