



Pratt Community College

Monthly Newsletter

The

The official newsletter of PCC

BEAVER

February 2016

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

PCC Named One of the Top 150 in Country

Pratt Community College is recognized for being one of the nation's top 150 community colleges for a third consecutive term. Highlighting the critical importance of improving student success in America's community colleges, the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program today named PCC as one of the nation's 150 top community colleges, challenging it to compete for the \$1 million fund for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

The Aspen Institute identified the 150 community colleges -- about 15 percent of all institutions -- using a quantitative formula that assesses performance and improvement in four areas: graduation rates, degrees awarded, student retention rates, and equity in student outcomes. These 150 colleges will now compete for the prestigious honor following a year-long research process into how well their students learn, complete degrees, and get jobs with competitive wages after graduating. PCC, along with the other colleges nominated, will be winnowed to eight-to-ten finalists in the fall based on how PCC helps students complete their programs on time, how well students do in the job market after graduating, and the effective use of data to ensure continued student success. Prize finalists will be named in the fall of 2016 and the winner will be announced early 2017.



"This is a very prestigious award to be honored with, one that recognizes commitment and attainment of student success," said Dr. Michael Calvert, President of PCC. "I am very proud to be part of an institution that values and models quality instruction and care and concern for students."

Nearly half of America's college students attend community college, with more than seven million students -- youth and adult learners -- working towards certificates and degrees in these institutions across the country.

PCC is currently working on an application containing detailed data on these criteria. It will demonstrate that it delivers exceptional student results, uses data to drive decisions, and continually improves over time. The Aspen Institute will conduct site visits to each of the finalists in the fall. A full list of the 150 community colleges is available at www.AspenCCPrize.org.

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Upcoming Dates

Groundhog Day	Feb 2
Tech Day	Feb 3
Super Bowl 50	Feb 7
Valentine's Day Show	Feb 14
Coffee Chat with President	Feb 15
Jana's Campaign	Feb 17
Academic Olympics	Feb 22
Car Show	Feb 22

PCC Rolls Out New Career Resource

PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAREER COACH



Pratt Community College is excited to announce the launch of Career Coach, a free online resource that will allow students and job seekers to explore career opportunities in many different ways.

Career Coach is a valuable tool for any current or prospective student who is exploring potential careers to pursue in their future. This resource can act as a general guide for job descriptions in any industry to help students figure out what area they would like to study all the way to a local database containing hundreds of available jobs in our region for graduates to research. Career Coach's comprehensive database also generates careers based off of the many PCC programs available. The real-time information is customized to the college's geographic region and includes detailed wage estimates, growth rate, retirement statistics as well as employers in the area that are hiring.

Likewise a student or adviser can easily browse through degree options offered by PCC based on what the student is interested in which then links directly to the programs page on prattcc.edu. Through a simple keyword search, students

and any visitor to the website can learn about the employment prospects of careers they want to research.

If a career doesn't look like the right fit, individuals can search for similar jobs and see the largest skill gaps to fill to move to that career. They can also search for careers based on the college's top training programs – or the program or major they are interested in.

Career Coach includes a built-in resume builder to help students and job seekers quickly and efficiently put together an updated resume with key skills and job experience highlighted. Check out Career Coach by PCC now and browse through hundreds of careers!

You can find it by visiting prattcc.edu and clicking on the Career Coach Icon in the center of the page or by visiting <https://prattcc.emsicareercoach.com/>.



Valentine's Day Show

To celebrate the weekend of love, come to the Valentine's Day concert hosted by Pratt Community College's Encore! on Sunday, Feb. 14 at 2:30 p.m. in Carpenter Auditorium.

The show will feature love songs from a variety of genres featuring solos, duets and ensembles.

There will be a dessert bar at Intermission hosted by Collegiate

Farm Bureau for a free will donation.

The concert is a fundraiser for the students' trip to Tennessee in May so it does have a \$5 suggested donation per person.

