

November, 2025

## PC Foundation Launches Athletic Campaign with \$20,000 Gift!



The Porterville College Foundation (PCF) has announced the launch of its **new Athletic Campaign**, a major community-driven initiative dedicated to supporting Porterville College (PC) student-athletes and furthering the growth of Pirate athletics. The Foundation kicked off the effort this week with a significant **\$20,000 leadership gift**, setting the pace for community partners to join in.

The campaign's launch was marked by a press conference held in the Porterville College Quad, which included remarks from key leaders.

The Foundation's campaign is designed to complement the college's ongoing investment in new athletic facilities and expanded programs. According to Rick Elkins, President of the Porterville College Foundation, their role is to provide the "additional support that turns new spaces into vibrant hubs for student growth and success".

The immediate goal for the campaign is to address current facility and equipment needs identified by the athletics programs.

Funds raised will provide direct support for essential resources, including equipment, seating, training resources, and facility improvements that are vital for student-athletes.

*Specific examples of projects mentioned at the event include:*

- **New bleachers** to improve the fan experience and allow families to gather.
- **Sideline shelters** for soccer teams.
- **Training features** like a tennis hitting wall.

Speakers emphasized that the campaign is focused on people, not just projects. The Foundation—a volunteer board of community members, business leaders, and alumni—believes that when students succeed, the entire community thrives.

Milt Stowe, a Foundation Board Member, former PC Athlete, and Community Advocate, spoke about the **lasting impact** of his time on campus, noting that the experience taught him teamwork, commitment, and perseverance. He encouraged the community to join the effort, stating, "We see a need, and we meet it—together. That's the Porterville way".

Executive Director Ramona Chiapa, who gave the closing remarks, highlighted the Foundation's mission to support the college by developing programs, activities, and facilities, actively seeking private gifts, and stewarding every

dollar with care. The Foundation's approach is rooted in three simple ideas: **listen, collaborate, and act**.

The Foundation extended thanks to coaches, staff, donors, partners, and especially the student-athletes, who were called "the heartbeat of this campus" and inspirations of determination and pride.

"This campaign is more than a fundraiser," Elkins concluded. "It is a statement of belief: belief in growth, in community, and in the power of education and athletics to change lives".

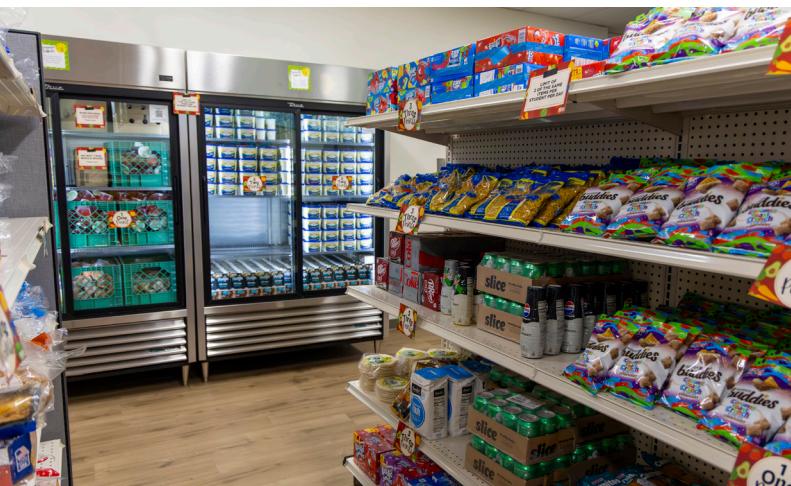
The Porterville College Foundation's new Athletic Campaign is an invitation for alumni, local businesses, and community members to partner in supporting these vital programs. Every gift, no matter the size, has the power to make a difference in ensuring student-athletes have what they need to compete safely, proudly, and successfully.

For more information, contact the Porterville College Foundation, at [pc\\_foundation@portervillecollege.edu](mailto:pc_foundation@portervillecollege.edu).

For a look at the press conference event, check out the video at <https://youtu.be/EUfRlhvdAqU>



# New Basic Needs Center Has “Soft Opening”



Porterville College (PC) is excited to announce the soft opening of our new, centralized **Basic Needs Center, now located in AC-105**. This move is a major step forward in PC's commitment to supporting student success by directly addressing critical barriers like food insecurity and housing instability.

