# **PROGRESSIONS**

The Magazine for Alumni and Friends of Prince George's Community College

ANNIVERSARY

1958 - 2018

Its Happening...





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PGCC joins city of Seat Pleasant to create a Smart Cities workforce



"

It is our continuing desire to serve as a premier educational center and a partner in addressing the county and region's most pressing needs."

Dr. Charlene M. Dukes

Over the past 60 years, the intersection of student success, regional impact, and organizational excellence has guided and influenced new initiatives and programs, construction and renovation projects, and the college's daily operations. We have challenged ourselves to make the college better each year, and our community is vital to helping us do so. The stories and photos shared in *Progressions* speak to our past, celebrate the present, and strengthen the foundation for our future.

We continue to have faith that you will expect the college to be a contributing partner in education, training, and lifelong learning as we work collaboratively to meet the needs of everyone who understands that an investment in the college is an investment in our greater community.

We are grateful for your unyielding support. It is your time, talent, effort, and resources that support student achievement in state-of-the-art facilities that serve as the backdrop to contemporary and innovative teaching, learning, programs, and services. Our work is ever evolving, and I am inspired and energized by your commitment to transform lives.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charlene M. Dukes President

# Vision

Prince George's Community College is the region's premier center for innovations in learning, community engagement, and strategic partnerships that inspire educational, career, and personal success.

# Mission

Prince George's Community College provides affordable, highquality learning experiences that support personal, professional, and educational development for diverse populations contributing to the economic equity and cultural vibrancy of our community.

Goals

STUDENT SUCCESS

REGIONAL IMPACT

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

#### **PROGRESSIONS**

#### 2018 Anniversary Issue

**Progressions** is produced for alumni and friends of Prince George's Community College by the Office of Communications and Marketing and the Office of Institutional Advancement.

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# A Glimpse of PGCC's 60-year Chronology

1965

PGCC begins as a night school on the campus of Suitland High School with 71 full-time and 114 part-time students; founding president Robert Novak served from 1958 through 1964.

1958 1960

First commencement held, with nine associate in arts degrees awarded.

> Lewis Popham is named acting president for a short term, and A. Martin Eldersveld becomes the third president, serving until 1967.

The college opens a branch campus at Potomac Senior High School.

1966

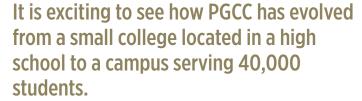
The campus is formally dedicated. A new fine arts building, Queen Anne Auditorium, is also dedicated.

X

1967 1968

The college relocates from Suitland High School to Largo, MD. More than 3,000 students attend classes. Waston Pindell assumes the presidency until 1971.





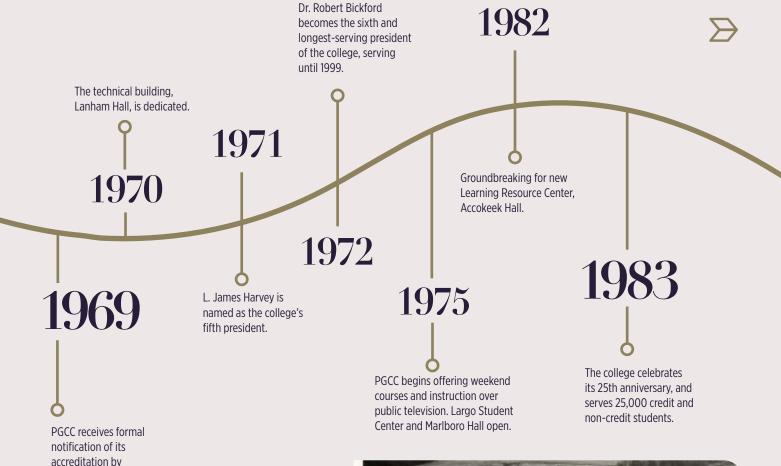
I hope to see that PGCC will stay in front of change in technology and in education, and will continue the charge forward."

Larry Spriggs, Chair PGCC Foundation, Inc.





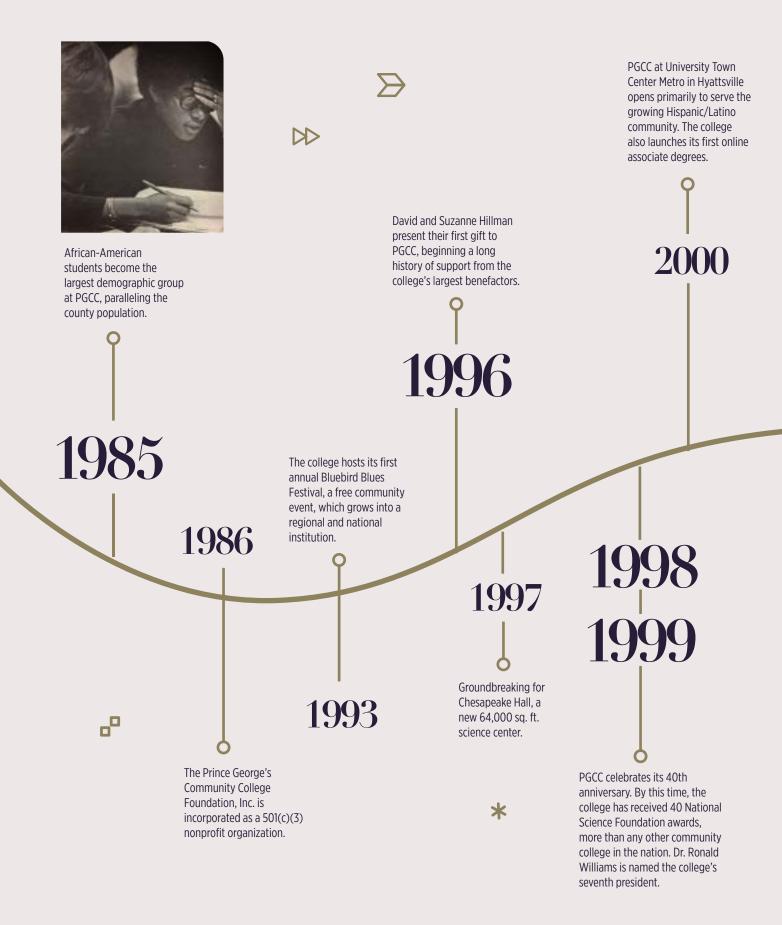






the Middle States Association of Colleges and Universities.

