

PC and ZeroNox Launch Ground-breaking Program & EV Tech Center



Porterville College's Career Education Division celebrated a major milestone this month with the grand opening of its new Electric Vehicle (EV) Technology Center. This cutting-edge classroom space will support training in the rapidly expanding electric vehicle technology industry.

The EV Center is the culmination of years of planning and development, forged in partnership with Porterville Based industry leader Zero Nox. This collaboration has resulted in a unique non-credit program, meaning it's tuition-free for students. The program offers flexible instruction, ranging from a few days to a week, and encompasses five modules. Students can gain foundational knowledge of EV technology, progressing all the way to advanced training where they actually build a complete electric vehicle.

This achievement represents a significant step forward in preparing students for careers in this dynamic field. Zero Nox's vision was to bring the electrification industry to the Central Valley, specifically the Porterville area. The partnership aims to provide high levels of accessibility, retention, and completion, ultimately producing highly qualified technicians. Zero Nox recognizes the value of training future employees locally, ensuring they possess the skills needed to handle the complexities of EV technology.

Porterville College is dedicated to providing students with the tools and resources they need to succeed in the workforce of tomorrow. This new EV program exemplifies this commitment. College representatives emphasized the importance of

collaboration and innovation, highlighting the responsiveness of the Porterville College team in bringing this vision to life.

As electric vehicles become increasingly prevalent, the need for skilled technicians to service them grows. This program addresses this critical need, providing relevant training that prepares students for in-demand careers. The focus is on equipping students with specialized skills to thrive in an industry that is revolutionizing transportation.

The program's design emphasizes adaptability. Recognizing the rapidly evolving nature of the EV industry, the curriculum is structured to pivot as needed. The non-credit format removes barriers to entry for students with diverse educational backgrounds or circumstances. Porterville College aims to create a blueprint for EV technician training that can be replicated internationally, demonstrating how to effectively train the workforce needed to support the growth of commercial electric fleets. The college is committed to iterating, changing, and pivoting as the market demands, ensuring the program remains at the forefront of EV technology training.

Watch the video [at this link](#) for a closer look at the event.



Porterville College Celebrates Greenhouse Renovation



The Porterville College Career Education Division held a ceremony celebrating the complete modernization of its greenhouse facilities. Originally built a couple of decades ago, the greenhouse has undergone a dramatic transformation. Thanks to the original manufacturer still being in business, the facility was completely gutted and rebuilt, with nearly everything being replaced except for the framing structure.

The renovated greenhouse now boasts all-new, state-of-the-art components. A key feature of the upgrade is the ability to manage everything remotely, from irrigation and climate control to environmental factors. This advanced technology offers students invaluable hands-on learning experiences, preparing them for immediate entry into relevant industries and careers.

The updated facility provides an environment where students can translate theoretical principles and scientific methods into practical, industry-like applications. This allows them to model potential future careers, whether they aspire to become entrepreneurs starting their own businesses, or seek employment at established nurseries like Monrovia.

Understanding concepts like plant propagation and proper housing is crucial for success in these fields, and the greenhouse provides the perfect training ground.

PC hopes that this renovation will be more than just a one-time event. We look forward to a future of increased visibility for the PC agriculture program and the Career Education division.

[Click here](#) for a closer look at this event, and the greenhouse.



Spring Semester Kicks Off with a Personal Touch

Porterville College welcomed students back to campus for the start of the spring semester under a bright and sunny sky. The campus buzzed with excitement as students eagerly returned to their studies.

At the beginning of each semester, Porterville College provides a variety of welcome-back activities and services to help make the transition back to classes more manageable. Students enjoyed warm beverages and snacks while exploring the diverse range of programs and services available here on campus.

Interim PC President Primavera Monarrez personally greeted students throughout the day, offering them grab-and-go snacks to fuel their learning.

The campus quad was a hive of activity, with faculty, staff, and administrators readily available to assist students. They answered questions, provided directions to classrooms, and ensured a smooth transition back to the academic routine.

