

A NIGHT WITH THE STARS!



**CELEBRATE & HONOR
OUR
2015-16
RETIREES!**

**37th ANNUAL PCC RETIREMENT DINNER
FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016
PCC SYLVANIA CAFETERIA**



Program

Master of Ceremonies

Jennifer de Laix, Manager
Benefits & Compensation

Opening Remarks

Sylvia Kelley, Interim President
Portland Community College

Presentation of Awards

Sylvia Kelley, Interim President
Portland Community College

Kendra Cawley, Dean of Academic Affairs
Academic & Student Affairs

Jim Langstraat, Vice President
Finance & Administration

Karin Edwards, President
Cascade Campus

Sandra Fowler-Hill, President
Rock Creek Campus

Heather Lang, Dean of Student Development
Sylvania Campus

Schedule

4:30 to 6 pm: Social Hour

Photo Shoot

6 pm Dinner Buffet

Presentation of Awards



Menu

Traditional hand-carved prime rib

Sweet onion-crusted white fish with a light citrus sauce

Roasted potatoes and asparagus with parmesan

Wheat berry salad

Snap peas with cucumber and ginger

Fresh spring salad

Starry night chocolate stout cupcake

*Food prepared and served by the
Portland Community College Food Service Staff*



Dené Bowles

Nancy Cloud

Mary Davis

Loretta Dike

Jo Lynn Dow

Ry Duch

Linda Eby

Sandra Ferguson

Joseph Fischer

Susan Gillette

Philip Gilmore

Loretta Goldy

Kenneth Goodwin

Keith Gregory

Dorinda Gustafson

Leslie Hackett

Paul Halloran

Bonnie Hester

Becky Hughes

Teri Hunt

Lawrence Jackson

Juanita Joy

Jerry Kissick

Hal Lee

Priscilla Loanzon

Bert Logan

Leslie Macaulay

Stephen Mainville

Elizabeth Metcalf

Phillip Montague

Cliff Morgan

Sara Neill

Nita Nelson

Scott Perry

Levi Query

Larry Reaney

LeeAnn Redifer

Linda Reisser

Lorraine Renard

Wendy Shelden

Terry Sherman

Teresa Sielsch

Michael Sonnleitner

Bob Steele

Rachel Stevens

Debbie Stone

Gary Thompson

Phil Thurber

Linda Timmins

Larry VanFleet

Sharon Vandehey

Brad Vincent

Edie Waterhouse

Please note: Some retirees elected not to be profiled in this program.

Nancy Cloud

Administrative Assistant, Human Resources
Downtown Center
24 years of service

Nancy was born on the Fourth of July in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Years later, her children, Bill and Kristin, believed that the fireworks were for their mother's birthday. Besides being gullible, her children and grandchildren were what made her life worth living, Nancy said.

Before coming to PCC in 1992, Nancy worked several years in human resources and office/safety management. She began at PCC as secretary for Michele Cotner, HR Director. When she started, the department was kind of scary quiet. She countered with extreme exuberance and probably made everyone crazy. She sends her apologies.

Happily for Nancy, the job grew in areas where she could do what she loved: acknowledge employees for their service, care and work. She coordinated the tuition reimbursement program and service pins, making a change in the pin style at a savings to the college. She planned and organized the annual retirement dinner, working with "The Greatest Committee in the World." And she coordinated the annual charitable giving campaign, raising money for charities in PCC's community.

Giving people encouragement and thanking them for their service and generosity was what Nancy was about and what gave her the most satisfaction. She wishes to thank Jerry Donnelly, aka *The Man*, for giving her these responsibilities and putting up with her particular spin on carrying them out. In addition, she took on the job of pulling together information about assessments. After years of collecting, the data came in handy for PCC's accreditation.

For Nancy, retirement is GOOD. Life is scary fantastic and she can't stop smiling. She has no special plans in retirement except to read, to master the New York Times crosswords through Saturdays and to do something healthy. Her family will continue to enjoy going to Horse-shoe Lake in Woodland, Washington, where she's taught all her grandkids to swim. It's always been her happy place and now everywhere is her happy place! While she's waiting for the other shoe to drop, she wishes the best to everyone at PCC and to its retirees!

Mary T. Davis

Coordinator, Business Training and Educational Development
CLIMB Center
9 years of service

Mary was born in Salem and raised in Mt. Angel until fourth grade, when her family of 12 moved to Portland. She graduated from St. Mary's Academy and the University of Oregon, and began her career as a primary school teacher. For 21 years she owned a software consulting and training company, helping businesses deal with the transition from manual to computerized operations.

In 2007, she spotted a job at PCC that caught her interest, representing PCC to businesses who want to improve their employees' skills in areas such as management, project management, communications and technical skills. It was a perfect follow up to her careers in education and training.

According to Mary, the most rewarding part of her time at PCC has been working with the team at CLIMB and having the privilege of helping organizations provide quality learning and development for their employees. "Meeting the talented and visionary employers in our district and matching them with our resources and gifted instructors has been exciting," she said.

She's seen many changes over the years, including CLIMB becoming a division under the leadership of Assistant Vice President Marc Goldberg and moving from Capital Center in Washington County to a more central location. Mary's most important accomplishment at PCC has been serving people, sometimes well, sometimes with less awareness than was needed. "I've learned so much here, and for that I am grateful to those I have had the opportunity to work alongside," she said.

During retirement, she plans to take some road trips with her husband and spend one day a week hanging out with an adorable little boy named Zane. Eventually, she plans to take advantage of the tuition waiver to get her Spanish going again.

Mary wishes to thank Sue Stephanson and the team at CLIMB for teaching her what it means to bring her best!

Loretta Dike

Office Assistant II, Student Activities Administration
Rock Creek Campus
20 years of service

Loretta was born in Gallup, New Mexico, and raised in Utah, where she attended Brigham Young University in Provo. She and her husband Charles have six children and 10 grandchildren. Charles is an engineer and when his plant was closed in Utah, the family moved to Oregon so he could accept an offer from Intel.

When she first arrived in Oregon, Loretta did a lot of volunteer work, including raising guide dogs for the blind. In 1994, she decided to go back to school at PCC. Loretta was a student employee while she earned her associate's degree, and in 2000, was hired as office support specialist in Student Activities at Rock Creek. "I enjoyed getting to see how students are transformed by their experience at PCC," she said. "I also loved the friendships I made on campus. It really was like 'Cheers.' Everybody knew my name."

Loretta loves talking to people and hearing their stories. She often thought about posting a sign: "The Doctor is in," like Lucy in the Peanuts comic strip, because she feels it is important to listen when people need to talk. She has seen lots of changes at PCC over the years, from growth in facilities to number of students and programs offered. She also notes the growing interest in sustainability with the use of solar panels and development of the Learning Garden at Rock Creek.

Working at PCC brought the importance of education to the forefront for Loretta. In 2009 she earned her bachelor's degree in Management and Organizational Leadership from George Fox University. She did it for two reasons, she said. "One, because it was a personal goal, and two, because I wanted my children and grandchildren to see that it doesn't matter how old you are, you can still go back to school."

In retirement, Loretta plans to volunteer and hopes to return to fostering guide dogs. Her current pet is a guide dog who had to retire due to health issues. She wishes to express her appreciation to Mandy Ellertson, who gave her the opportunity to work in this job and is a great mentor and friend.

Jo Lynn Dow

Student Resource Specialist
Sylvania Campus
18 years of service

Jo Lynn is an Oregon native, born and raised in Oregon City and the surrounding area. She now owns a historic home just blocks away from her first house in Oregon City. Jo Lynn began her career as a hair-dresser and cosmetologist. She earned two bachelor's degrees, one in science and another in humanities, from Marylhurst University. Later, she earned a master's degree in Postsecondary Adult & Continuing Education from Portland State University.

