

# PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMUNITIES

FALL 2024

## Center of Tech Excellence

PCC has developed a strong network of semiconductor training and support programs, industry partnerships and job placement services

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### PCC Community Ed

**Classes held remotely  
and in person**

Sept. – Dec. (pages 3 – 62)

**Registration opens**

Aug. 14 at 7 am



**Portland  
Community  
College®**



# Life on your terms starts next term

No matter where you are in your journey, Portland Community College is here to help you get to the destination you're dreaming about. Let our flexible schedules, online classes, and wide range of degrees, certificates, and programs open the door to your best life.

**Get started, start again, or explore a new course:  
You can do it at PCC next term.**

**Don't miss the Fall Term application deadline: Sept. 11, 2024**  
Apply now, and start Sept. 23, 2024. For more info, visit [pcc.edu/admissions](https://pcc.edu/admissions).



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**Portland  
Community  
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## Spotlights



Photo courtesy of LAIKA.

# Partnership Debuts

PCC and LAIKA, the renowned film studio known for its groundbreaking and award-winning animated films, are collaborating to support educational initiatives and promote equity within the creative arts. The studio will support student scholarships and create an associate degree in animation and motion graphics. ♦

**For more info:** [pcc.edu/mm](http://pcc.edu/mm)

# Magical Gala

The PCC Foundation raised over \$393,000 to support students through scholarships at this year's "Road to Success" gala, presented by Comcast. Highlights included a rendition of "Ease on Down the Road" performed by PCC President Dr. Adrien Bennings, the Jefferson Dancers, inspirational student stories, creative costumes, and poignant speeches from the 2024 Patron Award recipients – (from left) State Senator Michael Dembrow, Congressman Earl Blumenauer and past PCC board trustee Denise Frisbee. ♦ **For more details on the PCC Foundation:** [pcc.edu/foundation](http://pcc.edu/foundation)



# Scholarly Pursuits

The Association of Community College Trustees and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society named student Jai Johnson as a 2024 New Century Workforce Pathway Scholar. The Forest Grove resident's exceptional performance in the All-USA Academic Team competition, where over 2,200 applications were evaluated, earned the top score from Oregon, showcasing Jai's academic achievement, leadership, service and significant endeavors.



# Quick Start Careers

## Finding financial stability and career fulfillment thanks to PCC's Quick Start Program

Sherwood resident Atalie Mitchell faced a pivotal moment in 2022. After years dedicated to caring for her family, Mitchell decided to seek a career path that promised stability and financial security. A former nurse, Mitchell explored avenues for reentry into employment, and her search led her to the Quick Start Semiconductor Technician Training Program.

“My kids were old enough, so I was looking into different avenues to support my family,” Mitchell recalled.

The 10-day intensive course, a partnership between Portland Community College, Intel, Worksystems, the City of Hillsboro and Washington County, equips students with skills vital for entry-level roles in semiconductor manufacturing. Mitchell's transition wasn't devoid of challenges. Adapting to new skills, including working with electrical circuit boards, presented a learning curve. However, with supportive instructors, Mitchell embraced the challenge and honed her abilities.

“This is nothing I've ever done before, and I'm learning a completely different skill set,” she said. “But the teachers were amazing and very personable.”

A pivotal aspect of the program for Mitchell was the focus on interview skills and resume building. After more than a decade since her last job application, Mitchell appreciated the guidance in presenting herself effectively to potential employers. This support, combined with newfound skills, led to her securing a position as a manufacturing technician at Intel.



Atalie Mitchell (left) and Emily Peng discovered they have a passion for advanced manufacturing.

Emily Peng, a Bethany resident originally from Taiwan, found her path to Intel through PCC's career exploration and support programs. Despite a background in the fine arts, Peng sought new career opportunities upon moving to the United States. Participation in PCC's programs, including the Quick Start initiative, enabled Peng to transition into a technology development role at Intel.

“All of the instructors were very nice and supported my journey,” Peng said. “PCC has so many programs and a lot of resources I could access. They deal with a lot of types of students, and the staff know what we want.”

With a 63% job placement rate and a substantial waitlist, Quick Start stands as a beacon of workforce development and

highlights the program's potential as a national model for community colleges, emphasizing the program's role in early workforce engagement and future success.

The class aims to diversify the semiconductor industry by encouraging under-represented populations to pursue careers in advanced manufacturing. Through comprehensive support and guidance, individuals like Peng have found opportunities in a field previously considered inaccessible.

