

For the first time, Oregon's  
younger generation is less  
educated than its older one.

PCC's Future Connect  
program is changing that.



**FUTURE  
CONNECT**

PCC  Foundation  
*Where Opportunity Happens*



# The PCC Future Connect program is giving young people the opportunity to succeed in college and career.

## WE HAVE A PROBLEM

**ONLY ONE-THIRD** of Multnomah County high school students will go on to college. **Only half of them will finish.**



Only half of Washington County high school students will go to college.



**Only 40% of Washington County high school graduates with low incomes will.**

At the same time, Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce predicts that by 2020, **70% of jobs in Oregon will require postsecondary education.**



A community's educational attainment and its economic prosperity are directly linked. According to CEOs for Cities, if the Portland-metro area could increase its college degree attainment rate just one percent, the region would produce an additional \$1.6 billion in per capita income.

To ensure our region continues to thrive, we must create and expand a clear pathway for economically disadvantaged students to earn a college degree.

## PCC HAS A SOLUTION THAT WORKS

**PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**, with five decades of proven success helping students earn associate's degrees, transfer to universities and become workforce ready, has a solution: Future Connect.

Future Connect targets low-income, first-generation college students who aspire to attend college, but face barriers to success.

**Scholarships +  
Student Support  
= Success**

Future Connect opens the door to college—each student receives a scholarship based on financial need. Without this money, these students would not have a shot at college.

But it also provides a guided path through college, whether that's completion of a certificate or degree at PCC or transfer to a four-year college. Without this support, these students would not have a shot at success.

College success coaches help students overcome obstacles and stay in school. They mentor students throughout their college careers with personal, in-depth advising. They are there to help them manage college classes, juggle childcare, find transportation, and overcome self-doubt. It's the one-on-one support students receive at PCC that makes this program stand out.

Future Connect helps students go to college



and complete college.

## FUTURE CONNECT CHANGES LIVES

**FUTURE CONNECT LAUNCHED** in Fall 2011 with a group of 150 Multnomah County students. Since then, the program has enrolled over 600 students. In Fall 2013, the program expanded to include recent high school graduates from Beaverton and Hillsboro. Students enroll as a cohort each fall and stay with the program from two to four years, depending on their goals and needs.

Future Connect students are making significant progress toward their educational and career goals. Future Connect students have interned with the legislature, local government and business; studied abroad; become student government leaders; and earned scholarships to universities. Future Connect graduates are continuing their studies at Portland State, Pacific University, Lewis

*“Future Connect helped me in so many ways. I had an amazing coach who inspired me and motivated me, who helped me push myself past my limits, helped me get through one of my toughest times and have a better understanding of where and who I want to be.”*

**—RAQUEL BARAJAS,**  
Future Connect alumna and current Pacific University scholarship student

*“Since my freshman year in high school, I have wanted to study computer science. Before, I could never picture myself in that type of career because it seemed too far from reality. With the help of the Future Connect team I now see a clear road to the career I dreamed of when I first started high school.”*

**—ALEJANDRO SERNA,**  
Future Connect Student

and Clark College, Oregon State University and Brigham Young University, among others. They are on track for careers in psychology, education, medicine, business, engineering, computer science, and more!

*“Neither of my parents went to school beyond elementary school. Future Connect helped me get started because I didn’t know anything about going to college. Before I attended PCC, I never knew how intelligent I was. I always told myself that I was not good enough for school. Now at PCC, I am on my way to success.” --Fernando Serralta Poox*

*“The Future Connect program is the only reason I am in college. I had tried contacting other schools, desperate to get enrolled. I was saved by a spunky and driven beacon of light, my awesome [Future Connect] success coach.”*  
—Denae Miller



FOCUSES ON  
STUDENTS  
WHO NEED  
IT THE MOST

90%

ARE LOW-INCOME

56%

have a household  
income less than \$20K

83% will be the first  
in their families to  
complete college

70% are students  
of color

AND ACHIEVES  
SUCCESS

70%

OF FUTURE  
CONNECT  
STUDENTS  
CONTINUE ON TO  
THEIR SECOND  
YEAR OF COLLEGE.

