



PimaCommunityCollege Alumni Association

eNEWSLETTER

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**Dear PCC Alumni and Friends,**

Welcome to the winter issue of the Pima Community College Alumni Association (PCCAA) eNewsletter. We hope you will enjoy reading about what is happening at Pima College, and we look forward to receiving your life updates for publication in a future PCCAA eNewsletter, and other feedback at [alumni@pima.edu](mailto:alumni@pima.edu).

Thank you,

*Pima Community College Alumni Association*

This is an official communication from the PCC Alumni Association. If you have any questions about the legitimacy of this e-mail, please call (520) 206-4646 or e-mail [alumni@pima.edu](mailto:alumni@pima.edu).

**News**

**Devotion to Doing**

**Scholarship Honors Tucson Shooting Victims**

In the year after the horrific Tucson shootings in January 2011 that killed six people and critically injured Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, the Pima Community College community has come together to help and to heal.

With an initial gift from the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual PCC Foundation Scholarship Golf Tournament, held on June 11, 2011, the PCC Foundation has established a scholarship endowment, currently valued at \$24,000, for students who plan careers in social work and public or community service. As with all endowments, the principal balance is held and invested so that the earnings may be used to fund scholarships in perpetuity.

The *Gabe Zimmerman Memorial Scholarship Endowment* is named for one of the shooting victims, who served as the Director of Outreach and Constituent Services for Giffords. Zimmerman's father, Ross, is a long-time PCC employee and is one of those responsible for maintaining voice and data communications systems at all PCC campuses.

The first Gabe Zimmerman Scholarship was awarded in Fall 2011 to PCC student John Roldan, a former computer network technician who is studying for a new career in social work. As a non-traditional student who is planning to attend the ASU School of Social Work, as Gabe did, Roldan has faced many challenges in his educational journey.

"If I didn't get this scholarship, I would have dropped out. That's the difference it made," he explained.

Although this certainly is not the first-nor the last-tribute to Gabe, it is particularly meaningful to Zimmerman.

"One does not heal from something like this," he said. "One learns to function and to move forward. This scholarship has been part of the larger universe of responses that make me feel better."

Established in 1977, the Pima Community College Foundation secures and manages private philanthropic support for Pima Community College. Last year, the Foundation awarded nearly \$1 million in scholarships to over 1600 PCC students. To contribute to the Gabe Zimmerman Memorial Scholarship Endowment, click the Donate Online icon at [www.pima.edu/foundation](http://www.pima.edu/foundation).

## **PCC Staff Efforts Raise Funds for Scholarship**

When news of the January 8, 2011 tragedy reached PCC, employees immediately jumped to action.

"We know Ross (father of Gabe Zimmerman) personally," said Keith (Mac) McIntosh, Acting Assistant Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and current Chair of the Golf Tournament. "As soon as Kirk Kelly, former PCC Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and Chair of the Golf Tournament, heard about the shooting and got confirmation that Gabe was one of the victims, the Golf Committee got together and asked, 'What can we do?'"

What they did was donate the proceeds from the annual Scholarship Golf Tournament, held June 11, 2011, to seed the new scholarship endowment. The effort was so successful that the committee agreed to commit the proceeds from this year's tournament, scheduled for June 2, 2012, to the endowment as well.

Subsequently, the PCC Staff Council decided to devote its 2011 fundraising efforts to the scholarship cause. The Staff Council is comprised of 30 people, each of whom represents 25 PCC staff members, explained Wendy Dosch, who chairs Staff Council this year.

They asked a PCC Digital Arts class to create designs for a commemorative t-shirt. Representatives from the Staff Council, along with Ross Zimmerman, his wife Pam Golden and Giffords staff members Amanda Sapir and Patty Valera, spoke to the class about Gabe and what he stood for.

Sapir and Valera told the class that Gabe was "able to give and receive love and was fearless in that regard," Zimmerman recalled.

From the 20-plus designs submitted by students, student Stephanie Redmond's was the consensus favorite. The simple, yet evocative design shows a light bulb with a heart encircling the word hope in the filament. Beneath the illustration is the phrase, "Helping people is a good idea. Plug in."

