



State Rep. Tobias Read helps break down barriers to college for low income, first generation students by supporting Future Connect students at Portland Community College.

# Expanding Reach for Future Connect

## Program breaks barriers to a college education

There are 1.3 million reasons why Portland Community College's Future Connect Scholarship Program is looking bright.

The PCC Foundation-funded program that breaks down barriers to college for low-income,

first-generation students was recently awarded a \$1.3 million grant from the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission to broaden the reach and impact of its services in the Portland area.

The money was allocated as part of the state's new "Aspirations to College" legislation, which recently disbursed \$3 million to similar community college programs throughout the state.

The funds will help PCC provide nearly 3,000 students with critical services and support. This

includes 480 new students being able to access coaching, instruction and transfer assistance. Program staff will also be able provide outreach services to more than 2,500 high school students residing within PCC's service area. The Future Connect staff will increase from eight to 13 by the end of the summer.

"The Future Connect team is excited about how the grant will positively impact our capacity to serve students better, earlier and further into their college careers,"

said Josh Laurie, PCC Future Connect manager.

In addition, some of the grant money will go toward bolstering other college programs that serve similar student groups. These include PCC's Fostering Success and Project Degree programs, as well as funds for the purchase of 47 laptops available for check-out by all PCC students at college libraries.

Celebrating its fifth anniversary, the Future Connect Program has had 1,200 students come through its doors. Support to make the pro-

gram thrive also comes from the cities of Portland, Beaverton and Hillsboro and from donors.

Future Connect provides scholarships, in-depth advising and college success coaching to low-income and first-generation students so they have a guided path through college, all the way to completion of a certificate or degree.

To mark its five years, Future Connect leaders will pursue an external evaluation of the program to measure its impact and to determine areas of improvement.

The Northwest Community Gospel Choir will be auditioning for sopranos, altos and tenors on Saturday, August 6, 2016. The choir performs three Gospel Christmas concerts with the Oregon Symphony each December at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Audition materials will be provided. Rehearsals begin on October 8. The ability to sight read is preferred, but is not essential.

For more information and to schedule an audition time call **503-416-6303**

## The Law Offices of Patrick John Sweeney, P.C.

Patrick John Sweeney  
Attorney at Law

1549 SE Ladd, Portland, Oregon

Portland: (503) 244-2080  
Hillsboro: (503) 244-2081  
Facsimile: (503) 244-2084  
Email: Sweeney@PDXLawyer.com

## LEGAL NOTICES



Need to publish a court document or notice? Need an affidavit of publication quickly and efficiently? Please fax or e-mail your notice for a free price quote!

Fax: 503-288-0015  
e-mail:  
classifieds@portlandobserver.com  
The Portland Observer