

Survey shows more satisfaction with PCC in Columbia County

Two recent developments indicate that Portland Community College (PCC) service in Columbia County may be improving. One is the conclusion of a survey commissioned by the Columbia County PCC Advisory Committee; the other is a tentative schedule for an Associate of Arts Transfer Degree for Columbia County.

The recently released survey was designed to measure how well the college is meeting the educational and training needs of county residents in the PCC district. Results indicate a significant increase in the numbers of people satisfied that PCC is meeting the needs of the community, as compared to survey results obtained in 1997.

Upgrading job-related skills was the top reason respondents gave for taking courses at PCC. Nearly half of the peo-

ple surveyed who have not considered classes at PCC, indicated it is because they have "no time, work for a living."

Nearly sixty percent of all those surveyed – and over 70 percent of Vernonia area residents – said they would consider taking PCC classes in the next three years. Respondents indicated that they would be more likely to attend classes if they knew that PCC offered internet classes or if transportation links were available to the Rock Creek campus or Sauvie Island Tri-met services.

According to Bill Christiansen of PCC, additional data at the college indicate that Columbia County is underserved when compared to other outlying areas in the PCC district. The advisory committee will begin work on setting long and short range goals to present to the PCC Board of Directors.

In October, Christiansen announced at an open house in St. Helens, that PCC is committed to improving services and visibility in Columbia County. Using a combination of distance learning, internet and

courses given in St. Helens, it is currently possible to obtain an Associate of Arts degree without leaving Columbia County. The PCC St. Helens Center, located at 1510 St. Helens Street, Suite C, is open

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and on Wednesday from 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. An academic advisor is available by appointment on Wednesdays from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

PCC writing course scheduled at Vernonia campus

Portland Community College will be offering Writing 121 during Winter term. This three-credit class is required for most degree programs. The class will be taught by Lorraine Andersen on Monday nights, January 8 through March 19 in room 10 at Vernonia High School. Class hours will be

6:30-9:40 p.m. Cost for the class is \$127.50 plus the cost of the textbook.

Books will be on sale during the first two sessions of class.

Pre-requisites for the class are placement testing or successful completion of WR 115.

All PCC classes require a minimum enrollment of eight students. Pre-registration is desired but not required; participants can register the first night of class. For more information on this or other PCC offerings, contact Becki Bozart at 503-978-5753 (Columbia County Center).

PCC placement testing scheduled

Portland Community College will offer ASSET placement testing on Monday, December 11, at 7:00 p.m. in room 10 at Vernonia High School. Placement testing is required before enrollment in most PCC credit classes. This testing will enable enrollment at any campus or center.

Placement testing is free and no pre-registration is required. Participants should bring photo identification to the test. Calculators are provided.

Testing class sizes are limited. If desired, students may ensure a space by calling 503-978-5753.

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