

A photograph of two people, a woman and a man, standing on a walkway with a metal railing. In the background is a large cable-stayed bridge with multiple tall pylons and white cables. The scene is outdoors with a clear sky and some greenery. The woman is on the left, wearing a white and black striped blouse and dark pants. The man is on the right, wearing a light blue polo shirt and khaki pants, with a beard and glasses. A dark teal banner is overlaid on the bottom left of the image, containing text.

Building a Bridge to **ACCESS**

Marion Haynes, Comcast's vice president of external affairs and a PCC Foundation trustee, and recent graduate and scholarship recipient JBW (Jonathan Bennett Watson), highlight the impact of Comcast's five years of support for PCC scholarships.



“**Access to clean water helped save my life. I want to make sure more people have that vital resource.**”

When I was in sixth grade, a gallbladder disorder pulled me out of school. For the next four years, I focused on managing my health while attempting to keep up with school from home via tutors and virtual classes. Clean water played a pivotal role in my treatment.

By 10th grade, when I went back to school in person, I lagged behind my peers — especially in critical study habits. Then COVID cut my senior year short, leaving me unsure about college and education in general.

My grades weren't great and I worried about falling through the cracks at a four-year university. But, my aunt has two doctorates, my godfather worked for NASA, my mom is going back to school to pursue an additional degree, and I grew up knowing the importance of education.

“I believe that an investment in me (and other PCC students) is an investment in the community as a whole.”

I decided to go to PCC and spent a year trying, and sometimes failing, college. I took some time off to work and got focused. When I returned to PCC, I discovered the TRIO program, which has advisors who provide highly personalized support — and that changed everything for me. I even became a TRIO mentor after I realized what a difference it made in my life.

My advisors helped me find what worked for me at school and helped to identify my learning style. They encouraged me to apply for a PCC Foundation scholarship — which took the pressure off how much I needed to work and let me dream bigger.

Now, I'm transferring to OSU to study engineering. I want to make a positive impact on the world by focusing on water desalination. I want to be sure all our kids and grandkids have clean water.

So many people helped me persevere through difficult challenges and I want to give back.”

JBW completed two associate degrees in 2024 and is transferring to Oregon State University to study industrial engineering. A Bridges to the Future Scholarship provided JBW the time needed to focus on completing his degree. He plans to work in water desalination with the goal of providing access to clean water across the globe.

Marion Haynes

Vice President of External Affairs at Comcast
and PCC Foundation Trustee

“Digital skills and internet service are essential.

That was underscored during the pandemic and we know that they're vital for students in Portland to succeed.

We at Comcast are proud to have invested \$250,000 in the PCC Foundation over the past five years to support student success, including being the presenting sponsor for their signature fundraising event. This annual event raises critical funds to provide student scholarships, which we know are valuable resources for many individuals who have big dreams, but not necessarily the means to pursue those ambitions.

We are committed to advancing digital equity in support of a future of unlimited possibilities and economic mobility as part of Comcast's Project Up initiative. PCC is a strong, collaborative partner in this work. When the pandemic hit in March 2020, Comcast's Internet Essentials Program and the PCC Foundation stepped up to cover the cost of affordable internet service for students. In 2021, our support continued with the provision of 250 laptops to PCC students, making remote learning accessible.

We are not just a supporter, but a champion of closing the digital skills divide and expanding access to opportunity for individuals in our community. Comcast has a true partner in the PCC Foundation and their work on behalf of students across the Portland Metro area. Together, we are proud to be making visions of higher education a reality for students, and building a brighter future for our region that will benefit generations to come.”

A recent study from the National Skills Coalition found that:



92% of jobs require digital skills



One-third of workers have low or no digital skills due to historic underinvestment and structural inequities



Moving from a job requiring no digital skills to one requiring at least three skills can increase pay by an average of 45%

Marion Haynes leads the partnership between the PCC Foundation and Comcast. Marion and Comcast have played a vital role in funding the Bridges to the Future Scholarship.





FOUNDATION PRIORITY: **Expanding Access**

We are committed to making college possible for everyone in our community.

Our goal is to provide a path to economic opportunity — regardless of an individual's background or circumstances. With your support, we expand access by dismantling financial barriers through scholarships.



Bridges to the Future Scholarship recipients since 2021

The Bridges to the Future Scholarship provides resources to students from communities often excluded from higher education. Students who qualify for this scholarship include those who identify as people of color, LGBTQ+, live with a disability, or have experienced poverty or limited incomes.

In 2023–24, PCC Foundation scholarship recipients included:



64%

First-generation college students



57%

Students from racially diverse communities



12.5%

Single parents