

**DESIGNED  
FOR YOU**

## **FUTURE CONNECT IS FOR YOU IF:**

- You are a high school student graduating this year from one of these school districts:

Portland Public  
David Douglas  
Gresham  
Parkrose  
Reynolds  
Hillsboro  
Beaverton

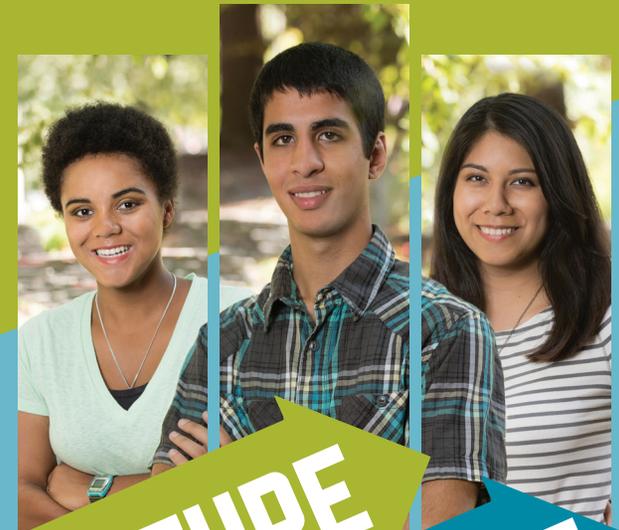
- You plan to attend PCC beginning in the next fall term
- You are either first generation or a low-income student



### About PCC Links

PCC Links are unique programs designed to help you get the education you need to reach your goals—no matter where you're starting from. You can create a better future for yourself, and our programs can help. Visit [pcc.edu/links](http://pcc.edu/links) to learn more.

The Future Connect Scholarship Program is a partnership between businesses, colleges and communities to help students find success at the next level of college and in their careers.



**FUTURE  
CONNECT**

**WHERE POTENTIAL  
MEETS OPPORTUNITY**

## **LET'S GET STARTED!**

The application for the Future Connect Scholarship Program is available online beginning in December of each year.

Visit [www.pcc.edu/futureconnect](http://www.pcc.edu/futureconnect) to apply.

### Future Connect

Phone: 971-722-6119

Email: [futureconnect@pcc.edu](mailto:futureconnect@pcc.edu)

Web: [pcc.edu/futureconnect](http://pcc.edu/futureconnect)



**Portland  
Community  
College**





Future Connect has given me access to a ton of opportunities. I couldn't be more thankful to everyone and definitely believe it can help anyone.



— Betty Y.,  
Future Connect grad and full ride scholarship recipient to Lewis and Clark College.

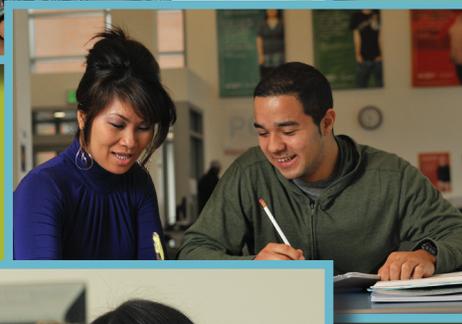


## MAKE YOUR DREAMS OF GOING TO COLLEGE A REALITY

Many high school students want to go to college, but feel like it just isn't an option for them. If this is you, Future Connect is here to help you make it happen.

Future Connect offers on-going financial and academic support to help you pay for college and excel in your classes. Many of our students are low-income or are the first in their families to attend college; we understand the challenges that come along with this, and we're here to help.

We believe that you have the potential to go far in life — and Future Connect can get you there.



Future Connect has opened up numerous opportunities for my education and never ending friendships with coaches and staff.

— Cameron C.,  
Future Connect grad and OSU student.



As a Future Connect student, you will have access to many resources, including:

### SCHOLARSHIP MONEY

Future Connect applicants who are selected for the scholarship will receive a minimum of \$600 per year for up to three years.

### COLLEGE SUCCESS COACH

A personalized academic advisor will help you navigate your college experience.

### CAREER GUIDANCE

You will have the opportunity to take free classes focused on succeeding in your collegiate career and beyond.

### JOB AND INTERNSHIP RESOURCE

Future Connect gives you access to internships that provide real-world experience and opportunities to learn from mentors at nearby four-year universities.

### ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

An intensive summer orientation before fall term, and continuing workshops and extracurricular gatherings throughout the school year, will help you transition to college, excel in your studies, and pursue your career goals

### SCHOLARSHIPS AT THE NEXT LEVEL

Future Connect transfer students now have the opportunity to apply for scholarships at selected four year universities when they complete the program.

