

Pratt Community College Monthly Newsletter

## 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!

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#### **Upcoming Dates**

Mid-Terms	Oct 9-13
Fall Break (No Classes)	Oct 16
Board Meeting	Oct 16
Spring 2018 Early Enrollment	Oct 17
Night on Broadway	Oct 20-22
Halloween	Oct 31

#### The official newsletter of PCC **BEAD** OCTOBER 2017 The official newsletter of PCC BEAD BEAD BEAD BEAD

#### EPT Students and Alumni Help Restore Power After Hurricanes

The Pratt Community College EPT program is well represented in the hurricane relief efforts in Florida and Texas. Along with numerous alumni currently stationed throughout the southern portion of the United States, PCC had nine sophomores in Florida helping with the restoration. These students are currently working for several different companies and will graduate in the spring.



The students experienced hands-on training by repairing and restoring critical infrastructures damaged during the devastating weather events this hurricane season. They worked on restoring residential electrical services, electrical distribution systems, and transmission delivery systems. Aside from the disastrous debris they had to navigate, they were also presented with the challenge of working around displaced wildlife, such as snakes, spiders, and alligators.

Many former students also helped with the restoration of power and electricity in hurricane stricken areas. PCC alumnus, Bobby Garrett, is currently stationed in Orlando, FL. Garrett graduated from the EPT program at PCC in 2012 and currently works for Mid Continent Energy out of Blackwell, OK. He was stationed in Corpus Christi, TX for three weeks to aide in the recovery of Hurricane Harvey before being transferred to Orlando.

Garrett and his crew have been climbing poles, cutting trees, and pulling up broken wire in backyards and alleyways. The biggest challenge he has had to face so far is navigating the terrain and debris in backyards while trying to stay cool in the humidity filled Florida heat. Despite the challenges, however, he is glad he is able to be part of the electricity restoration so he can help the millions of people affected by the hurricanes.

"One of the best things about working on these storms is helping families and especially those with kids who have been out of power for a couple of weeks," said Garrett.

PCC EPT instructor Dave Campbell echoes his statement.

"It is the first step in the recovery process and they are extremely grateful because they know they can begin their lives again," said Campbell. "The process begins with getting the lights on."

PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age or veteran status in its programs and activities. Complete notice can be found at: http://prattcc.edu/notice

#### CoreCivic CEO credits time at Pratt Community College for Success

Damon Hininger is the President and CEO of CoreCivic Inc., a diversified government solutions company based in Nashville, Tenn. His day to day life involves running the publically traded company with more than 15,000 employees. In 2011, he was named one of Forbes Magazine's "Top 20 Most Powerful CEO's 40 and Under." He is also a Pratt Community College Alumnus.

Hininger grew up in Lansing, Kan., before attending PCC in 1988 on a track and field scholarship. Obtaining the scholarship was special, as it allowed him to be the first in his family to attend college. He said the experience allowed him to make a smooth transfer from his small high school to a larger university and ultimately to the position he is in today.

"PCC got me in an academic environment that is a little less threatening. What struck me was the class size and the instructors, as they clearly cared about the students. They were always available, proactive and willing to help," said Hininger. "That type of environment you don't really see in a bigger school because of sheer volume of students."

After attending PCC his freshman year, Hininger left Pratt in 1989 to continue his education at Kansas State University. There, he obtained Bachelor of Science degrees in sociology and criminal science. His experience at PCC allowed him to establish a routine and to become more disciplined to ensure his success at the four year institution.

After graduating from Kansas State University, Hininger moved to Leavenworth, Kan., in 1992 to work as a correctional officer for the Corrections Corporation of America, now known as CoreCivic. He steadily climbed the ladder in the company which required relocations to Arizona and to company headquarters in Nashville, Tenn. In 2000, he earned his M.B.A. from the Jack Massey Graduate School of Business at Belmont University. That same week, he was promoted to vice president of the company. Eight years later he became the CEO.

Hininger firmly believes it is not essential to have an Ivy League background to be successful in the business world. The path through community college is just as viable as any other direction.

"Community colleges around the country do not get the recognition and appreciation of how valuable of an academic experience they can be," said Hininger. "You can have a very good living attending a community college and have a very rewarding experience."