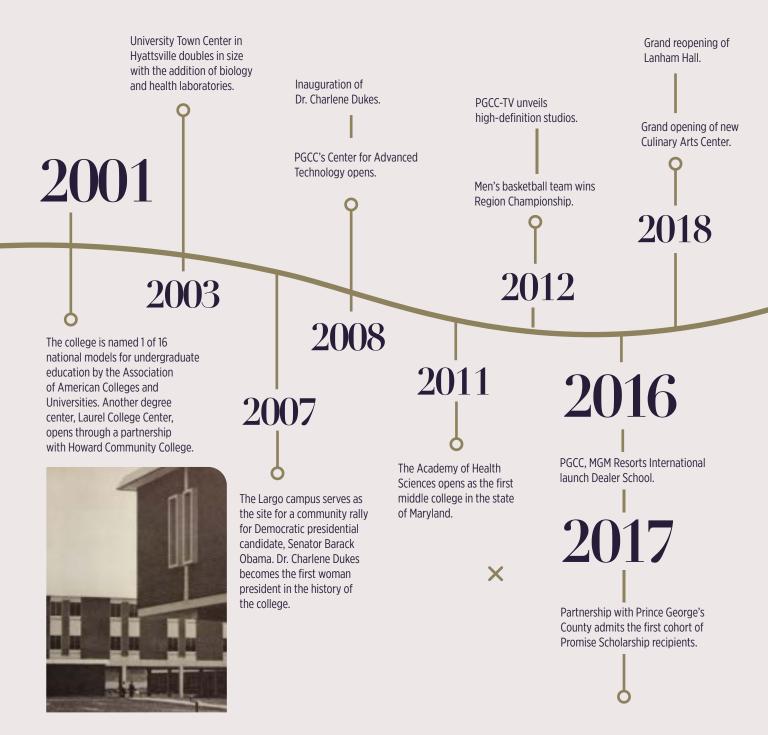




## **Guiding Principles as** We Embark on the Next 60 Years



#### STUDENT SUCCESS REGIONAL IMPACT ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE



# Celebrating Our Milestones

**PROGRESSIONS PGCC PGCC ATHLETIC TURNS MAGAZINE PROGRAM TURNS 50 TURNS 10** 60 BOOK DR. DUKES **PGCC NURSING BRIDGE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS PROGRAM TURNS 50** AT PGCC

## By the Book

#### BOOK BRIDGE OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

wenty years ago, when Dr. Mary Brown was a faculty member teaching literature courses at Prince George's Community College, she was surprised to learn that very few of her colleagues knew much about African-American literature. So she set out to change that by launching a campus-wide reading initiative and galvanizing the community to work together to spread the word. "The more you get people involved in things the more you can get them to work with you," she said. She enlisted the help of the marketing faculty and students to brainstorm on possible names for the new endeavor, and after a campus-wide vote, Book Bridge Project was born.

The formula was simple: choose a book, get faculty and students to read it and hold special events to bring the readers together. For the first book, Brothers and Sisters by Bebe Moore Campbell, a book discussion morphed into a forum on sexual harassment. For the book *Saving our Sons*, *The* Washington Post sent a number of black male reporters to conduct a special panel on campus. Notable authors who gave talks over the years included Ben Carson, Michelle Singletary and LeRoy Battle. But not every event was serious in tone. When The Color of Water was chosen, the author James McBride came to campus and performed a jazz concert, to the delight of attendees.

In the 10 years that Dr. Brown ran the program, 10 books were read and enjoyed. The influence of the program reached well beyond the confines of the campus. The National Institutes of Health took the *Brothers and* Sisters book event that Dr. Brown designed and adapted it for their employees. Public libraries, schools, even churches in the community, got involved in a variety of ways. Over the years, the Book Bridge Project has received great accolades and honors. In 1997 The Washington Post

featured Book Bridge Project in an article titled, "A Book that Binds: Novel Project Fosters Racial Understanding." In 2002, Book Bridge Project was honored with a Hesburgh Award for significant impact on teaching and learning.

Dr. Risikat Okedeyi is currently in charge of Book Bridge Project and is looking forward to continuing to grow the program using the original model of community building and intersectionality. "Book Bridge Project has a history of bringing the college and community together," she says. "It activates the college's mission in a real and impactful way."

In November 2018, Dr. Brown returned to campus to be honored and recognized at a special luncheon as Book Bridge Project celebrated its 20th anniversary. As for her own future. Dr. Brown jokes that she is currently "between jobs" and looking for her next adventure. She adds, "Wherever I go, I'm going to learn."



# Inspire, Innovate, and Influence

PGCC NURSING CELEBRATES 50 YEARS





n May 18, 2018, Prince George's Community College's (PGCC) nursing department marked 50 years of excellence in nursing education. The celebration took place right after National Nurses Week, and used the theme of "Nurses Inspire, Innovate, and Influence," to commemorate this historic milestone. Since 1968, more than 5,000 nursing students have graduated from PGCC. The nursing program is one of the more popular fields of study offered at the college.

The nursing program, approved by the Maryland Board of Nursing and accredited by Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, prepares graduates to provide direct care across a variety of healthcare systems. PGCC nursing graduates have obtained full-time employment with facilities throughout Prince George's County and beyond. Many graduates have continued their studies at a variety of institutions, "The nursing program at PGCC prepared me well for my onward journey to Hopkins and to the University of Maryland," said Dr. Promise Olomo, CRNA.

Among the critical milestones over the past 50 years, the opening of the Center for Health Studies at Prince George's Community College in 2012 was a significant advancement for the college and the nursing program. The state-of-the-art facility, featuring 26 simulation labs and technologies that provide high-tech and hightouch experiences, has enabled the college to provide training and clinical experiences for nursing and allied health students that rival that of any four-year university.

In the years ahead, there is great opportunity for PGCC nursing students to make an impact. Employment for registered nurses is projected to grow 15% from 2016-2026, much faster than the average for all occupations, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

With the opening of the University of Maryland Capital Region Health Center in 2021, PGCC graduates will have even greater opportunities for training and employment.

"We are not only transforming the lives of students, but our graduates are transforming the health and well-being of our entire community."

Dr. Charlene Dukes

# Signature Programs Signal Success

rom humble beginnings at Suitland High School in 1958, Prince George's Community College has experienced rapid expansion and growth, making it possible for thousands of students annually to obtain a college degree, train for the competitive workforce in the Washington metropolitan area, and pursue lifelong learning. This growth would not be possible if it were not for various partnerships and grants that have strengthened the college's offerings.

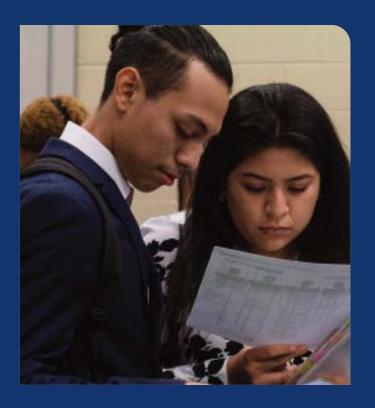
#### **FEATURED PROGRAMS**

- Academy of Health Sciences (partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools)
- Adult Education
- · Apartment and Office Building Association (AOBA) Scholars
- · Athletic Program (men's and women's collegiate teams)
- Board of Trustees Legacy Scholarship
- Book Bridge Project
- Cable TV Station (Channel 44 Verizon, Channel 75 Comcast)
- · Center for Minority Business Development
- Financial Empowerment Center

- · Culinary Arts
- National CyberWatch Center
- Diverse Male Student Initiatives
- Envision Success
- · Hillman Entrepreneurs
- · Honors Academy
- Prince George's County Promise Scholarship Program
- Seasoned Adults Growing Educationally (SAGE)
- · Women of Wisdom
- Workforce Development Institutes



# Good Business: PGCC Initiatives Connect Businesses to Campus



# Center for Entrepreneurial Development and Corporate Training

The Prince George's Community College (PGCC) Center for Entrepreneurial Development and Corporate Training brings local partners to the college to take advantage of a suite of services. Businesses and those interested in starting a business get coaching in specific areas, such as how to best leverage technology into their operations. The center also works with the businesses to identify talent they may need, connecting students to possible opportunities for short and long-term job placement. It's a win-win proposition and one that will continue to grow and gain momentum with the launch of the Innovation Hub at Prince George's Community College.