THE SUPPORT YOU NEED



# Future Connect has worked alongside more than 1000 students from eight school districts across the Portland Metro Region since



- Beaverton School District
- Centennial School District
- David Douglas School District
- Gresham-Barlow District
- Hillsboro School District
- Portland Public Schools
- Parkrose School District
- Reynolds School District

Initially, funding for this program supported student scholarships and a success coach. The program has grown into a model system for connecting students who otherwise are off track to success at the college level. Developing internships, leadership opportunities and connecting students to their community is now at the forefront of how this program is changing Portland.



Student leaders enroll in CG 190 - Intercultural Leadership courses. Our leadership and mentorship program aims to foster long term commitment to service and provides a transformative educational experience. Guided by a servant leadership philosophy, our students are committed to bettering our communities and campuses through service





With the leadership of two partners; The City of Portland and Portland Community College Foundation, Future Connect has grown to include more than 100 individual donors, businesses and foundations as



## 2011

\$2000.00 supported one student for two years. We served 144 students that first year.

## 2015

With the increased cost of tuition, deeper services, and serving a larger cohort (232) Future Connect can serve each students for 2 year at \$2500

## Today

For \$2500.00 Future Connect has a robust outreach system, online application, leadership development program, partnerships with PSU, Lewis and Clark College, Pacific University, The Renaissance Foundation and Portland Public Schools.



*"Future Connect has believed in me from the start and they've given me the confidence I needed to accomplish anything. They gave me the push I needed to believe in myself. Now I'm getting awesome grades."*

Daniela Vivas-Giraldo



*"Without Future Connect, I wouldn't have any clue about how any of this college stuff works. Because of the program and the amazing mentors, I'm much closer to reaching my goals."*

Tiara Moxley



*"I didn't have a person in my life who I could ask about college. I now have a coach who I can text/call/email to ask ANY questions. That personalized attention has made me feel confident about college."*

Cameron Soto





## **Future Connect Scholarship Program at Portland Community College**

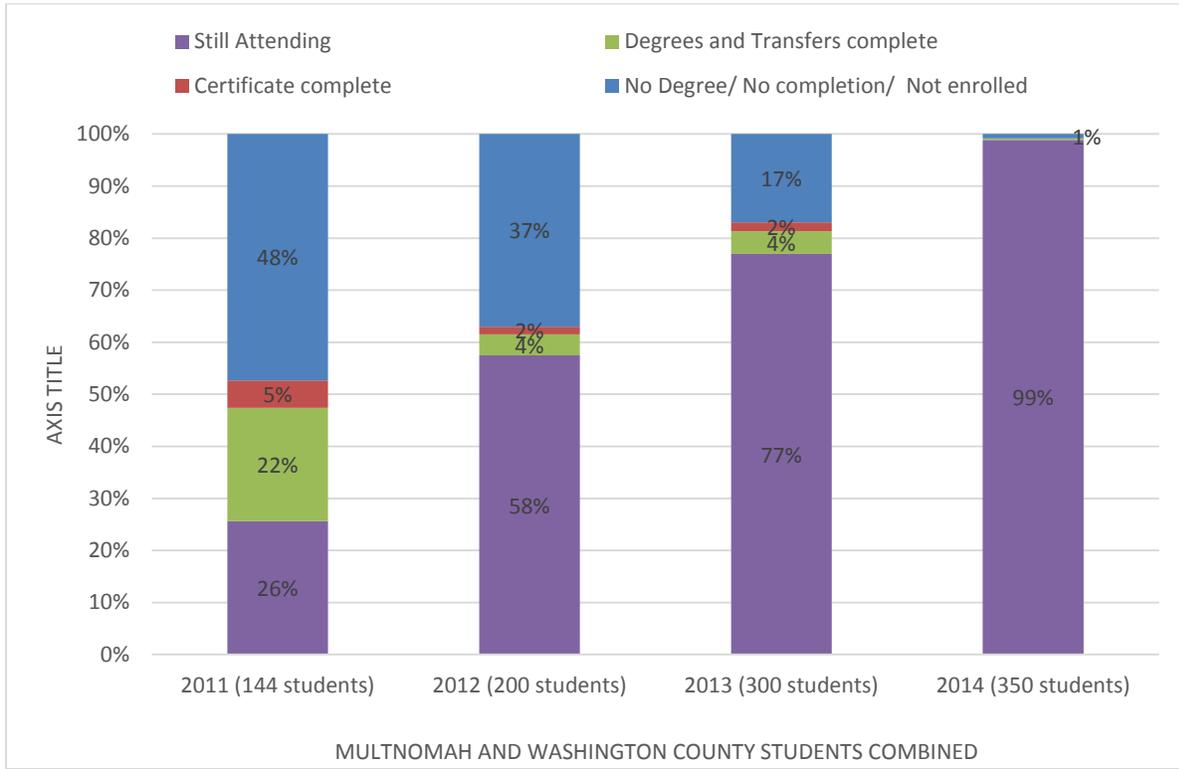
Four years ago PCC and the City of Portland began a unique partnership to create a pathway of support from high school to college for first generation/low income students. Future Connect is a model approach which engages students who previously did not think college was possible. Since 2011 we have supported over 900 students transition to college and pursue their dreams. Future Connect is now serving students from both Multnomah and Washington counties. Our staff provide advising and support to students during their senior year in 38 different high schools and community based programs throughout the region. The support continues over the summer, through 2-3 years at PCC, and beyond. The average retention rate for Future Connect students is 3 times (over 70% average for the last three years) what it is for similar students at PCC who do not receive program supports. The investments made by the cities of Beaverton, Hillsboro and Portland have been matched through college resources, private donations and foundation grants. Last spring PCC received funding from the State of Oregon to increase the number of students Future Connect can serve. Our unique model is creating opportunity for hundreds of young people each year and positively changing the communities we live in.



