

## PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE KOLLATOR NEWS

Hello from PCC! Our Educational Support Professionals are busy planning for the AKCCOP conference, which is scheduled for April 18, 19, 20, 2018. We haven't had the conference at Pratt for a while and are excited to be the host site this year. We sincerely hope you will join us for "Once Upon a Dream".

We are thrilled to report several substantial donations were received which will help fund the conference. BTI of Pratt and Stanion Wholesale Electric donated \$1,166 each to help sponsor one of our speakers. They didn't hesitate to say yes to our phone inquiries (which were done at the direction of the speaker.) The Kansas Council of Instructional Administrators provides annual scholarships for the purpose of fostering and developing institutional leadership. An application was submitted on behalf of ESP with information about the AKCCOP organization and this year's conference plans. Thirty-six applications were submitted by faculty and staff from colleges across the state. Much to our delight, ESP's application was chosen as one of five to receive a \$1000 scholarship! Carol McKenna, ESP President, and Cathy Blasi will attend the KCIA meeting in May to give a brief overview of what we learned at the conference. We also applied to the Pratt Chamber of Commerce Travel & Tourism Grant. The Chamber has funds set aside to assist with activities that bring people to Pratt. We were thrilled to have been presented a check for \$2,500! These donations have helped us schedule some excellent speakers.

ESP's fundraisers this year include the bi-annual "survival bag" during finals week. Letters are sent out to parents of students living in the residence halls with an order form. Not only do we prepare a sack full of snacks (some healthy, some not), but a note from the parents is attached with a personal message for their loved one. Fall semester we had 77 orders placed and expect just as many for the spring finals. Carol McKenna and Cathy Blasi hit Wal-Mart after work to fill up a grocery cart with the snacks. We wondered what other shoppers thought of our full and almost overflowing cart (which became very difficult to steer under the weight). We did have assistance from an elderly man who stood back and watched us as we were unsuccessfully trying to reach boxes of granola bars on a top shelf. He graciously offered his cane to use as a hook to pull down the boxes. He, without a doubt, got a good chuckle from our antics! An hour was scheduled for all ESP members to fill the sacks. After years of experience, the assembly line goes pretty smoothly!

ESP also sponsored the yearly "Goodie Day", held the first day of December finals. Staff and faculty bring treats and we are given permission to set up tables (yes, plural – we bring a lot of food!) in our Beaver Bites snack bar. Students as well as PCC employees all enjoyed the calories!

PCC had our first Active Shooter drill January 5 prior to the start of spring semester classes. Local law enforcement, emergency medical personnel, hospital staff, fire department, and a few selected students took part. One student played the part of the shooter, however they did not let him have the actual gun (cartridge was filled with blanks.) A deputy followed the student around the building and 'shot' wherever the student pointed. It was quite a learning (and chilling) experience for all involved. It didn't take long for the 'shooter' to make his way from one end of the building to another (as evidenced by the number of shell casings found throughout the building.) The 911 system was overwhelmed and we were informed at a debriefing that a record number of calls in a 15 minute period were received. Let us all pray this scene never takes place in real life at any of our schools!

2018 marks PCC's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Throughout the year, important figures, alumnae, employees and community members from PCC's history will share their stories about the past, present, and future of the institution. We've come a long way in 80 years, and one can only imagine what the next 80 years will bring!

Again, the Educational Support Professionals of PCC sincerely hope you will join us April 18, 19, & 20 for the AKCCOP annual conference. We think you will learn a lot and have a great time networking with your peers.