

ARCAS Report

2010-2011

Portland Community College

Portland Community College had an active year regarding all things Asian over the last year. These activities were the result of both college-based initiatives and collaborations with other internal and external entities.

A major effort got underway at PCC last year to build a Chinese language and cultural studies interdisciplinary program at the college. PCC responded to an ASDP invitation to join a Title VI proposal to fund start-up efforts to build such programs at several colleges and universities across the country. The successfully funded proposal provides professional development to a core group of faculty through an institute at the East-West Center on infusing Chinese language and culture into curriculum, with follow-up support. The faculty group coordinator and the Chinese language instructor also attended a workshop in February arranged by ASDP on latest effective language instruction techniques. The faculty are charged with developing three core courses for the new program, as well infusing Chinese language and culture elements into 12 other courses. Our first group of four instructors attended the institute in Summer 2011; they felt enriched and enthused by the experience. The group will be meeting throughout the year.

A second major initiative for the Asian Studies committee, as the PCC regional center activity source, was the decision to accept the East-West Center's invitation to host a symposium for the PCC committee on the upcoming international Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation conference. As one of four colleges across the country, PCC will host a number of scholars and dignitaries speaking on the effects of U.S.-Asia relations on trade and culture. The two-day event, on September 29th and 30th, will include an evening reception and panel on Thursday and an all-day symposium on Friday. The keynote address will be presented by Donald Hellman, the director of the APEC study center in Washington. The Oregon state economist will attend, as will a former ambassador from the U.S. to Vietnam, and the director of global supply management at Nike. On Friday, scholars who will be making presentations include:

- Jeffrey Wasserstrom – UC Irvine China Specialist
- Andrea Arai – University of Washington Japan Specialist
- Chris McNally – Political Economist at Chaminade University

We are excited by the distinguished array of speakers and have invited the PCC community as well as the Portland community.

Asian Studies committee members also worked hard over the last year to arrange speakers and events about Asia, both as a committee and in collaboration with other committees and groups at PCC. The committee has also established ties with Portland State University and exchanges event announcements

with PSU and the Confucius Institute there. A member of the committee spearheaded an effort at PCC to raise funds for Japan earthquake relief.

Several PCC faculty members and the PCC rep for ARCAS also attended the annual ASDP conference in Boston last March. These faculty members presented a session at the conference on the development of the Asian Studies Focus Award at PCC.

The Asian Studies Focus Award was presented last spring to eight PCC students in an event featuring Chinese dance and musical performances. In order to receive the award, students must have completed 16 units of courses related to Asian Studies and languages of Asia.

The PCC ASDP Regional Center, through the PCC Asian Studies Committee, looks forward to another year of individual events as well as ongoing efforts to develop awareness and expertise in the PCC community on Asian languages and cultures.