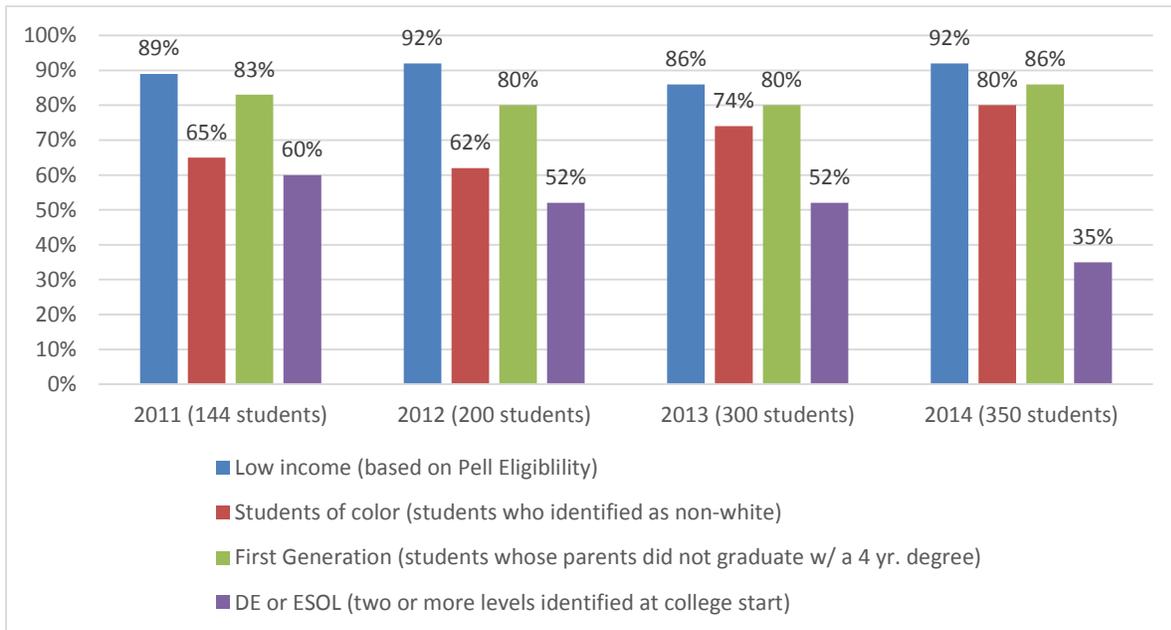
First group of Washington County students completing Future Connect career workshop - spring 2014



## Increasing Persistence and Retention



## Maintaining a focus on the students





## Building Partnerships for Change

### Building College Awareness in High Schools

Future Connect staff performs outreach to 38 specific high schools and alternative schools in Multnomah County, reaching over 600 high students per year.



Money has always been an issue for my family and me. The Future Connect scholarship has helped me cover all expenses at PCC. The coaches are so heartwarming and inspirational; it is an honor to be coached by them. Not only am I learning strategies to survive in college, I am learning life lessons and get to experience a lot of volunteer events. Future Connect is there to support and help students succeed in college—and I am thankful to be one of those students.

