

October 10, 2024

## Porterville College Receives \$2.9 Million Grant to Enhance Student Success



Porterville College (PC) is proud to announce that it has been awarded a U.S. Department of Education Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (DHSI) Title V grant in the amount of \$2.9 million (Award# PR/031S240205). This significant funding will support the development of the **Porterville Access, Success, and Opportunities (PASO) program**, which aims to improve academic outcomes for a diverse group of students.

The PASO program will focus on providing targeted interventions and support services for 25+ adult students, male students, and Hispanic students who

require additional assistance to succeed in their academic endeavors. Key components of the program will include:

- **Mentorship Programs:** Pairing students with mentors who can offer guidance, support, and encouragement.
- **Family Engagement Activities:** Fostering collaboration between students, families, and the college community.
- **Academic Tutoring:** Providing personalized tutoring and academic support services.
- **Cultural Heritage Activities:** Celebrating and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the student body.
- **Transfer Trips:** Offering opportunities for students to explore transfer options and visit potential four-year institutions.

“We are thrilled to receive this generous Title V grant, which will enable us to expand our efforts to support student success at Porterville College,” said Primavera Monarrez, Interim President of Porterville College. “The PASO program will provide essential resources and services to help our students achieve their academic goals and reach their full potential.”

The PASO program is expected to serve approximately 100 25+ adult students, male, and Hispanic students, who would benefit from additional support and interventions. Through the program, PC aims to increase student retention, persistence, and transfer rates, ultimately leading to improved educational outcomes for the college’s diverse student body.

## Neighborhood Market Helps Feed Students and the Community

Did you know that there is a FREE food distribution event held every month on the PC Campus?

The Neighborhood Market is a free community food distribution event held on the fourth Monday of every month (NO distribution in August, December, or January) in the Jamison Stadium parking lot. Each month various food items are made available to the community. There is no proof of income or identification

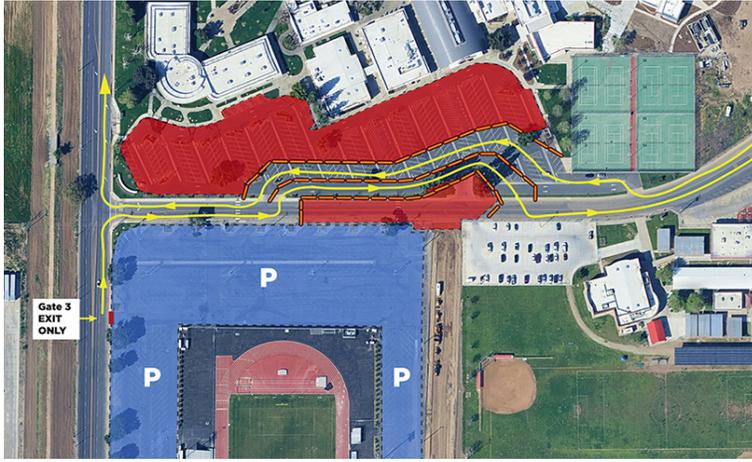
needed and the event is always open to everyone.

The Neighborhood Market is sponsored by the Financial Aid Department, the PC Pirate Pantry, and the Community Food Bank. Please share this with others who can benefit from this service.

The next date for the Neighborhood Market is Monday, October 28th from 10am to Noon.



# Road Construction Project Tentative Start Date is October 14th



Beginning in October, road construction will force the diversion of traffic on a portion of College Avenue through our administration and athletics parking lots for several weeks.

This will create traffic congestion and parking issues in the area, particularly on College Avenue, Plano St., and CA 190 (especially during PUSD student pickup and drop-off times).

**At the writing of this article, we anticipate this construction to begin on Monday, October 14th.**

We will close the Administration and Athletics parking lots on the Porterville College campus beginning on Monday, October 7th to accommodate this diversion, allowing us to create a pass-through lane to divert traffic.

We have also implemented changes in the student pickup and drop-off procedures for Vandalia Elementary, Pioneer Middle School, and Porterville College. These adjustments are designed to alleviate some of the anticipated congestion and delays.

