

PUGET SOUND SKILLS CENTER

FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER



BY: HANNAH
MANDERSON,
DMP STUDENT

Welcome Back!

Dear Parents/Guardians/Relatives and Friends of Puget Sound Skills Center:

**You are cordially invited to join the PSSC staff
at our Fall Open House on Sept. 23rd.**

**We will be hosting a pasta bar starting at 5:00 pm.
Food tickets will be handed out after meeting with your student's program instructor.**

**Instructors will be available for questions and explanations regarding: curriculum,
college credits, national certifications, and grading policies.**

**Environmental/Marine Science and Welding students and parents will meet in their
respective classrooms. Marine Science is located at Seahurst Park in Burien. Welding is
held at the Seattle Pipe Trades at 595 Monster Road SW Suite 100 in Renton.**

Puget Sound Skills Center has been making history for over 43 years. We were the first high school Skills Center in the State of Washington. We served over 970 students during the 2008-09 school year and look forward to providing high quality Career and Technical Education to new students this school year. We are pleased and delighted with the enthusiastic fall student enrollment and student ability to access our unique hands on programs.

PSSC staff is responding to community needs in unprecedented ways. We offer more opportunities than ever through new classes, programs and services. We are replacing outdated equipment and in the statewide plans to build state-of-the-art environments for South King County high school students. Our veteran staff is excited about offering college credits, academic credit equivalencies, and national certifications not available in other high schools.

New this year is a career survey which will assist students in becoming more focused in their interests and skills. The Armed Services Vocational Battery (ASVAB) has been given nationally to high school students for over 40 years. Even though the military sponsors this test, it is a student/parent choice on providing the student's scores to the military. It is a free test in reading, writing, math and mechanical abilities. Students will be given the opportunity to decline to take the test but we encourage you and your student to take advantage of this opportunity to learn what their true interests are.

PSSC is providing new opportunities to change lives, provide skill training and new knowledge leading to better jobs, college and careers. PSSC's successful graduates are found in and around King County and the state. Each of these outstanding individuals is contributing to society – making an impact in his or her unique way.

We challenge you to look for opportunities to become involved as a business/industry partner in our community and/or helping other students to access these valuable programs and to continue the 43 year-old legacy of Puget Sound Skills Center!

-PSSC Administration

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

SEE US AT:

pugetsoundsc.org

The ASVAB

On September 22nd and 23rd, all students enrolled in Puget Sound Skills Center will have the opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test. The ASVAB measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in different post-secondary opportunities. It has been administered annually to more than one million applicants, high school, and post-secondary students since 1968. The program provides tools to help students learn more about the career exploration and planning, in both the civilian and military worlds of work. The ASVAB Career Exploration Program is free of charge to participating students and will be used to support of our work at PSSC in preparing all students for success in college and career planning.

College and Career fair

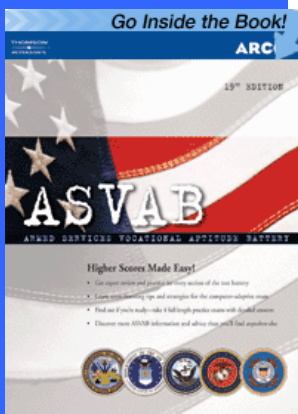
Puget Sound Skills Center will once again be hosting a College and Career fair. This event is free and will be held, Tuesday, November 17th from approximately 8:15AM-10:30 AM and 11:15AM-1:30PM during both sessions. During the College and Career fair, all Puget Sound Skills Center students will have an opportunity to visit and talk with a large variety of local college, agency, and industry representatives. They will have the chance to gather more information on possible post-secondary opportunities for their immediate future. Hosting this fair has grown to become an outstanding opportunity for our students and community members to interact and plan for possible career opportunities.

PSSC Advisory Committees

All Puget Sound Skills Center instructors hold advisory committee meetings at least 4 times per year with their advisory board members. The purpose of these meetings is to review all program operational procedures and goals, and to work on establishing a time line for accomplishing the work for the school year. Additionally, the advisory committees work to assist the instructors on the placement of trainees/students in industry related positions for internships, as well as possible summer and/or full time positions. This is an important unique component of the Puget Sound Skills Center programs. Please see your student's instructor for more information on how to become involved. We look forward to your participation!

Attendance Reminder

The PSSC attendance philosophy parallels industry, attendance is the single most important skill for any job today! At PSSC, students are expected to contact their instructor(s) before every absence and if the instructor is not available, students can leave a message on the instructors voicemail. A signed note from their parent/guardian must excuse the absence within 48 hours of the student's return. Being tardy is also extremely important. Being late to class equals 1/3rd of an absence. As in the working world, PSSC staff understands there can be emergencies which result in excessive absences. There is a process in place to address these situations. Parents/guardians are asked to sign the PSSC attendance policy as part of the back to school packet. Contact Dave Estes, at 206.631.7332 or email at estesdw@hsd401.org.



CONTACT AN INSTRUCTOR
FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON PARTICIPATING IN THIS
UNIQUE COMPONENT HERE
AT PSSC

Program Immersion Trips

All instructors are encouraged to plan and participate in industry immersion trips for their program throughout the school year. The immersion opportunities usually take place during the student's registered session, although exceptions do occur, and provide an additional resource to help students become more aware of college and career opportunities beyond their time at Puget Sound Skills Center. Students

gain first-hand knowledge of potential career opportunities that they may be interested in to pursue after high school, while also making valuable contact with college and industry professionals that may be able to offer additional support for students throughout the school year. Instructors will provide further information as immersion trips become available.



PSSC Foundation

Our Foundation, a full non-profit 501c(3), has recently enjoyed several significant donations that have allowed increased scholarship opportunities for PSSC students and added support for PSSC programs. A generous donation from the McMicken Heights Community Club added a new \$1000 scholarship opportunity for PSSC students. As we begin a new school year, the Foundation-members would like to extend a welcome to anyone who might be interested in joining other PSSC supporters. They meet four to six times in the course of the year. The meetings are in the evening and the group usually enjoys a meal prepared by the Culinary Arts students. So come join this committed group of individuals that are passionately spreading the PSSC message reflected in our mission statement "To prepare students for successful careers!" Interested individuals are encouraged to contact PSSC Dean of Students, Dave Estes, at 206.631.7332 or estesdw@hsd401.org for more information.

Puget Sound High School

With much appreciated help from Highline Public Schools, Highline Public School Board of Directors, Highline Public School Superintendent John Welch and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Puget Sound Skills Center has been granted the amazing opportunity to offer a high school diploma to students who are "at-risk". These students must meet certain criteria for the program. PSSC requested and was granted status to create a separate and parallel diploma. With this amazing new program, students who qualify will be allowed to receive an accredited high school diploma from Puget Sound High School, without the requirement of working through and completing their home high school graduation requirements. More information will become available as we begin to work on the program requirements and opportunities this coming school year!

*IN THE 2008-2009
SCHOOL YEAR, SOME
STUDENTS TOURED THE
SEATTLE-TACOMA
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT*

PSSC Fire Services Fire!

Reported by Mark Voight, Fire Services Instructor

August 22-26th the PSSC Fire Services Brush Engine went on its first fire. The brush engine was gone for 5 days in the Okanogan area. The Oden Road Fire burned 10,258 acres. The crew consisted of Lieutenant Steve Ott from North Highline Fire Department as the engine boss, former PSSC Cadet, Martin Santos, as the extra crew member and myself as the engine engineer. Below is a picture from the fire. The crew and new PSSC equipment provided valuable support.



PSSC Staff!

