Suicide awareness event coming to PC

Porterville College will host Send Silence Packing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 30 on the PC Campus. Send Silence Packing, a program of Active Minds, is a nationally recognized suicide awareness program of 1,100 donated backpacks representing the 1,100 college students who die by suicide each year. PC is one of twelve California colleges and universities hosting an event this fall.

The goal of Send Silence Packing is to raise awareness about the incidence and impact of college student suicide and help people understand how they can be part of the solution. Active Minds, Inc. has collected and continues to collect backpacks and personal stories in memory or in honor of loved ones impacted by suicide to give a “face” to the lives lost; the personal stories written by families and friends accompany the backpacks.

Send Silence Packing carries the message that preventing suicide is not just about lowering statistics, but about saving lives.

See PACKING on page 6
PC Health Careers sees growth via C6 grant funds & principles

While the news is filled of college cutbacks and the statewide budget crisis Porterville College is enjoying some newfound growth because of a grant from the Central California Community Colleges Committed to Change Consortium (C6) and a partnership with the Department of Labor. The 19.9 million dollar grant went to 11 colleges including all three of the schools in Kern Community College District: Bakersfield College, Cerro Coso College and Porterville College (PC).

PC has seen real results because of the 1.5 million dollar grant to the college and faculty/staff are excited to see what the next year will bring. This semester, two sections for the EMT Basic Certificate were offered, an additional Psychiatric Technician program cohort was added in May and another cohort started in August. Approximately 220 students have taken or are currently part of C6 classes/cohorts. The number of EMT classes jumped from one to six, tripling enrollment and making the Health Careers buildings one of the busiest places on campus.

“These classes exist because of the grant,” Dean of Instruction, Nursing and Allied Health, Kim Behrens said.

But the grant hasn’t just meant an increase in enrollment; it’s led to a new way of developing curriculum and encouraging student success. And that has led to an increase in test scores and retention.

“Whenver you receive a grant you have to do things different,” Behrens said. “And our focus is on student success. We want them to be better prepared for the jobs that are out there and this grant helps us do that.”

Each C6 college agrees to fully implement the research-based Eight Guiding Principles: integrated programming, cohort enrollment, block scheduling, compressed instruction,

PHOTO BY MO MONTGOMERY

EMT student Christian Avalos practices lifesaving maneuvers on a state of the art dummy as part of his training. Students in the EMT classes are given real life scenarios and are then required to explain the proper process to instructors.

YOUR FUTURE STARTS WITH US
OFFERING:

- EMT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
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100 E. COLLEGE AVENUE
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(559) 791-2321
WWW.PORTERVILLECOLLEGE.EDU
Porterville College now taking Alumni Hall of Fame Nominations

The Fourth Annual Porterville College Foundation Hall of Fame Banquet will take place Saturday, March 8, 2014 at the River Island Country Club. The PC Foundation is now taking nominations for Athletics and Distinguished Alumni.

The Alumni Hall of Fame award recognizes former Porterville College students who have made outstanding contributions to both their professions and their communities; these alumni embody the highest standards of excellence. Induction into the Alumni Hall of Fame is the highest honor given to alumni by the Porterville College Foundation.

Selection Criteria should include the following: A) The nominee has achieved a high level of success in his or her professional career. B) The nominee has demonstrated outstanding involvement and leadership at both PC and within their community. C) In order to be eligible for this award, five years must have passed since the nominee attended Porterville College. D) The nominee must have successfully completed 24 units at PC. The majority of the units completed should be in general education, major or certificate courses. F) The nominee may not nominate themselves. G) All nominations must be submitted using the proper Athletic or Alumni form.

Mail all nominations to PC Foundation, Attn: Alumni Hall of Fame, 100 E. College Ave, Porterville, CA 93257. For more information call Carol Bodine, Foundation Secretary at (559) 791-2319 or email cbodine@portervillecollege.edu.

Porterville College to hold Health Fair on October 9

The public is invited to attend Porterville College’s annual Health Career Fair Oct. 9 in the Porterville College quad area. The event will feature access to various community health information. Flu shots will be available, along with Hepatitis B shots. The Blood Mobile will be on campus for those looking to donate.

The driving force behind the event is PC Nurse, Marlis Brownfield and the Porterville College Wellness Center. Information about ongoing programs and upcoming health career classes will be available as well.

