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**Portland Community College – Rock Creek Campus
Portland, Oregon
Spring 2008, Purchasing**

BACKGROUND

Campus Profile

The Portland Community College (PCC) Rock Creek Campus is located on a spacious, 256-acre site in a high-tech corridor near Hillsboro, Oregon. It is situated about 12 miles west of downtown Portland, in the rapidly growing Beaverton-Hillsboro area of Washington County. The Rock Creek Campus sits amid farms, forests and wetlands, perfect for PCC's Veterinary Technology, Landscape Technology and Biology programs. It's also a fine venue for its Diesel Service Technology, Agricultural Mechanics, Auto Collision Repair, Building Construction Technology, Aviation Maintenance Technology and Biotechnology programs. The science-technology building, completed in 1995, houses up-to-date laboratories and classrooms.

The Rock Creek Environmental Studies Center (RCESC) is a natural area within Portland Community College's Rock Creek Campus that is considered to be an important natural history area by both the Portland Audubon Society and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The natural area that comprises the RCESC includes about 44 acres of woodland, 11 acres of wetland and 44 acres of grasslands. Several smaller unique ecosystems are also present in this site, including several springs and a small pond ecosystem. There are two sections of Douglas fir–dominated forests that include such tree species as Western hemlock, Western red cedar, Pacific yew and Big leaf maple, in addition to a wide variety of shrubs and plants. The site contains some bottomland forested areas, which include Red alder, Oregon white oak, Beaked hazelnut, among other species. Several wetland plant communities and a large grassland area also occur within the RCESC. These areas provide habitat for several groups of wildlife including nesting areas for waterfowl, quail, pheasants and song birds; and they are homes to mammals such as deer, beaver, muskrat, mink, raccoon, fox and coyote.

The Rock Creek Environmental Studies Center is a vital and diverse grouping of habitats that occur on Portland Community College's Rock Creek Campus. While human endeavors such as farming and the construction of nearby housing, roads and parking lots have modified parts of this habitat and its hydrology, through outside grants, previously farmed and overgrazed lands are slowly being returned to a more natural state. We are monitoring changes in the quality of habitat throughout the restoration process, which includes removal of invasive plants and plantings of native vegetation. Changes are being monitored through data collection on plant and animal species, water quality sampling and photography. In addition, there are several ongoing studies being performed by PCC students and volunteers; these include microclimate studies and the surveying of wild flowers, lichens and amphibians.

The Rock Creek Campus serves some 15,500 students annually under campus President Katherine Persson.

Contact

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GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Goals

Our main goal was the use of sustainable products throughout the school year and a “Green” Year-End Leadership Banquet.

Accomplishments

The Associated Students of Portland Community College (ASPCC)-Rock Creek Campus analyzed its purchasing power and consciously decided to make an effort to buy items that reduced carbon emissions.

All printing paper used this year was 100 percent recycled product. In addition, an effort was made to copy double sided and reuse paper whenever possible. The cost was only slightly higher for the 100 percent recycled making the budget impact negligible.

We also bought products like eating utensils, paper plates, cups and napkins that were made out of recycled material, spud-ware and corn-based material. Our clubs and our events and activity people used these products, and many of the materials were composted at our college farm.

As a group, we consciously chose trinkets (used for advertising a regional ACUI (Association of College Unions International) conference that we are hosting in fall 2008) that would be useful for everyone receiving them. We purchased key chains that were made from old bicycle parts by a local company.

Our Award’s Banquet this year was planned to be as green as possible. The planning committee considered venues, catering companies and award designers with green policies, and all of the vendors we selected used green practices:

Old World Forestry Center

- Reason: They compost food scraps, use sustainable energy and are located on the public transportation line.

Caterer: Elephant’s Deli

- Reason: The company’s green statement met our standards. Their website hosts a green statement that opens with the lines: “For over 25 years, Elephants Delicatessen has been passionate about providing your family with great local foods from scratch.” The company also has a reasonable price for using reusable dishes.

Awards were recycled glass leaves for student leaders and recycled glass vases for the faculty and staff. Decorations included table decoration created from used old flyers and posters from our past events. For the first time no balloons were used to decorate the event.

ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Leaders and Supporters

The Rock Creek ASPCC advisor, Amanda Ellertson, was the coordinator of this initiative.

Funding and Resources

ASPCC end-of-the-year leadership banquet funds.

CLOSING COMMENT

The Portland Community College Rock Creek Student Government emphasizes the 3 Es—equity for all people, environmental stewardship and economic sustainability. Having a green banquet at the end of the year shows that “we walk our talk.”