



Pratt Community College

Monthly Newsletter

The

The official newsletter of PCC

BEAVER

NOVEMBER 2019

Buzz

Maximum Student Learning

Individual & Workforce Development

High Quality Instruction & Service

Community Enrichment

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!

>>> meganm@prattcc.edu

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Upcoming Dates

Board of Trustees Meeting	Nov 18
Thanksgiving Break	Nov 27-29
Thanksgiving	Nov 28
Campus Closed	Nov 28-29

Pratt Community College has opened the enrollment period for Spring 2020. The full list of classes offered can be found on the PCC Course Catalog as well as in the PCC Admissions office.

For more questions about enrolling returning students can schedule an appointment with their advisor and new students and/or community members can call us at 620-450-2217 or visit prattcc.edu/enroll to get started.

ENROLL for SPRING 2020

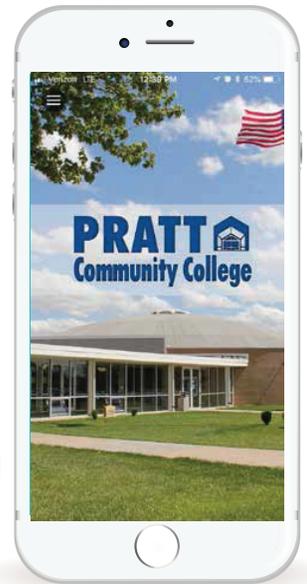
CURRENT STUDENTS

Schedule an appointment with your advisor
To find your advisor check the bottom of your current schedule on self-service

Plan ahead for your meeting! See what courses are being offered at prattcc.edu/CourseCatalog

Meet with your advisor before semester end to complete your class registration for Spring '20

Check your **class schedule** on the PCC App - Ellucian Go for Apple & Android



PREPARE FOR SPRING SEMESTER WITH YOUR PCC ELLUCIAN GO APP!

**DOWNLOAD THE APP
SEARCH ELLUCIAN GO
SELECT PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR ADVISOR TO REGISTER FOR SPRING CLASSES
PRATTCC.EDU/ENROLL**



MILITARY

Care Package

DRIVE

Pratt Community College is hosting a military care package drive until **November 15th** to support our troops overseas. We are looking for....

Pre-Packaged Foods

- Pull Top Lids Preferred
- Snack Sized Tortilla Chips
- Hard Candy
- Peppermints
- Cinnamon Disks
- Butter Scotch Candy
- Instant Coffee in Bags
- Powdered Coffee Creamer
- Non-Perishable Canned Goods
- Snack Sized Chips
- Oatmeal
- Granola Bars
- Crackers
- Beef Jerky
- Gum
- Powdered Drink Mixes

Hygiene

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Razors
- Floss
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Wet Wipes
- Mouthwash
- Chap Stick

Items

- Playing Cards
- Bug Spray
- Sunscreen
- Foot Powder
- Handmade Drawings
- Deodorant
- Q-Tips
- Word Searches
- Shampoo
- Thank you Cards

Items will be sent to David Schmidt, Pratt CC Director of Planning & Assessment and his troop- 349th Combat Support Hospital.

Drop-Off Location: Library & Commons by Switchboard

For more information contact Jessica Hacker at jessicah@prattcc.edu

Environmental Science Class Participates in Stream Ecology Project

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) on Thursday, Oct. 3. The field trip was at the South Fork Ninnescah River directly behind Pratt County Lake. The objective of this project was to help students develop a better understanding of basic ecology and instill an appreciation for our natural resources and a sense of stewardship for the land.

Biologists Ryan Waters, Jeff Seim, and Ariel Snyder provided direction and organized hands-on activities for the project. Activities included electro-shocking for fish and collecting macroinvertebrates. In addition to looking at the biological components of the stream the students also completed a habitat assessment. In the near future the class will do basic water chemistry to give them a more comprehensive understanding of the ecology of the South Fork Ninnescah River.

