



Future Connect students from Portland Community College pose with Oregon State Treasurer Tobias Read. The program helps eliminate barriers to college by providing first generation or low-income students with ongoing assistance throughout their time at PCC.

Knocking Down Barriers to College

PCC grant supports under-served

Portland Community College can enroll more first generation and low income students because of a new one year grant of \$413,910 by the

Oregon High Education Coordinating Commission to support under-served students. The grant will support efforts to eliminate barriers to college and provide students with ongoing assistance throughout their time at PCC.

Future Connect students have historically been 85 percent students of color and nearly 90 percent eligible

for low-income Pell Grants. During the past six years, PCC has raised nearly \$40 million in grant funding to bolster student support infrastructure, and more than \$6.5 million since the start of 2019.

"We are part of nine community colleges who received awards from the state for this upcoming year," said Josh Laurie, PCC Future Connect

manager. "We are excited to be on the forefront of helping our college be more student-ready with the support of this grant."

The monies will directly help an incoming group of 330 Future Connect students and provide nearly 125 individual scholarships, officials said. A new aspect of the program will include services tailored

to help students complete required math and writing courses.

In 2011, the Future Connect Program began as a partnership with the city of Portland to serve schools in Multnomah County. Future Connect has since expanded, thanks to partnerships with Beaverton and Hillsboro to serve students in those cities, as well.