

# PCCC Foundation Focus

## Opening the Door to Opportunity

Newsletter of the Passaic County Community College Foundation for Friends and Supporters

### It's All FORE A College Education!

**The 7th Annual Autumn Golf Outing** September 22, 2009

A crisp, autumn day at Black Bear Golf Club was the perfect setting for the Foundation's Seventh Annual Golf Outing. The event brought out almost 60 golfers for a full day of activities including lunch, a round of golf and an awards dinner.

The event was a huge success raising more than \$16,000 for student scholarships.

A stunning Lexus 350ES was provided by Tri-County Lexus for the Hole-in-One. Nobody got to drive away with the beautiful car – but maybe next year!

We would like to thank the event committee for organizing this terrific outing. Our sincere thanks to Foundation Trustees Rick Ricca and Ed Farmer for serving as Event Co-Chairs.

Special thanks to **A&A Construction Management** for serving as our Presenting Sponsor and making this day possible. We are also grateful to our Lunch Sponsor **Comerro Coppa Architects** and Dinner Sponsor **Verizon**.

To see more photos please go to [www.pccc.edu/foundation](http://www.pccc.edu/foundation).



**College President Steven M. Rose, Betsy Marinace, & Tammy Reilly get on the green — to raise some green.**



**Rick Ricca, Event Co-Chair, and his foursome enjoy a picture-perfect day at Black Bear Golf Club.**

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#### Did You Know?

- Attendance at PCCC has increased by 12% in the past year.
- The Foundation gave out more than \$350,000 in student scholarships during the past year.
- With your generous support, the Foundation can continue to provide funds to deserving students so they can pursue a college education.

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## Save the Date!

**19th Annual Scholarship Gala**  
**Thursday, April 22, 2010**  
**Historic Hamilton Club**  
See page 3 for more details!

## President's Perspective

Passaic County Community College is thriving and it is my pleasure that we are able to keep you informed through this newsletter. As you may know, the enrollment at community colleges is exploding and PCCC is leading the way. A slow economy typically leads to more individuals seeking to further their education. The current conditions have led to a 12% increase in enrollment this fall for a total of 8,800 students at PCCC. Those returning to school are from various social and economic backgrounds. For example, we have adult students re-

turning to college after having been away from formal education for many years. We also have students in the top five percent of their high-school class choosing PCCC because they can take advantage of high-quality instruction at affordable rates. (Tuition at PCCC is about \$3,000 per year for full-time students, which is one-third of the amount charged at the state's four-year public colleges.)

Despite its modest tuition and fees, PCCC still has many students who cannot afford tuition yet are eager to

attend college. The Foundation helps these students fulfill their dream of a college education. Many could not attend without financial support. We are grateful for the generosity of our donors, whose continued support to the Foundation allows us to turn these dreams into reality for many deserving students.

**Steven M. Rose, Ed.D.**  
**President, PCCC**

## From the Desk of...Our Chairman!

I wish to extend warm greetings to all friends and supporters of the Passaic County Community College Foundation. As Chair of the Foundation, it is both my pleasure and privilege to be a part of the PCCC family.

The mission of the Foundation is clear and uncomplicated. This fact is a large reason why it is such a joy to be involved with the PCCC Foundation. The sole purpose of the Foundation is to

assist students in need with scholarship support so they can continue to further their education. This makes the work of the Foundation so important to both current and future PCCC students.

The good work of the PCCC Foundation is clearly evident and the benefits to the students, as well as the community, are obvious. For these reasons I wish to thank all of you for your support of the Passaic County Community

*"...it is both my pleasure and privilege to be a part of the PCCC family."*

College Foundation, and more importantly, I wish to thank you for allowing me to serve as Chairman. It is truly one of the most rewarding experiences of my life!

**Rick Ricca**  
**PCCC Foundation Chairman**

## Student in the Spotlight - Guillermo Cruzado



In 1998, Guillermo Cruzado arrived in the U.S.A. from Peru. He was working at Newark Airport when he realized that he wanted a brighter future. Rosa, a friend and PCCC alumna, encouraged him to attend the College.

Guillermo started by taking ESL classes to improve his language skills. Soon after successfully completing the ESL courses, he enrolled in the Information Technology program at PCCC. He attended PCCC full-time, worked part-time and still found time to participate in college activities, such as the Ambassador Club, Phi

Theta Kappa Club, Gamma Upsilon Club, the Christian Club and the Honors Program.

Guillermo plans to graduate in May with an Associate of Applied Science Degree and a 3.9 GPA. He will then attend New Jersey's Science & Technology University (NJIT) to obtain a Bachelor's Degree and plans to later pursue a Master's Degree in Network Administration.