#### **Business Leadership Council**

The Business Leadership Council (BLC) is a diverse group of corporate, nonprofit, and entrepreneurial professionals, representing a spectrum of industries in Prince George's County. The BLC recognizes the college's role as an economic engine and seeks to further enhance the regional impact of both the college and business communities. Through programs that promote peer-to-peer engagement, mutually enriching partnerships, networking, and philanthropic support for the college, the BLC fosters a stronger workforce through investment in job readiness and professional development opportunities for PGCC students.



hile Prince George's Community College's (PGCC) cybersecurity program provides students many opportunities to develop industry-related skills, the college is also home to the renowned National CyberWatch Center. The National CyberWatch Center acts as a leader in the effort to enhance cybersecurity education and grow the industry's workforce.

Headquartered at PGCC, the National CyberWatch Center was established in 2005 as a response to a lack of higher education resources in cybersecurity. The center started with a handful of local educators who were teaching information security and sharing ideas; however, over the past 13 years, the center's programs and levels of outreach have spread nationally.

A member-based association of students, higher education institutions, businesses, and government agencies, the National CyberWatch Center provides a wealth of educational programs and resources to those looking to pursue or continue a career in cybersecurity. Members can utilize degree programs, e-books and virtual labs, gaining knowledge through a diverse set of methods. Center membership includes more than 400 two - and four - year colleges as well as multi-national corporations and government agencies, including IBM, the FBI, and the Department of Labor.

"The National CyberWatch Center has become an unbelievable opportunity to be able to shape a discipline that affects everybody using a digital device. It has an impact on the workforce and national security, and it has only become more prominent as time goes on."

Casey O'Brien, Executive Director

In addition, students can take advantage of a number of extracurricular opportunities to further sharpen their skills and to increase their employability. The center provides an array of internships and on-the-job training, allowing participants to apply their skillset and gain hands-on experience in a real-world setting. The center also provides job fairs and employer-sponsored competitions, giving students the chance to meet with potential employers and demonstrate their abilities in the field.

"There is a huge demand for qualified talent. There are currently about 300,000 job openings in information security; we can help close this gap by working to create more skilled workers." - Casey O'Brien

The National Cybersecurity Student Association at Prince George's Community College is a student-focused group that provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to meet, network and learn from each other as well as from industry leaders. The vision of the group is to "cultivate a national community that supports students in their cybersecurity endeavors through extracurricular activities, career opportunities, mentoring, and keeping them at the forefront of cybersecurity trends."

For more information, visit cyberstudents.org

# National Cyber Watch Center

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP, NATIONAL IMPACT



# Voices of PGCC

ver the past 60 years, many people have made Prince George's Community College the true "community" it is today: The students who have stepped onto campus – some boldly, some tentatively, seeking to be inspired. The dedicated faculty and administrators who have nurtured interests and created new and engaging ways to teach. The businesses that have supported innovative programs that have met the needs of students and contributed to the economic vitality of the region. And the alumni who have stayed in touch and given back.

To all of you, thank you for being a part of our journey.

And thank you for your voices.

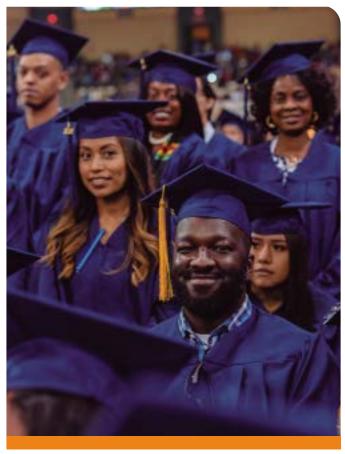
ALUMNI STUDENTS FACULTY BOARD OF PGCC PARTNERS RETIREES

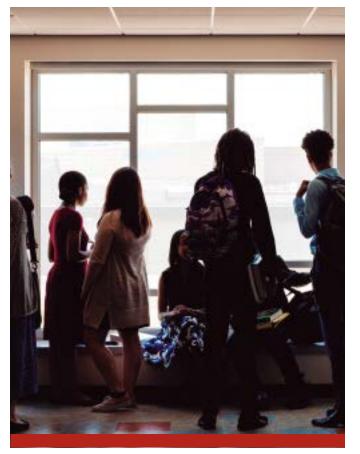
& STAFF TRUSTEES FOUNDATION

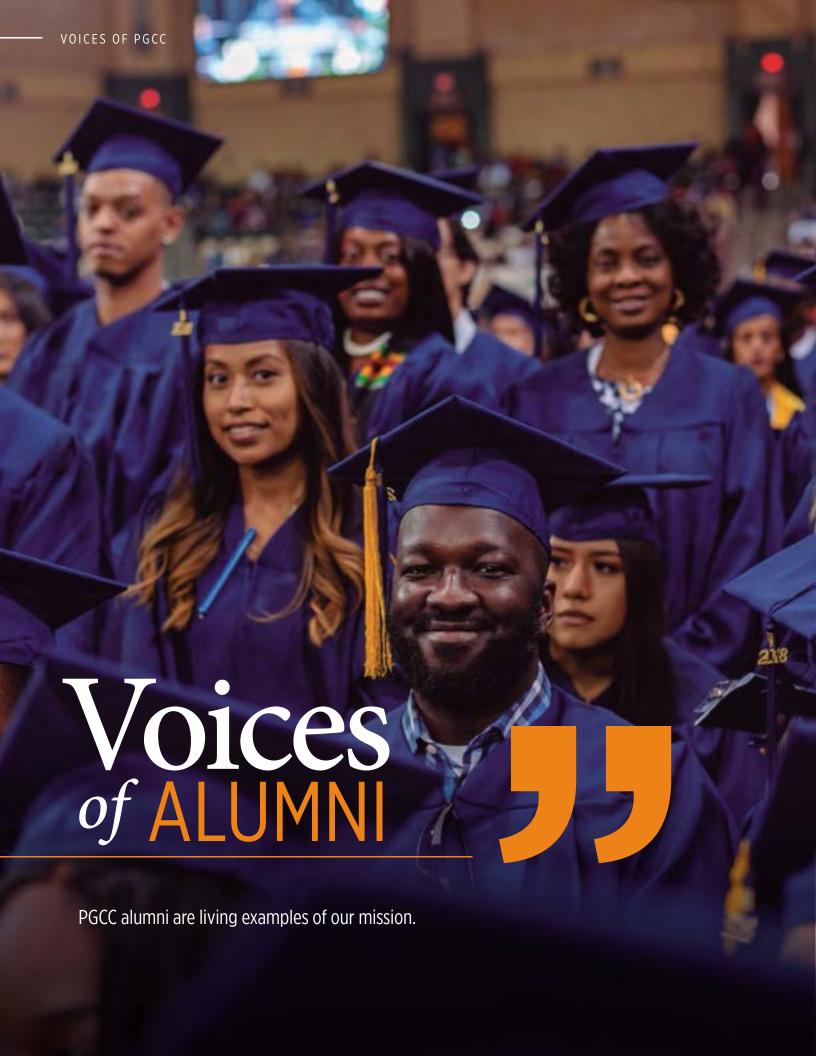












#### PGCC'S NURSING PROGRAM HAS COMPLETELY CHANGED MY LIFE FOR THE BEST.

I have learned so much, have made lifelong friends. and have a career doing something I love. I am forever grateful for the teaching faculty and environment that helped me become the best nurse I could be.