We ask that all Students, Faculty, and Staff take advantage of the ample parking available in the Jamison Stadium parking lot and the rear parking lots on campus (entrance from Plano Ave.). Those lots will remain open with access available from Plano for the rear lots and main street (at the stadium gates) for the Stadium lots.

## Project Information:

- **Construction Timeline:** The road construction project is expected to last approximately three weeks and is expected to begin on October 14th.
- **Closure of Administration and Athletics Parking Lots:** To facilitate a pass-through lane and improve traffic flow, we will be closing the PC Administration and Athletics parking lots on College Avenue.
- **Recommended Routes:** We have provided a [detailed map](#) outlining the recommended routes during construction. Please familiarize yourself with these routes to minimize travel time and avoid delays.
- **Alternative Parking:** While the Administrative and Athletics lots are closed, we encourage all Porterville College Students, Faculty, and Staff to utilize the ample parking available in the Jamison Stadium parking lot and the rear parking lots on campus (entrance from Plano Avenue). These lots will remain open throughout the project, and access will be available from Plano Avenue for the rear lots and from Main Street (at the stadium gates) for the Stadium lots.
- **Adjusted Pickup and Drop-Off Procedures:** Working with the Porterville Unified School District, the City of Porterville, Porterville Fire Department, and Porterville Police, we have adjusted pickup and drop-off procedures for Vandalia Elementary, Pioneer Middle School, and Porterville College students. These changes will help alleviate congestion and ensure the safety of students and staff.
- **Community Information Sessions:** We will be holding several information/Update sessions throughout the duration of this project. Check your campus email for more information on those sessions.

This project is part of the [Porterville College Master Plan](#) and will ultimately improve the safety and accessibility of the area.

We will continue to provide updates and information as the project progresses. Please continue to check your email for more information.

We understand that these changes may cause some inconvenience, and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work to minimize the impact of this road construction project.

## CLUB RUSH! Returns for Fall Semester



Club Rush swept through the Quad in September, and all our favorite clubs were there to share what they love with others on campus.

The event is basically a large meet-and-greet for all the awesome things happening here 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 as their peers!

Joining a club is a surefire way to make lifelong friendships, 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 Manga fan or love foreign cultures – the anime and French Clubs await!

Want the full picture on PC campus life? Swing by the Student Life office near the cafeteria, or check out a look at just some of the clubs we have to offer in the videos at [THIS LINK](#).

**Here’s to a GREAT Year of Campus Life!**

## Students Share Passion and Talent at PC Art Show

Earlier this month, the PC Art Gallery hosted a short-term showing of student art inspired by the [CSU Summer Arts Program](#). This exhibition represented a continuation of the great work created by the featured artists during the program, held at CSU Fresno in July.



**Lili Alvarado's** works emphasize community engagement, focusing on collaborative efforts where individuals come together to work toward common environmental goals. Her pieces invite audiences to reflect on the importance of community in addressing ecological crises.



**Sam Bradley** utilizes traditional forms of painting, along with video and experimental sculpture, to examine issues within the Anthropocene era. His work poses important questions and encourages further reflection on humanity's impact on the planet.



**Juan Orozco** presents a diverse range of projects, each addressing environmental issues in unique ways. One of his standout pieces is a "tree piñata", a playful yet deeply symbolic work that encourages critical reflection on deforestation and palm oil harvesting. Alongside this, Orozco's sculptural works focus on the act of planting trees and flowers as a form of ecological restoration.

We were lucky enough to sit with the three amazing student artists featured in this exhibition. They each discussed their experience with the program and the inspirations for their incredible work.

Please take a few minutes to view the video at <https://youtu.be/gRTBuKcO5L0> to learn about their process, their inspiration, and their takeaways from the program.

## Celebrating HSIs Week



**Jacob Sandoval**  
Student Life & Leadership Program Manager

Each year, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) calls on Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) to join in observance of National HSIs Week. September 9-15 recognized the 600 HSIs throughout the nation for their work and critical role in educating and empowering Hispanic youth. **Porterville College is proud to serve our Hispanic community as an HSI.**

A Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) designation is a significant achievement for a community college. This federal designation

recognizes institutions that serve a high percentage of Hispanic or Latino students. The designation comes with several benefits that can significantly impact the college's mission and resources, including:

**Increased Federal Funding:** One of the most immediate benefits of HSI designation is increased federal funding. The U.S. Department of Education provides various grants and programs specifically designed to support HSIs.