"These experiences provide students with an opportunity to see firsthand what field biologists do and it allows them to see the environmental impacts that are affecting rivers in our area," said Chambers. "The on-going support of KDWPT and their biologists is critical to the success of this project. Their help for making this a meaningful learning experience for the students of PCC is greatly appreciated."

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.



Lisa Perez-Miller Receives Community College Professional Award

The National Association for Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) hosted their annual Region IV West conference Oct. 28-30 in Fargo, N.D. Pratt Community College's, Lisa Perez Miller, Vice President of Students/Enrollment Management, was awarded the Community College Professional Award at the event for her dedication to students and leadership within the institution.

"I am so very honored to be recognized by NASPA with this award and the fact that I was nominated by members of the Pratt Community College Students/Enrollment Management team was extra special. I am grateful for each of them and the amazing team of professionals I have the opportunity to work with at PCC," Perez Miller shared.

PCC's Director of Student and Residence Life, Charles Keefer, who received the award in 2017, accepted the award in Fargo on her behalf. Keefer, who became involved with the organization in 2014, is an active member in the NASPA Region IV-West Advisory Board as the Technology Knowledge Community representative.

"It is a rare thing for one institution to win a NASPA award three years in a row... well we did it here at PCC," said Keefer. "I think it speaks volumes to the staff that work here and our dedication to student success"

Amy Jackson, Director of the Student Success Center, was awarded the Community College Professional Award in 2018. Jackson is dedicated to helping students meet their goals and encourages her colleagues to be passionate about their work.

Perez-Miller attended Allen County Community College. She received a Bachelor's Degree from Kansas State University and a Master's Degree from Wichita State University.

"Lisa truly encompasses this award with her thirty five year dedication to community colleges and her tireless work for the success of our faculty, staff, and students here at Pratt," said Keefer.

The Region IV-West Community College Professional Award is awarded each year to one community college professional in the region. The award goes to someone who is committed and is actively working in a community college. The award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated leadership and a commitment to NASPA and/or the profession in relation to community colleges.

NASPA, is a national organization for college students and professionals involved in student affairs, leadership and professional development. For more information about NASPA you can visit their website, www.naspa.org.



Pattersons Make NFSR a Father-Son Competition

Like father, like son.

Rocky Patterson, a four-time steer roping world champion, will compete with his son, Cole, for the first time at the Clem McSpadden National Finals Steer Roping at the Kansas Star Arena in Mulvane, Nov. 22-23.

Rocky, who won the world title in 2009-10, 2012 and 2016, qualified in the No. 8 spot in the PRCA | RAM World Standings with \$40,814. Cole finished the regular season in 13th with \$38,251.

"This is special," said Rocky. "It was fun getting to travel with him this summer. I didn't make the (NFSR) my rookie year, so he's ahead of me."

Rocky and Cole are the first father-son combination to qualify for the NFSR since Dan Fisher and his sons Vin Fisher Jr. and J. Tom Fisher accomplished the feat in 2010 and 2013.

"I don't know if it has totally set in that I will be competing with my dad," said Cole, 24. "That first night (Nov. 22) I know it will hit fully. This is a dream come true. Vin Fisher told me that the years he qualified with his dad that it was the best experience of his life, and he wishes he had it back. He told me to not take it for granted. I'm sure it will be exciting."

The Pattersons live in Pratt, Kan., which is 90 minutes from Mulvane.

Rocky will be making his 25th NFSR appearance – second only to the legendary Guy Allen, who competed at the NFSR 33 times and won 18 steer roping world championships.

Cole already has wrapped up the 2019 PRCA | Resistol Rookie of the Year in steer roping. Rocky was the steer roping rookie of the year in 1992.

Cole's march to his inaugural NFSR was fueled by his horsepower. His primary horse this season was Mr. Blackburn Chex 113 "Dunny," owned by his dad. Dunny was named the Purina Horse of the Year presented by AQHA for steer roping on Oct. 4.

"That horse doesn't ever do anything to just drop your jaw, but just always stays out of your way and he never hurts you," Cole said.

The Top 15 steer ropers in the PRCA based on PRCA | RAM World Standings at the end of the regular season will compete at the NFSR, a separate event from the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.



PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PROGRAM FEATURE

AGRICULTURE

Pratt Community College Agriculture instructor, Barrett Smith, has many goals for his classes this school year. His main goal, however, is to prepare students to have the skills to successfully transfer to a four-year institution or leave PCC with a job opportunity.

Smith joined the PCC Agriculture faculty at the start of the Fall 2018 semester. In the time he has been here he says that he wants students to be competitive in the industry and within their chosen career. He aims to help students be in a position with lots of opportunities and to help them develop their critical thinking skills and learn from real-world experience.

"There are many unique opportunities and we hope to add more in the future," said Smith.

A few opportunities that the Agriculture Program is currently working on involves the recently acquired agriculture and rodeo land donated to the program last year. Ag Students are able to lend a working hand on the PCC farm including making agricultural related decisions when it comes to farm and ranch management. The hands-on experience helps the students form an understanding of the many different fields an ag student can focus on like agronomy, agribusiness and operations. Agriculture Power students also utilize the property to gain hands on exposure with diesel engine mechanics as well. The Ag and Rodeo property are in the process of being renovated by Smith, ag students among others. Smith says that each day they are making progress on the farm and though it isn't complete yet students are still getting a quality education inside and out of the classroom/farm.

"Different enterprises are currently working on the farm and others are still in process," said Smith.

The Agriculture program has community partners and many outside donors that have allowed the program to expand into more hands on learning and facilities off campus. Skyland Grain, Pratt Feeders, Kanza Co-op, Farm Bureau, Pratt County Research and Extension, Kinchelo's, Straub, BTI, Pratt Livestock, and many anonymous individual community donors and businessmen. The Ag program has also had classroom visits from members within organizations to talk to students, one of these organizations is Indigo Ag.

Smith says, the program partners and resources, they have access to is why he enjoys being an ag instructor.

"Seeing the kids mature, watching them learn, and watching the class progress individually and as a whole," said Smith. "This allows us to be able to accelerate material and teach at an advanced level."

PCC offers an Agriculture program that has the great advantage of being located in one of the world's most productive ag regions, south central Kansas. Students are able to work first-hand with livestock and in production situations instead of just being taught skills and theories in a classroom. There are many classes and degree options for a student to choose at PCC. For more information about the Agriculture Department, please contact Lori Montgomery by calling 620-450-2186 or by email at lorim@prattcc.edu.



Skyland Grain Gives \$20,000 for PCC Student Scholarships

Pratt Community College received a \$20,000 check from Skyland Grain, LLC to go towards scholarships for students. Skyland Grain, a program partner for the Crop Application certificate for nearly four years, has offered an occupational workforce program in conjunction with the Agriculture and Ag Power technical programs at PCC. Students have the opportunity to earn a Crop Applicator certificate and receive scholarship dollars to help cover tuition, books and more.



"Skyland Grain is proud to extend this check towards the Crop Application program at Pratt Community College," said Aaron Murphy Relationship Manager. "We know that there is a need in the industry for qualified professionals and these scholarship dollars will help those students who want to be a part of that industry."

Students can earn up to \$600 per semester by enrolling in the Crop Application certificate program while also enrolled in any other associate's degree program at PCC. The certificate program takes one year to complete and students work closely with PCC instructors and industry professionals at Skyland Grain to earn their Commercial Pesticide Applicator License upon completion of the program.



Crop Application student, Clay Rolf, began the program this year and says the scholarship and curriculum are the reasons he chose PCC and the applicator program.

"As a student, scholarships help determine where to go to school. A lot of students will have to work a job as well as take a lot of credit hours," said Clay Rolf, Skyland Grain scholarship recipient. "Knowing that there is money involved helps you make your decision as to where you want to go."

Skyland Grain also offers their own scholarship for college students upon high school graduation. Students can earn up to \$1,000 per year. To find out more about Skyland Grain scholarships visit their website skylandgrain.com/scholarships.