Carly Fridell, Class of 2015, first recipient of the Cathy Jo Land Nursing Scholarship

#### PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE WAS A PLACE WHERE I TRULY REALIZED LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES.

It is what you make of it and it has so much to offer. I made incredible friends, professors who are now my friends, internships, experiences, and found my voice in the halls of PGCC. Thank you to the school that gave me the courage to be myself and realize the opportunities are endless.

Noor Tagouri, Class of 2012

#### IT'S THE LOVE

and camaraderie at PGCC...it's like no other.

Isaac Johnson-Kelly, RN Class of 2017

ATTENDING THE PGCC NURSING PROGRAM OPENED THE DOOR FOR A VERY REWARDING CAREER PATH.

I am proud to be a nurse.

Laverne Plater, BSN, RN-BC

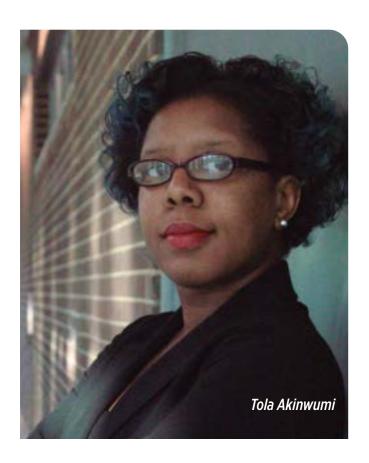
Memories of my years as a student and much later as alumni president, are fresh and vibrant. It's an honor and a pleasure to recommend PGCC to anyone searching for a quality education or for a **LASTING** COMMUNITY CONNECTION.

**Chervl V. Chambers Owner/Civility and Business Etiquette Consultant Courteous Living LLC** 

#### LOWN MY FUTURE!

Prince George's Community College has paved a way for me to reach my goals and is opening so many doors and providing new opportunities. My professors, other faculty, and staff have become my mentors; my peers have become a part of my journey. PGCC has shaped me into becoming a better artist.

Fehintola "Tola" Akinwumi, Class of 2017



# STUDENTS J

"

I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO FOSTER STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH PROFESSORS WHO INSPIRE AND ENCOURAGE ME.

I have also met an incredible team of advisors through the Honors Program and the Promise Scholarship who really made me feel like my education mattered.

**Helen Pewther** 

"

At Prince George's Community College you are encouraged to explore who you are as a student and even as a person and who you want to become.

THERE ARE NO JUDGMENTS, JUST PATIENCE, GUIDANCE AND UNDERSTANDING.

**Danielle Hernandez** 



"

### I COULDN'T IMAGINE BEING ANYWHERE ELSE FOR MY FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE.

Prince George's Community College is truly transforming lives, and I am more than proud to be here to witness it firsthand.

**Janet Quartey** 

IJ

Having the opportunity to complete courses that go towards my degree (computer science) and explore interests that matter to me, like swimming, has

PUT ME ON TRACK TO BEING SUCCESSFUL IN MY ACADEMIC JOURNEY.

Fawziyah Alebiosu

"

### TAKING CLASSES AT PGCC HAS PUT ME ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

It has taught me how to optimize my time and how to prioritize my tasks. Optimization is a huge part of college and adapting to classes in the future as they get more difficult.

Jeremiah Vega

"

I am part of the Owl Success Squad Ambassadors. The purpose of the club is to create positive role models by giving students the opportunities to engage in community services and school events.

I CHOSE TO BE PART OF THIS CLUB AS I BELIEVE THAT IT WILL DEVELOP MY CHARACTER FURTHER.

**Anne Lorraine Santos** 



# FACULTY & STAFF

### "

#### ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS IS WHEN I GET TO SEE THAT LIGHTBULB TURN ON IN **MY STUDENTS' HEADS**

and that glow in their eyes when they learn something new in the field.

Edward F. Bouling IV, Cybersecurity Coordinator

The value of PGCC is not just an ordinary opportunity but an EXTRAORDINARY CHANCE to provide challenging and rigorous instruction to tomorrow's leaders right here in the DMV area.

Chef Ernest S. Hudson Jr., Adjunct Instructor **Culinary Arts** 

#### I HAVE LOVED EVERY SINGLE MOMENT OF MY 18 YEARS HERE...

serving and preparing students for what comes next. It's exciting to know you are not only contributing to individual student success, but also to the economic vitality of our region.

**Dr. Christine Barrow** Dean, Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

#### PGCC IS A PLACE WHERE YOU MATTER.

Your gifts, talents and opinions are respected. Sean Smith, Associate Producer, PGCC - TV

### "

PGCC is a place that is not afraid to try new things.

I LOVE BEING A PART OF A COLLEGE COMMUNITY THAT IS SO FORWARD-THINKING.

Nicole Currier - Dean. Humanities. **English and Social Sciences** 

#### PGCC IS UNDERGOING A GREAT TRANSFORMATION NOW.

It is really exciting for me to see student success at the center, moving us forward.

Dr. Kim R. Bobby Chief of Staff, President's Office

Prince George's Community College is rich with possibilities. I LOVE BEING PART OF THE GROWTH. Lynne Adams, Ph.D., SPHR

**Associate Vice President-Human Resources** and Organizational Development





# **BOARD** OF TRUSTEES

We serve about 40,000 students, and we have done amazing things to prepare them to achieve success.

PGCC IS PART OF THE ECONOMIC ENGINE THAT **KEEPS THIS COUNTY RUNNING.** 

Howard Stone. PGCC Board of Trustees. Chair

I AM MOST EXCITED TO SEE OUR STUDENTS TAKE THEIR EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE AND RUN WITH IT.

While our workforce programs focus on students entering today's workforce, our traditional programs are preparing our students for jobs that don't exist today. Our CyberWatch program is preparing students to defend against cyber threats. This is truly amazing.

**Sidney Gibson PGCC Board of Trustees, Vice Chair** 



#### I AM EXCITED TO SEE HOW PGCC HAS EVOLVED.

I encourage the college to continue to stay in front of change and continue the charge forward with the same passion and vision.

**Larry Spriggs PGCC Foundation Board Chair** President and CEO Soft-Con Enterprises, Inc.

Growing up in a large, education-focused family and surrounded by a loving, encouraging community shaped my values. My service on the PGCC Foundation Board aligns with my belief that LIFELONG LEARNING IS CRITICAL TO INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY SUCCESS.

**Rosie Allen-Herring, CEO** United Way of the National Capital Area

#### THE COLLEGE IS AN INVALUABLE RESOURCE TO OUR COMMUNITY.

Every milestone achieved by the college affirms why I deem it an honor to serve on the foundation's Board of Directors.

