

October, 2025

A Stroke of Genius: Fine Arts Department Unveils Enhanced Learning Facilities



On September 24th, Porterville College celebrated a momentous occasion as the Fine Arts Department threw open its doors for a special Open House for the campus and our community.

The event was a true celebration of creativity and a glimpse into the exciting future of arts and media on the PC campus.

Attendees were invited to explore the newly enhanced facilities, a key feature of which is the brand-new multimedia production lab and studio. Designed with the modern artist in mind, this state-of-the-art space is set to provide students with hands-on experience using the latest technology in art and media production, preparing them for careers in a rapidly evolving creative landscape.

One highlight of the afternoon was the official unveiling of the first-ever student/community-created mural on the PC campus. This unique and vibrant piece of art stands as a powerful symbol of collaboration, blending the talents of our students with the spirit of the local community. It brings a new, permanent expression of creativity and shared vision to the college.

The Fine Arts Open House truly showcased the future of fine arts at Porterville College, and we were thrilled to share this momentous occasion with everyone who attended.

Check out the video at <https://youtu.be/cGKt8DJYjI> for a closer look at this great event!

Porterville College Hosts Successful Accreditation Peer Review Visit



Porterville College recently completed its comprehensive 7-year accreditation review, hosting a visiting peer review team from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) on September 17th and 18th. The visit marks a significant milestone for the college, and its positive outcome reflects the dedication of the entire campus community.

Accreditation is a fundamental process that ensures Porterville College meets rigorous standards for quality and effectiveness. It is a seal of approval that confirms the college provides a high-quality education and operates with integrity. For students, accreditation is crucial for several reasons: it ensures that their

degrees and credits will be recognized by other institutions, it qualifies them for federal financial aid, and it validates the value of their education.

The collaborative review visit began on Wednesday, the 17th, with the peer review team arriving on campus to meet with various faculty, staff, and college personnel. In the morning, the team held a community-wide meet and greet in the SCCR, providing an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, administrators, and community members to engage directly with the reviewers.

In the afternoon, the team hosted a forum in the PC Theater that was open to everyone except top-level administrators. This provided a safe space for attendees to voice their issues, concerns, or simply share their thoughts and experiences about the campus. The team also used this forum to explain the accreditation process and the methodology behind their visit.

The visit concluded on Thursday morning with a public forum in the theater, where the peer review team shared the preliminary results of their report. They announced that the findings were overwhelmingly positive, confirming that Porterville College was in a strong position for the final report.

The positive feedback from the peer review team is a testament to the hard work and commitment of everyone at Porterville College. The final report is expected to be released in the coming months. With the visit complete, the PC Team took part in some welcome celebration to wrap up the week!

Excitement fills Quad with the return of Club Rush



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

This 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. Do you live to tinker, SHPE is for you!

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 video at <https://youtu.be/6UdzYyQTIwg>.

Here's to another GREAT Year of Campus Life!

Pirates Make a Splash at Tulare County College Night



Porterville College made a huge showing at the annual Tulare County College Night, where thousands of high school students and their parents gathered to explore their higher education options. Our fantastic outreach team, including dedicated faculty and staff from many different departments, did a BIG job representing Pirate Life!

With a vibrant and energetic booth, our team shared their enthusiasm for PC, answering questions about our programs, transfer opportunities, and student life. College Night is an invaluable opportunity for students to gather information and prepare for their next steps, and we were thrilled to be a part of their journey.

The energy was contagious as our team connected with students, showing them that Porterville College is the place for them to start their academic careers. We’re proud of the work our team did to show everyone in attendance what makes being a Pirate so exciting. GO Pirates!

A Night of Connection and Innovation: Chamber Mixer held at PC

Porterville College recently hosted a Porterville Chamber of Commerce Mixer—the first Chamber event held on campus in many years! This successful evening marked a vibrant return to building strong community connections and showcasing PC's cutting-edge facilities.

Hosted jointly by PC and the Porterville College Foundation, the event took place our new SAGE/Allied Health Building.

Guests were treated to an amazing buffet curated by PC's new Food Services Manager, Chef Joe Amaya. His culinary creations were a highlight, setting a perfect tone for an evening of networking and discovery.