Hininger resides in Nashville, Tenn., with his wife Carrie and their two children. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Kansas State University Foundation as well as the Board of Directors of Men of Valor, a rehabilitation program for male ex-prisoners. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of the United Way of Metropolitan Nashville and the Board of Trustees for Belmont University. He is also the Council President of the Middle Tennessee Council of Boy Scouts of America. He has received numerous alumni awards from his alma maters, including PCC's Outstanding Alumnus in 2011.

"I really appreciate that time at Pratt," said Hininger. "It really laid the ground work on how to get the most out of going to school and making sure you are disciplined and in a routine to ensure you are successful."



## K-State, Kansas Community Colleges Sign Agreements to Launch DirectLink

Kansas State University and the state's community colleges have joined to improve the success of transfer students through the creation of DirectLink.

DirectLink is a dual advising initiative between the 19 community colleges in Kansas and K-State. It's designed to support community college students as they transition to bachelor's degree programs at the university by providing consistent and frequent interaction between the student, the community college advisor and the K-State academic advisor.



from your community college to K-STATE

The DirectLink agreements between the community colleges and K-State were finalized at the Sept. 20 meeting of the Kansas Board of Regents in Topeka.

DirectLink launches this fall with eight degrees offered through K-State's colleges of Agriculture, Business Administration, Education, Engineering and Human Ecology. The degrees are accounting, agriculture education, athletic training, civil engineering, early childhood education, elementary education, mechanical engineering, and nutrition and health.

"We are excited about this initiative as it will help community college students complete a bachelor's degree at Kansas State University even more efficiently," said K-State President Richard Myers. "This enhanced interaction and increased support provides great next steps in offering more tools to ensure academic success for all of our students."

Participating students have access to K-State resources, a customized campus visit, degree audits and activities designed specific to DirectLink transfer students. The initiative also will improve the transition to K-State by addressing changes in curriculum or degree requirements earlier in the students' academic career.

Additional information is available at the DirectLink website, global.k-state.edu/directlink.



Attending the signing ceremony at the Sept. 20 meeting were representatives from Allen Community College, Barton Community College, Butler Community College, Cloud County Community College, Coffeyville Community College, Colby Community College, Cowley Community College, Fort Scott Community College, Garden City Community College, Highland Community College, Hutchinson Community College, Independence Community College, Johnson County Community College, Kansas City Kansas Community College, Labette Community College, Neosho County Community College, Pratt Community College and Seward Community College.

### Pratt Community College Seeks Winter Coat Donations

Pratt Community College is teaming up with One Warm Coat to host a coat drive to collect clean, gently worn coats from Oct. 23 to Oct. 27 in the PCC common's area. Students, employees, and Pratt community members are invited to make a difference in our local community by donating to the coat drive and helping PCC reach their goal of collecting 100 coats.

"We are so excited about our upcoming coat drive and hope the community will support us," said Jessica Sanko, PCC Coordinator of College Relations and Student Services Assistant. "One Warm Coat's program helps us keep all of the coats we collect in the Pratt community. At the end of the drive, the coats will be donated to the Hope Center of Pratt to be distributed to local community members who are needing a way to stay warm this upcoming winter."

Each year, hundreds of thousands of gently worn coats are distributed across North America to children, women and men in need through One Warm Coat's Coat Drive program.



## **ONE WARM COAT**

"We are so grateful for our Coat Drive Ambassadors, like Pratt Community College! It is because of our incredible volunteers that we have been around for 25 years, helping get coats to our neighbors who need them. Thanks to Pratt Community College's efforts, many people in this community will have a much warmer winter," said Jennifer Stockard, President and Chief Executive Officer of One Warm Coat.

Gently worn coats, sweaters, jackets, and sweatshirts will be accepted. Scarves, hats, and mittens are also welcome to be donated to be distributed to those in need.

One Warm Coat is a national non-profit organization that works to provide a free, warm coat to any person in need and raises awareness of the vital need for warm coats. One Warm Coat supports individuals, groups, companies and organizations across the country by providing the tools and resources needed to hold a successful coat drive. Coats are distributed in the communities where they were collected, to any person in need, without charge, discrimination or obligation. Over the past 25 years, One Warm Coat has worked with its volunteers to give away nearly 5 million coats.



People of PCC is a spinoff of the well-known Humans of New York project. The goal is to feature students, employees, board members, and anyone else who is associated with PCC to learn more about their unique stories and life ambitions.

Each Friday during the academic school year, features detailing the lives and stories of those related to the college will be published to the PCC website, social media and other platforms to provide a variety of ways to get each story heard.

