

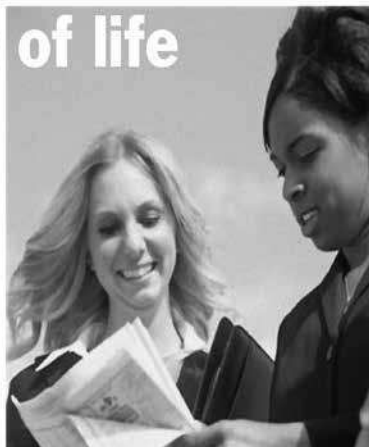
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Portland Community College students get hands on training while enrolled in a HVAC class at the college's Swan Island Trades Center in north Portland.

Preparing for High Demand Careers

Portland Community College's Career Pathways Program will benefit from a recent \$100,000 grant from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation to expand career options for low-income students and youth of color.

The money will help bolster student outreach and recruitment to increase the number of students accessing college to obtain degrees and careers with advancement opportunities.

The goal is to increase the

number of youth completing Career Pathway credentials by 20 percent. Plus, it will enhance Career Pathways' existing workforce connections and partnerships with regional employers, Portland Public Schools and Worksystems, Inc.

PCC's Career Pathways has been recognized by the White House for its students earning short-term, stackable certificates that prepare them for employment in high-growth, high-de-

mand industry sectors, as well as providing a stepping stone to an advanced college degree, and more.

Regional manufacturing, healthcare, construction, technology, hospitality, and professional and business services sectors all face shortages of skilled workers.

By 2018, Oregon will be among the top five states where available jobs will require some type of college or post-secondary education, officials said.



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Focused on Equity

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On the course of action she will follow, Branam says PDC can do more to support small, and minority owned businesses, such as developing mentorships for up and coming minority entrepreneurs and ensuring that PDC construction and contracting funds equally go towards minority projects.

Branam is asking for community support and input on bringing

PDC's goals to fruition. She invites people to attend two upcoming forums at New Song Church in northeast Portland on Tuesday, Oct. 6 and Oct. 20 to discuss the strategic plan with the community.

"We would like to dramatically increase the number of families that are self sufficient, so that they can sustain their families and be able to really thrive in our city," says Branam. "I'm really excited about what we have in front of us."

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