Students who  
continue to have an  
average GPA of 2.8



THIS IS MORE THAN

3x

THE 20% SUCCESS  
RATE of college  
students from similar  
backgrounds who don’t  
receive these services.



## BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

The problem of low college attainment in our community cannot be solved by one institution alone. Future Connect is an innovative public-private partnership that brings together local government, area businesses, private foundations, school districts, individuals, community organizations and the college.

PCC and donors to the PCC Foundation provide half the cost of the program, which is then matched by the Cities of Beaverton, Hillsboro and Portland.

## FROM SOME OF OUR FUNDERS

*"Meyer Memorial Trust is a significant funder of PCC's Future Connect program because it helps youth from diverse racial, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds succeed in higher education, making our community better for all, a high priority for our foundation."*

– Meyer Memorial Trust, Doug Stamm

*We are steadfast supporters of the college and have seen firsthand the power and impact of Future Connect to change students' lives. There is no greater calling, or reward, than to see these young people flourish.*

– Max & Carol Lyons,  
Hillsboro Aviation

*PGE Foundation's commitment to Future Connect comes from our desire to give first-generation, low-income college students the support and skills they need to succeed at family-wage skilled trades jobs available at companies like Portland General Electric.*

– Carole Morse, PGE Foundation

**Transform the lives of our region's disadvantaged youth and create the educated, thriving region we want to be—through the power of education at PCC.**

When you make a gift to the PCC Foundation for Future Connect students, the Cities of Beaverton, Hillsboro and Portland will double your gift as part of a generous matching challenge, up to \$580,000 each year.

Your contribution is essential to helping the next generation of students achieve success. For an investment of just \$2,000, you get a student through a year of college in this innovative, results-oriented program. For \$4,000 you play an integral part in their achieving an associate's degree. That's real ROI.



**Change lives through Future Connect. Learn more about the PCC Future Connect program and make a donation.**

Call 📞 971.722.4382 or visit: 🌐 [www.pcc.edu/foundation](http://www.pcc.edu/foundation)

# Student Stories



## MARIUS' STORY

**MARIUS IBUYE** is a refugee of war-torn Congo who left Africa and emigrated to the U.S. to pursue a better life for himself and his family. He believes the Future Connect program guided him to where he is today: an Oregon State University student.

With assistance from dedicated success coaches who mapped out a plan and stood by ready to help when he found himself overwhelmed with the entire college application process, Ibuye, a 2011 David Douglas High School graduate, is reaching his educational goals.

"I really enjoyed all of my classes at PCC and the instructors were inspiring, encouraging and supportive. It wasn't only about getting good grades but also finding new ways to learn the class material," said Ibuye, who hopes to study in the College of Pharmacy at OHSU once he earns a bachelor's degree.

One major lesson he learned from Future

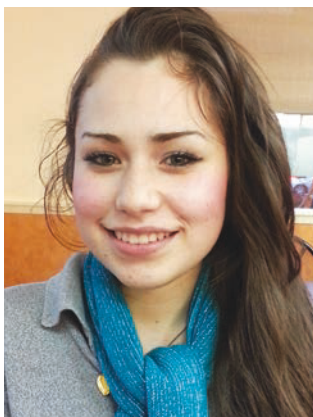
Connect was the importance of regularly meeting with instructors and other college support staff who took time to answer questions and give advice about transferring to OSU.

Once he completes his academic work, Ibuye hopes to become a pharmacist in Portland near his family.

"And now Future Connect coaches are also part of my family," he said.

**"Not having the support of Future Connect at PCC and going straight to a four-year university would have been crazy. I feel I'm well prepared and now I can fly at OSU."**

**MARIUS IBUYE, Future Connect alum and current OSU student**



## DAISY'S STORY

**AS SHE THOUGHT** about life after high school graduation, Daisy Toledo considered a full-time job in food service as her best opportunity. Then she heard a counselor talk about Future Connect and she suddenly saw another path open before her.