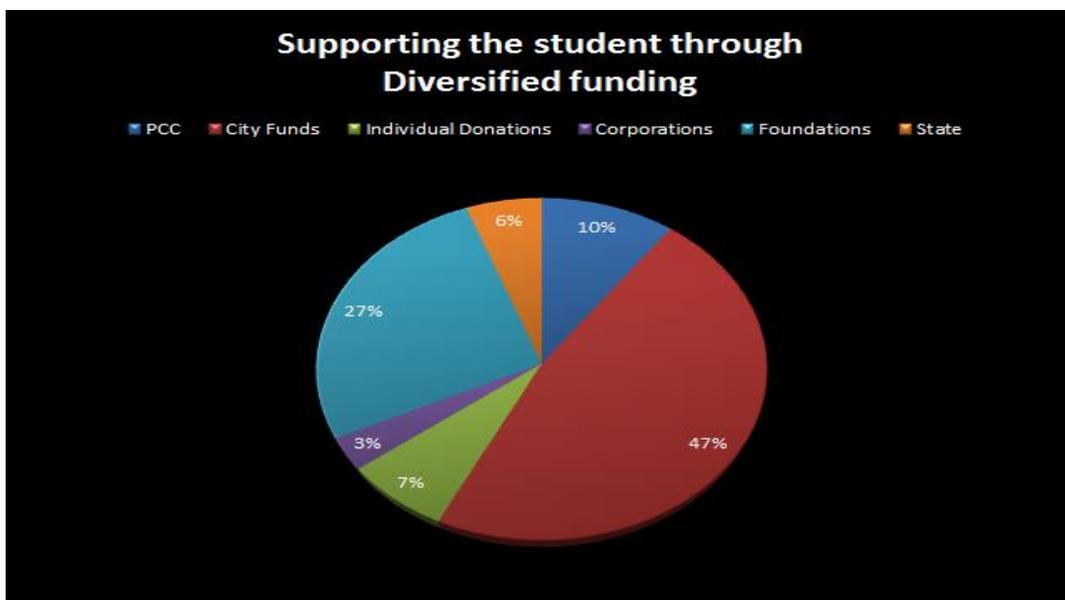
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Maggie Stout  
Future High School Counselor  
Glencoe High School  
Cohort#3

### Internship and Work Experiences

Future Connect students have access to a broad range of internships through a partnership with Work systems Inc. Last summer more than 50 students earned internships.

### Funding

The PCC Foundation has raised a total of \$1.1 million in private funds for the Future Connect Program in Multnomah County. Private donors include Meyer Memorial Trust, Reser Fine Foods Inc., The Renaissance Foundation, The Edwards Lienhart Family Foundation, PGE, U.S. Bank, and NW Natural, among others.





### University Transfer Opportunities

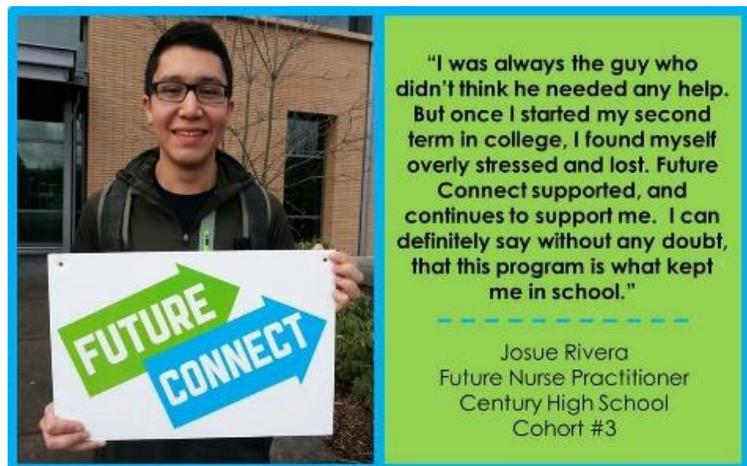
Forty scholarships at universities are now accessible to current Future Connect students who wish to transfer. PSU, Lewis and Clark, and The Renaissance Foundation have made these possible.

### Ford Family Foundation –

Through a unique partnership –The Future Connect Program and PCC are able to begin developing research based practices on how to create and develop access and retention strategies for rural communities. The areas of Columbia County, North Plains region and cities such as Forest Groove, Cornelius and Aloha will be a focus of this work.

### Expansion to Washington County

Since fall 2013, Future Connect has expanded to serve students from the Cities of Hillsboro and Beaverton. With additional State funding even more students from North Plains, Columbia County, Cornelius, Forest Grove and Aloha are now receiving additional services.