Her first job in education was in financial aid at Marylhurst where she worked for five years. She came to PCC in 1997, looking to broaden her experience and work with a more diverse student body. Jo Lynn worked in financial aid here briefly, then moved into an administrative assistant position at Cascade Campus. When a position opened in Gateway to College, which helps dropouts complete their high school diplomas by taking college courses for dual credit, she applied and was hired. "That job was like jumping into the deep end of the swimming pool," she said. "I taught classes and served as advisor and mentor to 50 to 70 students."

Jo Lynn also worked in the Adult High School Diploma Program, for students who were 21 and older and close to completing their diploma requirements. When that program ended a year ago, she continued working at Sylvania and Rock Creek Campuses with students 15 and younger who are looking to augment their education at a community college.

According to Jo Lynn, her greatest accomplishment at PCC is enabling students who come in feeling hopeless to realize their dreams and complete their education. In retirement, she is planning trips to New Mexico, Massachusetts, Washington, D.C., Nebraska and California. At home, she spends time working on her historic home and volunteering with the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon. Jo Lynn wishes to thank Linda Reisser for her encouragement, and the other administrators who offered their guidance and support over the years.

Ry Duch
Groundskeeper I
Sylvania Campus
30 years of service

Ry came to work for PCC as a part-time groundskeeper in 1985, and was hired full time in 1988. Here are some quotes from his coworkers.

“I always believed Ry had super powers. I never saw him move fast, but one moment he was bending over picking up a stick, and in the blink of an eye, his cart was filled with branches and he was driving away. An amazing fellow. I truly miss working with him.”

Rich Weber

“I remember when Ry and his late wife, Sou Nai, first came to work at PCC. They were part of a group of 30 Cambodians who were given temporary work at the Sylvania Campus. Ry helped me with the maintenance and care of the greenhouse, and he was instrumental in getting the small banana tree to bear edible fruit that year. I spent many days and hours working together with Ry. He is very good friend and I miss him a lot.”

Jim Barry

“Ry would make the rounds just before break/lunch and at the end of the day to take a visual inventory of where each of us fellow groundskeepers were and what we were up to. He acted like he was not looking at each of us, but somehow he knew where we were and what we were working on; quizzing each of us on how we were going about certain tasks, what tools we were using, etc... He was fast on a mower, especially on the Sylvania Soccer Field. I took video of him and his mythical/magical skill and speed in getting this job done... FAST. We are very fond of Ry and miss his presence daily. His name is mentioned frequently. When we get stuck finding a solution to an issue, we frequently ask ourselves ‘What Would Ry Do?’”

Russ Lampton

“Ry Duch is the hardest and fastest working groundskeeper I have ever known. He is dearly missed and everyone always asks ‘When is Ry coming by?’”

Jack Lussier

Linda Eby
Instructor, Nursing
Sylvania Campus
30 years of service

Linda was born in DeKalb, Illinois, and was raised there, in California, and in Oregon. She moved to Oregon in 1969 and became a nurse at Oregon Health & Science University in 1975. After graduating, she worked in Bess Kaiser Hospital’s intensive care and coronary care units. She then transferred to Kaiser’s home health agency and became a home health nurse/case manager for home health and hospice patients. In 1981, she graduated from OHSU with a master’s degree in nursing. She worked as coordinator of the prenatal genetics clinic at OHSU’s Child Development and Rehabilitation Center. From there, she came to PCC to fulfill her goal of teaching nursing.

At first, Linda taught in temporary and part-time faculty positions, while working part-time in a hospital. In 1986, she was hired into a full-time faculty position at PCC, where she’s been ever since. In addition to teaching nearly every topic in the nursing program, Linda has been coordinator of the Nursing Student Success Program and has served on the PCC Faculty Federation Executive Council for 20 years.

Linda has seen too many changes at PCC to list, but one of the best has been the campus landscaping, which makes PCC a beautiful place to learn and work. Her most important accomplishment, which she shares with her colleagues, is keeping the Nursing Student Success Program going after it lost its seed funding from the college. The program promotes the success of students with challenges such as immigration status, language, ethnicity, mental illness or learning disabilities.

In retirement, Linda plans to sleep late, talk less, spend more time with Benito (her dog), write another book, travel some, worry less and see her friends and her family (Monica, Kate and Mickey) more often. She also plans to join the retirees local of AFT-Oregon and take advantage of some of the great volunteer opportunities in the Portland Area.

Linda wishes to express her thanks to the students who listened to her stories and who embraced her attempts to help them become nurses. Thanks to Monica and Kate for everything.

Sandra Ferguson
Employment Specialist
Portland Metropolitan Workforce Training Center
24 years of service

Sandra was born in Ogden, Utah, and came to Oregon in 1989 following a six-month “Route 66” driving tour in a Chevrolet Corvette. She began working at age 14 and her career included stints with Bell Telephone in Nevada and with the U.S. government at the Defense Depot in Ogden, Utah. She served as executive director for a four-county tourism bureau, Golden Spike Empire, from 1975 until 1986. During that time she was also president of the Utah Travel Region Board and an ex-officio member of the Utah Travel Council and the Utah Ski Association.

When she arrived in Portland after her driving tour, Sandra served as volunteer coordinator at Museum After Hours at the Portland Art Museum for nearly three years. Ready to return to work, she connected with CareerMakers, a nonprofit job counseling program. During an informational interview, she was surprised to receive a job offer from PCC.

Sandra worked as a job developer, academic advisor, instructor, testing assistant and employment specialist at PCC. She’s seen many changes at the college during that time, but the commitment to students, by everyone from staff to administration, has never wavered. “Everyone from Nan Poppe, President of the Extended Learning Campus (now the Southeast Campus), to the college’s bursar, Dee Wilson, made themselves immediately available if a student needed something,” she said.

Sandra wishes to thank Regina Warren, her first manager, for hiring her during an informational interview. Thanks also to John Googins for being the best manager she’s ever had, including herself. And last but not least, thanks to her final manager Charles Clay, for setting an example of patience, optimism, kindness and support that is unmatched.

Phil Gilmore
Central Distribution Services Lead
Central Distribution
22 years of service

Phil was born in Orange City, California, and came to Portland with his parents when he was a year old. He attended Terwilliger Elementary School, Robert Gray Middle School and Woodrow Wilson High School. In 1977, he served in the military briefly. When he returned to Portland, he enrolled at PCC, taking classes in general studies and physical education.

Phil’s first job here was as a sports activities assistant, supervising Sylvania’s P.E. facilities during the evenings. After four years, he moved to an office assistant job at Rock Creek in Student Records. Not content with a desk job, Phil was hired in Central Distribution Services, where he remained for the rest of his career.

As lead in the 12-person department, he worked in a variety of areas including mail sort and delivery, shipping and receiving, and property administration. “Every day was different. I never knew from one day to another what I would be doing,” he said.

Phil was a member of the Classified Federation Bargaining Team. He also served in the National Guard as a medic for 17 years. In retirement, he plans to move to Lincoln City to enjoy golfing and fishing. He also plans a trip to Scotland to visit family members.

Phil wishes to express appreciation to Karl VonTagen, who gave him his first job as a PCC lifeguard; Mel Krause, chair of the P.E. Department, who taught him leadership skills; and Martha Wolf, Lucia Barnett and Debbie Covert, who got him to join the union and pushed him to get out of his comfort zone and into leadership.

He also wishes to thank Ken Nelson and the staff of Central Distribution Services for making work enjoyable.

Loretta Goldy
Dean of Instruction
Sylvania Campus
21 years of service

Loretta was born in Los Angeles and lived in Southern California until she moved to Portland in 1994 to accept a full-time position teaching history at PCC.

