

February 8, 2024



PC Students Brave the Cold to Return for Spring Classes

by Jamie A. Hunt
for The Porterville Recorder

It was a cold and chilly gray morning at the Porterville College quad, with the various welcome to school booths set up with Associate Student body representatives and other PC outreach booths ready to welcome students and provide information Tuesday on the first day of the 2024 Spring Semester.

But it was so darn cold, and a bit foggy, that unless you had to move from building to building, most people were trying to stay inside and work in a warm environment.

Students stayed warm in the cafeteria, the Learning Center,

and the Library study center, or were in their classrooms.

PC President Dr. Claudia Habib was out in the quad for a while and greeted various people from students to administrators returning for the spring semester, welcoming them to the college. She also kindly arranged for some hot cocoa to be set up in the quad, which everyone greatly appreciated.

About the spring's enrollment, she said, "I am thrilled to see this continued growth in enrollment at Porterville College. It indicates that more and more of our community is turning to the power of a Porterville College education to reach higher, go farther, and achieve more. We continue to

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be committed to providing students with the resources they need to rise to the challenges that confront them, and we are excited to see them all accomplish big things in the future.”

PC was set to welcome 4,200 students, a 27 percent increase of 2023 spring enrollment. In addition to regular classes the college is offering various activities for students while they return to the daily routine of getting their education. The activities include games, music, PC Swag, and information on how to take advantage of special benefit programs for during the morning and afternoon today and Thursday.

The students were glad to be back at the college to see their friends and pursue their studies. Brandi Flores, Aliza Bun, Destiny Duran, and Abigail Hines all greeted Habib and chatted in the quad for a bit. Bun said she was really excited to start the new semester, while her friend Duran said she’s studying Elementary teaching. Hines plays both volleyball and softball and she said, “Go Pirates!”

Emilio Leon is in his second year at college and is studying biology,

and he said the courses are great, but he’d like it if there were more of them available.

Roger Perez, PC Director of Communications and Community Relations, braved the cold taking photographs and video. He said, “It’s always great to see the campus come alive on the first day of classes, especially in light of the colder weather. There is so much energy. From new students discovering where their classes are to conversations in the quad between friends reuniting for a second semester of study. It’s especially great to see continued growth in our enrollment semester-to-semester and year-to-year. It shows that the community of Porterville values a college education and the big things it can mean for their futures. We look forward to another great semester full of growth and great accomplishments for our students.”

Drew Lopez who worked with the MHS film and video production crew was at PC and said he was so excited to start back at PC and happy about how many friends he’s made at PC. He’s studying Agriculture Business. Lopez was walking into the quad with his

friend Kyha Yocum, who’s studying sociology, and said she was also happy to be back at PC.

Kierstin Hall, a long time actor at the Barn Theater, is studying in the music program at PC and said she was having a good time. “I also like the cold weather.”

Other students who passed to their classes were Alejandra Cervantes and Yeraldin Leon who are studying Elementary Education, and said they were glad to be back.

Administrator Jasmin Quinones said “We’re excited to be back and have so many students on campus today. Coming back from COVID this is the liveliest I’ve seen it.”



PUENTE Sponsors Event Honoring Martin Luther King.



The Porterville College [Puente Program](#) recently hosted a unique event to honor Martin Luther King Jr. and his legacy.

A group of students, faculty, and staff gathered in the SCCR on Friday, January 19th for a lunch event honoring the civil rights leader. Lunch was provided to those in attendance at the start of the program. The event continued with a quick introduction and presentation of [“But, if Not”](#) one of King’s sermons given at Ebenezer Baptist Church in 1967.



After the presentation, Outreach and Rising Scholars Program Manager, Cur’Neisha Osborne led a wonderful discussion with the group exploring different perspectives and ideas surrounding the concepts of “right and wrong” and “good and evil”. Ms. Osborne shared insights from King’s perspective and dug into the topics with students from multiple contexts ranging from historical to political.

PC Receives Award for Exemplary Student Service Connections



Education company [EAB](#) has named Porterville College as the recipient of its **Student Success Collaborative *CONNECTEDness* Award** for 2023-2024. EAB works with more than 2,500 institutions to drive transformative change through data-driven insights and best-in-class software support for student service efforts.

The award was received by PC Student Services team members Nicholas Britt, Liliana Becerril and Cur'Neisha Osborne at [CONNECTED24](#), a three-day gathering of over a thousand student success leaders from progressive community colleges and four-year universities throughout the nation.

The **CONNECTEDness** Award recognizes institutions that build relationships across institution types, connecting community colleges, four-year schools, or the broader higher education community.

