

March 14, 2024

## PC MATH BATTLE



PC Math Battle Faculty



Overall Winning Team



Students work the problem



Overall Winning School  
"Don't Drink & Derive" MHS

## Math Battle returns to PC

The PC Math Battle is a unique local math competition held at Porterville College and coordinated by the PC Math Division. The event brings High School students to campus each year to compete in an all day math tournament. It's not only a VERY fun event for all involved, it provides valuable lessons and a great experience for students who get to spend time on campus working with our amazing faculty and staff.

This year, 5 high schools attended and each school brought 3 teams to compete. A few schools brought an alternate for the team round. Both this year and last year, we allowed the alternates to form their own team (each student was from a different high school). This year the alternate team came in 4th place, of the 16 teams that competed (an amazing feat given these students didn't know each other before connecting at the event).

PC Math faculty (full-time and adjunct) participated in scoring the individual and team rounds. Students were given scores for the team round based on correct solutions and uniqueness. That is, if a team had a solution that was unique from all the other teams competing, there were given extra points.

PC Faculty and event lead, Dr. Sherie Burgess expressed her excitement for the event and the partnership opportunities it presents. "We are grateful for the opportunity to host such a fun event for our local high school STEM students. It was an amazing day to have fun and interact with our high school partner faculty. Thanks to funding provided by the CAPP grant, we have been able to work more cohesively together as partners."

## This Year's Winners

**Individual school winners**  
(top scoring students from each school):

### SCCA

- 1st place - Lucas Carley
- 2nd place - Noah Fridlund
- 3rd place - Victorya Hunt

### PHS

- 1st place - Ruhani Deswal
- 2nd place - Amaya Cortez
- 3rd place - Hernan Gutierrez

### MHS

- 1st place - Idil Dag
- 2nd place - Schyler Collins
- 3rd place - Colton Isom

### GHHS

- 1st place - Rebeca Ortiz
- 2nd place - Alexis Iarfaian
- 3rd place - Emily Santoyo

### Harmony

- 1st place - Ruben Alcazar
- 2nd place - Danny Rodriguez
- 3rd place - Trenton Byers

### Overall Individual Winners

(top scoring students out of all the high schools)

- 1st place - Idil Dag from MHS
- 2nd place - Schyler Collins from MHS
- 3rd place - Ruhani Deswal from PHS

### Overall Team Winners

(top scoring teams out of all the high schools)

- 1st place - "The Alphas" from Summit Charter
- 2nd place - "Don't Drink and Derive" from MHS
- 3rd place - "Math Magicians" from Harmony

### Overall Winning School/Team

(highest score when combining the individual and team rounds)

"Don't Drink and Derive" from MHS

## “Conscious Impressions” makes a big impact at the PC Art Gallery

Despite the sudden and heavy rain that began falling just before the event’s start, students and community members supported Artist Adam Longatti at the opening of his exhibition “Conscious Impressions” at the PC Gallery.

The gallery’s interior was transformed by frames acting as “windows” into various worlds of Central Valley landscapes. Light danced on canvas as the pieces displayed around the room, ranging in size from small to grand, showed the artist’s interpretations in brushstroke.

Many of the smaller paintings included in this exhibit were painted plein air, which means they were painted on-site. At

the same time, some of the largest pieces were completed in the studio, creating an interesting contrast both in size and subject for the viewer to explore.

As stated in the show’s narrative, artist Adam Longatti sees this work as reflective and continual, and he hopes that in this exploration, there is more than just history, but a bit of self. “These paintings are the product of an experience. Overall, this body of work is part of an ongoing and endless exploration of this part of the world. The landscape reveals its historical record in its mere present existence. It is the challenge of revealing this story that sparks my interest”.



Adam Longatti and Dr. Habib



Adam Longatti interacts with visitors



## PC Welding Instructor honored as Outstanding CTE Teacher



Mauricio Vargas (right) works with a student

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

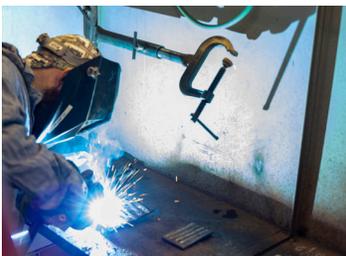
We’re very excited to report that PC’s own welding instructor **Mauricio Vargas** has been honored as one of this year’s **TKCCC Outstanding CTE Instructors!**

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 (hosted by the Association for Career and Technical Education and sponsored by National Association of Home Builders) is recognized each February to celebrate the benefits of Career Education.

“Our honorees go above and beyond each day to provide rich, career-focused curriculum to their students,” said Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire.

Congratulations Mauricio! Thank you for your dedication to PC student success.





Yo Ho Ho Pirates! Club Rush! swept through the Student Center Conference Room this month, and all our favorite clubs were there, ready to pounce (metaphorically, of course!)

