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# The PO



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# The Portland Observer 44

'City of Roses'



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# Opening Doors to Opportunity



A community celebration on Saturday will usher in a new era for Portland Community College serving underserved communities in southeast Portland. The college district is marking the fall opening of its facilities at 82nd and Division becoming a comprehensive, full-service campus where students can earn an associate's degree and have access to the full palette of student services at one location.

## PCC Southeast campus grows to full service

Portland Community College is celebrating the expansion of its educational facilities at Southeast 82nd and Division into a full-service campus, joining Sylvania, Rock Creek and Cascade as PCC's fourth comprehensive campus site.

On Saturday, from noon to 4 p.m., the community is invited to join a grand opening party as PCC ushers in the new era of educational opportunities for underserved communities where student can earn an associate's degree and have access to the full palette of student services at one location.

This transition is part of PCC's 2008 voter-approved \$374 million bond program. For the Southeast Campus, \$49 million went into the construction and improvements that have more than doubled the size of the former PCC Southeast Center to 18 acres.

Attendees at the public celebration will have the opportunity to eat food from local food carts, listen to live music and taiko drumming, enjoy zumba, martial arts, Chinelos and Lion dancers, and participate in family-friendly activities and crafts. A moment of transformation ceremony will occur at 1 p.m., and a campus dance party with Melao de Cuba will follow. The events are free.

"For all of us this will be a momentous occasion," said Southeast Campus President Jessica Howard. "We're celebrating our new resource-rich learning environment designed for students to succeed and the fact that the doors of opportunity are quite literally thrown open for the historically underserved communities of Southeast Portland. This

is a visible realization of the commitment of the college's faculty and staff after so many years of service in the area."

People who stop by can view the recently finished Student Commons and Library buildings. The Student Commons is a three-story, 66,000-square-foot structure finished last spring that houses an expanded bookstore, five science classrooms with labs, six general purpose classrooms, four career technical education and computer classrooms and a new STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) Center.

The new campus library is a three-story, 40,000-square-foot facility that contains the Student Computing Center, Student Learning Center (including tutoring services), Volunteer Literacy Center, traditional library services, four classrooms and study areas. Both buildings will house street-level retail space as part of the college's effort to integrate services

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