



Pratt Community College

Monthly Newsletter

The

The official newsletter of PCC

BEAVER

June 2015

Buzz

Call for July newsletter content

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

>>> leighanned@prattcc.edu

PCC Welcomes Miss Kansas Pageant



This year, Pratt celebrates 60 years of hosting the Miss Kansas Pageant. Pratt Community College is the longtime provider of the pageant's unique venue and a major in-kind sponsor. The event, which brings hundreds of people into the community from around the state, has been held on campus for over half of its history in Pratt.

Miss Kansas 2014 Amanda Sasek speaks highly of her experience during last year's competition, and the hospitality extended by the college and community during her stay.

"No one ever makes you feel like an outsider," said Sasek, a native of Moberly, Mo. "All the contestants are embraced by the community and I always feel that I have a second home in Pratt. We got a close look at the facilities of Pratt Community College throughout the week, which are nicer than those of many other community colleges."

PCC is also an in-kind scholarship sponsor, meaning that it is one of 20 higher education institutions in the state that partners with the Miss Kansas organization to offer scholarships to contestants, contingent upon eligibility and specified requirements. Many Board of Regents schools are facing

funding cuts and in numerous cases, in-kind scholarships are the best option for Kansas women to complete their degrees and graduate on time. Last year \$3,075,000 in-kind scholarships were made available to contestants.

"I've traveled all over Kansas visiting both schools that are in-kind donors and those who aren't," said Sasek. "The majority of community colleges are on board, as PCC is, and we are encouraging them all to partner with us. Our goal is to make it possible for young women across the state to complete their education without having to leave the state."

One of the ways Pratt Community College is participating in the 60th anniversary celebration is by showcasing contestant artwork in the Delmar Riney Art Gallery. Each young woman created a piece of art for the featured exhibit that reflects the 60th anniversary theme, as well as the uniqueness of her title region. The exhibit is on display now through June 26 in the Riney Student Center on campus.

"We are honored to be at the college and look forward to many wonderful years to come," said Sasek.

Miss Kansas 2015 & Miss Kansas' Outstanding Teen 2015 will be crowned June 6 in Dennis Lesh Sports Arena.

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Upcoming Dates

- **Beaver Building Day (Pre-enrollment)**
6/10 | 11:15 a.m.
- **Board of Trustees Meeting**
6/13 | 7 p.m.
- **Joint Council**
6/16 | 2 p.m.
- **Beaver Building Day (Pre-enrollment)**
6/24 | 11:15 a.m.

PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE SUMMER HOURS

MAY 18-JULY 31;
MON-THURS 7:45AM - 5:15PM;
FRI 8AM - 1PM

Electrical Powerline Students Receive Scholarships

In a presentation ceremony on May 4, two Pratt Community College students in the Electrical Powerline Technology program were recognized for their hard work with scholarships from ITC Great Plains.

Jesus Villegas of Great Bend and **Dereck Hahn** of Garden City were each awarded \$1,000 towards their college expenses by the energy company, which recognizes the importance of investing in the next generation of skilled workers.

"As a large portion of the workforce ages out of the industry, we are looking for highly trained and specialized workers to fill that gap," said Brett Leopold, president of ITC Great Plains. "We are glad to invest in educational institutions for that reason: to field the best and brightest into the industry. Community colleges are very special, and whole communities often revolve around their programs and events. We rely on your instruction to produce quality employees and look forward to working with you in the future."

"We are glad to invest in educational institutions to field the best and brightest into the industry."

The presentation was attended by 15 of the recipients' classmates, who are finishing their first year of instruction and will spend their summer documenting 400 hours of work with area electric companies to fulfill the paid internship portion of the curriculum. This summer, Villegas will be working with Wheatland Electric Cooperative and Hahn will work with Sunflower Electric.

"ITC has been very supportive of our program and provides our students with important scholarship dollars," said PCC Instructor Dave Campbell. "We greatly appreciate the assistance from our industry partners. The two students receiving this scholarship have shown a lot of leadership this year and really earned this honor. They've learned quickly, asked questions, and passed their knowledge on to the other students. We look forward to seeing them in successful careers after graduation."

PCC Board Chair Michele Hamm was also in attendance and emphasized the important role that electrical power line workers hold from a layman standpoint.

"Several of the area mothers and I have brought our children out to watch these students climb poles," said Hamm. "It was very instructive for them to get a closer look at how that portion of our infrastructure works, and next time there was a storm and our power lines had to be repaired, I was able to remind them of the many faces behind that daily service we receive."