During his semesters at PCCC, Guillermo was the recipient of several Named Scholarships including the 2009 Academic Achievement Scholarship, the 2008 Richard Pirozzi

Memorial Scholarship & the 2007 Sharik Currie Memorial Scholarship. "Receiving \$500 per semester from the Academic Achievement Scholarship definitely helped me a lot," explains Guillermo. "Working part-time at the College's Computer Information System (CIS) Lab, while a full-time student, still did not allow me to meet all my financial demands. The scholarships made the difference." Guillermo notes that he received the best advice from his former CIS Instructor, Eric Cameron. "Professor Cameron said the worst thing I could do was to *not* apply - to *not* take a risk! So I took a risk and I applied for a scholarship. I hope other students will do the same."

## What's Coming Up at the PCCC Foundation?



We are delighted to announce that on Thursday, April 22, 2010 we will hold our 19th Annual Scholarship Gala at the Hamilton Club in Paterson.

This is one of two fundraisers that the Foundation holds each year — the other being the Autumn Golf Outing. The Gala provides a wonderful evening for friends and supporters to enjoy the richness and beauty of the historic Hamilton Club, while generating funds for scholarships. Fine food catered by our own Culinary Arts department, silent auction items and a 50/50 raffle add to the excitement of the evening.

The Gala Committee is always looking for silent auction prizes and tricky-tray baskets. Golf and vacation packages, auto-graphed sports memorabilia, gift certificates to local restaurants and jewelry are always welcome. If you wish to donate a silent auction or tricky tray item, please contact us. With your assistance, we can make this the most successful Gala to date!

For tickets and information about the event or available sponsorship opportunities, please contact Nieves Martino, Foundation Event Coordinator, at 973-684-5300 or nmartino@pccc.edu.

## Frequently Asked Questions...

### *How do I create a scholarship “in honor of” or “in memory of” a loved one?*

Creating a named scholarship through the PCCC Foundation is one way in which you can assist students and leave a legacy to the Passaic County Community College. It's also a meaningful way to honor family and friends.

#### **STEP 1 – Determine the Type of Fund**

The first step is to determine whether you would like to establish an “endowed” scholarship or “annual” scholarship. Endowed scholarship funds are created to be permanent and perpetual - an ongoing gift to the Foundation. The suggested minimum amount is \$25,000 paid in one installment. If you wish to make more than one installment then you would make a pledge as to how much you will give over time and when. The principal of the fund is invested to produce income and an annual award is made to a deserving student. The principal remains untouched so that the endowment can last into perpetuity.

Another option is to create an annual scholarship. To establish an annual scholarship we recommend you set some parameters. For instance, ask yourself how much you want to give and for how long. Is it a one-time gift or for a few years? Would the student receive it for one semester or for a full year? Unlike an endowed scholarship, an annual scholarship is not a permanent fund and is awarded only as long as you choose to contribute to the fund. The suggested minimum amount for an annual scholarship is \$500.

#### **STEP 2 - Establish the Scholarship Criteria**

As the scholarship donor, you decide the name of the scholarship, as well as the criteria. The Foundation staff can assist you in establishing requirements that reflect the individual or group being honored. For example, you may wish to have the award be based on a specific area of interest, geographic origin, academic achievement and/or financial need.

#### **STEP 3 - Awarding of Scholarships**

The application process takes place every Spring. Students submit an application form, two letters of recommendation from faculty/staff and an essay. The College's Student Development Committee reviews the applications and selects the most deserving recipient based on the donor-established criteria. The donors are notified annually when the scholarship recipient has been selected. The Foundation's Donor Breakfast provides a wonderful opportunity for the donors to meet the students and be thanked in person for their generosity.

For more information on creating a Named Scholarship please contact Todd Sorber, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement and Workforce Development at (973)684-5656 or tsorber@pccc.edu.

## 2009-2010 Named Scholarships

The Foundation is proud to distribute funds to deserving students with assistance from the following Named Scholarships:

Academic Achievement Scholarship

Albert Payson Terhune Scholarship

Eileen Thompson Academic Achievement Scholarship

Professor Emeritus Elaine C. Harrington Scholarship

Elizabeth Steinberg Memorial Scholarship

Emmett & Evelyn Jones Scholarship for the Humanities

ESL Achievement Scholarship

Helyn & Larry Doby Memorial Scholarship

Manuel V. Lagos Scholarship

Richard Pirozzi Memorial Scholarship

Rosalie K. Hojegan Memorial Scholarship

Verizon Scholarship

## The Mission of the PCCC Foundation

As affordable as a PCCC education is, many students cannot manage the cost of tuition, fees and related educational expenses without some outside assistance. The Foundation provides the means for these students to have access to higher education. Established in 1976, the PCCC Foundation's primary purpose is to raise money for student scholarships.

The Foundation awards more than \$350,000 annually in scholarship assistance, off-setting state and federal budget reductions while helping those students who need it most, including part-time students who are often ineligible for other financial aid.

Through your gift to the Foundation, you can open the door to opportunity for students who may not otherwise attend college, and greatly increase their chances for personal success, and success within our community.

Opportunities exist for giving in many forms and at all levels. We will be happy to discuss your interests and ways to arrange a gift. Please contact us at [foundation@pccc.edu](mailto:foundation@pccc.edu) or at 973-684-5656.

## PCCC FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Passaic County Community College  
**FOUNDATION**

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