Carlise J. Harris, Ph.D. **Community Representative**  "

As a local minority business, we attended workshops at PGCC that provided procurement opportunities, business assessments, training in estimating, scheduling, marketing and business development and opportunities to attend networking events to build relationships

#### WE WERE HONORED TO ATTEND THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT THIS YEAR - WHAT A CELEBRATION!

Ardania Williams, VP of Marketing and **Business Development Lendana Construction, LLC** 

"

After 60 years, the community college remains a relevant and vital institution, meeting the educational and workforce development needs of our county.

I AM PROUD TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COLLEGE'S SUCCESS IN ANY WAY I CAN.

**Steve Proctor President and CEO** G. S. Proctor and Associates

#### I KNOW THAT THROUGH MY GIVING, LIVES ARE BEING TOUCHED

and the community we love is being empowered by productive PGCC students, alumni, and staff.

Jeremy Newkirk

Founder and CEO, BeOfficial MG Corporation





# PARTNERS

#### THIS IS A BOLD AND PROGRESSIVE MOVE THAT PGCC IS MAKING.

Ensuring that our community's residents are equipped and prepared to meet the digital opportunities of the Smart Cities revolution is laudable. PGCC is a tremendous partner with Seat Pleasant by helping our constituents gain a certification on Smart City Technology and Development making them marketable and filling the digital achievement gap with the technology sector.

Eugene W. Grant, Mayor City of Seat Pleasant, Maryland

This opportunity that we have had to work with Prince George's Community College has been one of the biggest thrills for us because we are touching young people in a very unique way. We've been able to invest in the equipment that they use as part of their practicums... as we **PREPARE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO** COULD BE PART OF OUR WORKFORCE.

Celeste A. James, Executive Director of **Community Health** Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc.

It has been truly amazing to see PGCC become a **VALUED COMMUNITY PARTNER**, connecting students of all ages to opportunities and impacting economic development in our county and beyond. Tisa J.D. Clark, PMP, LEED GA, AMP, TIPIC President, J.D. Clark Professional Services

#### PGCC HAS BEEN A GREAT HELP TO US. to make sure we reach our goal of educating

people about Smart Cities.

Sharron Lipford, Director of Public Engagement City of Seat Pleasant, Maryland

#### AS A BUSINESS OWNER, IT IS A DELIGHT TO BE ABLE TO ENGAGE WITH DIFFERENT GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS AT THE COLLEGE

— from boomers to Gen X to millennials — and to be able to support the hunger to learn that each generation presents.

Fredricia Cunegin, CEO, HR in Motion, LLC and member, PGCC Business Leadership Council



#### THE COLLEGE HAS BEEN WONDERFUL TO ME.

It gave me 25 years of employment as a clerk in the English Department which I absolutely loved! Plus, the many courses I took improved my writing skills and greatly enhanced the quality of my life. Thank you, thank you, thank vou. PGCC!

Sandra G. Hance

#### MY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COLLEGE FOR 60 YEARS OF SERVICE.

Being a part of an institution with a sincere commitment to incorporating technological solutions to facilitate efficient operations, cutting-edge teaching and learning opportunities, and services for students was a rewarding experience.

Joseph R. Rossmeier Retired V.P. Technology Services



# RETIREES 4



ach year, Prince George's Community College (PGCC) is proud to receive awards and recognitions that highlight commitment to student success, regional impact, and organizational excellence. These goals are a vital component to decision-making and are the reasons the college has routinely demonstrated excellence in service, leadership, and innovation — all of which contribute to the college's increasing accolades.

Dedicated employees, inspired students, and thoughtful partners put PGCC in a position to do extraordinary things like provide countless hours of community service, exemplify leadership in diversity, and innovate high-quality learning experiences. They are also who strengthen the college to be recognized by national leaders and qualify for exclusive grants.

There is truly no limit to what PGCC can accomplish with the support of the entire college community. Each award and recognition is a testament to the work of the college's leaders. staff, faculty, alumni, and partners, and continue to build upon the foundation of excellence that was set 60 years ago.

Whether they were presented to the college or to a student, faculty, or staff on behalf of the college, these awards and recognitions reaffirm that PGCC is a place where anyone can realize their potential and achieve their goals.

Paralegal Studies program recognized by OnlineColleges. net as one of the best in the country in 2016. **Named a National Center** 

of Academic Excellence in Information Security Two-year **Education** by the National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for 2010-2015.

Ranked among the top 100 associate degree producers for minority students by Community College Week in 2013.

Recognized as White House **Champion of Change** — the only college in Maryland — in 2011.

Academy of Health Sciences (AHS) at PGCC received the highest ranking **statewide** — **five stars** — on the Maryland State Department of Education 2018-19 Maryland School Report Card.

Ranked among top the 20 best colleges in the country for adult learners by Washington Monthly in 2016.

Honored by the League for Innovation in the Community College with a 2013 Innovation of the Year Award in the Leadership and Organization Category.

PGCC won five Gold Medallions of **Excellence** at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) District 1 awards dinner in 2012.

Named to the 2009 President's Higher **Education Community Service Honor** Roll by the Corporation of National and Community Service.







he smiles broadly and laughs with an abundance of joy.
That's what happens when you have are That's what happens when you have spent the better part of four decades working somewhere that makes you happy.

#### "What makes this place so special for you?"

We asked this of Alonia Sharps as we sat together on a warm summer day, while the bright sun radiated into her office in Kent Hall. After all, to spend 41 years with one institution, there has to be something pretty unique there.

#### Alonia is the longest-serving administrator in the history of Prince George's Community College (PGCC).

It was 1977 when she first began working at the institution as Director of Financial Aid. At the time, there was one female member on the senior management team. When that member retired, it was not until 1985 when another woman would serve. That was the year Rebecca Hawkins became the first female appointed to the senior team. Also in 1977, there were very few people of color in the administration and faculty. In 1988, Alonia herself became the first person of color appointed to the senior team. That same year, two African-American vice presidents were hired, Hercules Pinkney and Frederick Nunley. Alonia recounts every "first" with great pride. In fact, she is most proud of the fact that PGCC has been able to diversify its faculty and administrative ranks.

Throughout the 1980s, she was very involved in recruiting and retention. She met with search committees, attended interviews, made recommendations. As a result, by the year 2000 the college was able to more than triple the number of persons of color in the faculty ranks. And just as important has been the work she has done to help grow and diversify the student body.

Spearheading partnerships with Prince George's County Public Schools was also one of her goals for the institution. When she first joined PGCC, she instituted a program where she visited local high schools and made financial aid presentations. "Many of the students did not realize they could afford to pursue their education after high school," she said. She showed them how it could be done. By 1980, her efforts served to increase the number of female students who were enrolling. Among them were many single mothers.

She names other programs that have started and have grown over the years – from educational programs and philanthropic initiatives, to business and community-focused activities. It is clear that she has had a hand in so many of the successes that have marked

progress here. And she makes it clear that through it all, she has found great joy in her work.

In the next five years, she would like to see PGCC reach out to the community more holistically and expand its partnership with the Prince George's County Public Schools system. She wants to be able to help kids who are floundering and show them a path to higher education. She also wants to be able to support the teachers who are supporting the students. She is energized and excited about continuing to make a difference.

Though her work is far from done. I asked how she would like to be remembered. She thought carefully before answering. "That I was open, willing to listen, and I could offer advice on anv topic or concern. That has been my role."

I have enjoyed my time here," she said. And with a final brilliant smile, she added "I am part of the fabric.

