



Pratt Community College

Monthly Newsletter

The

The official newsletter of PCC

BEAVER

JULY 2017

Buzz

Call for upcoming newsletter content

If you have information, ideas for new content, fun facts, or PCC trivia, send them to Megan for inclusion in the next newsletter!

>>> megane@prattcc.edu

Contents

KSDegreeStats.com	2
Auto Grads in Yellowstone	3
Mutual Aid Agreement	4
Best Learning Environment	5
Women's Soccer Shoe Drive	5
KACCT Dual Advising	6
Chambers NOAA Research	6-7

Upcoming Dates

Independence Day	July 4
Beaver Building Day	July 12
Withdraw - Last Session	July 14
Withdraw -2nd Mini Session	July 21

EPT Program Offering Online Path for Working Students

The Electrical Power Technology (EPT) program at Pratt Community College will begin offering their program online starting Fall 2017.

Students all over the country can now apply for admission into the popular program for either a one-year certificate or two-year Associates of Applied Science while they are employed with an electric company. General education courses and EPT required courses will be available solely online for distance students. Online students are required to be accepted into an entry-level apprenticeship with an electrical company to fulfill the lab and field training portion of the degree program.

EPT instructors at PCC will work closely with distance learners and their employers to ensure quality training and completion of the program to be certified.

"This has a tremendous potential for both electric companies and future linemen, said Dave Campbell, EPT instructor at PCC. "Electric companies can hire and begin to train their linemen while they receive a quality education online."

According to the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) resource center job opportunities for Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers is expected to grow 9 to 13 percent within the next seven years.

"There is a definite need for linemen in the industry right now," said Campbell. "We are seeing an increase in people who are 55 to 65 years old retiring and the industry needs certified linemen to replace them."

According to ksdegreestats.com, an online database resource created by the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR), the EPT program at PCC has one of the best return on investments for graduates of the program. Within five years of graduating, linemen in the region have the potential to earn almost \$100,000 in salary. Sixty percent of graduates in the program are employed in Kansas and Missouri. This data is collected by KBOR and published annually since 2003.

To apply for the EPT program for on-campus or online students contact Frank Stahl at franks@prattcc.edu or call 620-450-2114. For more information about the Electrical Power Technology program, contact Dave Campbell at 620-450-2127 or phillipc@prattcc.edu.



PCC Program Generates Highest Paid Grads According to KBOR Online Data Resource

Students who complete an associate's degree at Pratt Community College that prepares them to become electrical linemen earn just under \$100,000 annually five years after graduation, according to a massive database now available online as an interactive tool.

That is the fastest route to such high earnings among the more than 1,000 degree programs at Kansas' 32 public two-year and four-year colleges and universities, a fact that doesn't surprise the program's director, David Campbell.

Graduates enter five-year paid apprenticeships upon completing their degrees, Campbell said. Then, as journeymen, they often face challenging conditions on the job.

"The risk of the heights that they work at — and the high voltages that they're around every day," he said by way of example. "And then we also have the issues of the storms — ice storms in the winter time, blizzards, and tornadoes, thunderstorms in the summer."

Publishing median earnings associated with each degree program is just one part of KSDegreeStats.org. Created by the Kansas Board of Regents and unveiled last year with information from all seven public universities in Kansas, the online tool as of Friday includes every two-year degree at in-state public schools, too.

Breeze Richardson, communications director for the regents, said the online tool also provides average costs, scholarship awards and loan debt for each program.

"You've got to play with the tool to find the hidden gems," Richardson said. "You can explore your passions."

A few ways to use the website include:

Selecting and viewing multiple degrees side-by-side. A mechanical engineering degree at Wichita State University costs about \$5,000 less per year than at the University of Kansas, for example, but graduates at both schools show similar earnings.

Using the keyword search to find degrees matching a given interest. A search for "early childhood education" pulls up 14 related associate and bachelor's degrees offered across the state.

Calculating potential loan repayment burdens. A KU journalism student tends to graduate with \$28,000 in student loans. Repaid over 10 years, that's an estimated monthly payment of \$281.

Families can also change some of the data fields to reflect their means, and calculate cost, loans



and debt based on that. For example, a student might know that he or she plans to work during school and take fewer loans, and can adjust the calculator accordingly.

The state's college and universities followed standards to ensure consistent reporting, and a glossary on the site explains each data point.

"We've tried to pull the curtain all the way back," Richardson said.

The tool was designed so each degree program has an individual URL, allowing students, parents, teachers and counselors to save or share links to specific data.

