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PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE 2014
DISTINGUISHED PATRON AWARD NOMINATION

PREPARED BY: Kristin Watkins, Associate Vice President, College Advancement

APPROVED BY: Dr. Jeremy Brown, President

REPORT: In 2007, the Board established the Portland Community College Distinguished Patron Award to recognize extraordinary levels of service to the College.

To date, nine Patron Awards have been bestowed. Award recipients include Richard and Sharon Helzer, and Doreen Margolin (posthumously, 2007); Norma Jean Germond (2008); Barbara Raz and Mary Holmstrom (2009); Lee and Virginia Finders (posthumously, 2010); the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation (2011); and the Intel Corporation and The Oregon Community Foundation (2012). No award was made in 2013.

For the 2014 award the College President nominates Ross Lienhart and Sheila Edwards-Lienhart.

Ross is the retired CEO of PCC Structural (a division of Precision Castparts) and Sheila was a long-time teacher in Portland Public Schools. They have been dedicated supporters of PCC's Future Connect program since its inception in 2011. For nearly two years, Ross chaired the President's Posse, a small group of high-level business leaders that raised funds and visibility for PCC and Future Connect, augmenting the work of the PCC Foundation. In this role, Ross has lent substantial volunteer time to Portland Community College and the PCC Foundation, leading Posse meetings, advocating with elected officials, making introductions to other business leaders, and co-authoring newspaper op-eds in support for Future Connect, among other activities.

A former special education teacher, Sheila was passionate about providing the educational opportunities and supports all children need to succeed. Together, Ross and Sheila introduced friends and colleagues to the College and our work to increase the success of low-

income students, students of color, and first-generation college students. They spoke emotionally and earnestly about the essential role that mentoring and coaching play for the many young people who don't have role models, and about their excitement for the life-changing impact of PCC's Future Connect program. This advocacy, in turn, has brought additional friends and supporters to the college, as well as donors to the PCC Foundation.

Ross and Sheila's family foundation, the Edwards Lienhart Family Foundation is a sustaining contributor to Future Connect. Their foundation's \$100,000 commitment is providing support to five Future Connect cohorts, ensuring that at least five students in each cohort receive the financial assistance and student support they need to succeed at PCC.

In 2013, Sheila passed away after struggling with colon cancer. Her family recognized her commitment to PCC by suggesting memorial gifts to the PCC Foundation and the Future Connect program in her honor.

Through their substantial volunteer and financial contributions, Ross and Sheila Lienhart have been exemplary supporters of Portland Community College, the PCC Foundation, the Future Connect program, and most importantly, our students.

RECOMMENDATION: To award the 2014 Portland Community College Distinguished Patron Award to Ross Lienhart and Sheila Edwards-Lienhart (posthumously) at the PCC Foundation Gala on May 17, 2014.