The PCC Accessibility Council: Creating Structure to Build Institutional Capacity

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We ask you to join us in creating a culture that reflects…

Access and Inclusion

and

Civility and Respect

…consistent with the AHEAD Statement of Civility during our conference and in all aspects of our organization.
Our Time Together

- A bit of history – and context
- Council structure – a quick tour of our working groups and website
- Some examples – efforts to increase institutional capacity
- Next steps – where we’re headed (and what COVID is teaching us)

Please – Share your questions and comments throughout!
History and Context

- PCC is the largest postsecondary institution in Oregon and we had accessibility initiatives underway before the ADA and before 504
- We are an Achieving The Dream school and have committed to equitable student success
- We have adopted critical race theory
- We have been in remote operations and will (mainly) remain that way for fall
One College on Four Campuses

We have four campuses…and are currently in the midst of a massive reorganization

- **Cascade**
  A small campus atmosphere in a diverse urban neighborhood in the heart of Portland.

- **Rock Creek**
  A spacious, 260-acre campus in the high-tech corridor near Hillsboro.

- **Southeast**
  PCC’s newest campus, in the growing and diverse central eastside of Portland.

- **Sylvania**
  PCC’s largest campus, on a wooded hillside between Tigard and Lake Oswego.
Connecting dots...context and structure

Context (Portland)
• PCC is a predominantly white institution with a clearly stated commitment to equity
• PCC has opportunity gaps that need to be closed, and there is a “Hidden Racial Gap” in Special Ed

Structure (Council)
• Our accessibility council was built to ensure compliance and increase accessibility for individuals who experience disability
• Our work is shifting to be more intersectional and inclusion focused
High Level View of Council

Steering Committee

Built  Digital  Culture

AT
Steering Committee

- **Co-chaired** by Director of Disability Services and HR ADA Coordinator
- Makes recommendations to decision makers and reports to cabinet
- **Members** include working group co-chairs plus college leaders including:
  - Dean of Instruction
  - Dean of Students
  - Chief Information Officer
  - Risk, Transportation, Academic and Student Affairs Directors
Built Environment

• **Co-chaired** by Facilities and Disability Services historically, but currently chaired by Planning and Capital Construction.

• **Was built upon** prior standalone “ADA Committee”

• Works both proactively, and “in the moment,” to respond to complaints, maintain a barrier log, make recommendations, and generate work products.

• **Membership** includes: facilities, transportation, safety, risk, and stakeholder groups including both staff and students.
Digital Environment

- **Co-chaired** by Web Team, Online Learning, and Disability Services
- **Was built upon** “Web Accessibility Task Force”
- Works proactively to generate procedures, offer training, and make recommendations to ensure compliance with legal mandates and institutional policy, and to promote greater usability and equity.
- **Members** include: Library, IT, Media Services, Faculty and Staff, Students
College Culture

- **Co-chaired** by Accessibility Specialist and HR ADA Coordinator
- **Was created** after the built and digital committees were solidified.
- Works proactively to promote greater usability and equity, develop student leadership, offer programming, make recommendations and consult.
- Focus on understanding/improving both student and employee experience.
- **Members** include: Broad range of staff and faculty and students.
AT Committee

• **Chaired** by Disability Services (this committee pre-dates the council)

• Annual budget that typically comes from Student Tech Fee and uses a matched fund model for innovative projects that directly benefit students.

• Focuses on using stakeholder engagement to ensure access for students in all areas of the college. Focus on high-traffic computing labs and libraries, hands-on learning spaces, and equitable access to software and hardware.

• **Members** include: Library and IT plus faculty, staff, and students.
Website – linked from all webpages

- Shared Responsibility
  - Links to Resources
  - Links to Committees
- Event Calendar
- Feedback Form

www.pcc.edu/accessibility
Website – Resources

- **Students**
  Get equal access to an education! Disability Services can help identify accommodations and minimize barriers.

- **Employees**
  Know your employment rights as an individual with a disability.

- **Tools**
  Use technology to make learning easier: see adaptive computing options.

- **Maps**
  Find features like automatic door openers and accessible water fountains.

- **Shared responsibility**
  Staff and faculty incorporate accessibility into their daily work.
Website - Committees

**Built**
The Accessible Built Environment Committee (ABEC) supports efforts to create an accessible and welcoming physical environment.

**Digital**
The Accessible Digital Environment Committee (ADEC) improves PCC's technology and communication.

**Culture**
The Committee for an Accessible College Culture (CACC) creates an inclusive culture by reducing isolation and connecting communities.
Built Environment Examples

• Facility Standards Regarding Accessibility – beyond what code requires
• Awareness building – identify and correct or report low level barriers
• Prioritization Rubric to guide funding decisions
• Transportation Study to improve ADA parking
• Wayfinding efforts and Accessible Building Features Maps
## Digital Environment Examples

### Policy and Procedure

- [Accessible Technology Policy](https://www.pcc.edu/access)
- [Procedure for Evaluation of Technology prior to purchase](https://www.pcc.edu/access)
- Collaboration with IT, Risk, Purchasing, Contracts, and department managers for technology purchases, renewals, or adoptions

### Training and Technical Support

- [www.pcc.edu/access](https://www.pcc.edu/access) for guidance on creating accessible online content
- Training calendars with live and recorded sessions as well as drop-in and asynchronous tech support
- Website, and LMS accessibility reports via SiteImprove and Blackboard Ally
College Culture Examples

- Audio description for theatre performances
- Disability related programming
  - Disability History Exhibit
  - Community discussions, webinar viewings, and professional development sessions
  - Garden buddies
- Student leadership – paid positions on this committee and in identity based centers
- Inclusive event planning guide and checklist
- Policy review
AT Committee Examples

- **Student Tech Fee with committee of stakeholders**
  - Site wide licensing and classification of common AT as “enterprise” software
  - Collections of loaner equipment with training provided by access-tech-team
- **Matched Fund Initiatives**
  - PE equipment upgrades
  - Height adjustable tables
  - Learning Garden adaptive tools
  - Microphones for classrooms
Thoughts Toward Next Steps

• More strategic linkages between Diversity Councils and Accessibility Council
• Find where we fit in the midst of reorganization (make room – create space)
• Stay responsive and build on relationships with allies
• Be explicit in our commitment to anti-racist work
• Remain open to change
Questions and Comments
Contact Information

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