In addition Skyland Grain gives opportunities to college students who want to use what they have learned from their Agriculture or Business programs and apply it in the real world through paid internships. Each summer Skyland Grain offers multiple internship jobs to college students entering their second, third and fourth years of college in multiple areas of their business including Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, Agronomy, General Agriculture and Animal Sciences.

To learn more about the Crop Application certificate program at PCC and how you can apply for admission visit prattcc.edu/CropApplication. The PCC scholarship application for the 2020-2021 academic year is open. Students can submit their scholarship application at prattcc.edu/scholarships.

PCC Announces Plans for New Agriculture & Rodeo Complex

BUILD OUR FUTURE, Pratt Community College's (PCC) first comprehensive multi-million dollar-campaign, has secured an in-kind gift of 220 acres to develop the new PCC Agricultural and Livestock Education and Rodeo Campus. The gift of property allows PCC to expand two of its traditional educational and club programs.

"We are extremely grateful for this gift," said Gregg Lesh, PCC Foundation Chair. "The College was looking at ways to expand or enhance these programs, as rural America is still very much seeking young professionals dedicated to agriculture."

According to Dr. Mike Calvert, President, PCC, the site features indoor and outdoor rodeo arenas, multiple livestock shelters, a log home and other related structures. With additions and modifications, this property will be converted to one-of-a-kind, hands-on place of learning for agriculture and rodeo students to learn.

"From a teaching standpoint, typical classroom space isn't always conducive for agriculture students or instructors," said Michael Calvert, President, Pratt Community College. "This charitable gift of real estate allows us to create something special. In a prime location in one of the world's most productive agricultural regions, the PCC Agricultural and Livestock Education and Rodeo Campus will offer students the ability to work firsthand with livestock, and in production situations, instead of just learning skills and theories in a classroom."

Though the majority of the footprint is already in place, capital enhancements will create a premier learning facility to better help students prepare for a career in the agricultural industry. The facility will accommodate traditional courses including range management, livestock production, agricultural marketing, soils, plant science, animal science and agricultural economics. Building on what exists, this project, including a livestock processing facility, is critical for teaching the proper handling of animals.

Once enhancements are made, new platforms will accommodate equine therapy for individuals with special needs. This new way to utilize PCC resources will not only help those in need but provides both leadership and educational opportunities for PCC students. Equine therapy is used to treat behavioral issues such as attention deficit disorder, eating disorders, substance abuse,



depression, anxiety and more.

In addition to the use of the arenas by the PCC Rodeo team, the facility will allow the Pratt community to hold year-round equine, rodeo and livestock events. Groups including FFA, 4-H and youth rodeo can benefit greatly from both the indoor and outdoor arenas. This facility would also provide another economic development opportunity for Pratt. However, more funding is needed before renovations will be complete.

"The Build Our Future Campaign serves to develop new funding for scholarships, programs, capital and equipment," said Barry Fisher, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement & Alumni Relations. "A national campaign leadership committee works with a local campaign committee to research and sequence gifts and prospects. Once complete, this campaign sets the stage for a new kind of success for PCC."

To learn more about the PCC Foundation's campaign and how donations can be made towards any of the campaign objectives please contact Fisher at barryf@prattcc.edu or 620-450-2179.

PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PROGRAM FEATURE

AG POWER TECHNOLOGY

The Pratt Community College Agriculture Power Technology (APT) Program gives students the opportunity to earn while they learn. The goal of the technical program is to provide students with the skills to enter into a career workforce ready. This is achieved by spending time in the classroom, on-campus APT shop and being placed in a paid internship for a large portion of the curriculum.

Ag Power students spend the first eight weeks of each semester in the classroom and on-campus shop. The second half of the semester students are placed in a paid internship and continue learning and enhancing their skills in a real-world environment. This format is followed throughout the duration of the two year program. After their freshman year, during summer break, many students return to their internship and work for the summer.

"The main focus of the Ag Power program is to learn how to be a dealership employee," said Ralph Williams, Ag Power instructor.

With the focus of learning how act in a professional environment, Williams also teaches respect, responsibility, excellence and safety.