To date, some 320 shirts have been sold, primarily at PCC campus bookstores, said Dosch.



Modeling the Gabe Zimmerman Scholarship Endowment T-shirts are PCC Staff Council members Lee Ann Lindbeck, Wendy Dosch and Shani Stewart. The shirts may be purchased at all PCC campus bookstores for \$20.

## Festival of Democracy

For more information on volunteering, being part of the sing-along or racing in one of the Run for Office events, visit [festival-of-democracy](#).

shootings.

The Festival of Democracy celebrates our representative form of government with a fun-filled morning of activities for the entire family. It is 8 a.m.- Noon at West Campus, 2202 W. Anklam Road.

- Run for Office races and a fun run
- Paint a tile in remembrance of January 8
- Join in a mass sing-along of patriotic songs
- Much more!



Food and beverages donated by Sodexo will be for sale, with all proceeds going to PCC's Gabe Zimmerman Scholarship Endowment Fund.

To learn about other BEYOND and all of the scheduled events, visit [Beyond](#).

## Veterans Center

### Veterans Center opens at Downtown Campus

By KYLE WASSON, Aztec Press

Partnering with student-veterans, Pima Community College has delivered a Veterans Center to Downtown Campus.

The website [www.gijobs.com](#) deemed Pima one of the country's "military friendly schools", acknowledging the near 1,400 veterans enrolled each semester.

The center, housed in room LB-170, will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon-Fri.

Among the many amenities are two new computers, a flat-screen TV, desks and places to sit in a quiet room. A refrigerator will soon be installed accompanying the coffee pot already brewing fresh grounds daily.

Trained volunteers and work-study students will provide assistance in areas ranging from class registration to job applications.

Volunteer and treasurer of Pima's Student Veterans Organization, John O'Grady, urged all student-veterans to use the facility.

"We're not just seeking veterans that need help," O'Grady said. "We encourage any and all veterans to come relax and feel comfortable using this space."

Along with a new center comes a change of command at the Student Veterans

Organization. Ex-Marine Alvaro Hermsillo has taken command while ex-Navy electrical technician Jason Priddy helms the vice commander position.

West Campus has also recently dedicated space to student-veterans. Room A-224 on the second floor of the Santa Rita building is open to veterans from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon-Fri.

Although there are no computers or TV, a quiet space has been designated for homework and relaxing.

For more information on the Downtown Campus Veterans Center or Pima's Student Veterans Organization, call 206-7263.

Grand opening ceremonies for the Downtown Campus Veterans Center were scheduled for Nov. 10, after Aztec Press went to press.

A dedication at 2 p.m. in the Amethyst Room was to include an opening ceremony with the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base Honor Guard, followed by an official welcome and remarks. All veterans who are part of PCC faculty, staff or the student body were invited to attend.

The ribbon cutting and reception was scheduled for 2:45-3 p.m. in the Veterans Center.



## Alumni Salute

### Alumni Spotlight: Veronica Arvizu

PCC is the only employer I've ever worked for. I started coming to PCC at 8 years old with my mom who worked at PCC's west campus. I met a lot of people at west campus with my mom and I loved the atmosphere and enjoyed hanging out on campus. After graduating from Sunnyside High School I enrolled at PCC at began working on a degree in digital electronics. I worked in the financial aid office at the west campus as a student aid.



I stopped working at PCC for 3 months after mom passed away and I didn't want to return to west campus. I returned to work as a temp employee at PCC's east campus. I received a certificate in digital electronics in 1986 and received my Associates degree in General Studies in 1991. When I was a student I loved the student life activities. It was so interesting and exciting. I loved the environment at Pima. The faculty and staff are remarkable. I went to school full time and worked full time in the financial aid office as temporary part time employee at PCC's east campus financial aid office. I was hired as full time permanent employee in 1990 in PCC's east campus financial aid office and I've been with PCC since then. I started working at the west campus, then worked at the east campus for 19 years, then worked at the Desert Vista campus for 2 years. Currently at the community campus and have been there since April 2011. I followed my mother's footsteps. She loved helping students and it grew on me. I never thought that I would be in one job/employer for so long.