"We hope everyone will come out and enjoy some great music and treats to finish up the Valentine's weekend," said Misty Beck, theatre instructor.

PCC and PHS JAG-K Help Spread Domestic Violence Awareness

Pratt Community College and the Pratt High School JAG program are working together to bring domestic violence awareness and education to our community. The high school JAG program along with PCC are sponsoring this event that will bring Dr. Christie Brungardt and Dr. Curt Brungardt from an organization called Jana's Campaign to speak with students across Pratt about gender and domestic violence.

Jana's Campaign is a national group of activists, advocates, and volunteers that are committed to sharing the story of Jana Mackey, a victim of domestic violence. Her parents, Christie Brungardt and Curt Brungardt, are Kansas natives who teach at Fort Hays State University, founded Jana's Campaign and are active speakers to students and communities to help spread their story, educate, and give prevention resources on gender and relationship violence.

On Feb. 17 the Brungardt's will be spreading Jana's Campaign across 3 Pratt schools speaking at Liberty Middle School, Pratt High School, and Pratt Community College.

"Domestic violence is something that can be a hard topic to talk about. Curt and Christie explain it on a level that doesn't sugar coat it but makes it more urgent for students to realize that domestic violence is not ok and that there are people and places that are there to help," said Carrie Goodheart, PHS JAG-K Specialist.

The assembly's at Liberty Middle School and Pratt High School are for students only. Pratt Community College will be hosting the Brungardt's from 4-5 p.m. on Feb. 17 in Carpenter Auditorium which is open to students and the community.

You can learn more about Jana's Campaign and they story of Jana herself by attending the lecture at PCC or visit their website www.janascampaign.org.



SPEAKERS | DR. CHRISTIE BRUNGARDT &
DR. CURT BRUNGARDT

FEB. 17 4:00 PM
CARPENTER AUDITORIUM
STUDENT AND COMMUNITY FORUM

GENDER & RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE
EDUCATION & PREVENTION

FREE ADMISSION
SPONSORED BY PCC AND PHS JAG-K

PRATT 
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February Featured Artist, Hannah Garrison

Pratt Community College welcomes a new exhibit to the Delmar Riney Art Gallery for the month of February.

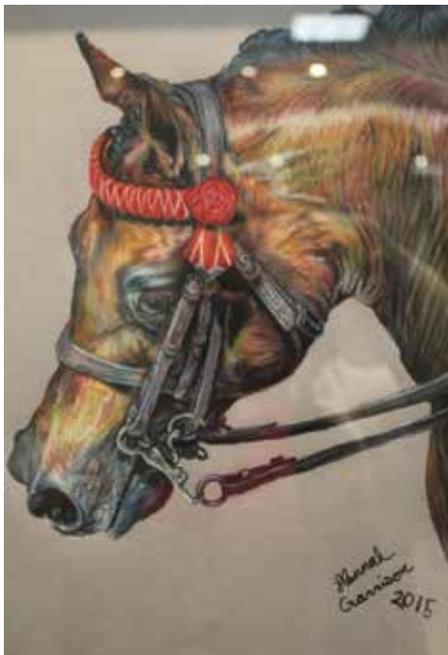
Hannah Garrison, 18, is a home schooled student and resident of Pratt. She considers herself mostly a self-taught artist and has been drawing animals since she was 10. The first time Hannah officially started drawing was while sitting in a church pew one Sunday morning. She says her drawing was quite an embarrassing little horse with legs that were twisted all goofy. Being a shy girl back then, she kept her little horse a secret.

Later, after winning ribbons at the Pratt County and Kansas State Fair competitions, she was encouraged to continue drawing. A few years later she started using photos, which allowed for a more realistic quality in her work. Studying one section at a time, Hannah drew what she saw in the photographs using pencils and other mediums.

Discovering the use of color, Garrison's perspective was also changed. She started putting blue in her pastel chalk drawings where most wouldn't expect it. It was used as the shadow to her whites. Hannah carries paper and pencil almost everywhere she goes. Though Garrison doesn't want to make it her main career, she has been commissioned to draw other's pets.