# Career Timeline

1977 - 1985

Director of Financial Aid 1985 - 1988

Dean for Enrollment Management and Financial Aid

1988 - 1999

Assistant to the President for Minority Affairs and Affirmative **Action Programs**  1999 - 2009

Executive **Assistant** to the President 2010 - 2017

Chief of Staff 2017 - Today

Special **Projects** 

# PARTNERS FOR SUCCESS

PGCC CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

At the heart of Prince George's County is a college that provides greater access to education, training and successful careers. It is a place that empowers individuals and helps power the local and regional economy. At the center of it all are people who want to make the difference.

The Prince George's Community College Foundation, Inc. held its first Partners for Success (PfS) event in 2002. PfS Gala is a biennial signature event presented by Prince George's Community College Foundation, Inc. that recognizes individuals and corporate partners that demonstrate shared responsibility in transforming the lives of students through accessible, affordable, and rigorous learning experiences at Prince George's Community College.

The 2018 PfS Gala, held on October 19, 2018, at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, celebrated the 60th anniversary of the college, the 10th anniversary of the inauguration of Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, and the announcement of the grand opening of the Center for Performing Arts. The three honorees were: Rushern L. Baker III, Prince George's County Executive; MGM National Harbor, accepted by Melonie D. Johnson – President and CEO; and the late David H. Hillman (posthumously), Founder and former CEO, Southern Management Corporation.





















# PGCC CARES A TRADITION OF COMPASSION

ver the past six decades, faculty and administrators at Prince George's Community College (PGCC) have dedicated themselves to providing assistance and social programming to students in times of need.

In 2001, a program called Next Step Training and Education was launched as a partnership with PGCC, with funding by the Prince George's County Department of Social Services (DSS). Department of Social Services clients who receive Temporary Cash Assistance and young people in foster care are referred to the Next Step program. They are offered the opportunity to participate in targeted workshops and receive funding for tuition, books, transportation and other needed services.

Five years ago, Beth Adkins, a retired PGCC student development services counselor, was asked by a student who was struggling financially, "Why doesn't the college do something to help students like me?" That prompted Adkins to pursue a grant, applying for and receiving \$16,000 to start PGCC Cares, a collaborative effort to provide support to students facing immediate challenges. PGCC Cares provides resources such as food (through an onsite pantry), as well as clothing to fulfill the needs of students in difficult situations and to help them achieve the completion of their studies.

"We were seeing a lot of students coming in who

were experiencing severe financial emergency situations," Adkins said.

Through PGCC Cares, Adkins, along with Director of College and Career Transitions Cecilia Knox, have offered a fair chance at an education to hundreds of students. In addition to access to the food pantry, a clothing closet, and funds for emergencies, PGCC Cares also assists students with costs for tuition, transportation, and housing, basically providing a safety net for students.

Many organizations have recognized PGCC Cares for its ability to help students navigate through tough times. In 2016, Brothers for a Cause partnered with PGCC Cares to help raise money for students in need. In 2017, Helping Children Grow, Inc. awarded PGCC Cares \$5,000 to continue assisting students.

Former student Arika Rhodes is one example of someone who benefited from the program. Struggling with homelessness, Rhodes sought help from PGCC Cares and was connected with resources necessary to solve her problem.

"The biggest benefit I received was security and stability," Rhodes said. "They gave me the ability to stand on my own."

She added: "Everybody needs a safety net. It's okay not to do everything by yourself."



The biggest benefit I received was security and stability. They gave me the ability to stand on my own."



### **Employee Community** Service Project

#### BY ANDRISTINE ROBINSON

he Employee Community Service Project enables Prince George's Community College employees to be an agent of change through serving our communities. For this project, community service is defined to be any activity that benefits the community in which the college resides, where employees live, or where they serve. Examples of service can include but are not limited to: serving as a den leader for a local boy/girl scout troop, feeding the hungry and homeless, delivering meals to senior citizens, raising resources to eradicate diseases that plague our communities, or continuing to support the rebuilding of communities devastated by natural disasters. It can be mentoring, tutoring, or volunteering at a local center.

This important initiative enables the college to capture the community service contributions of employees, and record the total hours served. During their time away from work, many are actively engaged in community service in Prince George's County, the region, and the nation. By contributing to the well-being of others, employees have invariably discovered their strengths. Their unwavering participation has shown the depths of their compassion and courage. Over time, we have discovered that service binds us to each other and to our communities in a way that nothing else can.

The Employee Community Service Project began eight years ago. For 2017-2018, those who participated reported 2,166 volunteer hours. The recorded volunteer service included providing financial literacy workshops for youth, bagging and distributing food at the SHARE warehouse, volunteering at area churches, providing food and other services to the homeless, hunger awareness and other food related programs, playground renovations, assisting with youth sports, working in elementary, middle and high schools, and assisting with leadership programs.

hroughout the course of its 60-year history, Prince George's Community College (PGCC) has had a longstanding tradition of championing diversity and inclusion on campus, and in its recruitment of employees and students. In 1988 the first full-time affirmative action officer was hired at the college, part of an effort to bring more people of color into the administration and faculty positions. In 1999, Ron Williams became the first person of color to be president of the college, and 10 years ago Dr. Dukes became the first woman to take this role, to name just a few important milestones.

Today, PGCC is one of only two community colleges in the state of Maryland that serves a credit student body made up primarily of minority students. Diversity remains one of the core values and guiding principles at the institution, and this commitment is prominent and visible in every initiative, across every department, and in every corner of the campus.

Sustaining a culture that is welcoming and inclusive is the main goal of the college's Committee on Cultural Diversity, spearheaded by Andristine Robinson, the school's director of Governance and Diversity. The committee is made up of a dedicated group of people - college wide - who are passionate about creating and strengthening diversity initiatives.

#### **Our Commitment to Diversity**

Prince George's Community College supports and embraces cultural diversity, understood as the creation and promotion of an inclusive, nondiscriminatory environment for everyone, valuing differences in age, race, national origin, ethnicity, religious affiliation, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic background, and ability/disability.

We strive for growth and success for all of our students, employees, business partners, and the community.

The college's long-standing focus on diversity has been recognized, as PGCC has won numerous awards for advancements in this regard. Most notably, 2018 was the fourth year in a row that PGCC was awarded a Minority Access Award for practices championing diversity and inclusion.

Though many successes have been realized to date, there is always work to be done. There is currently an education initiative in the planning stages, to begin offering new diversity and inclusion workshops on campus. Robinson and her team are working hard to make these programs easily accessible, so that people have time for them and want to participate.

# by DESIGN



#### **PGCC CULTURAL DIVERSITY OBJECTIVES**

1

Create and support a welcoming and inclusive environment.

2

Train and educate faculty, staff, and students to create a culturally competent college community. 3

Recruit and retain a diverse student body, faculty, and staff.

4

Create an inclusive culture that provides a sense of belonging in a welcoming environment that recognizes, respects, and appreciates individual differences. 5

Provide opportunities for students to value cultural diversity and to succeed in an intercultural environment. 6

Enhance knowledge and understanding of students from diverse faith and non-faith backgrounds.