The event was basically a large meet-and-greet for all the awesome things happening on campus, outside of the classroom. Think new friends, movie nights, community projects, game jams, and more - all led by students who share the same passions their peers!



Joining a club is a surefire way to make lifelong freindships, find "your people", and do stuff you actually enjoy in your spare time. Wanna help out at local non-profits? There's a club for that. Feeling artsy? Dive into the Art Club. Maybe you're a gaming wizard or love music - the E-Sports and Music Clubs await!

Want the full picture on PC campus life? Swing by the Student Life office near the cafeteria, or check out [our website](#).

Here's to a GREAT Campus Life, mateys!

## Pair of events celebrate Black History Month on campus



PC Student Life Celebrated Black History Month with a duo of events for students this month.

The first was an event celebrating culture through art. Students gathered in the SCCR to create beautiful cultural "hearts and crafts" featuring skin-toned yarn and hearts. Attendees had a great time creating some exciting pieces.

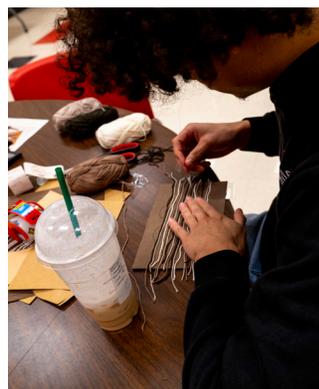
The second event celebrated some of the "Giants" of African American history. These giants made advancements in everything from civil rights to music and science.

During the event, we celebrated this collection of unique individuals, who we celebrate not only during Black History Month but also in all of American history for their positive changes.

CSUB Director of Student Access & Support, Darius G. Riggins, joined students in the SCCR to present "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants." He discussed a long list of some of the most influential people in American history. These African American leaders broke racial barriers and made contributions beyond themselves so others could soar.



Darius G. Riggins



## Pop Up Stress Management

As part of our regular “Wellness Wednesday” series, and in continuation of “Random Acts of Kindness Day”, PC Wellness Counselor Lisa Prieto set up in the quad to talk with students, to do wellness checks and to help break the stigma surrounding mental health and wellness.

PC regularly offers Mental Wellness Counseling to students. “It’s important that they don’t feel

like they need to hide in shame and silence. We can help create a robust support system.” said Prieto.

Call Lisa Prieto, PSY.D, the PC Student Health and Wellness Counselor for Support. Her number is 559-791-2329.

You can also find wellness tips and get more information at [tinyurl.com/4yep5dcj](https://tinyurl.com/4yep5dcj)



Dr. Lisa Prieto talks with students

## Celebrating Valentine’s Day, Together



### Life is better when we’re going through it together!

That was the theme for this year’s Student Life-sponsored celebration of Valentine’s Day. The celebration didn’t single out singles, depend on couples, or try to bring total strangers together. Instead, the event allowed students to hang out between classes and just enjoy some time and craft projects in a stress free environment.

Whether they were creating Valentine’s messages for loved ones, de-stressing through art, or just enjoying the BEAUTIFUL Day in the quad, it didn’t matter. It was just a group of Pirates celebrating together and having a great time.

The history of this “heart-themed” holiday is quite interesting. Valentine’s Day originated as a Christian feast to honor a martyr named Saint Valentine. It has since become a cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of love and romance.

According to NPR, Valentine is likely based on one of two Valentines executed in different years in the 3rd century A.C.E. by Roman Emperor Claudius II. The Catholic Church may have established St. Valentine’s Day to honor these two martyrs.

Saint Valentine was a clergyman in the Roman Empire who ministered to persecuted Christians. He was martyred and buried on the Via Flaminia on February 14, which has been observed as the Feast of Saint Valentine since at least the eighth century.

According to some, Saint Valentine secretly helped soldiers get married by performing ceremonies in the church. He also handed out heart-shaped parchment to remind the men of their vows.

Historians consider a 1375 poem by Geoffrey Chaucer to be the origin of the “modern” celebration of Valentine’s Day.

Traditionally, people celebrate Valentine’s Day by sending cards, gifts, and love messages. Couples give cards or presents to each other, but you can also send something anonymously to someone you secretly love.

## Important Upcoming Dates

Dates	Event	Time/Location
March 18-23	SPRING RECESS	CAMPUS CLOSED
March 22	GOOD FRIDAY (OBSERVED)	CAMPUS CLOSED
April 3	PRIORITY REGISTRATION BEGINS SUMMER/FALL 2024	AC BUILDING, ONLINE
April 17	OPEN REGISTRATION BEGINS SUMMER/FALL 2024	AC BUILDING, ONLINE

“I love March as it gives me hope that new beginnings are always beautiful.”

**-Anamika Mishra**