She began her education by earning an associate's degree in Secretarial Science from Fullerton Community College. After graduation, she was offered a full time job as division secretary. Loretta went on to earn a bachelor's and a master's degree in history at California State University, Fullerton. She taught part time at Mt. San Jacinto Community College in Menifee and California State University in San Marco. She also completed all but her dissertation in history at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Earning an associate's degree opened the door to her first career, and the encouragement she received while working at Fullerton Community College gave her the nudge she needed to pursue her second career as a history instructor. "I am fully committed to the mission of PCC and have always felt it was my great fortune to have been offered the opportunity to teach here and to be a part of our students' educational journey," she said.

Loretta taught history here from 1994 to 2010, serving as department chair from 2005 to 2010. She became Dean of Social Sciences at Sylvania in 2011, and Interim Dean of Instruction in 2014. When she first began teaching in 1994, Loretta and seven colleagues shared a single office phone, and no one had a personal computer. Today, faculty members communicate daily with students using a variety of high-tech tools.

In retirement, she plans to spend more time with her family and take her dog for more walks. She looks forward to enjoying nature, travel and preparing dinner, and plans to get as organized at home as she is at work. Loretta also intends to read more than just the front page of the New York Times each morning.

Kenneth Goodwin
Director, Public Safety
Portland Community College
16 years of service

Ken was born and raised in Northeastern Pennsylvania and moved to State College after high school to attend Pennsylvania State University. In his senior year, he was drafted into the military and served four years as a law enforcement specialist at Hickam Air Force Base on Oahu, Hawaii. After his discharge, Ken was hired by the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office in Sacramento, California, where he served in patrol, crime scene investigation, corrections and management. While working for the Sheriff's Office, Ken earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from California State University, Sacramento.

After 22 years in law enforcement, Ken retired and went to work for the National Sheriff's Association in Alexandria, Virginia. After three years, he and his wife decided to move closer to their children, some of whom had remained in Sacramento. He was hired as PCC's Director of Public Safety in 2000.

Ken is proud of the work he's done helping PCC to become a safer place for students, faculty and staff. He helped to set up Behavioral Intervention Teams, who meet once a month to review students of concern: those who exhibit disruptive behavior, express excessive anger or rage, or say they intend to harm themselves or others. At each campus, representatives from Counseling, Advising and Public Safety join the student retention coordinator in determining the best way to assist these students and promote safety for everyone. Ken is also proud that PCC is among the largest facilities in the country to have a comprehensive mass notification system which is used for fire, active shooter and emergency alerts across the district.

In retirement, Ken plans to spend time working on his family history project and visiting children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, along with other family members. He wishes to express his thanks to former District Vice-President Randy McEwen, who was a good mentor and a solid supporter of Public Safety; and to Derrick Foxworth, public safety lieutenant, who has done a tremendous job of raising the level of professionalism of PCC's Public Safety Department.

Keith Gregory

Interim Director, Facilities Management Services
Portland Community College
14 years of service

Keith came to PCC in 2002, after 26 years in the U.S. Air Force. His military career included assignments in personnel, aviation, logistics, site management and technical training. After he retired from the military, Keith worked briefly for a memorial park in Wichita Falls, Texas, and for the Information Technology Institute, a business school located in Portland.

His first job at PCC was as manager of maintenance & grounds for the district. In addition to that position, he served as liaison between FMS and the Bond Program. Keith was named interim director of FMS in 2013, a role he filled until the end of 2015.

Keith earned a bachelor's degree in aeronautics from St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri, and a master's degree in technology from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona.

Dorinda Gustafson

Instructional Administrative Assistant III
Math & Industrial Technology
Sylvania Campus
22 years of service

Dorinda was born in St. Joseph, Michigan. At the age of nine, she moved with her family to Pleasanton, California, a small town that is home to the Alameda County Fair. One of her favorite childhood memories is going to the fair with her friends and siblings before opening day to test the rides for free. After high school, Dorinda attended Hayward Beauty School. In 1967, she married and moved to Oregon, where she completed her training.

After a year in the beauty field, chemical allergies drove Dorinda to seek a change. She went to work at Tektronix in the Workstation Division, building, calibrating and doing quality control. Later, she became administrative assistant to the division manager. After 13 years, competition from Japan forced the division to close and she came to PCC.

Dorinda first worked as a student in the Engineering Division, then was hired as administrative assistant working alongside Kathleen Harriman. A year later, she moved to Math and Industrial Technology where she became administrative assistant to Division Dean Jeff Triplett.

Over the years, Dorinda has seen many changes: the launch of Banner, improvement of student services and never-ending construction on the Sylvania Campus. "I have truly enjoyed working in the technology departments as the opportunities for growth and adventure were ever present," she said. "The instructors and support staff all are talented and giving people and it was a joy to see the success they brought to many students."

Dorinda thoroughly enjoyed working with the many work-study students that passed through her door every year. She also mentored several students seeking a career in the business world as administrative assistants and leaders. Dorinda is looking forward to what the future might bring. Right now, eight wonderfully involved grandchildren are keeping her busy with baseball, softball, soccer and horse competitions.

Leslie Hackett

Coordinator, Student Systems Support
Sylvania Campus
16 years of service

Leslie was born in Oregon City and raised in Clackamas and Milwaukie. A graduate of Clackamas High School, Leslie went to work in the insurance industry after high school, working for companies such as Prudential, SAIF, John Hancock, The Travelers and Aetna. When her son was a senior in high school, she began taking classes at PCC.

Leslie graduated in 2000 and immediately applied for a job at the college. "I loved being the atmosphere of being on campus," she said. "I never had that in any job before, where people were excited about learning." At first, she got a job as an instructional administrative assistant in the Engineering Division, then she moved to an office support specialist job at Rock Creek in the Student Development Division.

She loved working in Banner, and when a job as schedule coordinator became available, she applied, even though she didn't have any prior experience working with schedules. She was selected for that position and remained there for two years. Leslie then moved into a job as Training Developer/Intranet Specialist in Technology Support Services (now Information Technology Services).

In 2006-2007, she spent 13 months as interim supervisor of Student Records, after which she became coordinator of class scheduling. As schedule coordinator, Leslie served as a resource for about 80 people who do the scheduling for their departments. She is proud of the fact that they felt comfortable calling her and asking for help. "We all want to do the best we can," she said. "It's important to ask for help when we need it."

Leslie wishes to thank Scott Huff, who gave her that first job at PCC; Angela McMahon, who truly supports her employees and encourages them to speak up for themselves; Chris Chairsell and Craig Kolins who supported her in Student Records; Tammy Billick, who encouraged her to apply for interim manager of Student Records, and all the schedulers, who were supportive, patient and kind.

Paul Halloran

Senior Community Resource Specialist, Student Development
Rock Creek Campus
24 years of service

Paul was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, and lived there until college. He graduated from Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois, with a bachelor's degree in sociology. After graduation, Paul joined the Peace Corps, where he worked as an agricultural extension agent. After two years, he returned to the United States and joined Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA). Paul spent time in Plainville and Harlingen, Texas, working in a migrant health clinic and a legal aid office.

After VISTA, Paul attended graduate school at Incarnate Word University in San Antonio. Later, he moved to Denver, Colorado, to work in a migrant ministry program. That job led to more than 15 years of work, first with Latino senior citizens, then developing a water system in a small rural community of farmworkers and finally, for a county housing authority based in Greeley.

In the 1980's Paul moved to Oregon, where his wife was hired by a migrant Head Start program. Agricultural communities in Oregon were really struggling at that time, and Paul found work with the Oregon Human Development Corporation, providing employment and training for migrant farmworkers. He often brought his clients to PCC to sign up for classes. In 1992, he was hired as a job developer by PCC and eventually moved into a role as a community resource specialist.

Paul is proud of the work he did at PCC, including B-FIT, a program to get women into the building trades; bilingual outreach to high school and community organizations; the Oregon Leadership Institute leadership development program for Latino high school students; and the College Assistance Migrant Program, in collaboration with Chemeketa Community College.

