

**June 13, 2024**

**Celebrating Student Success!**

Despite the long list of graduates, the 96th commencement ceremony was short and sweet, and Jamison stadium was packed full of friends and family bursting with pride for their scholars.

PC President Dr. Claudia Habib led Faculty and staff, followed by two long lines of students draped across both sides of the stadium. As the graduates walked by the bleachers they visually inspected the stands, searching for their loved ones. When they were spotted, smiles erupted and hands quickly cut through the air in excited waves.

As the graduates settled into their seats, Primavera Monarrez, PC's Vice President of Students Services, welcomed the crowd and directed their attention to cadets from Porterville Military Academy who marched onto the stage to present the state and national flags. The PC Chorale gave the audience a spectacular rendition of The National Anthem before Habib approached the microphone to deliver the welcome address.

"This commencement ceremony signifies the capstone of your work and the reflection of student success, and student success is at the heart of what I do every day, what gets me up in the morning, and guides my priorities as president. First, congratulations are in order to the class of 2024," said Habib. "Your dedicated hours in the classroom or online are to be commended. I look forward to seeing your continued growth and someday to witness what *(continued on next page)*





great leaders and role models you have become.”

As Habib returned to her seat, the commencement continued with the recognition of Dr. Glenn Roquemore, the recipient of the second annual Porterville College Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Roquemore, President Emeritus of Irvine Valley College and Founder/CEO of Roquemore Higher Education Consultants, LLC. was honored for his accomplishments in the educational field and his advocacy for student success.

Roquemore fondly spoke about the power of a community college education to the PC Class of 2024, urging them to hold steadfast to their dream and continue forward no matter what.

“Focus on your path,” said Roquemore. “Never let anybody or any life circumstance stop you. There will be those who are trying to stand in the way, that’s all a part of life. Be ready for it... Stay focused on your goals and you’ll be surprised at how often you look back and realize the impact of your time at Porterville College.”

A list of graduate acknowledgments followed Roquemore’s recognition. More than 30 students were asked to rise from their seats as they were honored with PC Academic Senate Distinguished Student Awards. Elxias Ismael Hernandez received the college’s top recognition as the PC Academic Senate Scholar of the Year for 2024. A host of graduates were also mentioned for their accomplishments as Honor Graduates and Phi Theta Kappa members.

Just before rows of students began to make their way to the stage to receive their degree and snap a photo with Dr. Habib, Associated Students of PC President Alicia Vargas stepped forward to congratulate her classmates and offer some encouragement as they venture forth into the future.

“Graduation is not just about receiving a diploma but rather the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and determination...,” said Vargas. “I want everyone to remember that success is not measured solely by achievements or accolades. It’s defined by the impact we have on the world and the lives of those around us. Congratulations class of 2024. Today we stand as living testament to the power of perseverance and the boundless potential each and every one of us has.”

As each graduate walked from the stage grasping rolled and tied papers, individual celebratory moments culminated into a collective wave of joy. Some students raised their fists into the air displaying their accomplishments and smiling widely to their loved ones. Others clasped the paper to their chest, exhaling sighs of personal victory.

After every graduate had crossed the stage, Dr. Habib and Kern Community College District Board president John Corkins announced the time had come for the students to stand and grab their tassels. With a small flick of the wrist or movement of the air, overjoyed graduates confirmed their success by turning their tassels from left to right. The ceremony ended in a roar of applause and the graduates were excused to celebrate with their friends and family.



# Nursing Program “Pinning” Ceremony



A special ceremony was held Saturday, May 11th, to celebrate 19 Porterville College students who completed the PC Nursing Program.

Each of them earned an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing and received a pin symbolizing their transition from student nurse to professional nurse.

The entire class entered the ceremony holding candles symbolizing their profession. They then rose to recite the Florence Nightingale Pledge, thus affirming their commitment to the profession of nursing. At the close of the ceremony, each student was “pinned” by their families during a moving processional.

Congratulations to the PC Nursing Class of 2024!



## PC Access Programs Celebrate Our Students

A recognition event was hosted last month to recognize students who participated in the EOPS, CalWORKs, Foster Youth, NextUp, Mini-Corps, and Undocumented Student programs and that have completed their degree or certificate during the 2023-24 academic year.

Breakfast was provided along with a program recognizing these amazing students and providing information about the next steps in their educational journey.

The event included music and a photo booth provided by Bliss Entertainment.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024!



## Caring Campus Champions Student Success



Porterville College President Dr. Claudia Lourido-Habib brought Caring Campus to PC to foster a community where students feel recognized and valued, leading to increased success for all students.

The Institute for Evidence-Based Change (IEBC) created Caring Campus to provide college and university staff and faculty with the tools and resources needed to create a welcoming environment for students. By establishing a culture of care on campus, students are empowered to persist and succeed in their educational goals.

Porterville College staff began work on Caring Campus in November 2023, with the sponsorship of the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. Since then, Dr. Lourido-Habib said she has seen her classified professionals find their voices through Caring Campus and show new levels of leadership.

"Our classified professionals are the backbone of our whole operation," Dr. Lourido-Habib said. "They are the first ones to welcome students and set them on their paths to success, and they're the last ones at every event,

shaking hands and wishing everyone well. It's incredibly important they see their value and recognize the impact they have on students, and Caring Campus has helped us give them that."

This past month, the Caring Campus team held the official launch event to celebrate Caring Campus and to share the initiative with the entire Classified staff.

Caring Campus equips employees with behavioral commitments and practical tools designed to empower students, helping them succeed inside and outside the classroom.

"Porterville College staff have truly embraced Caring Campus, inspiring and empowering students to reach their full potential," IEBC President Dr. Brad Phillips said.

"This culture of care has helped Porterville College create a nurturing environment where every student can thrive, knowing that help and encouragement are always within reach."



## Celebrating our Classified Professionals



Each May, we take a week to celebrate the impact our Classified Professionals have on our student's success. Not only are they the foundation that drives our day to day operation, Classified Professionals are some of the most influential voices in our student's lives. They serve as friends, mentors, guidance counselors, and so much more. They act as a support system for students in their times of need, growth, and celebration.

This month, we took time out to celebrate these stars with a small token of our appreciation by providing breakfast, snacks and more each day of Classified Professionals Week. Thank you, Classified Professionals!

## Important Upcoming Dates

Dates	Event	Time/Location
June 10	SUMMER SEMESTER CLASSES BEGIN	VARIOUS
June 19	JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY	CAMPUS CLOSED
July 4	INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY	CAMPUS CLOSED

"At midnight, in the month of June, I stand beneath the mystic moon."

**-Edgar Allan Poe**