"You must respect yourself and your coworkers. Be responsible for your actions, even when you mess up," said Williams. "Excel and take pride in what you do and be safe in the work environment during day to day operations."

Another skill Williams emphasizes is customer relation skills. During their time at PCC students learn how to conduct themselves in their internships and the community relationships.

PCC Ag Power has relationships with many dealers in the local area. These dealers include Kinchelo's, Kanequip, and BTI, just to name a few. Some dealerships have loaned equipment to the program for demonstration and learning experience purposes. The most valuable relationship the program has with PCC though is the opportunity for students to gain internships while earning college credit.

"This year we have one student interning in Junction City, they are branching out and spreading the word about the program," said Williams.

Students are able to find internships across



the state and some students go back to their hometowns for their internship.

High school students are also able to get ahead and take Ag Power courses while they are still in high school. In January 2012, former Governor Sam Brownback announced a bold and innovative plan to enhance career technical education in Kansas and better prepare high school students for college and careers. The legislature responded with Senate Bill 155 which provides new state dollars to pay college tuition for high school students earning college credits in technical courses and at the same time, earn an industry credential valued by employers. The free college tuition applies to any and all technical courses in approved programs at public community and technical colleges. For more information about the PCC College Start Program or SB155 initiative visit prattcc.edu/collegestart.

The APT Program offers an Associate of Applied Science Degree that prepares students for a career as an agricultural technician. With this degree, graduates have the option of continuing their education to earn a Bachelor's degree, or go directly into the workforce. For more information about Ag Power visit prattcc.edu/ag.

Ag Power Freshman Signs Work Contract

Pratt Community College Freshmen Mitchell Becker, Agriculture Power Technology student, has signed a three year contract with Prairieland Partners upon completion of the program.

Becker grew up in Conway Springs, Kan. and says he has always had a knack for mechanics. He heard about the program from multiple sources including his friends and his brother, and decided to join the PCC program.

"I enjoy the hands on learning and being able to physically work on equipment," said Becker "It's more than just reading out of a book, we get to be involved and have real life experience."

Becker enjoys being able to work in the Ag Power shop with a variety of experiences. Over the duration of the program he has worked on large diesel engines, hydraulic and power-train, and air conditioning units just to name a few.

"There is quite a bit of hands on learning," said Becker. "I really like it and it is valuable in this profession."

Becker interned inside the Prairieland Partners Shop in Winfield the summer before his



freshman year at PCC. He was able to obtain this internship through a mutual connection. The Ag Power program currently has students interning at Prairieland Partners, Carrico, Kan Equip, Kincheloes, and Morgan Diesel. Many students are given an opportunity to continue working with their internship partner upon graduation.

Ag Student Combines Passion of Agriculture and Computers

A Pratt Community College student combines two passions to make his own career pathway. PCC Sophomore, Pake Sipes grew up in Stafford, Kan., which Sipes describes as a small agricultural community. Growing up in an agriculture community sparked Sipes interest to attend Pratt Community College and study Agribusiness. He chose to attend PCC because it is close to home, but yet he still has the chance to live on campus.

"I like the class sizes, and the information is interesting," said Sipes.

During his freshman year of college Sipes wanted to study Agribusiness but did not know exactly what his end goal with it would be. This past summer Sipes learned about the PCC Information Network Technology Program and the opportunity to combine agriculture and computer networking. That is when he realized that he has a passion for both agriculture and computers.

"My dream job is being an information technology specialist for an Ag company."



To advance toward his goal, Sipes plans to transfer to a four-year institution and study computer networking after he graduates from PCC in the spring.

Sipes was actively involved in Future Farmers of America (FFA) in high school. At PCC he is a member of the eSports team, Collegiate Farm Bureau, Block and Bridle, and Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

Beavers Take Home KJCCC West Championship

The women of Pratt cross country entered last weekend's NJCAA Region VI Championships with the opportunity to bring home some hardware. Fortune be good, they found their bounty to be quite heavy. Literally.

