

PSSC Fall Newsletter

By: Danika Olson, Digital Media Arts Student Editor

Vol. 1

Fire equipment donated to PSSC



Chief John Madson, Dr. Sue Shields, Chief Rick Kruckenberg



Donated Fire Engine

"Donated equipment like this engine, provide our students the opportunity to learn and practice skills on fire equipment they will use in their career choice," said Dr. Shields, PSSC Director. "We are grateful for the continuing support and partnership of the Port of Seattle."

Events:

- Nov. 3rd Annual Advisory Committee Dinner.
- Nov. 4th In Service/On line Assignments
- Nov. 11th Veterans Day
- Nov. 23rd No School
- Nov. 24th-25th Thanksgiving
- Dec. 9th In Service/on-line Assignments
- Dec. 21st- Jan. 3rd Winter Break

Student Advisory Committee Officers

Morning Classes

President: Steven Stultz

Criminal justice/VITAL

Vice President: Katrina Sanchez Fashion Design/Decatur

Secretary: Rochelle Schletzbaum Criminal Justice/Highline

Treasurer: Eli Grove

Digital Media Arts/Mt. Rainer

Afternoon Classes

President: Davante Taylor

Construction Tech./Todd Beamer

Vice President: Kimberly Black Criminal Justice/Todd Beamer

Secretary: Kaylan Bear Fire Services/ Thomas Jefferson

Treasurer: Manpreet Riar

Nursing Asst. Certified/ Thomas Jefferson



How can a high school skills center help the region's economy?

By Sue Shields, Puget Sound Skills Center Director

Fall 2011 Inspiration: Dr William Symonds, Howard University "pathways to prosperity"

The PSSC relationship theme: We are Saving a Place for You+

The Puget Sound Skills Center staff would like its area residents to know how a Career and Technical educational (CTE) school can help with the economic downturn. There are multiple reports and research letting the public know there is a skills gap which is affecting the American economy. The user friendly definition of a skills gap means there are jobs available but not enough workers with necessary skills to fill the jobs. PSSC believes its CTE programs meet this need in King County, Washington.

1. CTE programs ALL have college credit for students via agreements with colleges – for free or low cost. These agreements help students obtain college credits while in high school which make for an easy transition to college and save students time and money.
2. Business and Industry certifications are available in most programs offering students higher quality skills preparation in a real world environment and preparation for their next career step. A certification ensures prospective employers the provided training programs are relevant and up to industry standards. All programs have Advisory Committees reflecting the business or industry which meet four times per year.
3. PSSC instructors are all trained in their business/industry – they know their content/field and provide a unique network for student internships, college and careers.
4. The "hook" of CTE keeps students in high school. For example, the all-day credit recovery VITAL program had a 95% graduation rate in June 2011. These students were successful in their CTE programs prior to acceptance into VITAL and participated in the statewide Jobs for Washington's Graduates program (JWG).
5. PSSC students are motivated and interested in their programs – they choose to be here so consequently are dedicated and committed to excellence. They enjoy their relationships with their instructors and other students who are like minded.
6. The climate/environment at PSSC is exceptional for learning skills needed in each program. Over the years, student testimonials say they are treated like adults, learn skills that will benefit them throughout their working career and feel safe and accepted at PSSC.



Puget Sound Skills Center Student Led Conferences

Fall parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for November 22nd after 2:00 pm and November 23rd between 8:00 am and Noon. Again this year, we will be conducting student-led conferences rather than the traditional parent-teacher conferences. We believe that student-led conferences are more meaningful for students and will be much more informative for parents regarding their child's achievement after twelve weeks of school.

The focus of a student-led conference is to allow your child to demonstrate his/her scholastic accomplishments. Your child will direct the conference by sharing his/her portfolio, which provides evidence of growth in their PSSC class. As a parent, you can provide encouragement and help your child set goals for the remainder of the year. You will also have the opportunity to display a positive interest in your child's learning and to accept his/her self-evaluation of accomplishments.

Your child's conference will be held with his/her instructor in their classroom. Conferences are planned to last 15-20 minutes and there may be up to three conferences going on in the classroom. Your child's instructor, will be present for clarification or facilitation as necessary. However, your child will be in charge of conducting the conference with you and it is important to honor the student's commitment to that role.

If you would like to meet with your child's instructor directly to get further clarification or learn more about a particular grade, please contact your child's instructor. Letters will be forthcoming from our teachers before November 1st explaining the process and asking you to make an appointment. Contact information for the teacher will also be included.

By: Assistant Director Todd Moorhead



Classes Available at PSSC

Engineering Design



Rich Marshall, Instructor

Engineering Design introduces you to the basic tools used in both 2D and 3D design.

You develop your skills by working on projects related to area(s) you are considering for your career. Focus areas are Drafting, Pre-Engineering,

CAD/CAM/CIM, Technical Animation, and Geographic Interspatial Systems (GIS).