### Carpe Mundi – Study Abroad Partnership

Future Connect now has a strong partnership with Carpe Mundi study abroad program. Since its inception, Future Connect has helped 26 students to access free international study abroad credit through this partnership.

### Interns and AmeriCorps

Future Connect continues to work alongside the PSU School of Social Work supervising one Master's level or Bachelor's level social work each year. In 2015 we will have our very own former Future Connect graduate (Roosevelt 2011) completing her practicum within the program.

### GEAR-UP

Future Connect, the Portland Public School District, Portland State University and Mount Hood Community College applied and received the national GEAR UP Grant to support low income students within the Jefferson cluster.

**2013-2014:**

March 4, 2013: Oregonian. The Hillsboro City Council voted to help fund the Portland Community College Future Connect Program by investing \$100,000 to provide two-year scholarships and services for a pilot group of 50 Hillsboro students enrolling at PCC: [http://www.oregonlive.com/hillsboro/index.ssf/2013/03/hillsboro\\_councilors\\_give\\_big.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/hillsboro/index.ssf/2013/03/hillsboro_councilors_give_big.html)

March 12, 2013: Hillsboro Argus. The Hillsboro City Council voted to help fund the Portland Community College Future Connect Program by investing \$100,000 to provide two-year scholarships and services for a pilot group of 50 Hillsboro students enrolling at PCC.

May 23, 2013: Portland Tribune. Feature on Patrick Stupfel, a Future Connect scholar (cover story of the Portland!Life section): <http://portlandtribune.com/pt/11-features/153065-from-curb-to-college-to-con.html>

October 1, 2013: Gresham Outlook. Carpe Mundi connects Portland area Future Connect students with international opportunities through scholarship.

November 7, 2013: The Oregonian. The Future Connect scholarships target low-income students who are the first in their families to attend college.

November 7, 2013: Beaverton Valley Times. Beaverton scholarship recipients grateful for city's contribution to Future Connect.

November 8, 2013: Hillsboro Argus. Hillsboro scholarship recipient, Sara Agoot, grateful to Future Connect.

November 30, 2013: Future Connect expands to Hillsboro and Beaverton: <http://portlandtribune.com/ht/117-hillsboro-tribune-news/202963-future-connect-program-expands-to-hillsboro>

January 8, 2014: Hillsboro Argus. Sara Agoot is the first member of her family to attend college and the PCC Future Connect program assigned her a success coach.

January 30, 2014: Lake Oswego Review, Beaverton Valley Times, etc. Joe Gallegos: 'Aspiration to College' bill develops diverse workforce.

February 3, 2014: The Oregonian. Joe Gallegos: Model program helps low-income, first-generation PCC students succeed (guest opinion).

February 13, 2014: The Oregonian. Note of a guest opinion in the Hillsboro Argus – with a link provided – by Joe Gallegos. His byliner highlights how his bill is modeled after the Future Connect Program, which helps students tackle the same barriers he faced growing up as someone who was low-income and first in his family to attend college.

March 4, 2014: Hillsboro Argus. Hillsboro City Council ups investment in PCC's Future Connect program: [http://www.oregonlive.com/hillsboro/index.ssf/2014/03/hillsboro\\_increases\\_pcc\\_future.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/hillsboro/index.ssf/2014/03/hillsboro_increases_pcc_future.html)

March 7, 2014: Hillsboro Tribune. The Hillsboro City Council voted to help fund the Portland Community College Future Connect Program by investing \$100,000 to provide two-year scholarships and services for a second group of 50 Hillsboro students enrolling at PCC.

May 29, 2014: The Oregonian. Beaverton leaders double funding for Future Connect Program at Portland Community College.

June 6, 2014: Nationswell. How Portland, Ore., is translating student grit into success through PCC Foundation's Future Connect.(Feature)

June 27, 2014: Hillsboro Tribune. Editorial by Hillsboro City Manager Michael Brown - Our mayor and city council members went one step further in partnering to provide college scholarship opportunities to students who will attend Portland Community College (PCC) through the Future Connect program. But we aim to do more.

**2014-2015:**

July 11, 2014: [Portland Tribune](#). The city of Hillsboro stepped up this summer with a new program geared to provide 18 local youths with an internship to gain critical work experience. many of whom are from PCC's Future Connect Program.

January 16, 2015: [Hillsboro Tribune](#). City donates \$100,000 to PCC's Future Connect Program.