The database does come with caveats. It doesn't include certification programs that two-year colleges offer, such as programs for certified nursing assistants. Nor does it include graduate degrees or programs at private institutions.

The earnings information reflects income of students who completed a given program, excluding those who moved outside Kansas and Missouri, where the regents do not have access to this information. The information comes from state departments of labor. Graduates who went on to complete higher degrees are also left out.

So the earnings for graduates with a bachelor's degree in math reflect those who went straight into the workforce with that degree, not those who then pursued graduate school before seeking jobs.

Where earnings data for a given program was available for fewer than five students, the regents did not publish their median income. This is meant to shield privacy. Additionally, information is unavailable for about 170 degree programs that are new or graduate too few students annually.

The information in the database is being updated yearly.

Article by Celia Llopis-Jepsen, Kansas News

Auto Grads Spend Summer Working in Yellowstone Park

Pratt Community College automotive graduates are spending the summer working at Yellowstone National Park. Former students Arik Schmidt, Logan Mason and Cole Quaney graduated from the Automotive Technology program in May this year all with a job offer to begin May 17 for the Yellowstone park service stations (YPSS).

Established more than 65 years ago, YPSS is the only authorized service station concessioner operating in Yellowstone today. YPSS offers summer jobs working at their convenience store/fuel facilities and automotive towing/repair shops. Employees, like our PCC grads, live and work in the heart of Yellowstone Park receiving many perks and benefits.

"The program entails working on anything that comes through the door from motorcycles all the way to Class A motorhomes with an array of problems," said Mason. "It also includes being able to run and operate the tow trucks at any given time during the day or night."

Both Mason and Quaney say the best part of the job is running the tow truck.

"The best part to me is getting to drive the tow truck around the park and see all the sights," said Quaney. "As well as getting to meet a lot of new people. I especially enjoy meeting people from places that I've never been to and hearing about what it's like."

Quaney says that along with the variety of jobs to do in the shop he will be working on an entire engine swap as well.

The three grads learned about the program last Fall from Automotive Instructor, Greg Bacon. Graduates of the program have been participating in the YPSS summer program for



many years.

The YPSS program runs through October. After that Mason, Quaney and Schmidt will be returning to their homes to begin working at shops close by.

The Automotive Technology department at Pratt Community College works on an "experience the learning" concept and is fully certified by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation, Inc. (NATEF) and the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). The automotive technology students work in a shop environment with state of the art equipment they will find in the auto industry. Students have the opportunity to earn an occupational certificate or an Associate of Applied Science degree. Students will also have the chance to participate in a race car project, car shows and several other activities. All these experiences prepare students to test to become ASE certified prior to graduation, enhancing the students' earning potential and career opportunities. For more information contact Greg Bacon at gregb@prattcc.edu.

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PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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FIND OUT MORE ON OUR WEBSITE

gobeaversports.com/information/beaverbackers

The Pratt Community College Beaver Backers is an organization dedicated to supporting, promoting and advancing Pratt Community College athletics. The Beaver Backers is an organization that will assist Pratt Community College with providing the support and resources necessary for student-athletes to achieve success in each of these pursuits.

PCC Trustees Support PCC Joining a Mutual Aid Agreement

Natural disasters such as floods and tornados and storms that cause damage and knock out power plus other emergencies like campus shootings can disrupt the day-to-day operations of colleges and universities.

As part of a nation wide effort to lend assistance, wherever it is needed, Pratt Community College has signed the National Intercollegiate Mutual Aid Agreement that makes help available if they need it and PCC can lend assistance to other schools if necessary. The PCC Board of Trustees said they would support PCC being part of NIMAA.

The NIMAA is a consortium of higher education institutions that have joined together and have volunteered to become a resource for other institutions if a disaster happens, said PCC President Michael Calvert.

On Oct. 1, 2015, a 26-year-old Umpqua Community College student, Chris Harper-Mercer, shot and killed an assistant professor and eight students and injured 7 others in a shooting that targeted Christians. Harper-Mercer committed suicide after being wounded by law enforcement. Umpqua Community College is near Roseburg, Oregon. Some students, staff and faculty were so scared, they would not come to campus after the shooting, Calvert said.

Another college president went to UCC to take over the day-to-day operations of the college while the UCC president attended to the necessary matters associated with the shooting.

This is what NIMAA is all about, providing a

helping hand when a college or university has to deal with a crisis situation, Calvert said.

There is no fee to be part of NIMAA. Participating colleges and universities sign an inter local agreement to be a resource in the event of a disaster.