His favorite part of the job has always been getting to know the students. "It's rewarding to see people making progress toward their life goals, progress that has an impact on their families," he said. Paul wishes to express his thanks to Narcedelia Rodriguez, an incredible woman and his role model.

Bonnie Hester
Grants Officer
Downtown Center
5 years of service

Bonnie was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. She moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to earn a bachelor's degree in special education, then to Seattle, Washington, to earn a master's degree in education administration. Bonnie taught school for 12 years, after which she became principal of a high school for at-risk youth. In that role, she began writing applications for government grants, a skill she used to start a consulting business.

Bonnie moved to Portland in 2006 and joined PCC in 2010. "I really love working with and for colleges," she said. "I love the atmosphere, mission and goals of community colleges in particular, because they are open to everyone."

Grants have always been part of the funding mix at PCC. The Grants team watches for grants that might be a good fit, and welcomes suggestions from employees who hear about possible opportunities. "We look at each grant to see whether it fits with what we're already doing and whether it is consistent with our strategic plan," she said.

Bonnie has loved working at PCC, being one of thousands of people who share a focus on student outcomes. "Despite our conflicts and differences, people work together to do what's best for students," she said. During her time at PCC, she's seen a dramatic increase in the number of departments seeking grant funding. She is proud of the number of grants she's been able to write and the millions in funding she's helped to bring to the college.

Bonnie has a great love of learning and is always pushing herself to learn new things. In retirement, she plans to use her grant writing skills to work for animal rights organizations such as the Audubon Society of Portland. Looking back, Bonnie wishes to thank former PCC President Preston Pulliams for always taking the time to say hello to a new employee, and to Vanessa Wood who has done an amazing job of pulling the Grants team together during a time of transition.

Becky Hughes
Administrative Assistant to Dean of Instruction
Rock Creek Campus
19 years of service

Becky was born and raised in Portland. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1972, but teaching jobs were hard to find at that time. She worked as a substitute and in other jobs until she married and started a family. Becky was a stay-at-home mom and held a few part time jobs until she returned to work full time as a project manager at an interior design firm. Later she worked as branch chief's assistant at the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

In 1997, Becky saw a newspaper ad for administrative assistant to the dean of instruction at Open Campus, now called Rock Creek Campus. "I was excited because I've always loved education and thought this would be a great fit," she said. She has held the same position under five deans of instruction at three different locations: Capital Center, Southeast and Rock Creek.

Becky said she will miss her coworkers most of all, some of whom are lifelong friends. She will also miss her interaction with students. Her most important accomplishment is working as a member of a great team of administrative professionals at Rock Creek. The team gets together about once a term to network and share ideas.

Her plans for retirement include relaxing, spending more time with her grandchildren and her retired friends, traveling and reading. She also plans to work on finishing her house on Washington's Long Beach Peninsula. Finally, she hopes to volunteer with Start Making a Reader Today (SMART), helping students with their reading.

Becky wishes to thank her family, friends, coworkers and Dean of Instruction Cheryl Scott for their ongoing encouragement and support.

Teri Hunt

Manager, Payroll
Downtown Center
26 years of service

Teri is a self-described Air Force brat. Born at Beale Air Force Base near Marysville, California, she moved constantly, changing schools an average of once a year. Stateside, she lived in Alabama, Idaho, Kansas, South Carolina, Texas and Wyoming. Overseas, she spent time in Taiwan and Germany. Teri was living in Florida when she graduated from high school at age 16. Soon after, she took off on her own to see the world, traveling extensively in Europe and Asia. She ended up in Oregon in 1973 and after taking a few classes at PCC, landed a job in payroll at Schnitzer Steel Industries.

After taking some time off to start a family, Teri was hired in the payroll department at PCC in 1990. She started part time, then moved to a full time position. She eventually became payroll lead and then department manager in 2001. When she started here, payroll was mostly a manual process, with data entered on pin-feed green bar computer paper. In 2009, Teri was part of a team that implemented web time entry. The system was rolled out department by department and is now used by the majority of PCC employees.

Teri is a lifelong learner, always open to new experiences. She loves to travel and dabbles in art, including watercolor painting, fused glass and sewing. Her plans for retirement include throwing away her alarm clock, traveling and spending more time with her six grandchildren who live in the area.

Teri wishes to express special thanks to Jori Pegnone, her previous payroll manager and mentor. "She believed in me and challenged me to set goals and to succeed," Teri said. She also appreciates the payroll staff for making her look good.

Juanita Joy

Instructor, Nursing
Sylvania Campus
32 years of service

Juanita was born in Dunlap, Iowa, and lived in Phoenix, Arizona, and Davis, California, until she graduated from high school. She earned her bachelor's degree in Nursing from Fresno State University and her master's degree as a family nurse practitioner from the University of California at San Francisco. She earned a doctorate in education at Oregon State University in 2000, graduating with straight A's.

After moving to Portland in 1982, Juanita found a job as nurse practitioner at Planned Parenthood in Portland. She came to PCC in 1985 and has remained here ever since. In addition to teaching nursing classes, she served as faculty team coordinator and subject area committee chair.

Juanita is a strong supporter of community colleges. "I love the community college philosophy of helping people make their life better, especially those who can't afford a university education," she said. "Whether you are a working mother, a waitress or a hairdresser, a college degree is a paper key that will open doors of opportunity."

More than anything else, Juanita says she will miss her students. She sees herself as their cheerleader, encouraging them to stay focused and to complete their training. She remembers students who were single parents, raising kids with disabilities, or even living in their cars while attending school. She has seen dramatic changes in nursing over the years, with new technology, techniques and scientific insights.

"I love nursing," she said. "I view being a nurse as a privilege, being able to help people at their most vulnerable. It's also a privilege to be a nurse educator. Nursing is a wonderful, stressful career; you get to see people at their worst and at their best."

In retirement, Juanita and her husband plan to explore national and state parks in their RV. She wishes to thank her family for their support. "PCC has been the perfect place for me" she said. "It's been a privilege to serve students and patients."

Jerry Kissick

Instructor, Mathematics
Rock Creek Campus
18 years of service

Jerry received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in mathematics with highest honors from University of California, Los Angeles, and a Master of Science Degree in mathematics from University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Jerry began teaching math as a teaching assistant at the University of Wisconsin, where he went on to become an instructor for two years. He then went to work as a mathematician for the Naval Air Warfare Center, using his mathematical expertise for research and development, pilot training, and managing the Shrike Missile Program and the Tactical Aircrew Combat Training System (TACTS).

After many years in the Navy, Jerry went back to work as a part-time mathematics instructor at Citrus College and California State University, Bakersfield, and as assistant professor of mathematics at Northeast State Community College.

Jerry came to work as a full-time mathematics Instructor at PCC in 1997. He also served as the Rock Creek math department chair for several years.

Jerry also does a lot of community service, belongs to several professional organizations and has traveled throughout Europe.

Hal Lee

Rehab Guidance Counselor
Rock Creek
31 years of service

Hal received a Bachelor of Science Degree in general studies/arts and letters from Portland State University, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music Composition from Marylhurst University, and a Master of Arts Degree in Counseling Psychology from Lewis and Clark College.

Hal worked for PCC from 1986 to 1992 as the director of the Recording Technologies Program, then left PCC to start his own business, the Center for Applied Music and Media, which was a school specializing in audio media and music. His career also included work in marketing and sales and he continued to teach music at PCC off and on.

In 2001, Hal took a position with PCC as a student resource specialist, then worked in a job share position as a counselor starting in 2006. He continued teaching part-time until he obtained his full-time rehab guidance counselor position in 2010.

