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
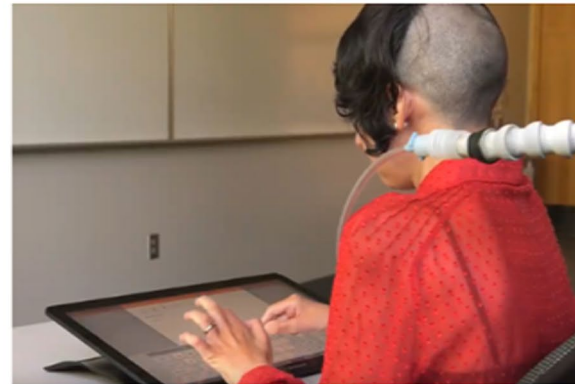Staff and faculty incorporate accessibility into their daily work.

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](#)

- [Procedure for Evaluation of Technology prior to purchase](#)

- Collaboration with IT, Risk, Purchasing, Contracts, and department managers for technology purchases, renewals, or adoptions

Training and Technical Support

- 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

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www.pcc.edu/resources/disability