

NEWS RELEASE

Mar. 30, 2011

Contact: Dani Chandonnet, 320-629-5114, chandonnetd@pinetech.edu

All PTC news releases are available at www.pinetech.edu/about-ptc/news-releases

PTC's Diversity Committee wins \$3800 grant

PINE CITY, Minn. – Pine Technical College's Diversity Committee received confirmation today from the Office of the Chancellor, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, that the committee is the winner of a \$3800 grant they applied for in January.

"This is excellent news for our committee!" says Penny Hudlow, Diversity Committee Co-Chair. "While we're proud of all that we have accomplished so far on such a small and tight budget, we are all so excited with all the possibilities this new money will bring," Hudlow says.

Diversity Committee members Joan Bloemendaal-Gruett, Nancy Mach and Marlene Mixa co-wrote the grant, and the committee plans to use it, in part, to sponsor and host a "career night" tailored toward people in the community who have never attended college before and are either unemployed or underemployed, as well as ethnic groups underrepresented in postsecondary education. The event will be held in early fall, and activities will include a motivational speaker, break-out sessions for career planning, financial aid information, how to prepare for the college assessment test, employment outlooks for PTC programs, plus the opportunity to meet PTC instructors and staff who are able to provide support services.

"The Diversity Committee has so many ideas for valuable programming, but without funding, it's difficult to implement such programming," explains Marlene Mixa, Diversity Committee member. "With this grant, we're looking forward to hosting this valuable community event this fall, plus offer more programming throughout the next academic year," Mixa adds.

Pine Technical College, established in 1965 and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, serves more than 1,000 students and awards certificates, diplomas and associate degrees. PTC's notable programs include accounting, American Sign Language, automotive technology, business administration, computer programming, computer science, early childhood development, gunsmithing technology, practical nursing, precision manufacturing/machining (CNC), public welfare financial worker, and many more.

PTC is a proud member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, which is comprised of 32 state universities and community and technical colleges serving the higher education needs of Minnesota. The system serves about 277,000 students per year in credit-based courses and an additional 157,000 students in noncredit courses.



Photo above: Thomasina Petrus, with the Mixed Blood Theatre Company, performs a scene from the play, *Daughters of Africa*. The play was programming the Diversity Committee was able to sponsor and bring to the PTC campus in Feb. 2011.

###