Priscilla Loanzon
Instructor, Nursing
Sylvania Campus
23 years of service

Priscilla was born in the Philippines. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from St. Paul University of Manila, Philippines, and went on to Teacher College at Columbia University in New York, New York, where she earned a Master of Arts Degree in Teaching (Nursing), a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction in Nursing Education, and Doctor of Education in Health Education.

Prior to coming to PCC, Priscilla taught nursing at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York, New York. She later worked first as an Assistant Professor, and eventually became director of the continuing education program at Columbia University School of Nursing. In addition to teaching, she did a lot of research and published many works.

Priscilla moved to Portland in 1992, the same year she was hired as a full-time instructor of nursing at PCC. Priscilla was a nursing instructor throughout most of her career at PCC, but she also briefly served as director of the nursing program and often served on various committees. She was also involved with many professional organizations.

Priscilla retired from PCC in 2015 to accept a full-time position at Mount Sinai Roosevelt Hospital in New York City.

Bert Logan
Director, Financial Aid and Veterans Educational Benefits
Sylvania Campus
5 years of service

Bert Logan was born in Gilroy, California, “Garlic Capital of the World” and home of the famous Gilroy Garlic Festival. He moved to Oregon in 1988. Bert graduated with a bachelor’s degree from San Diego State University and a master’s degree from California State College, East Bay.

Prior to working for PCC, he was the director of financial aid at Lane Community College and assistant director at the University of Oregon. He is also a U.S. Navy Veteran.

Bert came to work for PCC as the director of Financial Aid and Veterans Educational Benefits in 2011. He was attracted to PCC because of the challenge it presented. He enjoyed leading his department through major student service improvements and operational efficiencies.

He feels lucky that he has been able to see the outcomes from the major bond work done throughout the district and all the new improvements that were made. The talented staff in both areas enabled those successful improvements, and he will miss working with everyone. His most important accomplishment was to get as much money as possible to as many students as possible as quickly as possible.

Bert was president of the Oregon Association of Financial Aid Administrators in 2011-12. He was a regional trainer for the Western Association of Financial Aid Administrators (Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii) from 2001 through 2007. He received the distinguished service award from the Western Association of Financial Aid Administrators in 2009-10.

In retirement, Bert plans to “dink around.” He would like to thank the men and women of our armed services who protect the freedoms we enjoy.

Leslie Macaulay
Instructor, Automotive Services Technology
Sylvania Campus
27 years of service

Leslie was born in Seattle, Washington, and moved to Oregon when she was two years old. She grew up in McMinnville and has been an Oregonian for over 60 years.

Leslie went to Blue Mountain Community College before attending Oregon State University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Communications with a minor in Agriculture. She went back to school at PCC, intending to study agricultural mechanics (when PCC had that program in 1983) but instead earned an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Automotive Technology.

In 1985, Leslie was hired by the AST program a few months after she graduated to fill in for an instructor who was going on leave for a year. Leslie continued as a teacher (she prefers teacher over instructor), and served as department chair for three years. She said teaching between two and three thousand students over the years has been her greatest accomplishment.

When Leslie started working at PCC, there were only six buildings on the Sylvania Campus. She watched the campus grow as more buildings and people were added over the years. Leslie found students to be the most enjoyable aspect of working for PCC. She will miss them and her colleagues, but will not miss getting up at 5 a.m. every school day since 1985 to be at work in time for the 7 a.m. classes. She would also much rather fix bicycles than cars!

Her plans for retirement include travel that includes her bicycle. She plans to visit friends in Slovakia, where she once taught school, and England. She hopes to also do some international volunteer work.

Leslie would like to thank the fabulous PCC students. They are the center of this college and the reason she has continued to teach for all these years.

Stephen Mainville
Instructor, Composition and Literature
Rock Creek Campus
23 years of service

Steve received a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Master of Arts Degree in English from State University (SUNY) College at Oswego, New York, and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Prior to coming to PCC, Steve worked as a graduate assistant at SUNY College at Oswego and at University of Oklahoma, as well as an assistant professor at Illinois State University, Shaw University, and University of the Virgin Islands St. Thomas and St. Croix Campuses. He also served as coordinator of the learning center at the University of the Virgin Islands St. Croix Campus, worked as an editorial assistant for Genre magazine, and did freelance editing for the University of Oklahoma Press and University of Massachusetts Press.

Steve came to work for PCC in 1992, and worked his entire career at PCC as a composition and literature Instructor. He also served as department chair and part-time faculty mentor during his time here.

Phil Montague

Transit Service Operator
Rock Creek Campus
3 years of service

Phil received an associate's degree in math from Pasadena City College, and also studied at California State University, Los Angeles. He worked as an estimator and manufacturing engineer in California before moving to Oregon. In Oregon, he continued to work in manufacturing as a design engineer for Gerber Legendary Blades and Carco Industries.

In 2012, Phil began driving a school bus part-time for First Student and also started working part-time as a PCC shuttle driver. In September 2013, he began driving the PCC shuttle full-time during the academic year.

The first thing Phil did in retirement was to go on an extended vacation in Europe with his wife, Michelle. He will now be able to enjoy more time with friends and family, and may do some more travelling.

Cliff Morgan

Admissions Specialist, Emergency Medical Services
Cascade Campus
12 years of service

Cliff was born in Canada and grew up in Big Sky Country (Montana). He moved to Portland after graduating from Montana State University with a communications degree in 1976.

Shortly after arriving, Cliff began his 19-year career with Pacific Power/PacifiCorp. He worked in human resources, spent many years in purchasing and material management, and ended up in their marketing department. He left his corporate career in search of something new, and landed at Oregon Health & Science University with the paramedic program.

In 2003, one of Cliff's former students, Paula Wilson, was hired to coordinate the new PCC paramedic program. Cliff was able to leverage that connection to begin working in the Emergency Services Department under Kal Robertson. Cliff served as EMS admissions specialist for his entire time at PCC, through many department changes including the trend toward student-centric planning and tremendous growth on the PCC campuses. He feels his most important accomplishment at PCC was gaining the respect of his peers and students for the good work he did.

As the first point of contact for potential EMS students, Cliff's excellent organization and customer service skills served the EMS department well. Making a positive difference for students provided a feeling of accomplishment and kept the work ethic strong. He misses his awesome co-workers at PCC and the student relationships, and would like people to know how fortunate he feels that he was able to be a respected part of PCC and how awesome it was to share friendship with the great employees he interacted with over the years.

He would like to express thanks to Kal Robertson for taking a chance on him as a new employee who really needed a new beginning, and to John Saito for his continued support. In addition, he wants to thank the employees of the AHELS division for being such a great group to work with.

Sara Neill

Student Resource Specialist, ROOTS Advisor
Sylvania Campus
16 years of service

Sara was born in Seattle, Washington, moved to Portland when she was two years old, and has been here ever since.

Before coming to PCC, Sara completed her Master of Arts Degree in Counseling Psychology at Lewis & Clark College and worked for several years as a mental health therapist for Mt. Hood Community Mental Health, now Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare. As a therapist, she worked with clients referred by PCC's Steps to Success and Dislocated Workers programs. She enjoyed working with clients who had educational opportunities and support from PCC staff, which greatly contributed to their success.

Sara's first job at PCC was as a career specialist for the Dislocated Workers program. She enjoyed the camaraderie of the DWP team and has many happy memories as a career specialist. She started as a part time academic advisor at Cascade campus while working for DWP. She found it exciting to help students make plans to complete degrees at PCC. She was thrilled to become a ROOTS advisor at Sylvania in 2008.

Her greatest accomplishment as a ROOTS advisor was coaching students to complete degrees at PCC, earn scholarships and transfer to four-year colleges including Lewis & Clark College, Mills College and Yale University.

Sara would like to thank Michael Morrow and Pattie Hill for their invaluable assistance teaching scholarship writing to ROOTS students aspiring to reach the colleges of their dreams.