Drafters and pre-engineering students create drawings with technical details, exact dimensions, and all information needed to produce a product. CAD/CAM/CIM students create models in CAD and then produce them either as rapid prototype models, or by machining them using a mill. Technical visualization students create short visual presentations for industry, and/or movies, gaming, and advertising using solid and surface modeling and animation programs. GIS students learn about the wide applications of GIS in almost every field and apply that knowledge and their CAD knowledge to those applications. All work is hands-on using state of the art equipment in an atmosphere emulating the workplace.

Microsoft Internet Academy



Jim McMurchie, Instructor

This year our program officially became the Microsoft IT Academy at PSSC (MSITA). After acting as the pilot site for Microsoft we became part of the state wide rollout of academies in Washington state.

The MSITA offers computer networking courses ranging from Microsoft Technology Associate beginning courses through Microsoft Certified Professional. Our courses are largely hands on, giving students the opportunity to practice their skills. Acting as the IT support staff for our campus students also practice customer service and project planning skills.

In addition, we offer networking courses from CompTIA and Cisco Systems offering a student a variety of national industry certifications. CompTIA courses offer vendor neutral instruction in networks and network security. Cisco CCNA teaches networking equipment and programming. Our courses are articulated with local Community Technical Colleges allowing students to earn up to fifty five college credits while at PSSC.

Classes Available at PSSC

Marine Science Technology

Joe Weiss, Instructor

When most high school students have an interest in learning about the sea they must seek out classes,

clubs and activities outside of high school to meet their needs. Not so for students in Highline, Federal Way, Tahoma and Tukwila school districts. Since 1969, the Puget Sound Skills Center's (PSSC) Marine Science & Technology Program has been training future mariners and marine scientists. Students enrolled in the Puget Sound Skills Center's Marine Science & Technology Program have the opportunity to earn University of Washington credit and establish a UW transcript while in high school. Survey of Oceanography, also known as Oceanography 101, is part of the class curriculum and will be taught throughout the 2011-2012 school year. UW in the High School (UWHS) offers students the opportunity to complete University of Washington courses – and earn college credit – while still in high school. The PSSC class will use UW curriculum, activities, exams, and grading scales. Classes are held at the PSSC Marine Technology Lab in Seahurst Park. The waterfront facility includes a classroom, student lockers, wet lab, boat ramp, salmon hatchery, and 750-gallon sea water aquariums. This unique location allows the students to conduct an annual beach survey, lower plankton nets from our 14-ft. skiffs, manage the state-licensed salmon hatchery, and study marine plants and animals. Since the program is offered through the Puget Sound Skills Center, students will also learn practical skills such as seamanship, navigation and marine safety. These studies and skills are often complementary as when students take out one of the boats to collect plankton or sediment samples for analysis back in the lab. At the end of the school year students will complete a two-day cold water survival class that will earn them a US Coast Guard certification.

Fashion Design

Jill Price-Crawley, Instructor

The Fashion Design and Marketing program students are gearing up for a packed year of unique experiences and learning new skills. The curriculum related to machine and hand sewing will be more extensive with the emphasis on a finished product to donate to a charitable cause. Currently the students are learning about advertising of the Silent Auction, Sample Sale and Dessert Wednesday, November 16th at PSSC. We will be merchandising donated products for the auction, pricing on bid sheets and organizing the flow of the evening. Each student will be able to raise money to offset the cost of our NIKE trip to Portland, New York, and Seattle emersions. Tickets are \$5 at the door. After finishing the Textile unit the students will be moving into Surface Design where they will select a target market and then design prints and yarn dye patterns for fabric to be used in their selected market. This is always a highlight for the year because they start to think about products in a different way and have a better understanding of how items are designed. All students will leave at the end of the year with a professionally assembled portfolio to use with interviewing for a job, or further education. We are very proud of the students who have been selected for internships with Cathy Jeans, Nordstrom, Zumiez, Plato's Closet, Shah Safari, Poggi Bonsi, and many others.

JAG/JWG

Jobs for Washingtons Graduates (JWG), an affiliate of Jobs for Americas Graduates (JAG) recognized Marilyn Conger at the National Training Seminar in New Orleans for "Outstanding Specialist" for the state of Washington. JAG has 18 sites currently in the State of Washington and is looking to expand into another 18 sites in the coming year. Puget Sound Skills Center leads the State in the number of students served, and in the delivery of services to those students. This is particularly impressive as the program is new to our entire region and everyone was on a steep learning curve. Marilyn stood out as an innovative and brave leader in bringing this highly successful program to the Puget Sound area. Not only did she serve the students at PSSC, but she remained a valuable resource to the other new programs seeking direction from around the state. Marilyn was willing to make herself available to those who needed help. JAG delivers a wide variety of interventions and services in supporting students who are at risk of not graduating. Not only does it help get 94% of its students to receive a HS diploma, it also has a strong record in assisting students to gain successful employment, or continue on their career path through school or job placements. Puget Sound Skills Center students are very fortunate to have a Nationally recognized Specialist on their staff.

By: George Hollingbery, JAG State Program Manager – Career & College Readiness, OSPI



Marilyn Conger JAG specialist