Yesterday, while taking photos, the girls lugged around the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Western Division Championship plaque, as well as a second plaque commemorating the team's third-place finish in Region VI. This group of young women were more than happy to flex their muscles however, seeing as how they've done a lot of heavy lifting all season.



"It's great to see their practices translate to a strong race every week," said head coach Eric Larson. "I was so happy for them as a team that their hard work was rewarded with a top three finish in the region, being named West Conference champions, and having two All-Region and two All-Conference athletes."

As a collective, the Beavers finished third at the Region VI Championships with a team time of 1:47:01:92 over the course of the 5k run. Leading the way was freshman Patricia Koma, recording a time of 12:03.58, worth a fifth-place spot out of 58 competitors. Coach Larson reveled in her season-long consistency.

"Patricia is our number-one runner," he said. "She has been racing strong all year typically in the front."

Following the race, Coach Larson recalled how the girls were too exhausted to immediately celebrate their conference triumph. It's tough to blame them.

"Well they were pretty tired," Coach Larson said. "I know they were excited but they were really tried to express a lot of emotion."

Cross country is certainly a very demanding form of sport. In order to compete at the level the Beavers have, a certain work ethic is required. With the dividends having been paid, Coach Larson believes the results speak to the Beavers doing the big things, as well as the little things correctly.

"I don't do a lot of motivational speaking because workouts speak for themselves," Coach Larson said. "The rewards come from the workouts. I talk consistently though about wanting to finish well at the region race and as a Top 15 team at the national meet. I talk about good sleep habits, good hydration habits, and good eating habits. We are always ready to race."

Hindsight may be 20/20, but Coach Larson had a feeling that his gritty group of girls was capable of doing what they did. There may even be more to come when the Beavers travel to the NJCAA Cross Country Championships in Albuquerque, New Mexico on November 9.

"As a coach I knew we were a Top Four team in the region and knew it was going to take a great race to be Top Three. It just all happened to come together at the right time.

"The team is excited to run at the national meet against the rest of the nation. This is what we train for all year, the race in two weeks. I consistently say to the team only two races in the season matter. Regionals and the cross country nationals. That is where we will run our best."

New Track and Soccer Complex Opens

As Pratt Community College continues its small step toward a new future, October 22 marks a giant leap for the institution.

PCC unveiled the just-finished Track and Soccer Complex located directly east of the Green Sports Complex on Tuesday, October 22. Though this project began before athletic director Tim Swartzendruber accepted his new position in March, upgrading the Beavers' athletic facilities was already on his to-do list.

"I was fortunate to be hired when this project was being finalized and was able to attend a management meeting at The Law Company," Swartzendruber said. "To see the ground-breaking through the completion has been a thrill and certainly exciting for Pratt Community College athletics. The community should be proud of this venue. The quality is second to none and we are excited to host soccer matches and track meets starting next school year."

The ribbon cutting ceremony included Pratt Community College officials as well as the Pratt Area Chamber of Commerce Executive President Kim DeClue, PCC Trustees, City Commissioners, PCC staff, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism representatives, construction representatives, bank representatives and others.

Greg Lesh, PCC Foundation President, spoke at the ceremony sharing the possibilities the facility brings to Pratt and thanked the City Commissioners for being the conduit for industrial revenue bonds.

Bruce Pinkall, Pratt Recreation Director and acting city manager said the soccer and track complex was actually planned as phase 5 of the Green Sports Complex and it took cooperation among many organizations including PCC, City of Pratt, citizens and others to make the facility possible.

There were many community organizations in attendance as well including youth football teams, Chiefs and Dolphins from the Pratt Recreation Department played a flag football game before the ceremony. The Lightning Bolts played the Green Gators in a Pratt Recreation soccer game at the facility before the dedication ceremony. Pratt Recreation is already using the facility for soccer and flag football.



Men's Basketball Season Preview

The 2019 calendar, much like the Kansas landscape, is slowly but steadily progressing towards something new.

Basketball season is upon us, and for men's basketball coach Sean Flynn, the time has come for the long mornings and late nights to start paying its dividends.