People always ask me how I've been able to deal with angry students/parents for so long. It's all about how you talk and interact with them to help them calm down. When a student or parent comes to see me my goal is to make sure that they leave happy/satisfied. I make sure to explain their situation and I take the time to help them understand why. Even when they come in upset they would leave satisfied. That made me satisfied because I knew I did my job. It was satisfying to me to know they were satisfied getting them the service that they want. Customer service means a lot to me. I treat everyone the way I want to be treated. That means the student will want to come back for another semester.

What do you enjoy most about working in the financial aid office? The students. The students wanting to better themselves. It motivates me to help them. It's very satisfying. It makes me feel like I'm making a difference when I help them.

When students are looking or trying to figure out what they want to do I tell them that they need to get a decent education. Taking one day at a time to see what life brings you is wrong. Every employer expects you to have a good education. You need a good education to get somewhere in life. I encourage students and my kids to not give up. Keep striving/working towards earning a degree. I teach my kids to establish goals so they can reach them.

My last day of work at PCC will be Jan 4. I plan to take care of my kids, Andréa-12 and Amber-15 years old. They are seeking me out...I want to be there for them. I am looking forward to spending time with my kids. I am really looking forward to it and they are too. I'm excited and nervous.

Maybe I will put my certification in digital electronics to work after I finish raising my kids but I don't know yet. I have options. You never know. I wouldn't mind finding a

job working on computers though but we'll see.

I will miss PCC, the students and all of the staff. I will miss all of the interaction and adventures. Every day was something different working in financial aid and I will defiantly miss it.

I used to play golf for the city of Tucson back in 1986-silverbell golf course. I am going to start golfing again and I am going to teach my kids how to play golf too. I am looking forward to working with them and taking them to the driving range. I also promised my daughter that we will go to all of the museums in Tucson. My kids and I also plan to have a picnic in the park. I want to do all the things that I did as a kid with them.

## Alumni Outreach

### **Recommend Outstanding Alumni**

The Alumni Association is compiling names of PCC alumni. Submit recommendations on those whom you would like us to honor at a future event or in a PCC publication. We welcome nominations and information via e-mail at [alumni@pima.edu](mailto:alumni@pima.edu). Remember, you can send us information on yourself too!



### **Be a Mentor!**

The PCC Alumni Association is looking for alumni volunteers to serve as mentors to current Pima students. Students have indicated they are interested in having mentors and the Alumni Association wants to fulfill that request.

If you are interested in serving as a mentor and/or would like more information about it, please contact the PCC Alumni Association at (520) 206-4646 or [alumni@pima.edu](mailto:alumni@pima.edu).

### **Join the Board**

Alumni Wanted: Join the Pima Community College Alumni Association Board!

Be part of the PCCAA Board to network and advance your career. For more information, contact the Alumni Office at (520) 206-4646 or via email at [alumni@pima.edu](mailto:alumni@pima.edu).

### **Alumni Association Family Scholarship**

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2011-2012 Alumni Association Family Scholarship!

The students awarded the scholarship are:

Seth Alvis, General Studies (AGS)  
Cynthia Flores, Gneral Studies (AGS)  
Katherine Mucha, Business (ABUS)  
Marci Robledo, Anthropology (AA)

John Roldán, Social Services (AA)

Congratulations, Seth, Cynthia, Katherine, Marci, and John!

### **Consider a Contribution to the Alumni Scholarship**

Our students need your help now more than ever. Make a donation to the PCC Foundation's Alumni Scholarship Fund and change a student's life.

You can donate online. To donate to the Alumni Association Family Scholarship (which goes to alumni and their dependents) or any other scholarship/program/fund, go to [www.pima.edu/foundation](http://www.pima.edu/foundation), click on the "online donation." If choosing to contribute to the Alumni Scholarship, select general scholarships and fill in "Alumni Association Family Scholarship."

Check out other scholarships and contribution opportunities offered by the PCC Foundation at [www.pima.edu/foundation](http://www.pima.edu/foundation).

For more information, contact the PCC Foundation at (520) 206-4646 or via e-mail at [foundation@pima.edu](mailto:foundation@pima.edu).