The start of this spring semester marks another BIG chapter for students at Porterville College. We're thrilled to support you on your educational journey, and we look forward to a successful and rewarding semester for all.



President Monarrez spent much of opening day walking around, meeting students and providing some fun snacks to help get them through the first day.

February Brings “Primary” to the PC Art Gallery



EVENT:

Porterville College Art Show: Primary – Works by Allyson Darakjian

DATES OF SHOW:

February 5 – 27, 2025

GALLERY HOURS:

Monday – Thursday from 12 – 2 pm and 4 – 6 pm

Explore the captivating intersection of color, language, and performance in Allyson Darakjian’s exhibition, “Primary,” now showing at the Porterville College Art Gallery. This thought-provoking collection delves into the essence of primary colors (red, blue, and yellow) through a unique blend of abstract painting, poetry, and a fascinating six-month performance documented in Polaroids.

We were fortunate enough to attend the artist’s reception and speak with Allyson about her inspiration and creative process. [Click this video link](#) to join us as we delve into the vibrant world of “Primary” and discover the deeper meanings behind Darakjian’s work. You can see “Primary” in person all month long inside the PC Art Gallery.



Expected Road Project Completion Delayed Until March

Unfortunately, due to the rain and some other continuing delays with the construction of the new section of road on E. College Avenue, the contractor has had to once again push back the completion date of the project. Completion is currently expected in March. We will provide a firm date as that information becomes available.

Next week, we will begin providing new maps and information on the permanent traffic patterns that will come with the completion of this project.

Those changes will include the use of the new roads and the entrance and exit plans for PC’s campus parking lots.

Please continue to obey the posted signage and 15 mph speed limit through the traffic diversion on E. College Avenue. Continue to check here for more information on the project as it becomes available.

Once again, thank you for your continued patience and understanding.



Former PC Student Has Artwork Launched into Space!



The artwork of local woman and former Porterville College Student, Louise Shields, has officially made a new temporary home in space. A digital copy of one of the artist's pieces was launched into space last month as part of a project run by SpaceX and LunARC.

Shields, who now works as a Deputy Conservator for Santa Clara County, attended Monache High School and Porterville College.

Her creation was one of 30,000 pieces of artwork that was launched into space on a SpaceX rocket.

The mission plans to have the rocket orbit for 45 days and then land on the moon. It will remain there for another 14 days. NASA will continue to provide updates weekly. Updates are available through NASA or Firefly.

"It was magical," said Shields about her artwork being launched into space. The launch is a project led by LunARC, a global non-profit initiative. One purpose of the LunARC mission is to get the next generation excited about space and careers in STEAM, science, technology, engineering, art and math.

Shields chose her work "Majestic and Mysterious," (seen below) to send into space.



PC Faculty Honored as "Outstanding Career Education Teacher"



February is Career Technical Education (CTE) month. In celebration, the Tulare Office of Education, through the Tulare Kings College and Career Collaborative (TKCCC) recognizes outstanding career technical education teachers in Tulare and Kings counties.

We're very excited to report that PC's own John Olmos, Administration of Justice instructor and coordinator of the PC Law Enforcement Academy, will be among those honored this year as TKCCC Outstanding CTE Instructors!

The Tulare County Office of Education convenes the TKCCC to advance career technical education, and college and career readiness across the two-county region. CTE Month is hosted each year by the Association for Career and Technical Education and sponsored by National Association of Home Builders. Each February they celebrate the benefits of Career Education.

The Tulare-Kings College + Career Collaborative (TKCCC) is an organization of 12 school districts, a charter school, and the Kings and Tulare county offices of education working together with local community colleges and universities, workforce development agencies, and business/industry partners. TKCCC is dedicated to developing systems to prepare students for college and career, and ease their transitions from school to college and into the workforce. The collaborative also supports the development of career pathway programs and provides work-based learning experiences/internships.

Congratulations John! Thank you for the hard work and dedication you put into every student's success.