"Porterville College is honored to have received the 2023-2024 CONNECTEDness Award. Thank you to the Porterville College Navigate Team and to Director of Student Services Frank Ramirez as the PC Navigate Lead," said Primavera Monarrez, Vice President of Student Services at PC.

This is the tenth year in a row that EAB has recognized outstanding achievements in student success. Awardees are chosen from among the colleges, universities, and individuals that use [Navigate360](#), EAB's student success management system, Starfish, the student success platform EAB acquired in 2021, and [Edify](#), EAB's data management solution.

"EAB has been collaborating with our hundreds of partner institutions to transform the way they use technology to recruit and support students to help them graduate and launch successful careers," said EAB President of Technology, Scott Schirmeier. "The winners of EAB's 2023-2024 Student Success Collaborative Awards are leading the way in leveraging technology as an asset to serve students and their institution."



Facilities Master Planning Process Continues with Listening Session



The meeting was held with the cooperation and expertise of our collaborators, a consulting firm known as **Lionakis**, and the partnership of **The Collaborative Brain Trust**,

They provided an overview of the current master plan and then allotted ample time to hear concerns and new ideas from the public with regards to future improvements at Porterville College.

The Facilities Master Plan provides information on the college service area and plans for lands, buildings, and other facilities well into the future. This process will provide an informed update to the 2018 Facilities Master Plan that will carry on as the college approaches its centennial anniversary in 2027.

The creation of the new Campus-Wide Facilities Master Plan continues at Porterville College. On Monday, January 29th, a capacity crowd sat in the Student Center Conference Room for a listening session.

The updated plan will allow us to enhance and grow our academic and support services to support student success. We continue to be excited to share and collaborate with our stakeholders and local communities on revamping the Facilities Master Plan.



Pirates Earn All Conference Honors

Following the close of the 2023 Porterville College women's volleyball season, five members of the Pirates were honored with All-Central Valley Conference postseason accolades.

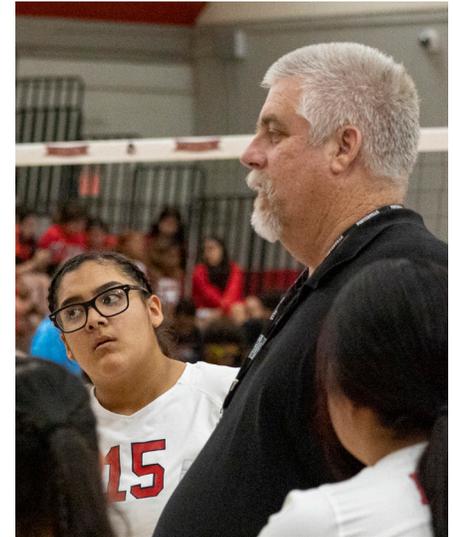
Leading the way was sophomore middle blocker Davina Lopez. The Porterville High School grad was named first-team All-CVC after

earning second team honors as a freshman last season. Lopez was first on the Pirates this season with 204 kills and 87 total blocks.

Second-team All-Central Valley Conference honors went to freshman middle blocker Abigail Hines. Also for the Pirates, freshman outside hitter Noelani Espiritu, freshman defensive

specialist Amber Joy DeLa Cruz, and freshman outside hitter Natalie Duran were recognized as All-CVC honorable mention.

Porterville recently wrapped up the 2023 season with a 14-15 overall record. Under head coach Pete Rasmussen, PC went 8-8 in the Central Valley Conference to finish tied for fifth place.



KCCD Leadership Academy Visits the Capitol



PC Executive Assistant to the President **Maribel Hernandez**, Instructor **John Olmos**, Administrative Assistant **Jacqueline Peters**, Financial Aid Technician **Lourdes Bolanos**, and Sign Language Interpreter **Sauna Williams** joined **Dr. Claudia Habib** this month as part of the KCCD Leadership Academy trip to Sacramento to visit with our local Assemblymembers and Representatives in the State Capital.

It was a wonderful experience learning about the legislative process and meeting with local representatives like Melissa Hurtado and Devon Mathis to discuss issues that effect our students.



Important Upcoming Dates

Dates	Event	Time/Location
February 16	LINCOLN DAY HOLIDAY	CAMPUS CLOSED
February 19	WASHINGTON DAY HOLIDAY	CAMPUS CLOSED
March 18-23	SPRING RECESS	CAMPUS CLOSED
April 3	PRIORITY REGISTRATION BEGINS SUMMER/FALL 2024	AC BUILDING, ONLINE
December 9	OPEN REGISTRATION BEGINS SUMMER/FALL 2024	AC BUILDING, ONLINE