# Made to Order:

#### NEWLY-OPENED CULINARY ARTS CENTER HELPS PGCC MEET INDUSTRY DEMAND

n June 1, 2018, excitement, paired with the aroma of piping hot baked goods, was in the air as the first class was held in Prince George's Community College's (PGCC) new Culinary Arts Center. The facility, which took four years to complete and a \$20 million investment from Prince George's County, is one of the latest magnificent additions to the growing campus.

The new Culinary Arts Center was built in response to the hospitality boom in the county and the state of Maryland, where the restaurant industry alone is estimated to exceed \$12.1 billion annually, according to the National Restaurant Association.

"The interest in food and the culinary arts has grown tremendously," said Prince George's Community College President Dr. Charlene Dukes. A culinary arts curriculum has been offered at PGCC for close to a decade, but the time was right to take the program to new heights.

Housing course offerings that range from catering and banquet operations to advanced baking, the 21,000 square-foot facility is now full of students busily preparing for careers in culinary arts and hospitality services management.



- THREE COMMERCIAL-STYLE **INSTRUCTIONAL KITCHENS**
- STATE-OF-THE-ART CLASSROOMS
- OFFICES
- DINING AREAS AND EVENT SPACES
- 2,200 SQUARE-FOOT LOBBY **WITH COMMERCIAL-GRADE DISPLAY KITCHEN**



"We're approached on numerous occasions about our students serving internships and also being hired," Dr. Dukes added.

Among the region's most high-profile hospitality employers, MGM's National Harbor resort opened at the end of 2016. The \$1.3 billion project paved the way for more than 3,600 employment opportunities in the area. The partnership between MGM and the college was solidified when the global company donated \$100,000 to PGCC in support of the college's Hospitality Express Training Program, which provides students the fundamental skills and certifications that the hospitality industry requires.

According to PGCC's Brenda Mitchell, executive director of the Prince George's Community College Foundation, Inc., this program does more than just prepare students for work in the industry, it contributes to the "long-term economic success of our county and region." MGM National Harbor Executive Chef, Jason Johnston, comments about the need for the resort to have the right talent pool, so that the job of training is less cumbersome for the employer. "When the students graduate and come to us, they're ready to hit the ground running."



To invest in a facility like this shows **Prince George's Community College's** commitment to provide the training necessary for the people of the county to be prepared for the careers that are starting to pop up."

Laura Lee VP of Human Resources MGM Resorts International



# Healthy Dose

#### PGCC EXPANDS PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

n Prince George's County, providing access to quality healthcare for county residents has long been a priority. Similarly, providing a quality education for students interested in pursuing a healthcare related degree has been a priority at Prince George's Community College (PGCC).

In the fall of 2012, the first classes were held in the Prince George's Community College Center for Health Studies. At the time, this new facility, with 26 state-of-the-art new simulation labs opened to the excitement of students eager to learn, affording the opportunity for them to participate in scenarios that mimic real-life medical emergencies. Over the course of the next six years, students would find it incredibly beneficial to study in an environment that looks and operates like a real hospital.

In addition to the valuable hands-on experiences gained as a result of the Center's amenities, the addition of the center has also been a catalyst for the expansion of fields of study.

For the first time, for the fall of 2018, the addition of Health Navigator is being offered as a course of study. It's just one of the ways that PGCC is keeping pace with advancements in the healthcare industry and continuing to ensure that qualified candidates are being groomed for the many opportunities that healthcare employers are seeking. Prince George's Community College has a long history of partnerships with local healthcare providers, both in the county and beyond, and of being

one of the main providers of educated candidates for a number of these organizations. Among others, they include Doctors Community Hospital, Southern Maryland Hospital Center, Kaiser Permanante, MedStar Washington, Children's Hospital Medical Center, and numerous clinics. In fact, PGCC is one of the main sources of healthcare workers for many of these providers.

For the future, PGCC plans to expand simulation capabilities to promote even greater critical thinking for students. And the staff, faculty, and administration are very excited about the new \$543 million University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center, set to open in 2021, which will greatly improve access to quality healthcare for county residents. The 26-acre site will include a 600,000 square foot facility with an 11-story main patient care building, 205 private inpatient rooms, eight operating rooms, two rooftop helipads, and a 45-bay emergency department.

In fact, when the hospital broke ground in November of 2017, PGCC President Dr. Charlene Dukes was the emcee of the event.

The new facility is expected to transform both the access and quality of healthcare for residents of Prince George's County. Prince George's Community College is proud to be part of the transformation, with graduates ready to step in and make an impact.



# The Cybersecurity Challenge

SUPPORTING A LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND GLOBAL WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

n only a few decades, computing technology has quickly become the center of our lives. With such high computer usage around the world, the demand for cybersecurity experts to prevent attacks and to maintain a healthy network only continues to increase. Due to this high demand, Prince George's Community College (PGCC) commits itself to offering a high-quality cybersecurity program dedicated to providing students with the skills necessary to become highly-skilled computer systems security professionals.

"Today, computers can be found in everyone's pocket," Cybersecurity Coordinator Edward F. Bouling IV said. "Therefore, it is important that we make sure the wrong people don't get access to important data."

Students who enroll in PGCC's cybersecurity program will gain deep knowledge of both computers and computer networking. With lessons that thoroughly examine computer hardware and software as well as network security planning and defense, students will directly tackle challenges faced within the industry.

Prince George's Community College has made a number of significant strides in information security. In 2012, the National Science Foundation awarded the college a \$5 million National Advanced Technological Education Center continuation grant, in conjunction with efforts to support cybersecurity education at community colleges across the nation.

A number of organizations have also acknowledged the program at PGCC for its contributions in the field. Government agencies including the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) often approach the college with a need for qualified cybersecurity professionals. Recently, the DHS and the National Security Agency named PGCC a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense 2-Year Education.

Prince George's Community College is also home to the National CyberWatch Center, a consortium of educational institutions, businesses, and government agencies with the goal of advancing cybersecurity education. The center has put together a specialized curriculum which aims to help students maximize economic opportunities in this discipline.

Prince George's Community College is currently working to build upon its breadth of course offerings to meet the demands of the booming computer industry. For example, courses in development will teach students about Python, cloud applications, and mobile apps.



"In the computer industry, things have been very fast-paced, so we have to make sure that we stay on the cutting edge."

**Edward Bouling** 



# Government

#### MAJOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYERS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY





f the top 30 major employers in Prince George's County, more than a third are federal government agencies, including three of the top five employers, which include Joint Base Andrews, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, and the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Workforce Development Institutes at Prince George's Community College (PGCC) provide government agencies, as well as businesses and educational institutions, with a collaborative forum for action planning that addresses the county's and region's current career learning needs as well as forecasted or emerging economic and workforce development trends. The institutes advocate for resources and develop responsive workforce development programs in order to improve employee recruitment, development, and retention.

"The government is one of the premier organizations that reaches out to PGCC seeking qualified professionals," said PGCC faculty member Edward Bouling.

