

## PC's H.S. Junior Day is a Huge Success!



The campus buzzed with excitement on Thursday, March 13th, as we welcomed approximately 1,000 high school juniors from **Porterville Unified** and **Burton** School Districts for our inaugural **PC Junior Day**! The event, which is a reimagined version of our previous Senior Day event, proved to be a resounding success, providing students with an early and engaging look into college life.

The day began with a vibrant welcome session in the gym, where students were greeted with enthusiasm and inspiring words from our keynote speaker, PC Agriculture Instructor Michael Leishman. The room was filled with energy as students learned about the opportunities awaiting them at Porterville College.

Following the welcome, *and in spite of the threat of rain*, students headed across campus to meet with different departments and get a taste of what PC has to offer. This interactive experience allowed them to explore PC's diverse academic programs, student services, and extracurricular activities. From hands-on demonstrations to informative discussions, students were able to picture themselves as future Pirates.

That one-on-one interaction was a highlight of the day for many, with students asking insightful questions and engaging with faculty, staff, and current PC students. The atmosphere was one of discovery and excitement, as these juniors began to see how Porterville College could be a stepping stone towards their academic and career goals.

The day concluded back in the gym with a lively raffle and closing remarks, leaving everyone with a sense of inspiration and possibility. We were thrilled to see so many bright young minds exploring their future options and taking advantage of this unique opportunity.

**PC Junior Day** underscores Porterville College's commitment to serving our community and fostering educational opportunities for local students. By providing a comprehensive overview of everything that exist in a college environment, we aim to empower these juniors to dream BIG and pursue their higher education goals. We look forward to seeing many of these students back on campus as future Porterville College Pirates!





# Porterville College Math Battle Expands & Ignites Passion for STEM



This year's Porterville College Math Battle reached new heights, transforming into a two-day extravaganza that welcomed students from local middle and high schools, marking the largest competition yet. Coordinated by the **PC Math Division**, the event, traditionally a high-school-only competition, expanded this year to include middle schools, effectively doubling its size and impact.

Of course, the Math Battle is more than just a competition. It provides a unique and engaging experience for local students. Participants tackled complex math problems, both individually and in teams, under time constraints, fostering critical thinking and collaborative skills. The format, featuring 12, 10, 8, 6, 4, and 2-minute rounds, challenged students to think quickly and creatively.

Each team competed in individual and team rounds, with scores based on accuracy, speed, and the uniqueness of their solutions.

**Monache High School** emerged as the overall winning school on the first day of competition, with their "Kiss My Axis" team, consisting of Ethan Born, Aaryan Hirani, Juan Rodriguez, and Elijah Velarde, taking the top spot. Individual and team round winners received medals, and the winning school earned the 2025 Math Battle Trophy.

PC Math faculty, led by Dr. Sherie Burgess and Professor Ian Onizawa, played a crucial role in scoring and facilitating the event. Dr. Burgess expressed her enthusiasm for the partnership opportunities the Math Battle provides, stating, "We are grateful for the opportunity to host such a fun event for our local middle and high school STEM students. It was an amazing way to have fun and interact with our school partner faculty. Thanks to funding provided by the CAPP grant, we have

been able to work more cohesively together as partners."

Students shared their positive experiences, with many highlighting the engaging and challenging nature of the competition. Jocelyn Carranza from Monache noted, "The title is misleading, and people often dislike math, but this event has been very fun and a good challenge."

The event also provided valuable learning opportunities for students in other disciplines.

**Monache's Multimedia and Technology Academy** students, under the guidance of Video Production Teacher Bobby Styles, filmed the Math Battle, gaining hands-on experience in video production and interviewing.

The Math Battle's expansion to include middle schools on the second day further emphasized Porterville College's commitment to fostering STEM education in the community. As Alexander Ledesma, a Porterville sophomore, put it, "You get math with real life problems, and you get to hang out with people like you."

The success of the 2025 Math Battle underscores its importance as a platform for students to showcase their mathematical abilities, collaborate with peers, and engage with college faculty, solidifying Porterville College's role in promoting STEM education in the region.

