

Portland Community College holds Financial Aid Day on January 21

For Lisa Hummel, last year's Financial Aid Day at PCC gave her the confidence she needed to be successful at her studies. The third-year gerontology program student at Portland Community College used information from the event to get the financial aid and scholarship money she needed to allow her to get through school.

"I really needed help with school," said Hummel, a resident of southeast Portland. "I didn't know how to apply for scholarships. But I was able to learn and find out more information. What they offered at Financial Aid Day really benefited me. I found out where the scholarships were and I ended up getting Portlandia Club,

Danish Sisterhood and Ford scholarships."

On Saturday, January 21, PCC will host a bigger and better Financial Aid Day, spanning across the college's district and attracting more than 1,000 current and future college students. PCC is staging Financial Aid Day from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at four campus locations throughout its district: Cascade Campus (705 N. Killingsworth St.); Rock Creek Campus (17705 N.W. Springville Rd.); Sylvania Campus (12000 S.W. 49th Ave.); and Southeast Center (2305 S.E. 82nd Ave.).

The one-stop locations will feature PCC advisors providing personalized assistance to future college students with com-

pletion of their Federal Student Aid form (FAFSA) form. There will also be scholarship workshops throughout the day to help students find dollars for school. Spanish language advisors will be available at Rock Creek, Cascade and Sylvania campuses.

For Hummel, who graduated from the college's Project Independence program, which serves women who are transitioning to school or the workplace, the event helped her enormously.

"I definitely didn't know the first thing about FAFSA when I started school," said Hummel, a regular volunteer for Loaves and Fishes and Meals on Wheels. "But from going last

year I saw advisors really walking people through the form. They do it all right there. I wished I had the help when I first started three years ago because I didn't know what I was doing. I had to struggle with it at home."

Hummel doesn't struggle anymore. Since she went through the Financial Aid Day scholarship workshops she has the money and confidence to get through school. Today, she serves as the Cascade Campus president for the two-year honor society Phi Theta Kappa. Hummel plans to get a bachelor's degree in human services and master's degree in art ther-

apy from Marylhurst University.

"Just the other day I found a student filling out a loan application," said Hummel, a single paren. "I asked them if they knew that they could probably qualify for a scholarship or federal financial aid. They had no idea. I just cringed when I heard that. Going through Financial Aid Day gives you the confidence. I feel that everybody needs to try."

For more information on what to bring, please visit the Financial Aid Day Web site: www.pcc.edu/finaid, or contact, Admissions coordinator Roberto Suarez at 503-978-5291.

Boaters under 51 need education cards

Boaters age 50 and younger are required in 2006 to carry a boater education card when operating powerboats greater than 10 hp, according to the Oregon State Marine Board. Almost 120,000 cards have been distributed to boaters so far. While more than 10,000 operators in this age group have already gotten their education card, an estimated 22,000 have not.

Winter is a good time to take a boating safety class and apply for the boater education card – before the springtime rush. "Applications come rushing in on the first nice days of spring," said Ashley Massey, Mandatory Boater Education Program Coordinator for the Marine Board. "Boaters should be thinking about completing a class and applying for their cards now, before they get the

itch to go boating this spring or summer." The cost of the card is a one-time \$10 fee. This past summer 478 boaters were cited for not carrying a card, a violation that includes a fine of \$94.

The boater education law was enacted by the 1999 Oregon Legislature to reduce accidents, injuries and property damage on Oregon's increasingly crowded waterways. The Marine Board is phasing the requirement in by age. When fully implemented, it will apply to all boaters operating boats greater than 10 hp. The age requirement will increase to

boaters 60 and younger in 2007, 70 and younger in 2008, and all boaters in 2009.

For information on the program, or for available classroom and online courses, as well as equivalency exams for experienced boaters, check the Marine Board's website at www.boatoregon.com or call 503-378-5163.



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