## Athletics

Pima College's intercollegiate sports teams participate in the Arizona Community College Athletic Conference (ACCAC) under the banner of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

### **Women's Basketball**

The Aztecs women's basketball team has made three consecutive trips to the NJCAA Div. II National Tournament, where they finished 3rd (2009), 5th (2010) and 2nd (2011).



Players have earned numerous All-ACCAC, All-Region and All-American awards, and moved on to play at various four-year schools, including Div. I, II, III and NAIA programs.

## New Admissions Standards

### **New Admissions Standards**

Beginning in Summer 2012, Pima Community College will require incoming students to have a high school diploma or GED, and a 7<sup>th</sup> grade minimum scores on placement tests in Mathematics, Reading and Writing to be able to earn credit towards a degree.

The College is not turning anyone away or eliminating developmental education. PCC is complying with state law and looking on how to better serve the students that need the additional assistance to succeed in their educational goals.

The new program that will provide assistance to students that do not meet the

minimum requirements is Pima Community College Prep Academy. Here is PCC Prep Academy at a glance:

Applicant takes Reading, Writing and Math placement tests at a campus Testing Center

1. Scores below grade level 7 in one or more areas
2. Meets a PCC Prep Academy advisor
3. Completes instructional diagnostics that will pinpoint academic deficiencies
4. Receives educational plan outlining instructional modules needed to remedy deficiencies
5. Registers and pays for modules (\$33 for 10-week increments).
6. Completes online or face-to-face noncredit instructional modules
7. Takes optional, free workshops on student success topics and life skills
8. Takes competency-based instructional module tests
9. If competencies are obtained, retakes placement tests
10. If competencies are not obtained, may retake instructional modules or select another program, such as Adult Education or local developmental education provider.

The PCC Prep Academy is an innovative program that will replace the lowest-level developmental education classes. Its goal is to quickly get underprepared students ready to retake assessment tests, meet a modest seventh-grade standard and be admitted to Pima Community College.

### **Board Endorses Changes to Admission Standards**

Below is the statement, adopted at the Board's regular monthly meeting:

"The Pima County Community College Board of Governors applauds and strongly supports the efforts of the College's faculty, administration and staff to develop thoughtful and progressive solutions to help underprepared students succeed in higher education and enter or advance in the workplace. Their efforts have resulted in much needed and overdue changes to the College's admissions standards.

"The Board recognizes that developmental education is a diverse and complex issue, and it is important for our community to recognize that when it comes to education, one size does not fit all.

"The Board recognizes that the College has relied on faculty recommendations and data to develop a new program aimed specifically at underprepared students whose scores on placement tests translate to below seventh-grade level in reading, writing or mathematics.

"This program, Pima Community College Foundations Academy (formerly Pathways to Pima), is a testament to the College's commitment to opening new avenues for students to succeed in an academic setting. The Board will closely monitor the PCC Foundations Academy program and will report to the public annually on the program.

"The Board is fully aware that data show that severely underprepared students have only about a 1-in-20 chance of completing a college-level course in their area of deficiency, let alone graduating with a degree or certificate. Failure to confront this problem is to shirk our responsibility and is unfair to students and the community.

"The Board has previously directed the College to examine developmental education from every possible angle and devise practical, commonsense solutions. It is important to note that the College's intent is to expand and strengthen developmental education, so that students can improve their lives and those of their families.

"The Board notes that in developing new alternatives, the College is building on a long history of success in its many non-credit offerings. These include the Center for Training and Development, and Adult Education.

"The Board believes it is critically important to give the public detailed information about the changes to the College's admissions standards. To that end, the Board recently hosted four public information forums that provided an open venue for the public to ask questions and express their concerns. In addition, the College created a page on its website devoted exclusively to the changes in admission standards."

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A complete list of key dates, events, Athletics, and the College Center for the Arts can be found on the [PCC Online Calendar](#).

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Membership in the PCC Alumni Association is free. Anyone who has taken courses at PCC is eligible to become a member of the Alumni Association. As a member, you will receive regular notices of College news and events and opportunities available to alumni. The benefits of membership include invitations to alumni events, volunteer opportunities and use of College services, such as career and job search counseling and access to the libraries and recreation centers. To become a member, simply fill out the [Online Registration Form](#).

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