

September, 2025

Welcoming Students with a Week of Optimism

The start of the new school year at Porterville College was filled with a sense of excitement and possibility. Despite the very warm weather, there were plenty of smiles as students, faculty, and staff gathered on campus for the first day of classes.

The quad was the hub of activity, featuring resource booths that connected students with essential services like health, counseling, and transfer information. Many new students, like Naim Bsalamanca, expressed their excitement for the academic opportunities ahead.

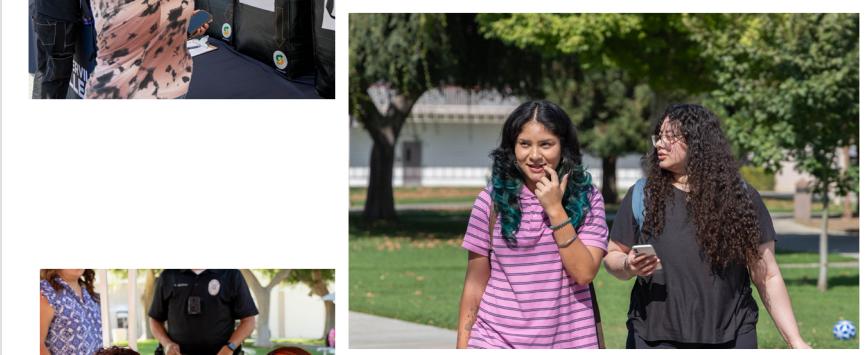
Various programs and departments were on hand to welcome students. Thannia Huerta, PC's new Women's Soccer Coach, generated buzz by kicking a ball around and encouraging students to get involved. The Rising Scholars Program, which supports justice system impacted students, was also present, offering a warm welcome to both new and returning students.

This week's events highlight our commitment to the student community. Roger Perez, Director of Communications and Community Relations, noted the welcome return of adult learners looking to improve their futures. This sentiment was echoed by Melecia Mamio, a retired community member who is now taking courses, proving that it's never too late to learn.

Each day at lunchtime, staff handed out free lunches, offering a welcome respite for hungry students. As one student, Jacob Mendoza, put it, "It's a nice day and I enjoy the community and the campus - and the free lunch."

Echoing the positive atmosphere, Fine and Applied Arts Division Chair Diran Lyons, described the day as "energetic and overflowing with optimism."

The consensus was clear: the new semester is off to a BIG start, filled with new opportunities and a supportive environment for all.



PC Welcome Day Starts Students on the Right Path



On Friday, August 22nd, Porterville College held the third **PC Welcome Day** event for incoming freshman. During this fun and inviting event, students had a chance to tour the campus, have conversations with their instructors and familiarize themselves with the Career and Academic Pathways at PC.

The day started with a pep rally and informational sessions inside the gym for the hundreds of students in attendance, and continued with activities in rooms across campus and meet and greet opportunities with faculty and staff throughout the day. On behalf of all of the staff and faculty in attendance we want to once again welcome our incoming students and wish them all a **WONDERFUL** semester!



PC Promise Welcomes a New Class of Students



Porterville College welcomed its newest class of **PC Promise Students** to campus this August. During the four-day orientation, students received tours of campus, listened to motivational speakers, and attended panels providing tips for success from our financial aid staff, faculty, and student ambassadors.

As part of the program, students receive free tuition and books as well as academic and employment help. The Porterville College Promise Program serves first-time college students through their first year with a comprehensive plan of financial and academic support.

The program's goal is to help remove barriers to success for students while they are completing an associate's degree, career technical certificate, or transfer requirements while preparing for employment in their field of study.

We can't wait to see what the future holds for these amazing students!



CHAP Program Returns September 9th!



Porterville College's **Cultural and Historical Awareness Program (CHAP)** is pleased to announce a special presentation by Dr. Jamie Kreiner, a leading historian of Late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages. The event, titled "Battles of the Brain: Early Christian Monks versus Distraction," will take place on **Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the PC Theater.**

Dr. Kreiner holds the Wellman Chair in Medieval History at UCLA and is the author of several books, including *How to Focus: A Monastic Guide for an Age of Distraction* and *The Wandering Mind: What Medieval Monks Tell Us About Distraction*. Her work explores how historical figures dealt with issues that are still relevant today.

The presentation will delve into the surprising history of distraction, a problem we often associate with modern technology. Dr. Kreiner will highlight the struggles of early Christian monks who, nearly two millennia ago, also grappled with the inability to concentrate. She will share their frustrations and the innovative strategies they devised to combat a wandering mind, offering a unique historical perspective on our own contemporary crisis of attention.

The CHAP program at Porterville College is committed to providing enriching and thought-provoking events for the campus community and the wider public. This lecture is free and open to all interested individuals.

For more information on the CHAP program at PC, you can visit the CHAP Web Site at <https://www.portervillecollege.edu/about-pc/chap/index.html> or contact CHAP Coordinator Leslie Keele at leslie.keele@portervillecollege.edu.

Student Life Hosts "Speed Friending" Event, Fostering New Connections



Porterville College's quad buzzed with energy and laughter during opening week as the campus hosted its inaugural **"Speed Friending"** event from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, August 27th and 28th. Students had the opportunity to step outside their comfort zones and make new connections in a fun, low-pressure environment.

"Speed Friending" was designed to help students connect with their peers and discover new aspects of student life. The event provided a unique and enjoyable way for students to meet others who share similar interests, forge new friendships, and learn more about the vibrant campus community.

The event's atmosphere was casual and inviting, complete with free snacks and a variety of engaging games. Students were encouraged to move from group to group, striking up conversations and participating in lighthearted activities. This format proved highly effective, allowing for quick, authentic interactions without the pressure often associated with meeting new people.

Many students expressed their enthusiasm for the event, noting how much they appreciated the opportunity to meet new people outside of a classroom setting. The positive feedback suggests that "Speed Friending" was a great success, and the PC student life department hopes to make it a regular event. By creating more opportunities for students to connect and build community, Porterville College continues to demonstrate its commitment to a rich and inclusive student experience.

PC Students Win National Video Competition



Porterville College is celebrating a major win after our Advanced Digital Video Production students took home first place in the college category of the **NASA HUNCH/CTE Month 2024-25 Student Video Challenge**. This was a national competition that pitted our students against others from colleges across the country.

The winning video was created by students **Jaquelin Ayala, Daniel Ramirez, Marcos Ramos Sierra, and Roberto Tapia**. Their video explored how Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs support current and future NASA missions, specifically focusing on the Artemis initiative to return humans to the Moon and travel beyond. The students did a fantastic job of



showcasing how careers in CTE contribute to space exploration and STEM fields, both on Earth and in space.

For their incredible work, the students have been awarded a \$25 Amazon gift card each, and Porterville College will receive a \$200 award on their behalf. This achievement is a testament to the students' vision, dedication, and professionalism.

This exciting win highlights the exceptional talent within our Fine Art program and the incredible opportunities available to our students. Congratulations again to Jaquelin, Daniel, Marcos, and Roberto on this outstanding accomplishment!

Flex Day Prepares Faculty and Staff for the Start of the Fall Semester

In preparation for the Fall Semester, PC Faculty and Staff participated in professional development and trainings at our bi-annual **FLEX day** event. The entire campus gathered to celebrate our mission and the people we serve, the Porterville College Students!

This year we expanded the event to include even more training and professional development opportunities for our faculty, staff, and administrators. We're going to have a **BIG** year!

