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15-061

NAME THE BASKETBALL COURT AT CASCADE
CAMPUS IN HONOR OF THE LATE HAROLD C.
WILLIAMS SR.

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REPORT: Over the course of his more than four decades in public life in Portland, the late PCC Director Harold C. Williams Sr. was a staunch advocate of extending hope and opportunity through education to the people of North and Northeast Portland and beyond. A PCC Director for more than 20 years – from 1991 to 2012 – Director Williams was a champion of the transformative power of education, particularly for people from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds. When PCC passed its first bond measure in 1992, Director Williams led the effort to expand Cascade Campus so that the traditionally underserved populations of North and Northeast Portland could have a strong, comprehensive campus near to where they live and work. He was also instrumental in crafting College policy that would ensure that minority-owned, women-owned, and emerging small businesses would be able to participate in PCC construction projects.

Director Williams was again a driving force behind the passage of PCC's second bond measure in 2000, and led the effort to expand Cascade Campus once again. The Cascade Campus that we know today, which serves more than 24,000 students each year, exists in large part because of his vision. Director Williams also worked diligently to ensure that educational opportunities were again extended to another underserved part of town, the area now served by the Southeast Campus. He was also known for his promotion of alternative programs for at-risk students, such as his "Success Academy," in which local community and faith leaders assisted PCC students who had come into contact with the criminal justice system. As a candidate for the state Legislature, Director Williams was known for walking door-to-door in an effort

to raise awareness of issues facing Portland's African-American community.

And when PCC once again brought a bond measure before voters in 2008, Director Williams was instrumental in rallying support for the measure in the community. The construction program set in motion by the 2008 bond at Cascade Campus is now nearing completion. It should be noted that allowable bond funds will support sound system and acoustic upgrades in the basketball facility in the near future.

And throughout his tenure as a member of the PCC Board, Director Williams carried the torch forward for PCC athletics. From the time he joined the PCC Board, the PCC Basketball program had no greater champion than Harold Williams Sr. A firm believer in the ability of athletics to unify both College and community, as well as its contribution to student success, he was integral to the effort to establish the PCC Basketball program and to fight for its preservation.

Director Williams took a personal interest in the success of PCC Basketball, making it a point to get to know players and members of the coaching staffs, and helping both the men's and women's teams to procure uniforms. And when lean fiscal times cast the program's future into doubt, Director Williams led the charge to retain PCC Basketball as an integral part of the College's brand and identity.

Director Williams unfortunately did not live to see the men's team bring home PCC's first conference championship after the 2013-2014 season, but there is little doubt that he would have been overjoyed at the team's success.

"I think about him all the time," men's basketball Head Coach Tony Broadous said of Director Williams. "As coaches we'd get together for a post-game meeting and talk about how proud he would be right now and the fact we wanted to go ahead, continue to do the best we could and be as classy as we can just like he was. If it wasn't for him the basketball program probably would have gotten cut. He was a real advocate of keeping athletics here for PCC."

In recognition of Director Williams' many years as an educational leader in the state of Oregon, particularly in North and Northeast Portland; his more than 20 years of leadership on the PCC Board of Directors; as well as his advocacy on behalf of members of traditionally underserved populations; and as a tireless advocate for and die-hard fan of PCC Basketball, we propose that the PCC Board name the basketball court at Cascade Campus in his honor. This would be a fitting way to enshrine his legacy as a champion of hope, opportunity, and education, as well as his long and benevolent association with Portland Community College and the people of North and Northeast Portland.

RECOMMENDATION: In accordance with College Board Policy 703B: *Naming of College Facilities, Programs, and Positions*, as it pertains to "Honorary Naming" that the PCC Board of Directors name the basketball court at Cascade Campus – the home court of PCC Basketball – in honor of the late Harold C. Williams Sr.