For many college students, the pursuit of a degree is often complicated by a lack of fundamental resources. When students worry about their next meal or where they will sleep, their ability to concentrate in class, complete assignments, and ultimately achieve their academic goals is severely impacted. Addressing these needs is fundamental to fostering a successful learning environment.

## The Basic Needs Center is now home to the Pirate Pantry

We are thrilled to announce that our essential food assistance program, **the Pirate Pantry, has moved** and is now integrated as a core service within the new Basic Needs Center at AC-105.

The Pantry reopened on Monday, October 20, 2025, and will serve as the hub for students needing access to basic resources.

## WECOMM Cleans Up in the Park



On top of their regular “WECOMM Wednesdays” time in the quad, this month saw the WECOMM Communications club making a difference by cleaning up our local parks. They spent the day cleaning up in Veteran's Park as part of a community cleanup project.

**Way to go WECOMM!**

*To access the center and its resources, students should note the following updates:*

- **PC Student ID Card Required:** Please have your current PC Student ID card ready to access the Basic Needs Center.
- **New Pirate Pantry Registration:** A new registration process is being implemented. Each student will receive 8 points when registering for the Pirate Pantry. Our team will be available during the first week to walk you through the process, which requires completing two (2) registration forms.
- **Services in Progress:** While the Pirate Pantry is up and running, other essential services listed on our center flyers are still being implemented.

## Basic Needs Center and Pirate Food Pantry Hours

**Basic Needs Center Hours:** The center is open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, Tuesday from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm, and Friday from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

**Pirate Food Pantry Hours** (Located inside the Center): The Pantry is open Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Tuesday from 12:00 pm to 6:30 pm, and Thursday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. The Pantry is CLOSED on Friday.



## Sharing Groundbreaking Work



We're incredibly proud to share that PC Dean of Instruction **Dr. Osvaldo del Valle** recently took the success of our Summer JumpStart program to the state level! Dr. del Valle was honored to co-present with Dr. Grant Ermis of Lemoore College on our groundbreaking work over the past four years at the recent CCCAOE conference.

The session drew a packed, standing-room-only crowd, highlighting the widespread interest in JumpStart's successful four-week, project-based model for high school students.

## FFA Competition Held on Campus

Over 575 FFA students from across the Central Valley brought their spirit and skill to Porterville College for the Sequoia FFA Sectional Opening and Closing Contest on Friday, October 17, 2025. This marked the **first time the college has hosted this time-honored competition**.

The contest is a Leadership Development Event where teams of six students are scored on their ability to deliver the ceremonial opening and closing statements used at every level of FFA meetings—from local chapters to the national level. The speeches, which must be memorized, emphasize the organization's history, symbolism, and core principles.

Porterville College's Director of Career and Technical Education, Nick Griffith, welcomed the massive turnout, noting that the more than 600 members, advisors, and guests were “filling our campus with energy, excitement, and unmistakable FFA spirit.”

He highlighted that hosting the event was a milestone for the college's agricultural department and emphasized that FFA's focus on hands-on learning, leadership, and community aligns perfectly with PC's mission.

FFA Officer and Dinuba Chapter Reporter Ava Bledsoe and her team helped run the event, which saw students from high schools like Tulare Union, Porterville, Woodlake, Farmersville, and others compete in ten different rooms across the campus.

Judges praised the students' performance. Emily Flynn, a judge from Summit Collegiate High School, remarked that the contest is a “great opportunity for the students to learn leadership skills and practice public speaking for their future endeavors.”

The PC Agriculture Department and Career Education team expressed their sincere gratitude for the support that made the event a success, including serving lunch to all 600+ guests. We look forward to hosting many more FFA events in the future.



## PC Named 2025 Pathway Champion for Latinx Student Success!



We are thrilled to announce that Porterville College has been named a **2025 Pathway Champion of Equity** by The Campaign for College Opportunity! This prestigious recognition specifically honors our efforts in growing Latinx Transfer-Level English Success.