What Sara enjoyed most working for PCC is seeing students transform their lives through education. As a retired PCC volunteer she is delighted to continue to help students flourish at PCC by volunteering on the Fostering Success Advisory Council.

Levi Query

Instructor, Physical Education
Cascade Campus
15 years of service

Levi was born and lived in Chehalis, Washington, until age seven, then in Seattle, Washington, until age 15 when she moved to Portland. A graduate of Jefferson High School, Levi received her bachelor's degree in mathematics with a minor in physical education from Willamette University and her teaching certification from Seattle Pacific University. She taught middle school math in Bend and high school math in Issaquah, Washington. While raising a family, she began running and decided to get a master's degree in Teaching Exercise Science from Portland State University.

Before coming to PCC, Levi worked as an exercise physiologist for Adventist Health for 15 years, and then was content manager for HealthAnswers.com. She missed teaching, so she started teaching part time at Clark College, PCC, Mt. Hood Community College, Portland State University and City University. Levi began working as a full-time physical education instructor at PCC in 2004.

Levi believes starting boot camp and hiking classes is one of her most important accomplishments at PCC. She also enjoyed seeing the expansion of Cascade campus, and notes it is much safer than it was 10 years ago. She will miss being department chair—her staff is her family, and they are the best! She also LOVES the students—they inspire her every day and are the reason she will continue working part-time after retirement.

Levi loves to run and exercise, and wants everyone to learn to keep it fun, since that is the only reason we can keep exercising. She has a commitment to wellness that carries over to her personal life: She has been a competitive athlete for years, often winning or placing in her age group when participating in 10k's, marathons and triathlons. She also enjoys participating in local events such as Cycle Oregon and Hood to Coast. Levi wishes to thank the staff at Cascade—from custodians who clean the gym to deans who have supported her through so many situations. A special thanks to Richard Magruder and Maura Stine who put up with her all these years!

Larry Reaney
Technology Specialist II
Information Technology Services
Willow Creek Center
15 years of service

Larry was born in Vancouver, Washington, and raised in Portland. He graduated from Milwaukie High School in 1967. After high school, Larry joined the International Association of Heat & Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 36. Two years later, he took a leave from his job to serve in the military, from which he was discharged in 1974.

In 1989, Larry decided to try his hand at directing and producing a television show called "Family Video Guide." The program aired locally on KPDX Channel 49 and was syndicated in eight states. He also owned a store in St. Helens, called "Visual Images." Larry continued working with Local 36 until 1999 when he suffered a serious on-the-job injury and was told he could not return to his former line of work. Larry enrolled at PCC to study computers and was selected for an internship in 2000. That opportunity led to a casual position which eventually turned into full time employment.

"None of this could have happened without the help and dedication of the Computer Information Systems faculty and staff, Workforce Development and the Vocational Rehab Program at PCC," Larry said. "They gave me a second chance at a lifelong career." Larry's work at PCC enabled him to meet and work with people from all corners of the world, to learn their cultures and to share his own with them. He calls it "one of the most life-changing experiences of my life."

In addition to his work in ITS, Larry served in the classified federation, as campus representative, grievance officer, vice president and executive vice president. He also served as vice president for Oregon American Federation of Teachers and national delegate.

When asked how he liked working at PCC, Larry said "If you're ready and willing to work hard, hold on, because it will be the ride of your life, and it's totally amazing." Larry wishes to thank everyone at the college who helped him achieve goals he could never have imagined for himself. "You will all be remembered," he said.

LeeAnn Redifer
Instructor, Dental Assisting
Sylvania Campus
19 years of service

LeeAnn attended PCC before transferring to Mt. Hood Community College where she received her associate's degree in cosmetology. She is a Certified Dental Assistant with expanded functions endorsement, as well as a Certified Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant.

LeeAnn has been in the dental field since 1980, starting as a dental receptionist and then moving into dental assisting. She has worked in both private practice and group practice dental offices. Next to teaching, her favorite part of her dental career was spent as an oral surgery assistant.

LeeAnn began her PCC career in 1997 teaching as a part-time clinical instructor in Dental Assisting. In 2003, she became a full-time instructor teaching dental materials and office procedures.

Linda Reisser

Dean of Student Development
Cascade Campus
18 years of service

Linda Reisser has served as Dean of Student Development at PCC's Cascade Campus since 1998. She has a doctorate in higher education from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a master's degree in counseling from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Linda served as chief student affairs officer at Suffolk Community College and Rockland Community College in New York. She also was a full-time faculty member at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington, and has taught doctoral courses at Columbia University Teachers College in New York and Portland State University.

She is co-author of Education and Identity, 2nd Ed., with Arthur Chickering, and has contributed chapters to Good Practice in Student Affairs: Principles to Foster Student Learning, The Art and Practical Wisdom of Student Affairs Leadership, and Life At The Edge of the Wave: Lessons from the Community College.

Linda began her career as associate dean of students and director of student activities at South Dakota State University, a large, mid-western land grant university. There, she presided over Hobo Day events (a week of homecoming activities that included a spit and belch contest and a hairy legs competition). She never imagined working at a community college, but was pleased to move to the smallest one in Washington—Whatcom Community College in Bellingham.

One thing she noticed immediately at PCC was the camaraderie and dedication of the Student Services staff. "I've never worked any place for more than seven years, but I didn't ever want to leave a great team with new ideas (and new buildings)!" she said. Despite changes over time, she values her "high team/high task" colleagues, with their strong commitment to student development and to each other.

Her plans include a mix of learning and creativity—reading, writing, travel, music, and allowing new priorities to evolve without an endless "to do" list.

Lorraine Renard

Computing Technology Specialist, Information Technology Services
Sylvania Campus
21 years of service

Lorraine was the first girl (and second baby) born in the newly opened Columbia District Hospital in St. Helens, Oregon. Her father was a truck driver and her mother was a homemaker until Lorraine's youngest sibling entered grade school, when her mom returned to school. Lorraine's mom got her high school diploma when Lorraine was in the fifth grade. The memory of seeing her mom studying in the wee hours gave Lorraine her inspiration to achieve.

Lorraine was a single mother when she first took classes at PCC in 1978. She began working for PCC as a student in 1995. Unfortunately, her son passed away in a tragic accident at about that time. She continued to pursue her education and believes her biggest accomplishment is earning her master's degree in technology management.

Lorraine earned a diploma in office technology from Western Business College (1978), associate's degrees in Computer Information Systems from PCC (1996), a bachelor's degree in social science from Portland State University (2001), and a master's degree in Technology Management from University of Phoenix (2005).

Lorraine's career at PCC took her to several locations, including Sylvania, Cascade, Rock Creek and Willow Creek. Most of her time here was spent providing technical desktop support across the district. Lorraine feels privileged to be part of PCC's online pioneers. As a student she helped create the first web pages for the PCC's newly acquired website. One of her earliest work experiences at PCC was to provide technical support, web page creation and Unix server administration for PCC's first online class in 1998.

In retirement, Lorraine plans to enjoy time with family and friends, travel and adventure, gardening, sewing, and whatever makes her happy in the moment. Lorraine grew from a young woman full of ambition to a mature one with an appreciation for celebrating life. She would like to say thank you to those who extended kindness toward her. You know who you are.

Wendy Shelden
Instructor, Nursing
Sylvania Campus
11 years of service

Wendy was born and raised in Michigan. She eventually moved to Oregon and has lived here for the past 40 years.

In 1977, Wendy graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. Since the beginning of her career, Wendy has worked in public health for Multnomah and Washington counties. Her area of expertise was in adolescent health. Wendy also worked for school-based health centers for 15 years and spent time as a family nurse practitioner in primary care.

Wendy began her PCC career in 1998, during a time when the nursing field was facing a shortage of nurses. After a year here, she returned to clinical practice. In 2006, she came back to PCC to teach nursing, because she felt she could best help the profession by becoming an instructor. Wendy has remained here ever since.