“I'm really grateful because I did not have a related degree in semiconductors, and I didn't think I could work at a big company like Intel,” Peng said. “But I am!” ♦

**For more details on Quick Start, visit [pcc.edu/semiconductor](https://pcc.edu/semiconductor).**



# Meet your future your own way



No two paths are the same, but all paths lead you forward at Portland Community College. No matter who you are, who you want to be, or where you want to go, all of your possibilities begin at PCC.

## AT PCC YOU CAN:

- ◆ Choose from **90+ academic programs**
- ◆ **Save about 48%** compared to four-year public universities\*
- ◆ **Apply for free** in less than 20 minutes
- ◆ **Get one-on-one help** during the admissions and enrollment process



**Get started today!**  
[pcc.edu/start](https://pcc.edu/start)



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\*Estimated 2023-24 cost of attendance for a full-time, resident student (12-18 credits per term). Calculation based on publicly available recruitment materials. For up-to-date costs, visit [pcc.edu/tuition](https://pcc.edu/tuition).



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## History Corner:

# High-Tech Program Is Born



Microelectronics graduate Damani Proctor.

In 1990, longtime corporate partner Intel worked with PCC to found the Microelectronics Technology Program. To start, classes were offered at Intel's Aloha campus and were only available to full-time Intel employees. All courses were offered at Intel with the exception of laboratories in chemistry and physics, which were held at the college. In 1995, the program moved to the Capital Center in Beaverton, then later to its current location at the Rock Creek Campus, and was opened to anyone in the community.

Today, Intel and the program still have a strong partnership that benefits students and industry via equipment donations, internships and program funding for various on-ramp and support initiatives like the Quick Start Program. With a need for more technicians in the region, the Microelectronics Technology Program continues to grow and serve the area's economic development. In its more than 30 years, the program has close to a 100% job placement rate for its graduates. ♦ **To learn more, visit [pcc.edu/mt](https://pcc.edu/mt).**



## Welding Excellence

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration has recognized the college as one of 32 designated Centers of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education. PCC's Welding Program is one of six maritime honorees from Washington and Oregon. ♦ **For more info: [pcc.edu/welding](https://pcc.edu/welding)**

## A Barn Raising

College leaders and partners officially opened PCC's new 10,000-square-foot, high-tech barn at the Rock Creek Campus. This modern facility is designed to enhance the Veterinary Technology Program's training and improve animal welfare. ♦ **For additional details: [pcc.edu/vet](https://pcc.edu/vet)**



## Military Friendly

Thanks to a myriad of support and resources for student veterans, PCC earned the 2024-25 Military Friendly School designation – a ratings program to encourage civilian organizations to invest in supportive programs for veterans as employees, entrepreneurs and students. ♦

**Learn more: [pcc.edu/veterans](https://pcc.edu/veterans)**

# Driving the Semiconductor Revolution

PCC is the epicenter for training Oregon's advanced manufacturing workforce

**M**adelyn Porter, a sophomore at Forest Grove High School, represents the sign of the times in the semiconductor world.

Porter is taking a series of her school's mechatronics classes, which are designed in collaboration with industry partners and Portland Community College. Aimed at equipping students with foundational hands-on skills, the classes serve as a stepping stone for aspiring semiconductor equipment technicians, process technicians and beyond.

"The first couple of weeks were hard," she admitted. "There was a lot of programming and wiring, but I was so glad I stuck around. I really like this class. It's super satisfying when you build something and see your project work out."

The semiconductor industry needs her and, with the help of PCC, is actively recruiting women and underrepresented students to bridge the workforce gap. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission recently released the state's first Semiconductor Workforce and Talent

Assessment and recommended Oregon strengthen education pathways and diversify the workforce in order to address the talent needs. The assessment comes as the sector prepares for \$40 billion in capital investment from the federal CHIPS and Science Act and in Oregon's own CHIPS Act passed last year.