"I never expected to have enough money to go to college," said the Century High School graduate. "The more I learned the more I realized that this is the perfect program for me."

At first she worried about juggling school, studying and a job but Future Connect coaches helped her create a time management plan. While her schedule is busy she's thriving.

She's also become a more assertive, confident individual who knows how to meet her educational goals. With a 4.0 grade point average during her first term in college she's already researching four-year universities and careers

in the medical field.

Now Daisy is sharing her talents with others. As a member of the Oregon Leadership Institute at PCC's Rock Creek Campus she's working with students on volunteerism and fundraising. She sees it as a good opportunity to network and learn new skills such as public speaking.

"I talk to my friends about Future Connect. I tell them that they can reach their goals because there is a lot of support," said Toledo.

**"The classes have been challenging but I'm persistent and my success coach motivates me every day. I believe I have what it takes to be successful in college and to be successful in life."**

**DAISY TOLEDO, Future Connect student**

“When I was in high school, I did not really have anyone who believed in me. Everyone in my family told me I could not make it, I would not graduate but I did. Because of Future Connect, I am able to pursue my dream.”

—**MEYYIEN SAEPHARN**, *Future Connect Student*

Hoffman Construction knows the value of supporting access to education. That’s why we support PCC’s Future Connect program. Ensuring these students succeed is vital to the growth and prosperity of our region’s economy and the local communities where they live and work.

—**WAYNE DRINKWARD**, *Hoffman Construction Company*

“We believe in students until they are ready to believe in themselves.”

—**JOSE ESPARZA**, *Future Connect Success Coach*



To learn more about the PCC Future Connect program

**PCC**  **Foundation**

call ➡ 971.722.4382 or visit: ➡ [www.pcc.edu/foundation](http://www.pcc.edu/foundation)

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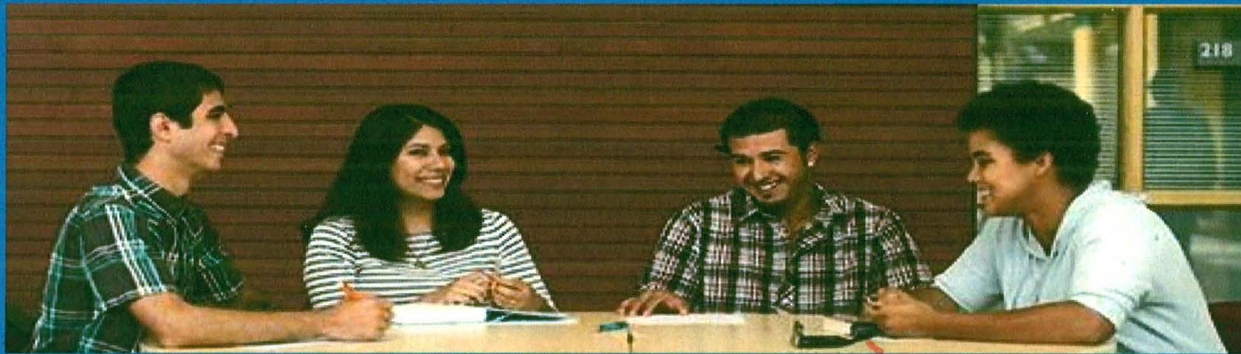
P.O. Box 19000, Portland, OR 97280-0990



