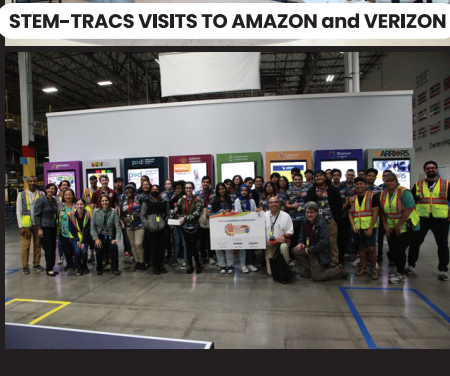


PCCC is Making SUMMER COUNT!

DECEMBER 2023



This past summer, nearly **300 students participated in comprehensive summer enrichment programs on the PCCC campus.**

EAB, the national consulting organization, has found that by incentivizing students to enroll in a single summer course, colleges can positively impact student persistence. Conversely, students who take the summer off lose momentum towards long-term goals, decreasing by 44 percent the likelihood of community college students to transfer to a four-year institution, compared to peers who earn summer credits (EAB presentation, 2023).

The evidence clearly demonstrates that summer programs are critical to student success and persistence. That is why PCCC, through its grant-funded programs, is keeping students enrolled during the summer and on track for completion. For example, this past summer, STEM TRACS hosted the STEM Explorers Academy (SEA). 50 incoming STEM students received two college courses free of charge, including the College Success Course and a mathematics course. Among SEA students who took College Algebra (Math 108), nearly 91 percent of students advanced to Pre-Calculus (Math 109) while nine percent of students transitioned to Calculus I (Math 120). For students who took the Math Prep class, 64 percent of students advanced to Math 108, and 18 percent were prepared to take Math 109.

Because math is a critical barrier to student success at PCCC, many of the

PCCC summer programs such as STEM TRACS, federal Student Support Services (SSS), SSS-STEM, and FIPSE VOICES emphasize math during the summer programs. According to Patrick McQuillan, Director of STEM, "The math courses in the summer are customized to match the student's current skill level, and students receive supplemental instruction over an intensive five-week time period." Students such as Jose Sanchez, who participated in the SSS-STEM Summer Bridge, credited his daily interaction with math tutors for helping him to improve his math skills.

However, it's not just the academic components that make the summer sizzle for PCCC students. It is also the camaraderie that exists within the summer programs. Jihan Ahmed, SSS-STEM Director, says, "The summer cohort model works because it allows students to develop relationships and support each other throughout their educational journey." Especially for new students, they bond with like-minded peers; interact with positive role models such as those through HISPA (Hispanics InspirinStudents' Performance and Achievement); listen to guest speakers; and attend field trips to places such as Verizon and Amazon or visit nearby cultural institutions such as the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum or Broadway Theaters.

Success coaching is another key component of PCCC summer programs. Coaches such as Russell Gambino and Katherine Vancheri of STEM TRACS are instrumental in helping students overcome personal challenges to success or in steering them towards campus resources. These relationships, when formed early on, help students feel supported in achieving their educational and career goals and these relationships continue throughout their education.

Moreover, the summer is where students can gain ground in thinking about their future careers and developing leadership skills. For example, aided by the PCCC Office of Professional and Career Readiness, students benefit from the Focus2 Career assessment; receive extensive career coaching; and learn valuable skills in networking, communication, leadership, problem-solving, and teamwork. PCCC student Sebastian Cano Guzman said, "I learned throughout the Summer Bridge how to be a

more effective communicator, especially when it comes to team activities and expressing my opinions, while also learning to present myself professionally and to make a good impression on people."

In 2024, PCCC is poised to expand the number of students involved in summer programs. In particular, PCCC has recently launched two new initiatives, PCCC Reconnect, which is focused on serving stop-out students, as well as a newly funded Pathways to College Completion grant intended to improve onboarding processes for incoming PCCC students and students involved in Early College programs.



SSS BROADWAY VISIT

WICKED on Broadway



SSS SUMMER KICK OFF DAY

Forest Lodge
Summer Bridge Programs
Kick-Off