For more information call 791-2212.

Porterville College’s Pirate Madness 6 comes to campus Oct. 24

Don’t miss Pirate Madness 6 starting at 6 p.m. Oct. 24 at Porterville College. This free event showcases the Pirate volleyball and basketball teams and includes contests, food, prizes, dance performances and more. The event is open to the public. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. when free food will be served.

Don’t miss the 3-point contest, the dunk contest or the half-court shot contest. Pre-event festivities will include a student club tailgate contest and a chili cook-off sponsored by the Associated Students of the Porterville College and the Inter-Club Council.

Dress like a Pirate and show your community spirit!

For more information contact PC Athletic Director Eric Mendoza at 791-2460.

September
30 - Send Silence Packing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

October
2 - 8th Annual High School Senior Day. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
9 - Health Career Fair
16 - C.H.A.P. 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Our Islamic Heritage: Art, Context, and Culture – Part 1 – Jay Hargis
18 - C.H.A.P. 7-8 p.m.: Our Islamic Heritage: Art, Context, and Culture – Part 2 – Jim Entz
24 - Pirate Madness 6, PC Gym, 6 p.m.

November
4-8 - Homecoming Week
8 - Homecoming Night
8 - C.H.A.P. 7-8 p.m. Veterans Panel – Veterans from the community
13 - Priority registration begins for spring 2013 for continuing students
27 - Open Registration begins for spring 2013 for returning and new students
28-29 - Thanksgiving Holidays - Campus closed

To submit your event for the Campus Calendar email maureen.montgomery@portervillecollege.edu.
Terri Didway
Position: Instructor for the Nursing Program, Fulltime
Background: I have been a nurse for 22 years working at Kaweah Delta HealthCare District with the last few years as a Clinical Educator. I have experience in acute care, critical care, PACU, home health, charge nurse, house supervisor and educator; and I worked for a few years for College of Sequoias as an adjunct instructor in the clinical setting for nursing students.
Fun Facts: I am married with 2 children and 6 grandchildren. I ride motorcycles, read, love the beach, camping and enjoying spending time with my family (children and grandchildren). Every year we do a one week vacation filled with fun with the extended family in the area (24 of us to be exact!).
What you bring to PC: I bring with me experience and knowledge to share with students and guide them towards their goal to become a nurse, humor and an desire to make a difference in the students education.

Jana Lee Wong
Position: Adjunct Professor of English
Background: I have been teaching writing for over 19 years, both at the secondary and community college levels. Teaching and writing are my passions. I love interacting with my students and fellow writers in the Bakersfield and Porterville communities and have won several writing awards including The Writer’s Digest award, the CSUB Betty Creative Writing Award, the CAG Association’s scholarship and the GSFCI Award for my scholarly writing. My education at Monache High School, Fresno State, Cal State Bakersfield, and the University of La Verne has enabled me to clarify writing tasks for students who can read my works via Carus Publishing and The California Quarterly of Poetry.
Fun Facts: I love cycling on the Kern River Pathway, animals of the furry kind, and writing science fiction and fantasy, but the most interesting facts about me are related to my world travel. I once rode a mechanical bull in Spain, was chased out of a mosque in Morocco, and traveled down a crocodile-laden river in Costa Rica.
What you bring to PC: I bring to PC an excitement to work with students, a passion for sharing my love of history, and my experience as both an educator and as a student! I’m very excited to join the PC family!

Rebecca Baird
Position: History Instructor, Fulltime
Background: I am originally from Ventura County, CA. I attended a local community college before transferring to UCLA where I received my BA in history. I hold an MA in history from the University of Connecticut, and am currently finishing my PhD in history at Arizona State University. My research involves aspects of counterculture history, healthcare issues, and gender history.
Fun Facts: I have traveled to 42 of the 50 states, I am a distant cousin of President Ulysses S. Grant, and I spent 8 years working in the field of veterinary medicine. I have a guinea pig named Sir Pigglesworth, along with a rabbit named Bunny and a German Shepherd, Bella.
What you bring to PC: I bring to PC an excitement to work with students, a passion for sharing my love of history, and my experience as both an educator and as a student! I’m very excited to join the PC family!
Husband & wife, PC Faculty complete doctoral program together

When now PC faculty member Sherrie Burgess graduated from PC in 1995, she wrote some goals down on a notecard that would be read as she crossed the commencement stage. One of those goals was to earn her doctorate. Little did she know that she and fellow PC student Paden Burgess would achieve that dream together.