The main attraction of the evening was the tour of PC's new enhanced learning facilities - specifically designed to provide Nursing, EMT, and Psych Tech students with more realistic, hands-on training that they can immediately apply in their future careers.

Attendees toured various high-tech labs, all carefully designed to mirror real-life hospital departments. A highlight was the simulated Intake and triage rooms where guests saw how students practice initial patient assessment and decision-making in environments that replicate actual emergency and admission areas.

Another treat, a life-sized simulated ambulance. This truly unique feature allows students to perform medical procedures as a group in a confined, high-pressure setting. During these procedures, the entire class can observe the action thanks to state-of-the-art camera and viewing technology, enhancing collaborative learning and immediate feedback.

The mixer was a huge success, beautifully highlighting the College's commitment to both its students and the wider community.



“Popcorn with Presidents” Connects Campus Community



Porterville College's campus "popped" with activity as students, faculty, and staff gathered in the quad for a special event: **"Popcorn with Presidents."**

The event, hosted by PC Interim President Primavera Monarrez and ASPC President Isaac Juarez, took place on Tuesday, September 16, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM out in the Quad.

It was a great opportunity for the campus community to connect directly with college leadership in a casual and friendly setting.

President Monarrez and President Juarez personally handed out popcorn to everyone who stopped by, taking the time to say hello, offer greetings, and answer questions. The event helped create a welcoming environment and strengthened the connection between students and leadership.

PC Professor Selected as Only Central Valley AI Fellow



Porterville College is proud to announce that **Dr. Rachel Tatro-Duarte**, a Professor of English, has been selected as a Fellow for the State Chancellor's AI Consortium. She is the only faculty member chosen to represent the entire Central Valley in this groundbreaking initiative.

The California Community Colleges—the largest and most diverse higher education system in the country, serving 2.1

million students—has launched this new initiative to ensure equitable access to AI education and workforce development. The inaugural cohort of 13 AI Fellows will be instrumental in developing frameworks and guidelines for the responsible adoption of AI technologies across all 116 colleges.

Dr. Tatro-Duarte's primary focus as a fellow will be on AI Workforce Development for the Central Valley Mother Lode Consortium (CVML). Her selection underscores Porterville College's commitment to ensuring that students in the Central Valley have equitable opportunities and access to emerging AI

technologies. This initiative is about more than just technical training; it's about preparing students for the future of work and ensuring AI is used positively in the classroom to enhance learning.

Dr. Tatro-Duarte brings a wealth of experience to this role. She holds advanced degrees in English Literature and a doctoral degree from California State University, Bakersfield. Her dissertation, "Starting to Connect the Dots: Using Virtual Reality to Engage Students in Deep Learning and Literature Appreciation," introduced a VR Learning Model to foster experiential engagement. Her work with virtual reality and intelligent technologies has been inspired by her immersive studies as a Graduate Scholar Award recipient in Greece and as a National Endowment for the Humanities scholar in Italy.

The Chancellor's Office AI Fellows program is a cornerstone of Vision 2030, the California Community Colleges' strategic plan to position the system as a national leader in AI education. By embedding AI literacy and tools into the curriculum, the program aims to ensure that technological advancement serves as an equalizing force rather than a dividing one, directly addressing concerns about AI's potential to exacerbate educational and economic inequalities.

We are incredibly proud of Dr. Tatro-Duarte's accomplishment and her dedication to bringing these vital opportunities to our students and the wider Central Valley community.

Rachel was also featured on ABC30 for this accomplishment. Check out that full story at <https://abc30.com/post/valley-professor-part-ai-program-california-community-colleges/17887350/>.

Faculty Art Show Returns to PC Art Gallery!



This month the Porterville College Art Gallery held the opening of its highly anticipated Faculty Art Show, titled **Newness** - the first of its kind on campus since 2021!

This special exhibition features an impressive collection of diverse works from the entire Fine Arts faculty, including both full-time and adjunct professors. Don't miss this opportunity to see the incredible talent of our instructors.

The exhibition will be on display throughout the month of October at the PC Art Gallery. The gallery is open to the public Monday through Thursday from 12 pm to 4 pm.

Take a closer look at this wonderful exhibition at <https://youtu.be/93j84nAUkhl>.