Her love for animals carries not only in her drawings and paintings, but also in her love for her pets. Garrison has recently taken on a job at the Pratt Humane Society. She is thankful to God for creating us in his image, for without that she is sure she could not be a creator herself. Hannah hopes her audience enjoys her work and is inspired to pick up a pencil and get started. In the meantime, she plans to keep drawing and reminds everyone, "you never know where drawing might lead you!"

The exhibit is on display in the Delmar Riney Art Gallery at PCC until Feb. 19. The gallery shows a new exhibit every month. For more information or to be considered as a "Featured Artist of the Month," contact Lisa Perez Miller at 620-672-3559 or lisam@prattcc.edu.



PCC library and resource center receives grant

The Linda Hunt Memorial Library and Learning Resource Center (LRC) was awarded with a grant from the South Central Community Foundation and Eleanor Kerr Fund.

The \$500 grant will assist in providing the Learning Resource Center with 32 DVD's that coincide with and support American History classes at Pratt Community College. The list of required DVD's are structured around "History through Film." The series encourages students to act on a critical thinking level to what they see on screen and allow the instructor to stimulate student historical interest through a medium of enjoyment.

"The historical context is brought out through these films. Critical thinking along with inspiring historical aspect is enjoyable for students," said Sandra Wagner, Director of Learning Resources at PCC.

The "History through Film" supplement DVD list includes films such as "Glory", "The Jazz Singer", "Schindler's List", and the "Star Wars Trilogy".

The LRC manages and monitors on average 100 students per day through the academic spring and fall semesters. Currently, the Linda Hunt Memorial Library/Learning Resource Center holds

three out of the 32 required different films that import from the historical aspects of American History.

The PCC library offers print works, books, electronic resources [State Kansas Library] as well as video sources. These extensive collections are specialized needs for the faculty and student available in-house or online 24/7/365.



PCC Instructor Finds Creative Ways to Teach Math



To combat the idea that math is boring, math teachers across the nation are trying to find ways to make it more entertaining.

Pratt Community College math instructor Sarah Jackson went to the American Mathematical Association of Two-year Colleges in New Orleans to learn different techniques to teach math and also to network.

Jackson said she attended a lot of sessions on how to engage students in the classroom, such as flipped learning classrooms.

"With the flipped learning method students do a lot of the lessons and learning on their own and the class time is spent on homework so they can ask questions," Jackson said. "My goal is to get to where my classes are taught that way but it takes time to

find or create tools for them to be able to teach themselves."

Jackson said she has been trying many different things in her Statistics and Trigonometry class and while everything doesn't always work, she is glad to she tried it. She said sending the students in statistics class to the board and having them be able to help each other has helped the students and made it more fun for them.

"Sometimes I try things that don't work but I am usually happy we tried it," she said.

Along with going to learn new ways to teach at the conference, Jackson also went because she is the President of the Kansas Mathematical Association of Two-year Colleges.

Softball Signs Eight Student Athletes for Next Season

Jan. 15 was Signing Day for the softball program at Pratt Community College. High school athletes all over the Midwest committed to their school of choice by signing a Letter of Intent for the 2016-2017 year. So far, Pratt Community College has been the school of choice for eight who are committed to playing softball for the Beavers next season.

Student-athletes who have committed to PCC are:

Kassie Jerome (Pampa HS)
Rachael Diercks (Woodward HS, Woodward, Okla.)
Tymarra Bryant (Larned HS)
Ariana Perales (Lamar HS, Lamar, Colo.)
Taja Casanova (Hutchison HS)
Kayla Graf (Wichita South HS)
Hannah Bugner (Andale HS)
Taylor Carey (Booker T. Washington HS, Tulsa, Okla.)

"I am very excited to announce that these eight student athletes have committed to play at Pratt Community College next year," said Mike Manderino, Head Softball Coach. "Their commitment to excellence in the classroom and on the field has distinguished them among their peers. I am pleased they have chosen PCC as the school of their choice to continue their education and softball careers."



