

NEWS RELEASE

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

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PTC Foundation participates in Grand Casino's Giving Trees program for a chance to win \$5,000 for student scholarships

PINE CITY, Minn. – The Pine Technical College Foundation will be participating in Grand Casino's inaugural Giving Trees program, beginning Mon. Nov. 28. The Foundation will decorate a six-foot-tall holiday tree at the Grand Casino - Hinckley, in hopes of winning First Prize, \$5,000. The winnings will be deposited in the PTC Foundation's Bridging the Dream scholarship reserve, augmenting funds available for scholarship recipients.

"We're especially excited about this program since it will directly benefit our students. Considering that our full-time scholarships are awarded in amounts of \$1250, our Bridging the Dream program will be able to support four additional full-time students if we win the grand prize, and that's very exciting," says Nancy Mach, PTC's Dean of Student Affairs.

Four area organizations are participating in the Giving Trees program, including the PTC Foundation, and the trees will be judged by casino guests, associates, and online visitors – fans of Grand Casino's Facebook page. The trees will be on display at the Grand Casino's Events Center, Mon. Nov. 28, and judging will be finalized at 12 p.m. Mon. Dec. 5. The winners of the contest will be based on the number of online "likes" on Facebook combined with the number of votes collected onsite. The program's prize structure is as follows: First Place, \$5,000; Second Place, \$2,000; Third Place, \$500.

"Our tree will carry a very student-centered theme; it will showcase photos of current students hard at work – studying, in the lab, in class, doing groupwork, and doing what they do best," says Sandi Carlisle, Executive Assistant to the President and Foundation Manager. "Plus, we've got a few other very PTC-like surprises for our tree that will be revealed on Monday!" Carlisle adds.

The trees are donated by Mickman Brothers, and once judging is final, all trees will be donated to a family in need of a holiday tree.

"We're going to want a lot of votes for our tree, so we are encouraging all staff, faculty, and students to 'like' our tree online," Mach says. "We just need to all get online and vote and help our students get those scholarship dollars!"

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Pine Technical College, established in 1965 and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, serves more than 1,200 students and awards certificates, diplomas and associate degrees. PTC's notable programs include accounting, American Sign Language, automotive technology, business administration, business technology, computer programming, computer science, early childhood development, gunsmithing technology, network administration, 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. PTC is accepting applications for new students in all programs; spring courses will start Jan. 9. For more information, call 320-629-5100.

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800.521.7463/
320.629.5100



www.pinetech.edu



900 Fourth Street SE
Pine City, MN 55063



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