After leaving PCC, Wendy will miss the students most of all. She has enjoyed working with her future colleagues and watching them become professional nurses. Helping more than 800 students become graduate nurses has been one of Wendy's most important accomplishments during her PCC career.

One of the biggest changes that Wendy has seen at PCC has been the transition of the Nursing program to the shared curriculum of the Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education. OCNE is a partnership of faculty from nine community colleges and five universities who have created and continued to develop common standards for nursing education.

In her retirement, Wendy plans to take a welding class at the Rock Creek campus so she can build structures for her garden. She would like to thank the Nursing department and all the support staff at PCC who have helped the students on their paths to becoming nurses.

Terry Sherman
Instructional Support Tech IV
Caterpillar Dealer Service Technology
Rock Creek Campus
7 years of service

Terry was born in Missoula, Montana, and moved to Oregon in 1952 when he was three years old. After graduating from high school, Terry joined the military where he worked as an air traffic controller and flight operations specialist in Germany for three years.

In 1971, after working a couple of odd jobs, Terry went to work for a Caterpillar heavy equipment dealership in Portland. He continued on this career path and ended up moving to Fairbanks and then Juneau, Alaska, returning to Portland in 1987.

In 2006, part of Terry's duties at the Caterpillar dealership included being a contact for the Caterpillar Dealer Service Technology Program at PCC. In 2009, the dealership Terry worked for was sold and he found himself unemployed until he was informed of a job opening as an instructional support tech with the PCC program. Terry ended up being the successful candidate and started working for PCC in March 2009.

Terry says that the transition to his PCC job was an easy one. He was familiar with the equipment and the engines, as well as how the dealership worked. In many ways, it was just a reversal of roles. Terry feels that his job has allowed him to refine some of his skills and to learn many more.

Terry does not have any specific plans for his retirement but would like to resurrect some hobbies and relationships that have not received the proper amount of attention. He would also like to do some volunteer work, travel when possible and perhaps take on some part-time employment here and there.

Teresa Sielsch

Conferences & Administrative Services Coordinator

CLIMB Center

29 years of service

Teresa was born in Reading, Pennsylvania, but spent her childhood as a surfer girl in southern California. She moved to Portland in 1977 and has lived here ever since. Before starting her PCC career, Teresa worked in the graphic arts industry. She was also a stay-at-home mom before returning to work part-time at PCC. The Community Education department had an opening for a registration clerk and Teresa was selected for the job in 1987.

Two years later she was hired as an administrative assistant for Community Education at Forest Grove, where she worked for five years. Teresa then began working for the Institute for Health Professionals at the CLIMB Center where she started as an administrative assistant before moving into her coordinator role. Teresa worked in that job until retiring in April 2015.

More than anything, Teresa has enjoyed the people of PCC. “Most work can be done by anyone,” she said. “It’s getting along with other that makes or breaks your day.” Teresa also enjoyed her time at the Ross Island Center where departments such as Payroll, Human Resources, Accounting and Student Records were close at hand.

Teresa has learned many new software applications at PCC, including medical and graphics programs. She considers building her computer skills one of her most important accomplishments at PCC, one that will benefit her once she retires. Teresa is very grateful for getting to work at PCC and for all the benefits the college has provided her. She enjoys laughter and loves to tell stories, a quality that resulted in her being recognized as entertainer of the year at a classified retreat.

In retirement, Teresa hopes to get in shape by taking some PCC fitness classes. She also plans to spend more time with her three grandchildren and the rest of her family. She has a part-time job she plans to keep and has thought about writing a book. Teresa would like to thank the universe (all living forms) for such a blessed life and said “it is the totality of everyone that I am thankful for.”

Michael Sonnleitner

Instructor, Political Science

Cascade Campus

28 years of service

Michael was born in Wichita, Kansas, and raised in Seattle, Washington. Growing up, he spent summers in Wenatchee, Washington, where he worked in an orchard. Michael attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, and graduated from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, with a bachelor’s degree in political science. He continued his studies at the University of Minnesota, where he earned a master’s degree and a doctorate.

In 1988, Michael became a full-time instructor at PCC, following 14 years of teaching at the University of Minnesota, Illinois Wesleyan University, Loyola University of Chicago and the University of Northern Iowa. During his career at PCC, Michael was the only full-time instructor with courses on all four campuses. He taught graduate courses at Portland State University and won a 2010 Fulbright award to teach at St. Thomas College and Mahatma Gandhi University in Kerala, India.

Michael helped establish the Peace & Conflict Studies (PACS) program at PCC in 1990 and considers this to be one of his most important accomplishments. He is also proud of the 17-plus years he spent fostering a PACS “free speech” tradition by hosting weekly lunchtime events featuring controversial viewpoints and respectful dialogue.

For 14 years, Michael was a member of PCC’s Educational Advisory Committee (EAC). He also spent 20 years on the EAC policy committee, 18 years on the EAC membership committee, eight years on the Internationalization Steering committee and volunteered his time with the Associated Students of PCC (ASPCC). He periodically served as the Political Science SAC Chair for 15 years, advised numerous student clubs and helped organize the PCC Legislative Internship Program.

After a 41-year teaching career, Michael became the first PCC employee elected to the PCC Board of Directors, where he currently represents Zone 3. In addition to serving as a PCC board member during his retirement, Michael is the chair of his neighborhood association and an at-large member of the Southeast Uplift Board.

Bob Steele

Instructor, Building Construction Technology
Rock Creek Campus
19 years of service

Bob was born in Southern California and grew up in the Crestline/Lake Arrowhead area of the San Bernardino Mountains. He has lived in Oregon since securing his first full-time teaching and coaching position at Myrtle Point High School in 1972.

Bob's early education as a builder came from working with his father, who was a custom home builder. Bob holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education with a major in physical education and a minor in biology from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. He also earned his California teaching credential after attending a year of graduate school at University of California, Fullerton.

Before coming to PCC, Bob taught and coached for seven years at the high school level and gradually moved into heading up a construction program at the high school, where he worked with students to build a home from the ground up. The house was sold for a profit at the end of the school year. In 1978, he left teaching to move to Portland and start Steele Bros. Construction Inc., where he built custom homes for 20 years, including several award-winning Street of Dreams homes.

Bob was brought to PCC by his desire to get back to instructing students in the building profession. He started as a part-time faculty member and instructional support tech IV. He later moved into a full-time instructor role where he remained for 12 years.

Bob feels one his most important accomplishments at PCC has been improvement in program curriculum for all degrees in the program and facility enhancement, helping to improve the experience of our BCT students. He would like people to know students are his passion and he loves sharing knowledge with them.

In retirement, Bob plans to continue teaching part-time and learn to play the guitar! He would like to thank Spencer Hinkle, his mentor from the first day on the job; Department Chairs Kirk Garrison and Shannon Baird, and their supportive dean, Karen Sanders.

Rachel Stevens

Instructor, Composition and Literature
Cascade Campus
26 years of service

Rachel calls Dalbo, Minnesota, her hometown. Four generations of her family attended a two-room school there. For the past 24 years, Rachel has lived in the Hollywood District of Portland. Rachel spent her freshman year of college at the University of Minnesota. Her sophomore through senior years were completed over nine years, at Foothill Community College in Los Altos, California, and the University of California, Berkeley, where she graduated with her bachelor's degree. Rachel completed a master's degree plus coursework and exams toward a doctorate at the University of Washington.

After Rachel's husband was offered a job at the U.S. Geological Service Cascade Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, Washington, she applied for a position at PCC. Little did she know that Cascade Campus would be a perfect fit for her personality and interests. Rachel spent her entire PCC career as a writing and literature Instructor, starting out part-time and moving into a full-time position in 1993. She says her greatest pleasure came from working with students individually in writing conferences.