#### Top federal government agencies in Prince George's County:

- Joint Base Andrews
- U.S. Internal Revenue Service
- U.S. Census Bureau
- NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S Food and Drug Administration
- U.S. National Archives and Records Administration



#### **NEW CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS NEARS COMPLETION**

he renovation and new addition for the former Queen Anne Performing Arts Center will help to significantly expand and advance the music, theater, speech, television, and radio curricula, and will provide space to add a new dance major. The existing building will more than quadruple in size, from 33,445 square feet to 173,618. Centrally-located on campus, the facility will house:

- 759-seat theater
- 304-seat proscenium theater
- Blackbox studio
- 152-seat recital hall
- Dance studios
- Flexible performance and instructional spaces
- Music band and rehearsal space
- · Instructional theater
- Educational technology (TET) labs
- Television and radio studios
- Art gallery

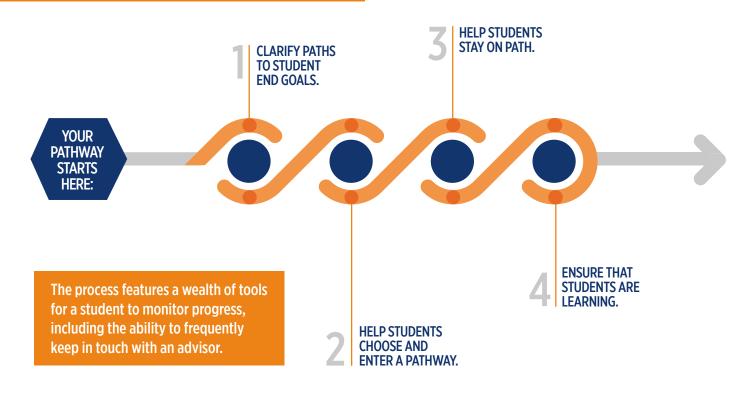
# Serving Today's Student: PATH MANAGEMENT STUDENTS Serving Today's Student:

# PGCC Selected as one of 30 Community Colleges Nationwide to Participate in Groundbreaking Program

all 2018, Prince George's Community College (PGCC) formally launched pathways, a highly-structured initiative providing students a personalized route to help them reach their academic and career goals. Using an assortment of finely-tuned program maps, milestones, and advising, students receive targeted support and feedback so that they can more easily decide how to best earn credits and certifications, transfer to a four-year college, or prepare for the workforce. Pathways was created by the American Association of Community Colleges in 2015, when the organization received a \$5.2 million grant from Completion by Design, launched through a partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The goal was to help guide students to graduation and meaningful employment opportunities. After entering into a highly competitive selection process, PGCC was chosen as one of only 30 community colleges from around the country to participate in the pathways initiative. Pathways was created with knowledge that college students are more likely to earn their degrees on time if they commit to an academic plan as early as possible. The program uses streamlined courses to make progress more straightforward and easy for students to comprehend, and it contains a high touch advising experience to keep students focused and engaged.

#### Pathways follows a four-step model:



# 

I am most proud of the progress we have made implementing pathways – being one of only 30 institutions in the nation to implement this process and then getting to watch it be planted, take root and flourish."

Sidney Gibson, PGCC Board Member

## PGCC INTEGRATED PATHWAYS INTO 10 DIFFERENT FIELDS OF STUDY:

- Allied Health and Nursing
- Behavioral and Social Sciences
- Business, Industry and Entrepreneurship
- Education
- Liberal and Creative Arts
- Professional and Personal Development
- Public Safety and Law
- Sciences, Engineering, and Mathematics
- Technology
- Wellness, Culinary Arts and Hospitality

To participate in pathways, students may visit their advisors or program coordinators to discuss their interests and what they want to achieve at PGCC. As part of the process, students may take a career inventory to match their interests with one of the college's programs of study.



# CREATINGA

SMART CITIES WORKFORCE

PGCC JOINS CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT IN INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP



As part of its initiative the city plans to build a \$30 million dollar cloud-based Intelligent Operations Center that would serve the residents and visitors. The effort will necessitate new hires with skills in programming, data collection, research, and other disciplines. Smart cities use innovative technology to improve quality of living in their communities.

The natural first step was to partner with Prince George's Community College (PGCC); the college and the city already had a long-standing relationship. Now, the city is working with PGCC to create and implement a curriculum which will benefit students by providing training in skill sets that will be required, and will benefit the city to fill its needs for employment. Mayor Eugene Grant noted more than 70 percent of the residents work outside of the city. Smart city development jobs will contribute to the availability of quality jobs in the city which in turn will keep residents from needing to seek employment and spend their income elsewhere.

"We need to make sure that there is a workforce that is ready and prepared to meet the challenges of this new innovation coming into our community."

Mayor Eugene W. Grant

David Harrington, president and CEO of the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce, agreed that this partnership is important to the economic viability of Prince George's County. "It makes sense that the business community joins with the college and the mayor in creating a space where we're preparing people for this fast economy."

"We'll do our part to ensure that students and residents know that Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics programs and courses as well as Workforce Development and Continuing Education courses are not only available but also accessible."

#### Dr. Charlene Dukes

The partnership with PGCC and the Chamber of Commerce, which will run until April 15, 2020, will support the city by ensuring that there is a pool of qualified candidates who understand and can maintain the technologies vital to smart city development.



# Sustaining Excellence

### Prince George's Community College

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We were saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Rita Robinson as our publication was going to press. We will miss her energy, enthusiasm, and passion for excellence, and we are forever grateful for her service to our institution.

In honor of her lifelong work and contributions, the Board of Trustees has established The Dr. Rita L. Robinson Scholarship for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to provide funds to encourage faculty, staff, and students to implement innovative educational projects and activities that promote mutual respect and enhance understanding of diversity and social justice.

Donations may be made through the Prince George's Community College Foundation, Inc., 301 Largo Road, A312, Largo, Maryland 20774. For further assistance, please call 301.546.0858.

# PGCC Foundation

#### FY2019 Roster

The Prince George's Community College Foundation, Inc. leads a comprehensive advancement effort to develop resources to further educational programs, facilities, and opportunities that advance the mission, vision, and goals of Prince George's Community College.

- Incorporated April, 1985; 501(c)3 status February, 1986
- Established for the charitable and educational purposes of furthering the strategic initiatives of Prince George's Community College
- **Board of Directors** 
  - Advocate

- Provide guidance
- Ensure accountability for efforts related to matters of growth and sustainability of the organization
- Average annual contribution to the college is \$1.5 million for scholarships, program support and technology, equipment, and furnishings
- Wellness, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality

◀ he Prince George's Community College Foundation Board consists of community leaders who provide guidance, and ensure accountability for efforts related to fundraising, endowment, scholarship, community relations, and other matters of growth and sustainability. By fostering partnerships and leveraging funds, the Board has helped to position the college to reach its strategic goals and objectives.



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The Board invites all stakeholders to partner for success by becoming a part of It's Happening Here!, the Foundation's funding campaign in honor of the college's six decades of innovation and inspiration and the forward thinking initiatives made possible through the philanthropic investment of partners and friends of the college.



THIS IS
WHO WE
ARE TODAY.
HERE'S TO
THE NEXT
60 YEARS.

It started with a few dozen students on a temporary high school campus.

#### TODAY, WE ARE 40,000 STRONG.

We welcome a beautifully diverse population onto our 150-acre campus every day... to be inspired, to grow, and to flourish; to serve our community by advancing healthcare, and drive innovations in business and government; and to support the economic vitality of our county and beyond.





Office of Institutional Advancement 301 Largo Road Largo, MD 20774-2199 www.pgcc.edu