May 28, 2015: [Beaverton Valley Times](#). We arranged for Rep. Tobias Read to write a byliner about support for House Bill 3063, "Aspirations for College," which is based on the Future Connect model: <http://www.pamplinmedia.com/bvt/16-opinion/262293-134055-fund-future-connect-serve-our-students>

*060815kc*

# Fund Future Connect, serve our students

Created on Monday, 01 June 2015 11:13 | Written by [Miles Vance](#) | 

[0 Comments](#)

Almost as long as I've been alive, I've known that education matters. My mother was a teacher, one of only two in a K-8 school in rural Montana. The image of a very young version of my mother, in a one-room schoolhouse filled with kids of all ages, is a powerful one to me. And the idea that through teaching she helped to change lives and encourage students' imagination and creativity has helped to shape my values.

Likewise, she remembers the names of the students she taught, which indicates their impact on her. She's shared that they walked to the schoolhouse across wide, open fields. At certain times in the year, they arrived by snowmobile. And all of them had to work to make education possible.

While students in Oregon may not ride snowmobiles to school, there are obstacles to education that exist here. Education is still the path to prosperity, and to ensure student success in K-12 and through post-secondary education, we have a responsibility to try to remove these barriers.

Many college-going students in Oregon are the first in their families to access higher education. Their parents may not have the experience to help them navigate even the first steps of college such as class registration, financial aid applications and time management. And that's where House Bill 3063, modeled after Portland Community College's successful Future Connect scholarship program, bridges the gap.

Sponsored by the cities of Beaverton, Hillsboro and Portland, and supported by the PCC Foundation, Future Connect is geared to high school students who are the first in their families to attend college or who come from low-income backgrounds. Students receive a scholarship to attend PCC that also provides two years of "wrap-around services" — individualized academic advising, career-guidance classes and access to tutoring, cohort support, and personalized coaching.

The results have been stellar: Future Connect students in solid academic standing are retained at rates three times higher than similar students who don't receive such specialized services.

These outcomes demonstrate a return on investment that is worthy of public support. As a result, I'm co-sponsoring HB 3063 — also known as Aspirations to College — in this year's session of the legislature. The bill seeks funding to enable community colleges to increase the number of low-income and first-generation college-bound students they serve and provide similar wrap-around services. Passing the bill and funding it means more students will succeed — both in the classroom and in life after they graduate.

The bill's connection to community colleges is a natural. They are the perfect incubators for the Future Connect model, which supports the mission of community colleges — to offer access, affordability and pertinence.

Oregon's community colleges — all 17 of them — offer students the education and skills training they need to reach the middle class and attain family-wage jobs. Already, they're educating more students than any type of higher education in the state. Our task, then, is to help students succeed academically and graduate because by educating a talented, diverse and skilled workforce, our region's economic future is strengthened.

The Aspirations to College bill gives us the "green light" to expand a model within community colleges that we know works, for the benefit of all Oregon. The chance to invest in our future is an opportunity we should seize. The tremendous importance of education is something that I learned from my mother and that I continue to value as a legislator, father and Oregonian. I urge you to contact your legislators and ask them to fund Aspirations to College.

Rep. Tobias Read, D-Beaverton, represents House District 27



**Portland  
Community  
College**

## PCC Foundation Gala raises a record \$425,000

Photos and Story by James Hill | View 2 comments

The PCC Foundation Gala themed “An Evening for Opportunity, Lunar Landing: A Space Age Gala,” raised a record \$425,000 that will go toward student scholarships and success programs. The gala, which was held on Friday, April 10 at Pure Space in the Pearl District, featured 1960s space exploration as its theme and attracted more than 500 guests. Junki and Linda Yoshida, founders of locally based Yoshida Foods International, served as the honorary co-chairs.

A pillar of the gala was the celebration of the PCC Patron Award. This

year’s recipients are Stephanie Fowler and Irving Levin of The Renaissance Foundation, a private philanthropic organization that creates educational opportunities, in part for first-generation, low-income students. The Patron Award honors a person or organization that has made a significant contribution to PCC to ensure access to education for students.

Through The Renaissance Foundation, Levin and Fowler support PCC’s Future Connect Scholarship Program by providing nearly 30 students with scholarships, mentoring and other supports essential to college success. They have also just launched a new mentoring program, the Cascade African Men’s Scholars Project, at the Cascade Campus in North Portland that matches 10 mentors with 30 students.



*Portland Community College Foundation Board President Kimberly Cooper, president and CEO of the Fortuna Group, chats with Congressman Earl Blumenauer (left) and Executive Director of The Oregon Historical Society Kerry Tymchuk at the annual PCC Foundation Gala.*





**Portland  
Community  
College**

## Sen. Merkley's staff visit President Brown, Future Connect students

Photos and Story by James Hill | Start the discussion

Portland Community College is proving to be a leader on education, and not just locally, but nationally.