Rachel was the first instructor at Cascade to teach writing in a computer classroom, and she advocated for computer classrooms throughout her career. She also taught African-American literature, which she says transformed her. In the last few years of her career, Rachel introduced working-class literature into the PCC curriculum.

Rachel would like people to know that she is always on the side of the underdog. She hopes to spend part of her retirement working with immigrants and/or homeless populations. Rachel would like to thank Michael Dembrow for hiring her; Debbi Covert, John Thompson, Janet DiGrazia, Denyse Peterson, Michelle Samuel and Amanda Harrison for supporting her; Sheila Brown, Cynthia Kimball, Jane Zunkel, Mark Easby, Penny Thompson, Fred Miller, Margot Blair and Monica Schneider for giving her perspective through collegial friendship; Peter Maphumulo for guiding her through a dark time and making her believe in herself again; and Melody Wilson for being everything to her.

Phil Thurber

Instructor, Math
Sylvania Campus
22 years of service

Phil was born in Washington, D.C., and attended schools in New York City, Pennsylvania, and Eugene, Oregon. After earning a GED, Phil studied painting at the Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, Washington, where he was awarded a professional certificate in 1974.

From 1975 to 1981 Phil worked as a tree planter with a labor cooperative called “The Hoedads.” He also took classes at Lane Community College, which he transferred to the Cornish College of the Arts, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in 1979. Phil attended Lane Community College again from 1981 to 1983 and earned an associate’s degree in technical drafting. In 1983, he enrolled at the University of Oregon to study mathematics. He entered graduate school in mathematics in 1984, spent time as a graduate teaching fellow, and graduated with a master’s degree in 1987 and a Ph.D. in 1992.

Before joining PCC, Phil taught temporarily at Lewis and Clark College. When his position there ended, Phil found employment as an adjunct instructor at both Clackamas Community College and PCC. He began teaching here full time in 1994, first at Sylvania, then at Rock Creek, and finally back at Sylvania. Phil’s 22 years teaching college-level math is one of his greatest career accomplishments. In addition to teaching, he also served on the PCC Educational Advisory Committee for six years and currently serves on the EAC Academic Policy and Standards sub-committee.

One of the changes Phil has seen during his PCC career has been the shift from a content-based curriculum with emphasis on understanding course content to an outcome-based curriculum with emphasis on practical utility and quantitative assessment. During his retirement, he plans to continue teaching part time and traveling. Phil has always pursued his avocation of fine art painting and plans to devote more time to it now. He also plans to keep fit by walking or riding a bicycle every day and plans to take time to read books. Phil would like to thank the PCC Math SAC for giving him a home for the past 22 years.

Linda Timmins

Instructional Administrative Assistant II, Community Education
Rock Creek Campus
33 years of service

Linda was born in Portland and raised in St. Helens, where she still lives today. Her first job with PCC was night registration clerk for the Community Education department in St. Helens. She went to all of the night classes in St. Helens and Scappoose to hand out class rosters, receive payments and collect registration forms. She was also the go-to person when room issues arose.

Whenever the St. Helens office staff went on vacation, Linda filled in. When an employee there retired in 1988, Linda applied for her position and was hired. The St. Helens office eventually closed and in 2000 Linda applied for a position at Rock Creek, where she has worked ever since. Her entire PCC career has been spent in Community Education.

The physical growth of the college is one of the most significant changes Linda has seen during her time with PCC, but “the value for customer service has remained,” she said. Technology is another area where Linda has seen big changes. When she started with the college, forms were filled out on typewriters. Now, she doesn’t even remember the last time she saw a typewriter in anyone’s office.

When she leaves PCC, Linda will miss the people she works with the most. She has made many lifelong friends. The Rock Creek campus welcomed her with open arms, especially Ginger Smith. Ginger made sure Linda was included in all the events around the campus.

The most important thing Linda will be doing in her retirement is taking care of her grandson, Vincent. She is also looking forward to spending more time with her best friend, Sandy Reeds.

Linda would like to thank the entire Community Education department and feels it is the best department in which to work. The whole department works very hard and she knows they are appreciated.

Sharon Vandehey

Payroll Specialist
Downtown Center
14 years of service

Before joining PCC, Sharon spent time as a homemaker where she managed family and school schedules, volunteered in her children's classrooms, and was involved with the PTA.

In 1980, Sharon decided to return to work outside of the home and joined Milne Construction Company where she spent 20 years working as a Payroll Clerk and Manager. While working at Milne Construction, Sharon was responsible for all aspects of the payroll process. In 2001 she was hired at PCC as a full-time payroll specialist where she remained until her retirement in August 2015.

Sharon's supervisor, Teri Hunt wrote: "Sharon was a great employee. She was passionate about her work and about doing what was right. Sharon had a lot of caring in her. She would go out of her way to help an employee. I remember on one occasion where she treated her co-workers to a valentine luncheon. As she put it, she wanted to share 'a bit of love.' That was the Sharon I'll always remember: caring and sharing.

Colleague Carol Butcher wrote: "I worked with Sharon for 14 years. She was not only a great co-worker, she became a good friend."

Larry VanFleet

Computing Technology Specialist, Information Technology Services
Sylvania Campus
19 years of service

Larry began working at PCC as a student and casual employee before being hired full-time as client support technician in 1998. In 2004, Larry moved into a computing technology specialist position where he worked until his retirement in February 2016.

Before joining PCC, Larry spent more than ten years working for Battelle Pacific Northwest Labs in Richland, Washington, where he worked in testing and quality assurance.

Larry graduated in 1973 from Portland State University with a bachelor's degree in history. In 1975 he earned an associate's degree in non-destructive testing at Contra Costa College in San Pablo, California. He later returned to school and in 1997, earned an associate's degree in computer information systems from PCC.

Brad Vincent

Instructor, Real Estate

Sylvania Campus

22 years of service

Brad was born and raised in Portland and has lived here for almost 65 years. He also spent about a year living across the river in Vancouver, Washington. After graduating from Corvallis High School, Brad went on to earn a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in teaching from Portland State University. He has been in the real estate business since 1973 and has worked as a salesperson, broker, principal broker, appraiser, property manager, investor and mortgage loan officer.

In 1985, a colleague asked Brad if he would substitute teach a class and Brad agreed. Although Brad had never taught before, he absolutely loved the experience and has been teaching ever since. During his PCC career, Brad has worked as an instructor, department chair and Subject Area Committee chair. He also served with the President's Entrepreneurial Advisory Committee (PEAK) and Sylvania Teaching Learning Center. Brad will miss his PCC colleagues and everyone he has worked with, primarily at the Sylvania campus.

Brad has seen new campuses created as well as many new buildings added onto existing campuses. He feels the Sylvania Library and Performing Arts Center were tremendous additions to the campus. One of Brad's most important accomplishments at PCC was to help create and maintain a vibrant real estate department. "The students have always come first and it's been a pleasure to serve them," he said.

In retirement, Brad plans to continue teaching real estate part-time. He and his wife enjoy the Oregon coast and plan to spend time there, as well as going to restaurants and movies and spending time with family and friends. Brad feels that he's been truly fortunate in his life and thanks God for all his blessings. He has a wonderful wife and family who have made his life richer and great friends who have helped create wonderful moments. Brad has also been blessed with great colleagues and bosses at PCC who have made his time here a joy!

Acknowledgements

Annual Retirement Dinner Committee

Emily Biskey

Jennifer de Laix

Jean Garside

Becky Hughes

Charrisse Loughery

Chris Moore

Jeannie Moton

Jacqlyn Proper

Al Sanchez

Jana Sanchez

Linda Timmins

Thanks also to

Mike Arpin

Shawna Bechtel

Dianna Benting

Christina Flores

Daniel Krucke

Terry Lookabill

Kim Searcy