**Portland  
Community  
College**







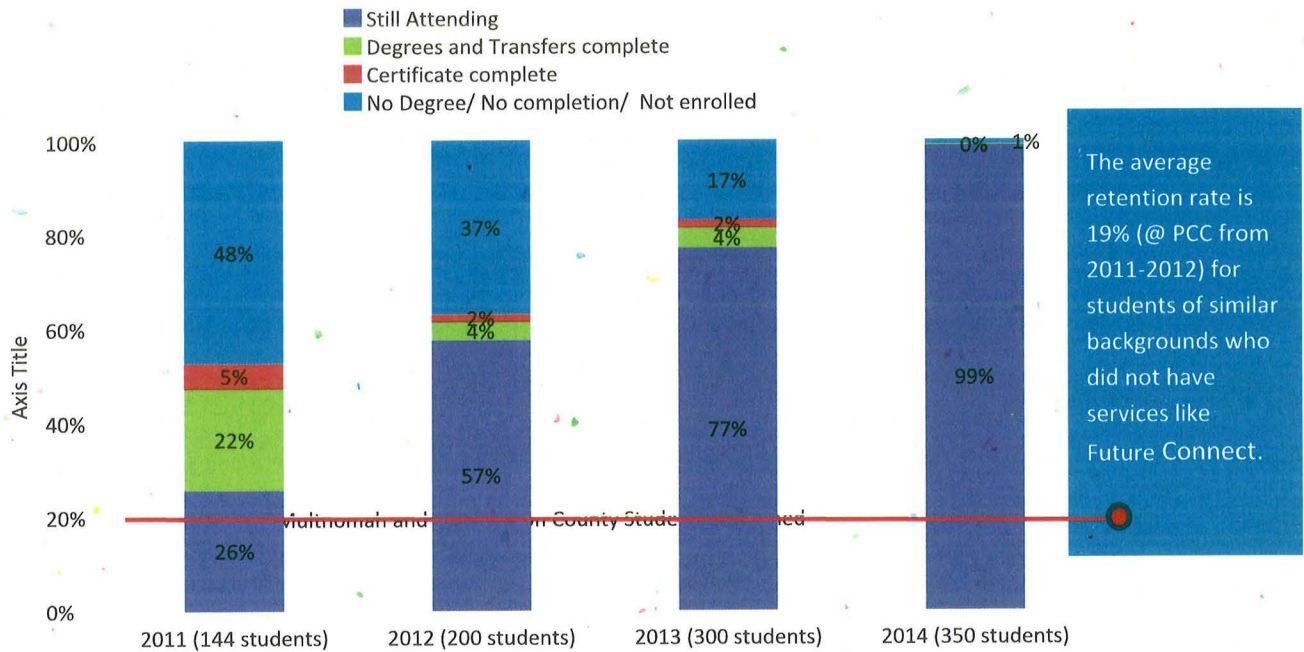
Four years ago Portland Community College (PCC) and the City of Portland began a unique partnership to create a pathway of support from high school to college for first generation/low income students. Future Connect is a scholarship and support program that engages students who previously did not think college was possible. Since 2011, we have assisted over 900 students transition to college and pursue their dreams. Future Connect is now serving students from both Multnomah and Washington counties. Our staff provide advising and support to students during their senior year in 38 different high schools and community based programs throughout the region. The engagement continues over the summer, through two to three years at PCC, and beyond. The average retention rate for Future Connect students is three times (over 70% average for the last three years) what it is for similar students at PCC who do not receive program supports. The investments made by the cities of Beaverton, Hillsboro and Portland have been matched through College resources, private donations and foundation grants. Last spring PCC received funding from the State of Oregon to increase the number of students Future Connect can serve. Our unique model is creating opportunity for hundreds of young people each year and positively changing the communities we live in.