According to the International Association of Emergency Managers, colleges and universities typically do not have the resources to deal with a large-scale crisis without some kind of help. Government support may be overwhelmed and may not have the necessary assistance needed for colleges and universities.

Mutual aid from NIMAA has been used in many cases over the years: Cal State Northridge after the 1994 North Ridge Earthquake; Universities of Miami, Tulane, Loyola New Orleans, LSU, Texas A&M, NYU, SUNY Stone Brook after hurricanes Andrew, Katrina, Rita and Sandy; Shootings at Virginia Tech in 2007, Northern Illinois in 2008, UC Santa Barbara in 2014 and UCC in 2015; California wildfires for multiple years; multiple institutions received assistance after the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing; meningitis outbreaks from 2013-2016 at Princeton, Providence College, UC Santa Barbara, U. of Oregon, Santa Clara University; and other events.

Some 28 colleges and universities belong to NIMAA with another 20 to 25 institutions expected to become members, according to information from the International Association of Emergency Managers.

Article by Gale Rose, Pratt Tribune

CHECK IN AT EVENTS. EARN POINTS.
GET REWARDED



Pratt Community College Recognized 2017 Learning Excellence

Pratt Community College has been recognized for offering one of the best learning environments in Kansas for 2017 by LearnHowToBecome.org (LHTB), a leader in education and career resources.

"It was important to recognize the colleges and universities that are going above and beyond the standard for learning," said Wes Ricketts, co-founder of LearnHowToBecome.org. "These schools have proven that their learning environments are exceptional and continuing to improve."

The full ranking list and complete methodology can be viewed here: Best Colleges in Kansas – <http://www.learnhowtobecome.org/college/kansas/>

To be considered for this ranking, schools must be institutionally accredited, public or private not-for-profit institutions and offer at least ten total programs. The main data points considered when ranking universities include:

- In-state tuition and fees for undergraduates
- Student to teacher ratio
- 6 Year Graduation Rate
- % of students receiving institutional financial aid (first time- full time undergrads)

LearnHowToBecome.org has distinguished their ranking measurement by including the median earnings of alumni ten years after enrolling in college. Factoring in salary earnings alongside tuition and financial aid offers a more accurate assessment of the return on investment a university offers.



Women's Soccer Collecting Shoes for Fundraiser

Clean out your closets, the Pratt Community College Women's Soccer team is collecting gently used, worn and new shoes to fundraise for their upcoming season.

Women's Soccer head coach, Ashley Burnett, says collecting shoes will help children in need as well as raise money for equipment.

"We decided to do a shoe drive as we would rather ask for your shoes than your money," said Burnett. "Everyone has shoes lying around that they don't use anymore and they can go to good use and help the women's soccer program."

The team is trying to reach a goal of 200 bags of shoes which is about 25 pair per bag. The collection will be shipped to Florida through an organization called Funds2Orgs and then sent to underdeveloped countries who are in need.

Funds2Orgs is an Orlando, Fla. based social enterprise company. Founded in 2013, Funds2Orgs works with organizations to help

them raise money collecting used and new shoes that are distributed to microentrepreneurs in developing nations.

For each pound of shoes the PCC soccer team collects and sends off they will receive .40 cents. All profits will go towards the program for jerseys, equipment, field resources and more.

Shoes can be dropped off at the PCC campus in Pratt. A donation box is set up in front of the Admissions office in the commons area of the Benson Education Center.

For more information about the shoe drive and the Women's Soccer program contact, Burnett at ashleyb@prattcc.edu.



KACCT and Kansas State University to Launch Dual-advising Initiative

A new initiative between Kansas community colleges and Kansas State University will provide community college students with additional support as they prepare to transition to the university.

The Kansas Association of Community College Trustees and Kansas State University recently signed a memorandum of agreement to support a dual-advising initiative at the university called DirectLink. The initiative is designed to assist community college transfer students as they transition to a bachelor's degree program at Kansas State University through consistent and frequent interaction between the student, the community college advisor and the university academic advisor.

"Kansas State University is pleased to partner with the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees on this important initiative," said Sue Maes, dean of K-State Global Campus. "Students will receive a clear and direct pathway to obtaining a bachelor's degree, as well as customized support along the way to minimize obstacles and improve their rates of success."

DirectLink will launch in fall 2017 with nine pilot bachelor's degree programs at Kansas State University. The programs include options from the colleges of Agriculture, Business Administration, Education, Engineering and Human Ecology. DirectLink will be coordinated through K-State Global Campus.

"The community colleges are excited about DirectLink, which embraces a concept we have been working on for several years: streamlining the process for our transfer students and clearing pathways," said Linda Fund, executive director



of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees. "Ultimately, this concept can save money and increase completion while providing dual-advising support. We thank K-State for its vision."