In total, PC hosted approximately 155 students, along with faculty coaches and guests, making it a vibrant and engaging event. Our amazing Mathematics Division, including both full-time and adjunct faculty, worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience for all participants. We were also delighted to welcome Gustavo Enriquez, MESA Director from Lemoore College, who came to observe and learn about our Math Battle.





## Rising Scholars On The Move

Recently, PC Program Manager of Outreach and the **Rising Scholars Program**, Cur'Neisha Osborne and PC Adjunct Counselor Cody Ridenour had the privilege of accompanying Porterville College Rising Scholars students to the UC Davis **Prison-to-Schools Convention**. The experience was truly transformative, sparking a desire for further learning in even our faculty!

More importantly, it opened students' eyes to the vast opportunities that await them beyond Porterville College. Witnessing their excitement and newfound aspirations served as a powerful reminder of the impact of education. As Ms. Osborne shared on her LinkedIn profile, "Seeing their eyes light up with new possibilities reminded me why I do this work. Education transforms lives, and I'm grateful to be part of that journey! This trip reinforced our commitment to empowering students and showcasing the limitless potential that lies ahead."



## Pirate Pride: PC Basketball Stars Shine!

Porterville College Athletics is thrilled to announce some well-deserved honors for our **Men's and Women's Basketball** teams for the 2024-2025 season!



### Men's Basketball:

**Musa Sillah** earned CVC All-Conference Honorable Mention and was also named to the CVC All-Freshman First Team, and CVC All-Defense First Team. He averaged 10.1 points, 7 rebounds, 1.8 assists and 5 double doubles a game.

**Tarik Dacosta** landed a spot on the CVC All-Freshman First Team, averaging 9.1 points, 4.3 rebounds, 3.6 assists, and 1.7 steals a game.

**Jermarcus Brown** received CVC All-Freshman Honorable Mention, averaging 9.6 points, 6.6 rebounds and 1.5 assists.

**Jaymarion Stewart** was named to the CVC All-Defense First Team, averaging 6.9 points, 3.4 rebounds.



### Women's Basketball:

**Danae Banuelos** dominated, earning CVC All-Conference First Team honors with an average of 19.4 points, 11.4 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 19 double-doubles a game.

**Andrea Perez** received CVC All-Conference Honorable Mention with an impressive average of 14 points, 6.1 rebounds and 4 assists, and 4 double-doubles per game.

*Congratulations to all our outstanding student-athletes for their hard work and dedication!*  
**Go Pirates!**



## Let's Taco 'Bout It: A Delicious Success!



The atmosphere was relaxed and informal, creating a comfortable space for students to ask questions and share their experiences, while enjoying lunch.

It was a fantastic opportunity for students to connect with President Monarrez and each other, over some tasty tacos and drink. Thanks to everyone who came out and made "Let's Taco 'Bout It" such a memorable event!

Late on a Thursday morning, the Porterville College campus was buzzing with excitement as students gathered in the Quad for "Let's Taco 'Bout It!" The sun was shining, the weather was perfect, and the tacos were absolutely delicious!

**Interim President Primavera Monarrez** met students and offered tacos, Horchata, and Agua de Jamaica as they went from class to class. She spent time talking with students about their classes and asking how their semester has been going as she mixed and mingled with the crowd.



## PC RegFest / Priority Registration Begin



**Priority Registration** for Summer and Fall 2025 is currently underway at Porterville College, and that means it's time for **PC RegFest!**

Student Services hosts this event each semester to provide targeted support for different student groups during the first week of priority registration.

Each day focuses on a specific group, including Veterans, Foster Youth, DRC students, EOPS students, Honors students, and more. Counselors, educational advisors, and support staff are all on hand to assist with course registration and applications for support resources. Current students are encouraged to visit the Student Services Office during their designated registration day to start their registration for Summer and Fall 2025.

It's just one more way that PC is doing BIG things to ensure our students have an efficient and smooth registration process!