"It's always good to play somebody else," said Flynn. "We're lucky that we can play Indian Hills, one of the best programs in the country and start off against the best, rather than kind of ween our way into the season. It'll be a good test."

Flynn was previously employed as an assistant at Pratt before accepting the head coaching role in February of 2018. In his first full season as head coach in 2018-19, Flynn, a Boston native, guided the Beavers to three additional wins than the year before, advancing to the Region VI quarterfinals in Wichita.

Now entering his second season as the head coach of the Beavers, Flynn is still acclimating to the underlying aspects of the head coaching role.

"I miss having time to be out there working with (the players)," Flynn said. "Working on their individual stuff, because I think there has to be a separation. I miss that part, but I know Joe (Penno) is doing a good job."

"Having to slide over and look at things a little more objectively...there's an old saying. You don't want to spend too much time working in your business because you won't spend enough time working on your business. Allowing myself to pull away and evaluate from a different lens is hard."

The Beavers had a busy preseason, hosting the Pratt County Jamboree, traveling to play in the talent-heavy Rocky Mountain Jamboree, while also testing the waters against a solid Division II Fort Hays State team. With the 2019-20 season on the horizon, Flynn pinpointed aspects of his team that should provide early solace, while he hopes his team continues to meet his standards for excellence.

"I've liked our early-offense execution," he said. "I've liked our commitment to playing 94 feet. The guys have worked hard into buying in to defensive spacing. Eventually, that's going to be what separates the league leaders, understanding defensive spacing. If you can understand positioning defensively, going out and finishing plays, the offense will come."

"Concerns would be consistently practicing at a high level. We practice at a high level every day, and if we stay on the same page, are able to correct that, we'll be alright."



Thusly, with only one returning player from the 2018-19 roster, Flynn still has a number of capable players he can lean on as the new season unfolds.

"We have one guy who played for us last year, Drew Honas," said Flynn. "He's a competitor. He'll do whatever it takes to stop the other team, and that's huge for us because it sets the tempo and expectation on the defensive end. Zool Kueth has been good in the preseason. He's an everyday guy."

"C.J. Kelly has been really good the last two weeks. He's hungry, a basketball kid. Tommy Thomas is another everyday guy that will be ready to answer the bell in spite of being a freshman."

For those who have yet to see the Beavers play within the friendly confines of the Beaver Dome, your admission guarantees you the viewing of talented young men who can jump high, run fast, and score points. But your attendance also does something else. For the young men that have chosen to make Pratt Community College their temporary home, the chance to pay your respects for their investment in the community is just down the road.

"We're local kids, out-of-state kids, international kids, all striving for something greater than what they've had," Flynn said. "In a way, it's a sign of respect that kids come here and it's a sign of respect of what Pratt Community College has to offer, and ultimately this town."

"They're choosing the values that are synonymous with Pratt. They come here for the quiet, for the ability to focus on what's important, whether that's fixing their grades, their body, their basketball, or their character. I think that idea alone can win over some people."

Women's Basketball Season Preview



There aren't many coaches in America with a career geography similar to Pratt head women's basketball coach John Ishee's.

A Mississippi man whose southern drawl is as much a part of his DNA as basketball, Ishee, entering his third season as the head coach of the Beavers, has been vital to rebranding the school's reputation on the court.

A season ago, Ishee oversaw the Beavers first 20-win season in six years, including a team record 12 conference wins. The same 2018-19 squad also recorded Pratt's first home playoff win in 17 years, and its first Region VI quarterfinal appearance in that same span. The Beaver Dome has been the home of a welcomed turnaround, and a new season brings new hope. But new challenges as well.

"I'm excited, but I'm cautiously excited," Ishee said. "We have nine returning sophomores, we won 20 games (last season) for third time since I believe, 2000. Having said that, I'm not really pleased with some of the leadership I'm getting right now.

"I don't like our mindset, hopefully that will change. There are parts that are really good but there are parts that need to get better."

Speaking on those parts that are "really good", Ishee elaborated on a few aspects his team that should lead to yet another successful run for the Beavers.