"With a glimpse into the backgrounds and daily lives of fellow peers, we can develop a

better understanding of the people around us and create a community that makes us PCC proud," said Jessica Sanko, Coordinator of College Relations and Student Services Assistant.

To be considered as a feature for People of PCC, please contact Jessica Sanko at jessicas@ prattcc.edu or 620-450-2192.

#### Smith Hired as Agriculture Instructor at PCC

Barrett Smith was hired as the new agriculture instructor this past August. He has been teaching students this fall semester in a variety of classes and topics such as Plant Science, Computers in Agriculture, Intro to Ag Business, Plant ID, and Sprayer Application Technology. He said his goal for every class he teaches is to help students love to learn.

"I like learning and I want students to enjoy learning," said Smith. "It's easier to enjoy learning while doing real world applications and learning how to apply knowledge outside the classroom."

Smith's love of knowledge and agriculture grew from his home roots. He was raised in Hopewell, Kan., and is currently the fifth generation to work on his family's farm. He furthered his agriculture



knowledge at Kansas State University where he obtained his bachelor degrees in Animal Science and Agriculture Technology Management.

After graduating from Kansas State University, Smith worked for Osborne Industries in Osborne, Kan., where he installed automated swine feeding equipment. He then worked as an extension agent for Kiowa County Research and Extension. Despite his background and love for agriculture, teaching was not something he always had outlined for himself.

"People had told me I would be a good teacher but it wasn't what I planned on doing," said Smith. "I realized I like learning and I like challenging other people to learn and so I decided to give it a shot."

Smith challenges every student interested in agriculture to take one of his classes to learn more about the subject in a real world setting. He wants his students to be prepared for the next steps in their lives, whether it is continuing education at a university or going directly into the industry after PCC. Most importantly, however, he would like to teach his students to enjoy learning and hopes they will chase the pursuit of knowledge in the future.

"If students have any interest at all in agriculture, they are welcome to come to take my classes and learn," said Smith. "The pursuit of knowledge is invaluable. Knowledge is not something that can be taken from you."

## **Apply Kansas: College Application Month**

College Application Month is a state-wide initiative in partnership with the American College Application Campaign, aiming to provide more students with the opportunity to apply to college, while specifically focusing on low-income and first-generation students.

The goal of Apply Kansas is to ensure that 60 percent of Kansas residents have a college degree or credential by 2020. In its 2015 pilot phase, Apply Kansas worked with thousands of students at 11 high schools to help guide them through the college application process, and in 2016 partnered with 26 high schools across the state.

Through the month of October, challenge your students, children and yourselves to tell your story on why you applied to college or why you beleive it is important to apply. Share your stories with us on social media by tagging Pratt Community College (@prattcc) on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



#### **EPT Hotline School occurs on PCC Campus**

Several linemen from various rural electric cooperatives and municipalities around the state of Kansas are in Pratt for the annual Kansas Electric Cooperative (KEC) Hotline School hosted by Pratt Community College. The event allows linemen from across the state to receive hands-on training and refresher courses while simulating situations where they must work on electrical lines that are hot.

"People do not enjoy the power going out every time a line needs to be worked on," said Dave Campbell, PCC EPT Instructor. "This school allows linemen to practice with equipment so they can work while leaving the lights on."

The hotline school also provides an opportunity for linemen to network and connect with other linemen across the state. They are able to share their different views and techniques to ultimately improve in the craft.



Dave Campell, PCC EPT instructor and Eric Thompson, Prairie Land Electric Cooperative lineman

Eric Thompson, a lineman from Prairie Land Electric Cooperative based out of Norton, Kan., has been in the profession for ten years. This is his first time attending the event.

"We have been able to learn a lot of techniques and rules from other co-ops and see how they do things," said Thompson. "Overall we have been having a good time and learning a lot which makes for a pretty good week."

Electrical Power Technology students at PCC have been able to observe the training and ask professionals in the field various questions about the job. It has also given them the opportunity to network with companies that regularly hire graduates from the program.

The two and a half day school began on Tuesday, Sept. 12 and concludes on Thursday, Sept. 14. It has been offered at PCC since the early 1980s.

Pratt Community College offers the EPT program on-campus and online. For more information about the Electrical Power Technology program, contact Dave Campbell at 620-450-2127 or phillipc@prattcc.edu.



#### Kansas Art Guild Featured in Art Gallery

During the months of September and October, the Delmar Riney Art Gallery will exhibit works of art from multiple artists in the Kansas Art Guild.

