

Trades Center Partners with Industry

Portland Community College opens Swan Island site

Business leaders and Portland Community College officials are celebrating this fall's opening of a new Swan Island Trades Center at 6400 N. Cutter Circle.

In front of hundreds of interested onlookers, PCC President Jeremy Brown, PCC Board Chair Deanna Palm, PCC Cascade Campus President Karin Edwards and Swan Island Business Association Executive Director Sara Angell officially cut the ribbon in a grand opening celebration on Sept. 17 to open the site for classes.

"We have to establish a pipeline to ensure that when the jobs are there we have the people to fill those jobs with the skills that are needed," Brown said. "Our economic strength and vitality depends on an educated and developed pool of diverse and skilled workers who are connected to, and engaged with, our community. PCC is providing the skills and the job training for more than 20 different occupations in the trades. This is significant; this is exciting; and this is our future."

This project is part of the college's



A welcoming ceremony opens the new Portland Community College Swan Island Trades Center at 6400 N. Cutter Circle.

2008 voter-approved \$374 million capital construction bond with \$3.6 million going toward the development of the Swan Island Trades Center, plus \$1 million earmarked from the state of Oregon.

The ribbon cutting, open house and luncheon was organized in partnership with the Swan Island Business Association.

The primary focus of the new educational facility is PCC's Trades & Industry Department, which was moved from the nearby Cascade Campus in north Portland over the summer. With a growing enrollment of 700 students, the department now has expanded space, integrated

classrooms and upgraded technology to enhance training.

The department includes Facilities Maintenance/HVAC-R, Fiber Optics, Pre-Apprenticeship and Electrical Trades programs. These offerings add to the training services provided by the college through its welding lab at Vigor

Industrial, also located on Swan Island.

"PCC has been a great partner and has demonstrated its commitment to working with industry to maximize the value of its educational offerings," said Alan Spratt, vice

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