The husband and wife team recently completed the Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership (Ed.D.) at Fresno State. It was a three year 60-unit program which included two summer sessions. Each week of the semester the Burgesses attended two courses for three hours each. The courses were face-to-face so they drove to Fresno once or twice a week at 75 miles each way. Last summer the two had classes six days a week.

They also performed research and studies at school sites, prepared and researched for their dissertations, all the while balancing normal duties like teaching at PC. But rather than put a strain on their marriage, going through the demanding program together has strengthened their relationship.

“By going through the program together, we strengthened our marriage because we leaned on one another and leveraged our strengths in completing assignments,” said Paden. “We were able to complement one another and cheer each other on,” added Sherrie.

Upon completing the program in May the couple was able to concentrate on the things they care about.

“Right now, we are trying to spend time with our family and friends,” said Sherrie. “Making up for all the missed family BBQs, birthday parties, camping trips, etc.”

In addition to family time, the couple will take on more local responsibilities as well.

“We are both teaching courses at Porterville College,” said Paden. “Sherie is currently assisting in the evaluation of a STEM grant provided to Reedley College. She is also the Treasurer of the CCA and co-advisor for the PTK.”

Paden is currently providing small business consulting through his own consulting business and with the Fresno State - Small Business Development Center (FS-SBDC). He will also be assisting the PTK students with research in meeting their hallmarks during the coming year.

“We are exploring options for utilizing the knowledge and skills that we learned in the program,” said Paden.

The Burgesses shared some advice for those looking to enter the program. “Prepare yourself for a commitment,” said Paden. “Plan time to complete work, school and spend with family. Have your dissertation research topic selected before you start the program.”

The couple also noted that having a good support system will help anyone entering the program.

“Try to choose a program that uses a cohort, which can be the most effective way to get a support group who truly understand what you’re going through and the time it takes to complete such a degree,” said Sherrie. “Paden and I were lucky enough to have family and friends who cheered us on the whole three years.”

If you see the couple around campus be sure to offer your congratulations. “It’s a dream that has now become realized,” said Sherrie. “If we can do it, others can too!”
PACKING:  
Continued from page 1

This display is being sponsored by the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) and the Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC) California Community Colleges Student Mental Health Program (CCC SMHP).

For more information on how you can get involved with the PC Send Silence Packing event call (559) 791-2326.

GRANT:  
Continued from page 2

embedded remediation, increase transparency, accountability and labor market relevance, deploy transformative technology and improve student support services.

Instead of trying to piece together a schedule from a list of requirements PC students now have a prescribed schedule, which they follow in cohorts. Students also take part in a compressed semester, (16 instead of 18 weeks for EMT, and 18 to 13 months for PT) allowing students the chance to reach their educational goals sooner.

The embedded remediation has led to an increase in math and English skills at PC. With the help of a basic skills coordinator beginning students took assessment tests. Using those results students were given guidance on how to improve their individual scores. Within one semester every student showed an increase in their basic skill tests.

“Every student tested in basic skills, so every student benefitted,” Behrens said.

In addition, the grant allowed the college to purchase state of the art equipment. High fidelity simulation mannequins that talk, breath, sweat, bleed and provide blood pressure readings, as well as power ambulance and traditional gurneys (cots).

“Many beginning students initially come in with lots of questions about the grant,” Behrens said. “But soon they are telling me they are doing well.”

The grant will last through Sept. 30, 2014. For more information visit the C6 website at www.c6.whccd.edu. For more information on Porterville College visit www.portervillecollege.edu or call (559) 791-2200.

PORTERVILLE COLLEGE Foundation
100 E. College Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257
Phone (559) 791-2319
Fax (559) 791-2488
www.portervillecollege.edu/foundation

The Porterville College Foundation will support Porterville College in developing activities, programs and facilities to the best interest of students; will actively solicit gifts, bequests and other income; and will demonstrate prudent fiduciary responsibility in the administration of those funds. To join the PC Foundation call 791-2319.

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To submit information to the next Update contact Mo Montgomery at (559) 791-2209 or email maureen.montgomery@portervillecollege.edu.

Porterville College is part of the Kern Community College District.