Ariana Perales



Rachael Diercks



Tymarra Bryant

Wrestling Named Academic Team of the Year by NJCAA

The Pratt Community College Wrestling team was named Academic Team of the Year by the NJCAA for the third straight year because of their high academic achievement of a cumulative GPA of 3.19 for the 2014-2015 school year. Each year the NJCAA recognizes and honors are presented to each team in their sport that shows academic excellence.

"I cannot thank everyone at PCC enough for the support, recognition, and most importantly, the help that you give us to attain this award for three years," said Ken Kepley, Wrestling Head Coach.

PCC President Dr. Mike Calvert recognized the Wrestling team members who helped achieved this award during the January Board of Trustee's meeting.



PRATT

Community College

Fight Song

Challenge

Fight Song #1

We're the Beavers
We're the Beavers
Standing loud and proud
Here tonight we come to fight
A win is sure this time

We're the Beavers
We're the Beavers
Yelling Blue and White
Fight Beavers, fight, fight, fight
It's a beaver night

Fight Song #2

We're the Beavers
We're the Beavers
Standing loud and proud
Here tonight we come to fight
A win is sure this time

We're the Beavers
We're the Beavers
Yelling Blue and White
We're the school that's got the spirit
Fight, beavers, fight

Fight Song #3

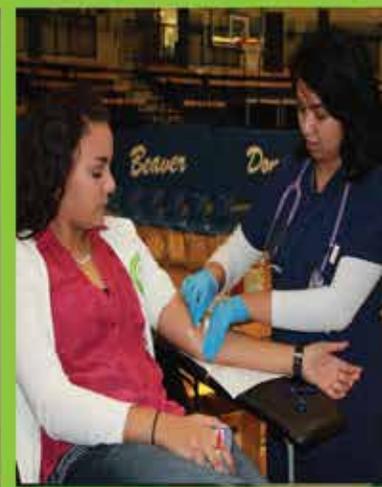
We're the Beavers
We're the Beavers
Standing loud and proud
Here tonight we come to fight
A win is sure this time

We're the Beavers
We're the Beavers
Yelling Blue and White
Fight, beavers, fight, fight, fight
Beee-eeaa-vv-ee-rrrs

Pratt Community College is challenging students, staff, and faculty to come together to create a lasting tradition that promotes school pride and unity. In January, Blue Crew student members and PCC staff came together to write a fight song. After months of searching for lyrics PCC employees came up empty handed when researching and speaking with alumni to track down the song. After no success the Blue Crew decided that one of their first goals in upholding PCC pride and tradition would be to write our own!

Now the Blue Crew is challenging the entire Beaver Community to lend a lyrical hand to writing an original fight song to be voted on this semester. Blue Crew student members came up with three versions all to the melody of "On Wisconsin!" which the PCC band plays at every home game they attend.

Send in your suggestions, vote, and your own version of a PCC Fight Song! They will be judged and voted on this semester and launched during Alumni Auction week in April! Send your votes, suggestions, and lyrics to Megan Eaton, megane@prattcc.edu.



FEB 3

Tech Day
PCC vs Neosho
6:00 & 8:00



FEB 11

Valentine Dance



9-Midnight Commons

FEB 18

Hall Pool Tournaments
9PM

FEB 4

PCC Wrestling & Indoor Tailgate
7:00PM
Beaver Dome

FEB 14

Valentines Day Show



2:30

Carpenter Aud

Grocery Bingo
Woj · 9PM

FEB 29



FEB 7



Mardi Gras Social
Library 2-4PM

FEB 15

Coffee Chat with President

9-10AM

Library

Softball

2PM Lemon Park



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FEB 9

FEB 10

Baseball 2PM
Stanion Field



FEB 17

jana's  CAMPAIGN™
Carpenter

Auditorium

4:00

FEBRUARY
Student
2016
Activities