PCC was recently approached by U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley's Chief of Staff, Mike Zamore, and his Education Policy Legislative Assistant, Susan Lexer, to meet with President Jeremy Brown. The meeting with President Brown also included PCC's Sylvia Kelley (vice president), Rob Wagner (associate vice president of Advancement), Traci Fordham (chief of staff) and Meghan Moyer (government relation director), who all discussed the impact of the college's Future Connect Scholarship Program.



*PCC President Jeremy Brown presents U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley's Chief of Staff, Mike Zamore (far right), and his Education Policy Legislative Assistant, Susan Lexer (far left), a framed feature article honoring Sen. Merkley. Also on hand were, left to right, Traci Fordham (chief of staff) and Sylvia Kelley (vice president).*

Later, the group met with Future Connect students and staff to get their perspectives. The program is geared toward high school students who have been identified as being the first in their families to attend college or who are low-income. Students receive a scholarship to attend PCC and get two years of individualized academic advising, career-guidance classes, and access to tutoring, cohort support and personalized coaching.

The interest by Sen. Merkley's staff lies in the possible re-authorization of the Higher Education Act later this year. PCC representatives would love to make the PCC Future Connect Scholarship Program a model that other cities and community colleges could replicate. Sen. Merkley is a big proponent of PCC and is featured in the upcoming college magazine PCC Communities.

"Portland Community College gives students the opportunity for quality and accessible education while helping train Oregonians for jobs that are in demand today," Sen. Merkley said. "I love seeing PCC succeed and thrive because PCC is a key to the success of our region."

# Future Connect scholarships are critical tools

Created on Thursday, 06 June 2013 04:00 | Written by [Ken Madden](#) | 

[0 Comments](#)

The number of economically disadvantaged students is on the rise in Washington County, and their pathway to obtaining college degrees is getting much more difficult to travel. It's time we tackled the issue head on.

As the state and Gov. John Kitzhaber focus on achieving his "40-40-20" objective (by 2025, 40 percent of the state's adults should have four-year degrees, 40 percent two-year degrees or postsecondary training and 20 percent high school diplomas), it's clear that in order to reach this goal more needs to be done to assist students who may not have the resources or know-how to complete college.

Around 40 percent of Beaverton's students are from economically challenged households, and the benefits of a college education are increasingly out of reach for them. According to the Oregon Department of Education, 60 percent of economically disadvantaged students from the 2010 class in the Beaverton School District graduated from high school. That's compared to a rate of 76 percent for the entire district population and 85 percent for non-economically disadvantaged students.

It's not that they are not capable of going to college, but there are economic and social barriers that prevent them from enrolling and completing college. In Washington County, 45 percent of the high school class from 2009-10 did not attend college. Nearly six out of 10 Washington County high school graduates eligible for free and reduced lunch did not go to college after finishing high school. Similarly, two out of five Washington County high school graduates of color did not pursue postsecondary education.

These sorts of trends threaten our region's economic strength and vitality, which depend on educating a trained and talented pool of diverse workers. Washington County is home to some of the world's top companies. It serves as the state's economic engine, attracting investment from industries across the globe, and providing thousands of quality jobs to a highly-skilled workforce. Companies like mine depend on the pipeline of high-skilled workers.

By the end of this decade, more than 60 percent of jobs will require postsecondary education. Four-fifths of jobs paying \$50,000 or more will require at least a bachelor's degree to be competitive. The educational attainment of Washington County's residents is directly related to economic prosperity — a well-educated workforce is critical for high-wage, high-skilled jobs.

Portland Community College has always been responsive to our region's workforce training needs, and its Future Connect Scholarship program is no exception. Future Connect is a highly successful program that provides low-income and first-generation college students with financial support and student services that are proven to increase student retention and completion rates. Local cities supply half the funding, while the college and the PCC Foundation match their investment dollar for dollar.

The program began in 2011 with financial support from the city of Portland, and more than \$1 million has been raised to fund the first four cohorts of Future Connect scholars through 2014-15. This equates to scholarships and services for 744 Multnomah County students to attend PCC. This means they receive two years of individualized academic advising and personalized coaching to help them succeed in class, navigate unfamiliar college resources, overcome barriers to stay in school and prepare for a career or transfer to a university. As a result, Future Connect scholars are being retained in college at a rate three times that of first-generation college students who do not receive these services.