"We have depth, we have more size than we did a year ago, I think we've added some athleticism, and I think we've added some more perimeter shooting," Ishee said. "I think our staples are obviously Janell Douvier, who is being recruited by a lot of Division I schools. Rylee Alexander is a glue player. Jazmin George has been great this preseason with her effort and her ability to guard the ball. All of our freshmen I've been very happy with."

Coach Ishee started his coaching career, naturally, at the University of Southern Mississippi,

while eventually traveling every which way imaginable. He's seen plenty, and has clocked in at a variety of institutions. But when you love what you do, are you ever really working?

"Any time you have a passion for something...I grew up playing (basketball), loving it. High school coaches let me be a part of something bigger than myself, and just over time, I feel like that's what my purpose in life is. To pay stuff forward and help young people figure things out and where they want to go in life.

Noting that his team has had added more parts and pieces in order to sure up the collective group, the former Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year understands that every inch of his roster is crucial.

"It's not a cliché. It takes everybody to win," Ishee said. "Teams are going to load up on Janell and Rylee. They are going to make it very hard for them to get open looks. We're not going to sneak up on anybody. When we play really good teams, they're going to try to take those two kids away from us from an offensive standpoint.

"But it takes everybody to win."

Since taking over the women's basketball program at Pratt, Ishee and assistant coach Brian Koller have rapidly reversed the negatives associated with the program's recent history. Picked to finish fourth in the western half of the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference by coaches and media, Ishee isn't so concerned with preseason chatter.

"Based on tradition and history it's probably fair," said Ishee. "It doesn't mean a lot unless you allow it to mean a lot. I think we can compete for first.

"If our mindset is right we can compete with anybody."





November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Add Bucky Beaver @prattcc @prattcc @prattcc Beaver Nation			Nov 6th Women's Basketball VS Bethal JV 6PM		1	2
3	4 Women's Basketball VS McPherson JV 6PM	5 Pizza with the President in Woj @ 9PM in Beck @ 10PM	6 Pizza with the President Scholarship and North in North @ 9PM Novotny and Porter in Novotny @ 10PM	7	8 Pratt After Dark Space: MIB Café 9PM – Midnight	9 Women's/Men's Basketball VS Kansas Wesleyan JV 5:30PM/7:30PM
10 "Back to the USO"	11 Veterans Day Cake in the Library Women's/Men's Basketball VS Southwestern JV 5:30PM/7:30PM	12 Volleyball Beaver Dome 7:45PM Sign-up 8PM Start	13	14 Men's Basketball VS Bethany JV 7PM	15	16 Christmas in the Park
17	18 Men's Basketball VS Redlands 7PM	19	20	21 For Honor Beaver Bites 8:45PM Sign-up 9PM Start	22 Men's Basketball VS Sterling JV 7PM	23 Women's Basketball VS South Plains 2PM
24	25 Spades Tournament Beaver Bites 7:45PM Sign-up 8PM Start	26	27-28 Thanksgiving		29-30 Vacation	
			27 Women's/Men's Basketball VS Allen 4:30PM/6:30PM			30 Women's Basketball VS Otero 2PM Men's Basketball VS Bethel JV 4PM

"Back to the USO" - November 10th @ 2:30PM in The Auditorium

Need to Know:
Café will be Closed: **November 27th – December 1st**

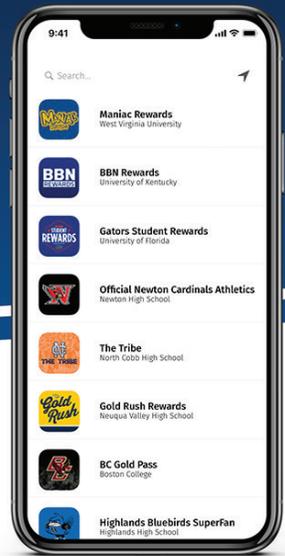
Nov 8th
Pratt After Dark: Space Crafts, Games, Movie, Food, Drinks, and Prizes Café - 9PM to Midnight

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