The Latinx Transfer-Level English Success award recognizes colleges with the highest percentage of Latinx students completing transfer-level English within one year of enrollment. This achievement highlights our campus's commitment, leadership, and intentional work to close equity gaps and foster student achievement by advancing landmark reforms like AB 705 and AB 1705.

This award is a testament to the dedication of our faculty and staff in breaking down barriers and creating stronger, more equitable pathways to success for all our students.

We are proud to be a Pathway Champion and look forward to continuing our work to ensure every student has the opportunity to attend and succeed in college!

# Hispanic Heritage Month Concludes with Festive Performance



A month of **Hispanic Heritage Celebrations** was successfully concluded with an exciting event that honored culture and community. The celebration recognized the rich histories, cultures, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities.

The highlight of the event was a wonderful performance by the **Baile Folklorico Dancers** from the Spanish Club at Summit High School. The dancers showcased the rich cultural traditions of different regions through their dancing.

Jacob Sandoval, the Student Life and Leadership program manager, offered remarks on the month's importance. He spoke about the significance of the celebration as a time for reflection and appreciation.

Jacob explained that **Hispanic Heritage Month** honors the leaders, innovators, artists, and people of our Hispanic communities. He added that these leaders have had a profound impact on the cultural, social, and economic shape of the United States.

The celebration also served as a reminder of how **heritage is a source of strength** and a value of inclusion. "The campus encourages everyone to recognize and reaffirm this value." Mr. Sandoval specifically thanked the Summit High School Spanish Club for showing "all the girls how to do" the dedicated dances and honor their culture.

In addition to the beautiful performances, everyone in attendance enjoyed some treats and snacks as the ASPC served delicious Esquite and refreshing Agua Frescas.

Porterville College remains dedicated to celebrating and honoring the diversity of its community.

## PC Celebrates Undocumented Student Action Week



Porterville College celebrated **Undocumented Student Action Week (USAW)**, which ran from Monday, October 13th, through Thursday, October 16th with several on campus events and workshops. As part of a larger, system-wide campaign across California Community Colleges, PC hosted several workshops and community-building events designed to uplift, support, and provide vital resources to its undocumented student population.

Undocumented Student Action Week is an annual call to action that honors the resilience and contributions of students impacted by immigration status. It serves to advocate for necessary policy changes and to build strong, supportive ecosystems on college campuses. The California Community Colleges system, which serves the largest population of undocumented students in the nation, emphasizes the need to affirm students' identities and empower their educational and career journeys. The 2025 campaign across the state, including at Porterville College, focused on themes of **purpose, belonging, and breaking down barriers** to success.

The week began on Monday, October 13th, with the event **"What is USAW?"** The campus community gathered in the Quad from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to meet with the Dreamer's Success Resource Center staff and learn about the purpose of the week.

Attendees picked up resource materials, connected with student support services, and received updates on upcoming events, all while enjoying provided snacks. This initial event set a welcoming and informative tone for the week.

On Tuesday, October 14th, the focus shifted to academic success and financial support with the **CA Dream Act Workshop**, held from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in LIB 449. Students received step-by-step assistance with their California Dream Act Application (CADA), which allows them to apply for state financial aid. Participants were advised to bring necessary documentation, such as their 2024 tax information, high school transcripts, and previous login details, ensuring they had a great opportunity to get support and submit their applications accurately and on time.

Mid-week featured a blend of cultural celebration and community-building. On Wednesday, October 15th, the **Día de Muertos Celebration: Decorate a Sugar Skull Workshop** was held from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the SCCR. The event invited participants to dive into the rich cultural traditions of Día de los Muertos. Attendees created their own beautifully adorned sugar skulls, with all supplies provided, fostering a shared sense of culture and belonging.

The week culminated on Thursday, October 16th, with a crucial safety and preparedness workshop: **"Prepared, Not Scared."** Held virtually via Zoom from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., this workshop was designed to help undocumented students and their families feel ready in case of an emergency.

The session covered essential planning elements, including creating a household plan, setting up emergency contacts, and understanding important documents like power of attorney. This highly supportive workshop emphasized the importance of having important conversations with loved ones so that everyone knows what to do in a time of crisis.

The success of Undocumented Student Action Week at Porterville College underscores our ongoing commitment to serving all students, regardless of immigration status.