**Student support services:** This includes tutoring, counseling, and other academic support programs.

**Faculty development:** HSI grants can be used to recruit and retain Hispanic faculty members.

**Curriculum development:** Funds can be allocated to develop culturally relevant curriculum and programs.

**Infrastructure improvements:** Grants can be used to improve campus facilities and technology.

**Improved Student Success:** HSI designation can also lead to improved student success. When a college is designated as an HSI, it often indicates a commitment to serving the needs of Hispanic students. This can create a more welcoming and inclusive environment for these students, which can lead to higher retention and graduation rates.

**Community Engagement:** HSI designation can also foster stronger ties with the surrounding community. By serving a large Hispanic student population, HSIs are often deeply connected to the Hispanic community. This can lead to increased collaboration and partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and government agencies.

Porterville College's designation as a Hispanic-Serving Institution not only provides the benefits listed above, but it offers the opportunity to improve the lives of countless students in Kern and Tulare Counties that otherwise might not be able to be served. We take great pride in our commitment to serving Porterville and its diverse student population.

## Board Meeting Held on Campus - Emeriti Honored

On September 12th, the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees held their monthly board meeting on the Porterville College Campus. The trustees and other local dignitaries started the day with a tour of campus, then a luncheon with faculty, staff, and community members. After the luncheon, the district board meeting was held inside the PC Theater.

During the meeting, the district recognized our PC Faculty Emeritus honorees. Emeriti/emeritus status is an honorary title awarded for distinguished service to the academic community. The title is bestowed upon tenured faculty members who are entering permanent retirement and who have served Porterville College with distinction.

This year, we honored retired Fine Arts Professor **Jim Entz**, retired Math Professor **Cindi Pummel**, and retired Science Professor **Joel Wiens** (pictured right to left) as Emeritus Faculty. **Congratulations!**



## PC Partners with NASA to Provide Opportunities to Students



Isaac Ceballos



Jerry Brown

Porterville College has been partnering with NASA to provide some interesting opportunities for PC Students. Among those programs is the **NASA Community College Aeronautics Scholars Program (NCAS)**.

Students participating in the NCAS program work to advance their capabilities in STEM, helping to prepare them for service in STEM fields. NCAS includes three missions designed to challenge and build student knowledge and skills by focusing on NASA's mission goals, collaboration, and career pathways.

By partnering with NASA in programs such as this, **Dr. Paden Burgess** hopes to provide a wider set of opportunities to students. "These programs can really open the eyes of students to the possibilities that exist beyond their local community," said Dr. Burgess. "It shows them that there are 'world-level' opportunities for people like them, even in a small town."

The first PC students to become a part of this program, **Isaac Ceballos and Jerry Brown**, told us how the program has opened up new opportunities for them.

Growing up in Porterville, Isaac was always fascinated by science and engineering. His father's love for building things sparked his own interest in STEM, and even helped

them to break down communication barriers they were facing. "We didn't really have [great] communication, but the communication we did have is through building things. Through engines, through cars, stuff like that," said Ceballos.

As Isaac continues his journey through the program, he is excited about the potential for future internships and employment opportunities at NASA. He hopes to become an aerospace engineer and contribute to the advancement of space exploration.

Jerry Brown found himself drawn to the world of aerospace and astronautics as a child, and is grateful that both his parents went out of their way to support those dreams. "This program has opened my eyes to the endless possibilities within STEM," Brown said. "I've had the chance to work on simulated projects, learn from industry experts, and gain valuable insights into the operations of NASA."

Jerry's participation in the program has also helped him develop important skills, such as problem-solving, teamwork, and communication.

The NCAS program has provided both of these extraordinary students with a unique opportunity to explore their passions. Through the program, they have gained valuable experience in STEM fields, inside knowledge about NASA's operations, and connections with like-minded individuals from around the country.

The NCAS program is a great example of how educational initiatives can empower students from all backgrounds to pursue their dreams in STEM. These student stories are a testament to the program's ability to inspire and prepare students for success.

For more info, take a look at the video here: <https://youtu.be/xftYWUEqqzs>