The Friends Community Art Guild was formed in May, 1977. The first meetings were held at Friends University with eight members present. Nona Bass, President, had just moved from Anaheim, California, to Wichita and was surprised to learn that there was no organization in Wichita for its local artists. She felt it was important that artists could meet and share ideas.

The Guild grew rapidly and soon moved to the Wichita Art Museum. At that time, the name was changed to the Community Art Guild. When the Wichita Art Museum underwent renovation, the Guild moved to the Wichita Center for the Arts, where KAG is currently located.



In the summer of 1993, members voted to change the name to the Kansas Art Guild, Inc. At that time, it was decided to incorporate. The name is very appropriate since many of the members live many miles outside the Wichita Area.

Regular meetings are held at 12:45 PM on the first Tuesday of each month at the Mark Arts, formerly the Wichita Center for the Arts. Beginner, intermediate and master artists meet to learn from one another as well as other renowned artists.

Members share their recent works which are judged by visiting speakers. The Guild also holds exhibitions at several locations in the area throughout the year. The Guild's goal is to promote art and artists.

Most of the works on exhibit are for sale by the artist. Prices range from \$100 to \$400 per piece.

For more information about the Kansas Art Guild or to contact them, visit www.kansasartguild.com.







## **Collegiate Club Makes Good Connections**

Pratt Community College students sought to connect with the average consumer of agriculture products at the Kansas State Fair on Sunday. Eight members of the Pratt Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter, supervised by co-advisor Jackie Mundt, spent the day helping people find their way through clues in a scavenger hunt display in the Oz Building south of the grandstand at the fairgrounds in Hutchinson.

"Our goal was to promote agriculture and educate those who may or may not have had any connection to how food is grown and where certain products come from," Mundt said.



The Pratt college students volunteered their time to welcome visitors to the display, assist with questions and hand-out free ice cream coupons to those who completed the tasks.

"We have to find creative ways to fit farm bureau activities into our busy students lives," Mundt said. "But they get so much support from our adult division, it is good for us to be able to give back a little and make these connections at the fair."

The Pratt Collegiate chapter meets twice monthly, usually on Sunday afternoons or evenings, but have many special events planned for the coming year.

Membership in the agriculture club is not based on direct ties to the farm and ranch industry.

"We welcome anyone," Mundt said. "There is a misconception that is your goal is not to end up in farming you can't be part of the collegiate farm bureau and that couldn't be more wrong. We need everybody to be part of telling the story of agriculture. We are all connected to farming in some way."

The Kansas Farm Bureau has a three-pronged mission focus of advocation, service and education. The Kansas State Fair provided members the opportunity to help reach those goals and to make valuable connections last week.

#### Environmental Science Class Participates in Stream Ecology Project

On Sept. 21, Pratt Community College instructor Dave Chambers and his Environmental Science class participated in a stream ecology project led by biologists from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT). The location for the field trip was the South Fork Ninnescah River in Lemon Park. The objective of this project is to help students develop a basic understanding of ecology, an appreciation for our resources and a sense of stewardship for the land.

Biologists Ryan L. Waters, Ryan D. Waters, Andrew Karlin, Brandi McCoy and Kali Boroughs



who work for KDWPT guided the students and organized hands-on activities. Boroughs, a was a biology student at PCC from 2009 to 2011 and recently graduated from Fort Hays State University. The biologists from KDWPT organized the activities which included electro-shocking for fish and collecting macroinvertebrates. In addition to looking at the biological components of the stream, the students did a habitat assessment as well. The class will also do some basic water chemistry to give them a more comprehensive understanding of the ecology of the South Fork Ninnescah River.

"Providing students the opportunity to study the watershed in the field gives them a chance to see first-hand some of the environmental issues that are impacting rivers in our area," said Chambers. "The support of KDWPT and their biologists is critical to the success of this project."

Chambers also said that he and his students would like to thank KDWPT and their biologists for their time and willingness to share their expertise related to stream ecology.

### Brittany Smith selected as the KJCCC Goalkeeper of the Week

Pratt Community College women's soccer player Brittany Smith has been selected as the KJCCC Goalkeeper of the Week for Week 5 of the 2017 season.

Smith was between the pipes for PCC's match against Garden City Community College. The Beavers prevailed for a 4-0 win. Smith faced four shots on goal in the match, blocking each shot and sealing her first shutout win as keeper of the Blue and White. This is also Pratt's first conference shutout since Oct. 17, 2015.