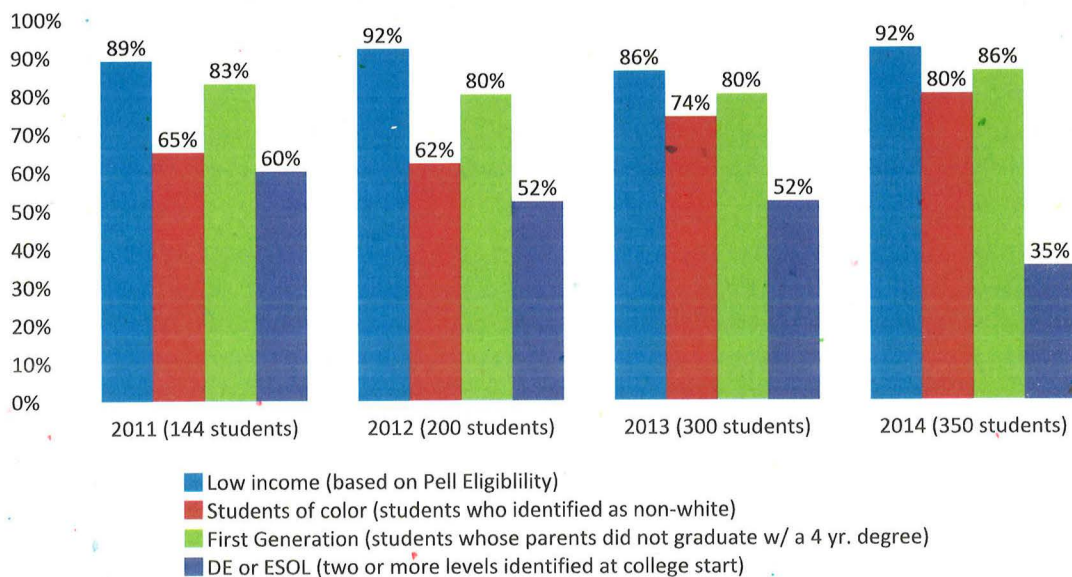
**2014 Leadership Group –**  
The first Future Connect Mentors are seen here after completing a local charity event.

These leaders helped raise more than \$1500.00 for local non-profits. This pilot program last year is now helping to create mentors in middle and high schools with PPS through a national Gear Up Grant.





## Maintaining a focus on the students

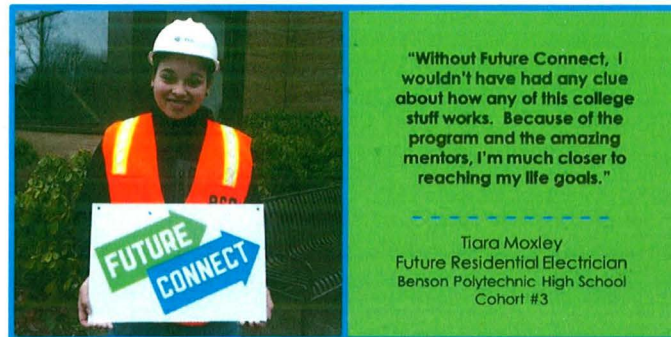


## Building Partnerships for Change



### Building College Awareness in High Schools

Future Connect staff performs outreach to 38 high schools and alternative schools in Multnomah and Washington Counties, connecting with over 600 high school students per year.



### Internship and Work Experiences

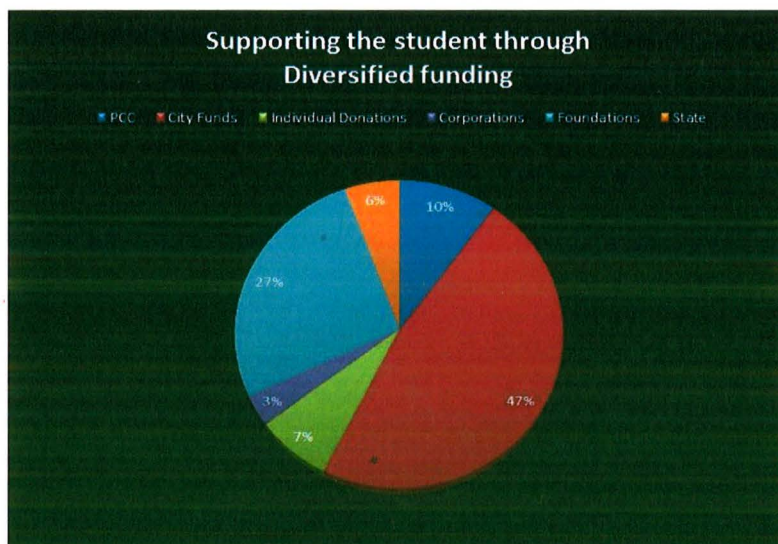
Future Connect students have access to a broad range of internships through a partnership with Work systems Inc. Last summer more than 50 students earned internships.