PCC has built a healthy semiconductor pathway to address the worker shortage. At the Willow Creek Opportunity Center in Hillsboro, the mechatronics lab is the focal point for students in PCC's Micro-

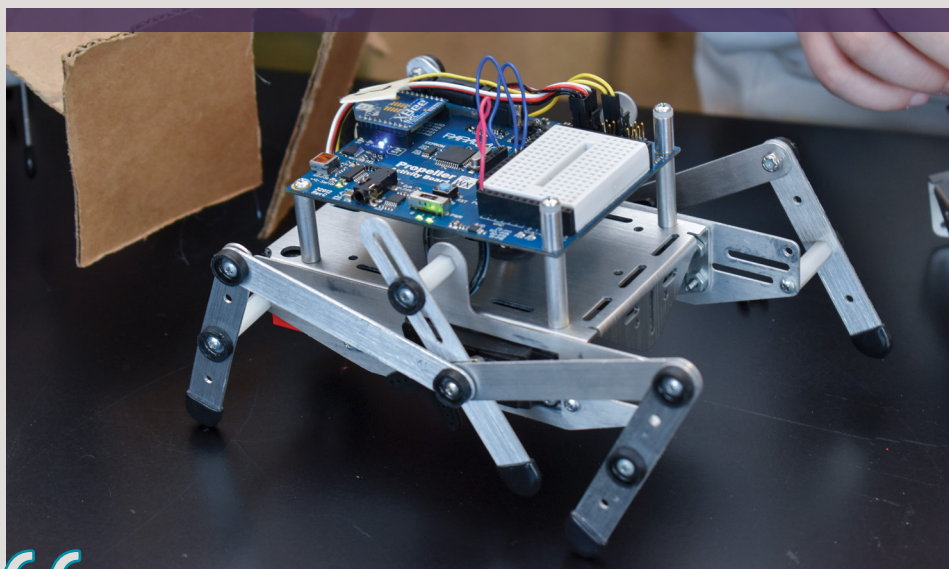


electronics Technology and Quick Start programs. The Microelectronics Technology and the Electronic Engineering Technology programs, located at the Rock Creek and Sylvania campuses respectively, offer options to learn the principles of advanced manufacturing and provide pathways to living wage jobs.

The college also has a one-year certificate in mechatronics at the Rock Creek and Willow Creek locations, as well as two non-credit training certificates at the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center (OMIC) Training Center in Columbia County. These certificates provide students with hands-on experiences to troubleshoot and solve electrical problems applicable to any manufacturing environment.

In addition to the training, PCC has a myriad of support on-ramp courses that serve a wide spectrum of ages and populations. These include the Semiconductor Essentials Training for 17- to 24-year-olds interested in semiconductors; the Discover Manufacturing course, where staff help students explore careers and training options; and the much-heralded Quick Start Program – a partnership with Intel and others – that introduces people to the world of semiconductors. (See page 2 for more details.)

“We have a long history of training the workforce for semiconductor and advanced manufacturing careers,” said PCC President Dr. Adrien Bennings. “Our academic pathways alone offer multiple avenues to not just degrees but short-term certificates. All of these lead to living wage jobs, which is so critical in positioning our citizens to not only thrive but to have economic mobility.”



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— PCC President Adrien Bennings

And PCC’s efforts are getting noticed. The college has welcomed U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and Labor Secretary Julie Su to the Willow Creek lab to tour the Quick Start class and microelectronics training as examples of best practices.

“What you are doing with young people here is needed,” said Secretary Su.

Secretary Raimondo added, “From first-generation college students to people charting new paths later in their careers, it was inspiring to meet Portland Community College students and learn how they’re being equipped for the semiconductor jobs of the future.”

Porter, 15, is part of that next generation. She got into mechatronics at Forest Grove to earn dual credit through PCC because she always enjoyed computer programming and robotics. Her future goals entail enrolling at Oregon State University to learn software engineering and eventually work for a company like Intel.

“I tell classmates to please join the mechatronics classes, especially girls,” she said. “We need more women in mechatronics. First couple of weeks people just quit, but they need to realize they need to stay on because it will work out. It did for me.” ♦

For more information on PCC’s semiconductor training, visit [pcc.edu/semiconductor](https://pcc.edu/semiconductor).





Portland Community College mails *Communities* to most district residents to let them know about upcoming Community Ed classes and share what's happening at the college. The magazine is printed and mailed four times a year for about 32¢ per copy. It can be recycled. **Because the magazine is addressed to "Residential Customer," PCC cannot remove individuals from the mailing list.**



# CURIOUS ABOUT AI?

The descriptions of our **new and updated AI classes** prompted Adobe Firefly to generate all these images.

FIND THE CLASSES ON **PAGE 18**