"I am very excited for Brittany (Smith), and it is very deserving," said head coach Ashley Burnett. "Pratt has not kept a clean sheet since 2015, so it is another great stepping



stone toward rebuilding the program. Brittany's work ethic and passion helps drive this team, and I am very proud of her accomplishing this."

This season, Smith has started all seven matches in goal for Pratt. She has clocked in 610 minutes and has 103 saves on the season. For her career with the Beavers, Smith has seen action in 19 matches starting in 17 of them. Smith has accumulated 282 saves for PCC.

Congratulations to Brittany Smith for being selected as the KJCCC goalkeeper of the week.

## Jamaal Barnes New Track and Field Coach

Pratt Community College Director of Athletics Bill Wilson announced the hiring of Jamaal Barnes as the new head track and field and assistant cross country coach of the Beavers. Barnes brings quality experience to the Blue and White.

"We are excited to have Jamaal join the PCC family," Wilson said. "With his NCAA division I background, he understands the caliber of student athlete it takes to be successful in the Jayhawk Conference."

Barnes comes to PCC from Georgia State University where he was an assistant coach where he gained invaluable recruiting experience throughout the southeast including the states of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. Prior to his time at Georgia State, Barnes was an assistant coach at Augusta University. He started his coaching career at Georgia State as an assistant in 2014. As a coach, Barnes specializes in sprints, hurdles, and relays.

"I'm grateful for this chance with PCC, and I think it's the ideal place for me to be during this stage of my career," Barnes said. "I'd like to thank my family for supporting and believing in me. I would also like to thank Dr. Mike Calvert and Bill Wilson for giving me such an opportunity."

In college, Barnes ran<sup>-</sup>at the NCAA Division I level as a sprinter at Auburn University from 2004-2008. His best time at the 100m was 10.87 and his best 200m time was 22.43. He was a member of the Auburn 4x100m relay team that qualified for the



NCAA Regional with a best time of 40.57.

"There is a lot of potential within the track program, and it's currently filled with great kids who are looking for the same kind of success that I am," Barnes said. "My plans are to continue building this program, and to take it to the next level."

## **PCC Athletics Debuts Buck Wagon**

Pratt Community College athletics has boosted its game-day experience with the purchase and restoration of a used concessions trailer. Dubbed The Buck Wagon (after their mascot Bucky Beaver), the concessions trailer will be utilized for outdoor sporting events as well as community events in Pratt and the surrounding area.

"The Buck Wagon concessions trailer will greatly enhance the fan experience for our outdoor sporting events," said Director of Athletics Bill Wilson. "The trailer will also be utilized by other groups on campus at events around Pratt and the surrounding community."

The Buck Wagon restoration project was spearheaded by Pratt's Doug Reh Chevrolet



and Taylor Printing. As proud sponsors of the Beavers, Doug Reh Chevrolet completed the body work, including new lights, and Taylor Printing designed and installed the custom exterior wrap. The PCC themed logo features vibrant colors, the PCC logo and pictures of Bucky Beaver himself.

Keep an eye out for the Buck Wagon this fall at PCC men's and women's soccer games as well as community events and in the spring at PCC baseball and softball games.

Stay up-to-date with PCC athletics stats, scores and schedules on their website, gobeaversports. com.

#### Beaver Backers Host Second Annual Fall Beaver Bash

The Pratt Community College Beaver Backers hosted the second annual Fall Beaver Bash from Jack Ewing Park on the evening of Sept. 14. The community of Pratt came out for their first chance to meet the 2017 student athletes and coaches of PCC athletics.

Parish Café provided the meal for the Beaver Bash while each team had an activity to engage members of the Pratt community. Cheerleading hosted ribbon making and volleyball did face painting. Men's and women's basketball held cornhole and tennis pong. Wrestling and baseball renewed their rivalry from



last year with a rematch of the wrestling vs baseball wiffle ball game. Prominently featured at the Beaver Bash was the debut of the Buck Wagon, the newly purchased concessions trailer for PCC athletics.

"Overall I am very pleased with the turnout at this year's Beaver Bash," said PCC Director of Athletics Bill Wilson. "The community of Pratt came out to spend time with the athletes and coaches. It is great to have seen this event grow in just a year's time. We look forward to hosting the Beaver Bash in the future as it becomes a tradition at PCC."

















#### PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT ACTIVITIES









# CHECK IN AT EVENTS. EARN POINTS. GET REWARDED COBEAVER NATION