### Housing Supports

Through a partnership with Portland Commissioner Dan Saltzman's office, New Avenues for Youth, Home Forward, Recovery Association Program (RAP), and Future Connect, we have helped create stable housing and support for some students who were formerly connected to the foster care system.

### University Transfer Opportunities

Forty scholarships at universities are now available to Future Connect students when they are ready to transfer. Portland State University, Lewis and Clark, and The Renaissance Foundation have made these possible.



### Funding

The PCC Foundation has raised a total of \$1.3 million in private funds for the Future Connect Program. Private donors include Meyer Memorial Trust, The Reser Family Foundation, The Renaissance Foundation, The Edwards Lienhart Family Foundation, PGE Foundation, U.S. Bank, among others.

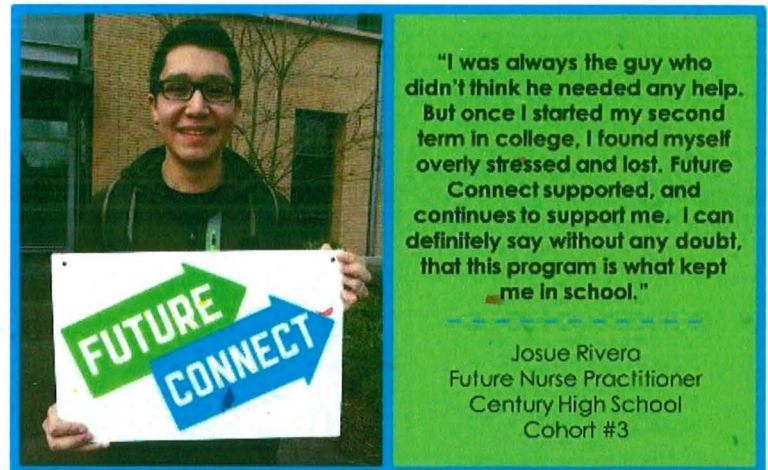


### Expansion to Washington County and Beyond

In the fall of 2013, Future Connect expanded to serve students from the cities of Hillsboro and Beaverton. With additional State resources this year we are also supporting some students from North Plains, Columbia County, Cornelius, Forest Grove, and Aloha.

### Ford Family Foundation

Through a recent unique partnership with the Ford Family Foundation, Future Connect and other PCC staff are reaching out to rural communities in PCC's district to explore how the Future Connect program might be implemented. The focus of this work will be in Columbia County and Western Washington County.

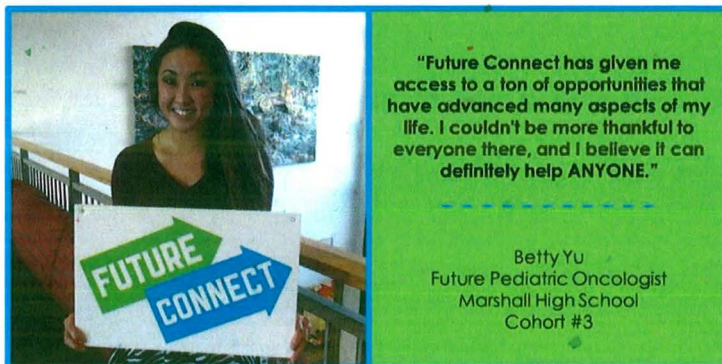


### Carpe Mundi – Study Abroad

Future Connect now has a strong partnership with Carpe Mundi study abroad program. Since its inception, Future Connect has helped 26 students access this free international study abroad program where students see the world and earn college credit.

### Interns and AmeriCorps

Future Connect continues to work with the PSU School of Social Work supervising one MSW intern each year. This year we also have an AmeriCorps Vista building capacity for work-study and leadership opportunities for students.



### GEAR-UP

PCC Future Connect, Portland Public Schools (PPS), Mt. Hood CC and Portland State University applied and received a national GEAR UP grant. Starting in fall 2015 Future Connect work-study students will mentor low-income students in PPS middle and high

schools.