Students who participate in the initiative will receive recognition for achievements made while completing the associate degree and will be provided with curriculum sequence information that will guide them through the most efficient and effective timeline to obtaining a bachelor's degree. Students also will have access to Kansas State University resources, customized campus visits, degree audits and activities designed specifically for DirectLink transfer students.

The consistent and frequent interaction between the student, the community college advisor and the Kansas State University academic advisor will help the student make a smoother transition to the university, and changes in curriculum or degree requirements can be communicated more quickly.

PCC Science Instructor Sets Sail With NOAA Research Team



A Pratt Community College science instructor is spending two weeks at sea participating in a research project with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) this summer. Biology and Science instructor, Dave Chambers, is one of 29 teachers across the United States participating in the 2017 class for the Teacher at Sea (TAS) program sponsored by the NOAA.

According to their website, the TAS program mission is to provide teachers hands-on, real-world research experience working at sea with NOAA scientists providing them with experiences in oceanic and atmospheric research crucial to the nation. The TAS program gives kindergarten through college-level teachers an opportunity to sail aboard NOAA research ships to work under the guidance of experienced scientists and crew members.

PCC Science Instructor Sets Sail With NOAA Research Team Cont.



"I am thrilled and humbled to have the opportunity to participate in the NOAA Teacher at Sea program," said Chambers. "Even though Pratt is more the 600 miles away from our nearest ocean I have always been fascinated by the immensity, power and beauty of our oceans."

Chambers will be a part of the research team aboard the NOAA ship Reuben Lasker conducting a West Coast Sardine Survey. According to the TAS website, the vessel is the fifth in a series of Oscar Dyson-class fisheries survey vessels and one of the most technologically advanced fisheries vessels in the world. The ship's primary objective is to support fish, marine mammal, and seabird and turtle surveys off the U.S. West Coast and in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.

During the survey, which sets course July 17, from San Francisco, Chambers will be keeping a log of both his research findings and personal experiences at sea. Chambers hopes to bring back a treasure of knowledge to share with his classes and the community.

"One of the overall goals of the TAS program is to bring what we learned at sea back to our classrooms and the community," said Chambers. "We want to connect students to real world situations and challenge them to think critically about science, research and outcomes from that research."

Chambers passion for water began when he was young, and he wants to bring knowledge to students and the community about why rivers and oceans are not only a big part of Kansas history, but also why it's important for our future as well.

"I have often been asked what do oceans have to do with Kansas," said Chambers. "For many of my students and people in my community there can be a lack of understanding of how our oceans affect all of us, and how critical they are to maintaining the biogeochemical cycles and energy flow that make life possible on the planet."

Chambers will be working alongside NOAA

researchers to study populations of sardines in the Pacific Ocean. The data from that research will be used to implement regulations that will help to ensure Pacific sardines are harvested in a sustainable manner. Data collected from the survey will be provided to NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center scientists that along with other agencies, manage coastal pelagic fisheries resources in the California Current ecosystem. An important part of fisheries research cruises are to perform biological and physical surveys to ensure sustainable fisheries and healthy marine habitats are protected.

Chambers explains that there are two components to the research he will be assisting with that are vital.

"There is an economic component to the research. The Pacific sardine fishery is a multi-million dollar industry that is important to the economy and provides jobs and money to those who work in the fishing industry," said Chambers. "There is also an ecological component to the research. Pacific sardines are an important part of our marine ecosystems, and they are an important food source for many marine vertebrates including marine mammals, fish, birds and turtles. The data collected from these types of surveys is critical to making sure our fisheries are harvested sustainably so these resources will be available in the future for economic and ecological purposes."

This expedition is not the first for Chambers. In 2002 he traveled to the Bering Sea in Alaska to conduct research with the National Marine Fisheries Service. He is also a certified scuba diver.

Chambers will be keeping a log of his mission and experiences during his expedition. The log can be found at teacheratsea.noaa.gov/#/2017/Dave*Chambers/blogs.

Upon returning from the survey and back home to Kansas he is required to submit lesson plans for his classes that address the science and research that was conducted on the vessel. In addition to lesson plans related to the research Chambers' will also incorporate information related to careers in science and research related to our oceans into his classes.

"This program is extremely valuable not only for myself as a participant but is a great tool that I can use to show my students the opportunities associated with careers related to science and our oceans," said Chambers.

For more information about the TAS program or the NOAA you can visit their website, teacheratsea.noaa.gov.

