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18-056

NAMING OF THE PCC SYLVANIA ACCESSIBILITY  
CENTER IN HONOR OF STEPHANIE KEYES

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REPORT: In recognition of a \$308,000 gift from the estate of Stephanie Keyes, this resolution requests approval from the PCC Board to name the Sylvania Accessibility Center located in the CC Building in honor of deceased PCC alumna Stephanie Keyes.

**Overview:**

In December 2016, the PCC Foundation Board launched its first comprehensive campaign with the unanimous support of the College Board of Directors.

Our goal is to raise minimally \$20 million in private philanthropic contributions and an additional \$5 million from public partners. To date, the Foundation has raised more than \$10 million through current and planned gifts. This historic campaign gives PCC the vehicle not only to generate large and small contributions, but it also offers the opportunity for the College and Foundation to recognize and honor donors whose generosity advances our mission, furthers our capacity to serve students and our community, and enhances our growth and reputation.

Specifically, the philanthropic naming of campus spaces represents a poignant and prominent honor for a donor deemed worthy of such recognition.

In that Naming Opportunities are exclusively controlled by the College, the PCC Foundation Board respectfully requests that the PCC Board rename the PCC Sylvania Accessibility Center the Stephanie Keyes Accessibility Center in recognition of this generous estate gift.

**Nominee's Background:** In April 2017, PCC Foundation received an estate gift from Stephanie Keyes expressly to benefit the PCC Disability Services Office to "research

and implement the use of technology – software or hardware – to help those with brain injuries get an education and live productive lives.”

Stephanie had received support from Disability Services after a car accident left her with a traumatic brain injury. Before the accident Stephanie was a successful professional in the field of computer programming at a time when it was rare for women to be accepted in the high tech industry. She had earned a Masters of Science in Math, a Masters of Science in Business Organizational Behavior and had completed course work for her PhD.

Stephanie’s talent led to continuous advancement opportunities, earning new jobs every 13-26 months. In a short biography written about her, the writer states “somehow the way she stored the information made it very easy for her to learn something new.” That ability changed in an instant on October 22, 1997, when Stephanie was the victim of a head on car collision. “At 3 p.m., a young man driving 60mph, the wrong way up Martin Luther King Blvd, split the two east side lanes, sideswiping five cars and using Stephanie’s as a stopping post. She turned her head away so the airbag hit side of her head.”

She was evaluated and released from the ER and returned to work two weeks later, but she was never the same. She tried to return to work but found she could no longer learn anything new. She had difficulty communicating with peers because she couldn’t find the words she needed.

In 1998 Stephanie took her first willow basket weaving class and continued taking classes for the next three years. She found that weaving soothed her brain. In 2004, seven years after the accident, doctors finally confirmed that Stephanie had experienced a traumatic brain injury. She began auditory processing therapy and within a month she could again read and understand articles.

In 2006, when Stephanie enrolled at PCC in a self-paced web design class, the Disability Services counselor recommended she try TypeWell Services, a communication access system that provides students

with a live transcript, produced by transcribers using laptops with specialized software.

In a presentation archived by the Disability Services office, Stephanie wrote, "...it has been fabulous having these services. I do not have to worry about taking usable notes in class and can totally put my focus on understanding what the instructor is presenting. If my brain gets behind what the instructor is saying I can look down at the laptop and read what has been said...each brain injury is unique and the challenges the students face are unique also. Problems with memory, auditory and visual processing are common with most brain injuries."

With the support of Disability Services, Stephanie earned her Web Assistant II certificate at PCC with a 4.0 average and wrote, "I am more proud of this accomplishment than all of my other degrees. This service will make it possible for many returning veterans as well as other folks with brain injuries to become productive individuals."

Stephanie died in December 2016. In 2017, the PCC Foundation learned of Stephanie' passing and of the importance that PCC had played in her life. Stephanie left 25 percent of her estate to benefit the PCC Disability Services office as a way of honoring the PCC faculty and staff that assisted her in her classwork, including Ruth McKenna, Sharon Allen, Susan Watson, and the TypeWell transcribers. The gift also honors the medical professionals who assisted in her recovering, including Dr. Danielle Erb, Margaret McReynolds, Carol Kitching, Dr. Jane Starbird, Dr. Judith Belk and Kim Garrett.

**Philanthropic Contribution:**

The estate of Stephanie Keyes contributed a \$308,000 gift to PCC in April 2017. In honor of this gift, Sylvania Campus President Lisa Avery and the Accessibility Center faculty and staff would be honored to change the name of the Accessibility Center on the PCC Sylvania Campus to the Stephanie Keyes Accessibility Center. In addition to signage and a memorial plaque, they intend to include photos and examples of Stephanie's art, commemorating her life and her courageous and complex journey.

Accessibility Center staff have identified that funds from this endowment will provide learning evaluations for students who are experiencing hidden disabilities, but don't have documentation to support requests for academic accommodation. There are many students who would benefit from the kind of technology that helped Stephanie, but without clear documentation of how disability is impacting an individual, it can be difficult to know which technology supports may be most appropriate.

By providing students with the means to access learning evaluations and diagnostic reports, we can honor Stephanie's wishes and help those with brain injuries and other learning differences get an education and live productive lives.

**Naming Opportunity:**

Detailed information can be found in the draft Naming and Recognition Agreement, which is attached.

The Foundation respectfully asks the College Board to approve this request based on the following:

- While the PCC Foundation Gift Policy recommends a minimum gift of \$1,000,000 for naming a building, the Accessibility Center is located inside the Sylvania Campus CC building and represents approximately 1684 square feet of that 182,101 square foot building.
- This gift has been fully funded, rather than pledged and paid over multiple years.
- The Accessibility Center does not have a marquis location on campus and serves a smaller group of students, rather than a larger more prominently placed building that serves many more students and purposes (i.e., library).
- This naming provides a significant opportunity to celebrate as we move further along with our comprehensive campaign as it provides excellent momentum and could spur additional, sizable gifts for the College, its students and programs.
- PCC has a tremendous amount of buildings, structures, property, and other assets with the potential to name with little prior history of doing so for philanthropic reasons. This gift helps initiate this process in a thoughtful and meaningful way.

RECOMMENDATION: That the PCC College Board of Directors approve the naming of the Accessibility Center the Stephanie Keyes Accessibility Center upon final execution of the Naming and Recognition Agreement.