ITC Great Plains, LLC is a transmission-only utility that currently owns and operates approximately 436 circuit miles of transmission lines in Kansas and Oklahoma. ITC Great Plains is a subsidiary of ITC Grid Development, LLC, the nation's largest independent electric transmission company.



L-R: PCC Board Chair Michele Hamm, PCC Interim VP of Instruction Michael Westerhaus, ITC Great Plains President Brett Leopold, scholarship recipients Dereck Hahn and Jesus Villegas, and program instructor Dave Campbell.

Mexico Native Receives Faculty Scholarship

Each year Pratt Community College's faculty presents one deserving student with a scholarship. This year's recipient of the Faculty Scholarship is **Nancy Chavez**.

"Nancy has earned high grades and is very motivated to earn a degree and become a business owner," said Monette Depew, English instructor.

Chavez said she decided to apply for the scholarship because she is a first generation college student, who is struggling financially and can use all the help she can get with college. Chavez came to Pratt from Mexico three years ago with her family and completed high school at Pratt High so said deciding to come to PCC was an easy decision because it was the most affordable.

"Even though I did it for financial reasons, I think is the best decision that I have made since finally I'm getting closer to my goals," she said. "I love the environment in college and it's so different from how things are in Mexico. The teachers are there whenever I need them and it's easier to have success when you have people around you that are able to help."

After graduating from PCC, Chavez plans to continue her degree at a four-year school and then hopes to open a boutique so she can contribute to her community and family. The scholarship is given to students from money the faculty contributes from their paychecks.



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ALUMNI FEATURE:

Trey Befort • PCC Class of 2008

Going to college can be a little scary, but joining clubs makes it easier for some students to meet friends and get involved.



"I had 19 students in my high school so it was a little nerve wracking to come to college and meet people," said Trey Befort, a 2008 Pratt Community College graduate and Skyline High School graduate.

Befort said joining Block and Bridle was what made going to college easier. At the first meeting he didn't know what to expect but met a lot of

people who had similar interests and helped him to work on his social skills.

Each year Block and Bridle goes to the National Convention, which Befort said created some of his best college memories and allowed him to visit parts of the country he hadn't seen. Befort, who was an Animal Science major, said it was interesting to see how agriculture works in the different areas and gain respect for different types of farmers.

Along with being in Block and Bridle, Befort was also an Above and Beyond scholar, which is given to students who show leadership and academic success through their high school career.

Befort took enough college courses during his high school career that he was able to graduate from PCC after just three semesters.

"Even though I wasn't there as long as some people, I really enjoyed my time at PCC," he said. "The small classes were nice after going to a small high school. I got to know a lot of my professors and felt comfortable asking questions in class."

After graduating from PCC, Befort went on to Kansas State University, where he said he also joined Block and Bridle. Befort now works at the American Herford Association in Kansas City.

In his free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing and going to K-State sporting events.

Interested in being a featured alumni? Send your name, contact information, and why you should be featured to pccupdates@prattcc.edu.

Kansas Extends In-State Tuition Rates to Veterans and All Current Members of the Armed Forces Nationwide

(Topeka, Kansas) - On May 29 Kansas Governor Sam Brownback signed into law HB 2154, which includes authorization for all veterans eligible for federal education benefits, along with all current members of the armed forces, to be eligible for in-state tuition rates at all 32 public postsecondary colleges and universities in Kansas, effective July 1, 2015, regardless of time spent in the state.

"The Board of Regents appreciates the efforts being made nationally and now here in Kansas to better serve our nation's veterans and all current members of the armed forces," stated Kenny Wilk, Chairman of the Kansas Board of Regents. "I am confident all our public postsecondary institutions will continue to do their best to serve these students and their families."

Federal legislation passed last year, known as the "Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014," requires all public colleges and universities to offer in-state tuition rates to veterans making use of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, who live in the state where the institution they intend to enroll at is located, and who file a letter of intent to establish residence in that state. Eligible veterans' spouses and dependent children also qualify for in-state tuition rates.

In addition to extending this benefit to veterans, Kansas has declared all current members of the armed forces to be residents of the state for tuition and fee purposes (including army, navy, marine corps, air force, coast guard, Kansas army or air national guard, or any branch of the military reserves of the United States), along with current members' spouses and dependent children, who are enrolled or have been accepted for admission at a Kansas postsecondary educational institution.

