

Opportunity Center at 42nd Avenue Opens

Education and Career Opportunities for Underserved Communities

Portland Community College marked a significant milestone in its commitment to advancing education and career opportunities for underserved communities with the grand opening of the Opportunity Center at 42nd Avenue.

This transformative facility, located at 4299 NE Killingsworth St., is a collaborative endeavor supported by the Oregon Department of Human Services and the Native American Youth and Family Center, offering a comprehensive array of services, educational resources, and workforce development initiatives. PCC worked with Living Cully, a partnership of nonprofit groups committed to supporting the community by building economic, social and environmental opportunities, to conduct outreach to the neighborhood to plan for the resources the community needed.

"The use of CLT in the building of the center is helping PCC meet the sustainability goals of



(from left) Kien Truong, PCC Board Member; Sherrelle Jackson, Oregon Dept of Human Services District Manager; Susheela Jayapal, Multnomah County Commissioner; Dr. Adrien Bennings, PCC President (with scissors); Tiffani Penson, PCC Board Chair; and Rob Wagner, State Senator.

our bond-funded project," said Tiffani Penson, PCC board member. "The center aims to provide a warm and welcoming environment where our students and community members can access many services like workforce training, healthcare, childcare, and SNAP benefits -- all in one place. I love that. Centralized services make it so easy for our students and members of our community."

This center's primary mission is to address racial and econom-

ic disparities by providing individuals with access to education and career-track employment opportunities. The services offered include career exploration, coaching, skills development, and comprehensive support systems to help individuals achieve their goals.

PCC's Opportunity Centers, such as the new 42nd Avenue facility, play a pivotal role in reducing opportunity gaps by equipping individuals with the skills and

confidence necessary to pursue high-demand careers. These centers assist students in navigating resources, finding employment, and progressing in their academic and career pathways.

"It is spectacular," said Rebecca Ocken, Planning & Capital Construction director. "I want to acknowledge the contributions that the center's staff made to the design of this building. The dedication and commitment that you gave to the process is trans-

formative. This building is the way it is because of all of you."

The grand opening is just the beginning for this vital community resource. In the coming year, public art installations reflecting the values of the center and college, as well as the diverse stories of the community, will be added. Additionally, Multnomah County is set to open a 10,000-square-foot health clinic, offering health-care and dental services. Home Forward will begin construction on an 84-unit affordable housing complex in partnership with PCC, including NAYA's Early Learning Center for child development services.

"With our new health clinic, we will be able to serve more than twice the number of people we serve at the current location," said Susheela Jayapal, Multnomah County commissioner. "We'll go from 2,000 to 5,000 people. But the Opportunity Center is not just about this clinic, it's also about housing, education, wrap-around services and childcare -- all of which demonstrates PCC's commitment to workforce development."

For more information on the center's services, visit <https://www.pcc.edu/locations/42nd-ave/>

STRAIGHTWAY SERVICES, POPA, AND THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
FEEDING AND HOPE EVENT

*"Feeding and Walking
for Justice for the
Houseless Community"*



Come join us to walk and provide warm meals to the houseless in our community for the Holidays. Let's come together and make a difference

Saturday, November 18th
Walk at 12 PM | 1 PM - 5PM

Walk will start at 33rd Marine Dr. and will end at 8900 NE Vancouver Way, where we will be providing a warm meal



Join us for this bold & dramatic program!



Nolan Tu, piano
2023 PPI Concerto Competition Winner

**PORTLAND YOUTH
PHILHARMONIC**
DAVID HATTNER • MUSICAL DIRECTOR

This Midnight Hour

November 11 | 7:30 PM
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall

Anna Clyne: This Midnight Hour

Antonín Dvořák: Symphony No. 7

Camille Saint-Saëns: Piano Concerto No. 2
with pianist and 2023 Portland Piano International Concerto Competition Winner **Nolan Tu**

portlandyouthphil.org/concerts