This March, the Hillsboro City Council voted to allocate \$100,000 to Future Connect, which will enable the program to enroll 50 Hillsboro students this fall. The Beaverton City Council followed suit in May with a





CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

Charlie Hales, Mayor  
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner  
Nick Fish, Commissioner  
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner  
Steve Novick, Commissioner

February 26, 2014

Senator Rod Monroe, Co-Chair  
Representative Betty Komp, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education  
900 Court St. NE, Hearing Room H-170  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for House Bill 4116A

Dear Co-Chairs Monroe and Komp and Members of the Committee:

We write to offer our support for HB 4116A, which funds Aspirations to College pilot programs. Affordable and accessible higher education is a major driver and sustainer of a diversified and healthy economy and citizenry.

HB 4116A supports competitive grant pilot projects for community colleges throughout the state. These projects provide access and support to students from low-income families and first-generation college students. By starting in high school with early support and training, these programs have a proven track record as evidenced by Portland Community College's (PCC) Future Connect.

The City of Portland provides financial support to Future Connect that is matched by private foundation resources and has been tremendously popular. Every year, PCC's Future Connect provides a path to higher education for 200 low-income and first-generation college students in Multnomah County. Future Connect invests in students' success by providing scholarship money, college success coaches, career guidance classes, college orientations, and access to internships and workshops. Over 70 percent of participating students continue to their second year of college.

Programs like Future Connect and the Aspirations to College pilot programs set students up for success and make higher paid skilled employment attainable for a new generation of Oregonians. We respectfully urge your support for HB 4116A.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hales  
Mayor

Dan Saltzman  
Commissioner

Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner

Steve Novick  
Commissioner

Nick Fish  
Commissioner

\$50,000 allocation and is now considering an additional \$50,000 in the city's 2013-14 budget to enable the college to bring in 50 Future Connect students from Beaverton.

Like most cities, Beaverton faces its share of difficult budget decisions, but this isn't one of them. The time to invest in our city's future is now.

Beaverton high school graduates, parents, and business and industry leaders need Future Connect to ensure the pipeline of skilled workers remains robust. The program leverages significant private and public sector funds on top of the city's commitment. Future Connect is one tool we can use to help ensure students who otherwise wouldn't go to college earn a degree or certificate. This will not only increase college degree attainment in Oregon and meet the governor's goals, but invigorate our local economy and our community. I hope Beaverton will join Portland and Hillsboro, and ensure our young people have the same chance at prosperity. Their success will be ours.

*Ken Madden is the owner of Madden Industrial Craftsman and Madden Fabrication and has served on Portland Community College's Foundation board since 2003. He was recently elected to the PCC Board of Directors.*



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February 25, 2014

Senator Rod Monroe, Co-Chair  
Representative Betty Comp, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 4116 A

Dear Co-Chairs Monroe and Komp and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 4116, a bill which I believe supports a vitally important opportunity to increase college attendance and success among historically under-educated communities.

My interest in this bill derives from the prior success in Portland, and extremely promising early results in Beaverton, of the Portland Community College Future Connect program. Beaverton dedicated \$100,000 of general fund monies, matched by private donations raised by the PCC Foundation, to enable 50 low-income and first-in-family high school graduates in Beaverton to attend PCC tuition-free, with hands-on success coaching before and during their studies.

Beaverton has been contributing general fund monies to social services causes for quite some time, generally in the range of \$250,000 to \$300,000 per year. We have a long-established Social Service Funding Committee which reviews grant applications and recommends awards to the City Council. Our contribution to PCC Future Connect was in addition to our annual grant program.

I hope that Beaverton will repeat this contribution and help another 50 students enter college next year with aspirations and support. The PCC Future Connect program provides more than just tuition, more than just an education for each individual. Besides the coaching and mentoring that help each individual succeed, it helps establish a culture of education in each family that sends a student to PCC to begin life as a college-educated adult. That culture of education magnifies the effect of the program, touching siblings, cousins, parents, friends, and increases the probability that more students will aspire to and reach for a college education. This is a broad, long-lasting community benefit we should celebrate and work to expand.

I think we all know people who were first-in-family college attendees. My parents are two such people. I grew up assuming college would be an option. How many high school students have never made that assumption, have never thought that they might have the opportunity?

Programs such as PCC Future Connect, programs that could be funded by the systems described in HB 4116, can provide that opportunity to many more students than cities such as Beaverton can do on our own. I would encourage you to support this bill, and provide substantial state funding for the programs across the state that can create new dreams and new opportunities that will benefit all of us for years to come.

Let's keep expanding the culture of education in Oregon.

Thank you,

Marc San Soucie  
Beaverton City Councilor  
[msansoucie@beavertonoregon.gov](mailto:msansoucie@beavertonoregon.gov)