For more information, visit: <http://www.kansasregents.org/students/military> or contact Breeze Richardson – 785-291-3969 (office) or brichardson@ksbor.org

ALUMNI FEATURE:

Leah Livingston • PCC Class of 1996

Knowing from an early age that she wanted to work with children, Leah Livingston majored in Elementary Education while at Pratt Community College in 1996. Livingston is still working with children today and in 2013 she received the Unsung Heroes Award for all of her hard work with those children.

The Unsung Heroes Award was given to her by Communities in Schools, a leading dropout prevention organization. Livingston coordinates two programs for students in Lakewood, Wash., and coordinates an after-school program at the Tillicum Community Learning Center with a focus on academics and enrichment clubs, including a music club, which Livingston leads.

"It was a huge honor to receive the award," Livingston said. "I work for a non-profit so I didn't go into it thinking I would get recognition or high pay. It's nice to see that people notice my hard work."



Livingston enjoys her job and said she plans to continue doing it, though she is switching schools this fall and will be working at Clover Park High School, which is also in Lakewood. Livingston graduated from Pratt High School in 1994 and then went to Barclay College after graduating from PCC. While at Barclay she majored in Para-Church Youth Ministry, which is a non-traditional youth ministry program.

Livingston said going to a community college first was a great idea for her because it let her try so many different classes and organizations. While at PCC, Livingston was involved in the music program and on an Above and Beyond Scholarship.

"Community college is a great foundation," she said. "It doesn't matter if you want to go straight into a career or go on to a four-year college, you get a wonderful education for cheaper."

Between her scholarship and being able to live at home with her parents, she was able to get through her first two years of school debt free.

In her free time, Livingston enjoys singing and helping with her husband, Daniel's youth group. She also has two daughters who are 8 and 13.

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New Upcoming Events

Club 62+ is a leisure learning and activity group for senior citizens 62+ years of age in the PCC service area. For more information or to RSVP, contact Leighanne Dean at 620-450-2113 or leighanned@prattcc.edu.

Dillon Nature Center

June 25, 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. \$5 plus lunch.

Please RSVP by June 22.

Enjoy walking the trails, photography, bird watching, and relaxing from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Some parts of the trail system are usable by visitors in wheelchairs; the trailheads are posted with information about the surfaces and levels of difficulty of the different trails. The Visitor's Center includes exhibits on the ecology of the Nature Center's sand prairie environment, dioramas of the plants and animals that can be found in central Kansas, aquariums, interactive exhibits, the Davis Nature Library, and the wildlife observation deck overhanging the upper pond. At noon, we will eat lunch at a Hutchinson restaurant before returning to Pratt. Your lunch cost is up to you.

Prairie Rose Chuckwagon

July 10, 3:15 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. \$35.

Please RSVP by July 6.

Gates open at 5 p.m. Enjoy shopping at the mercantile, wagon rides, and cowboy movies in the Bar 20 Silver Screen Movie Theatre. At 6:30 p.m., enjoy an all-you-can-eat supper of smoked brisket & sausage, baked beans, Yukon gold potatoes, homemade biscuits and apple crisp with ice cream. After supper, the Prairie Rose Rangers present a family show of cowboy music and comedy. The show concludes at 9 p.m.

Tour of the Allen House

July 21, 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. \$10 plus lunch.

Please RSVP by July 14.

Take a one hour tour of this home in Wichita by famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Designed in 1915, the Allen House is considered the last of the Prairie houses, making use of large open spaces with the use of extended low buildings, shallow sloping roofs, and Japanese architecture influence. Restored back to 1918, the house exemplifies Wright's philosophy of living in harmony with nature. Photos are permitted on the exterior only; Flat shoes are recommended. There is a limit of 25 people. We will eat lunch at Eggcetera, offering an extensive brunch menu of breakfast foods, quiches, salads, sandwiches, and Mexican cuisine. Average entrée price is \$8 - \$10 and your lunch cost is up to you.

IN PHOTOS: COMMENCEMENT

May 8, 2015

Jeff Jochems (center) is presented with Outstanding Alumnus of the Year award.



Junnae Landry (right) receives PHEA Teacher of the Year award.



Daryl Lucas (right) receives Dennis Lesh Teacher of the Year award.



IN PHOTOS: PERFORMING ARTS TOUR TO TENNESSEE

May 8 - 17, 2015

Performing at:
Graceland (Memphis)
Country Tonite (Pigeon Forge)
Dollywood (Pigeon Forge)
The Island (Pigeon Forge)

