

PORTLAND TEACHERS PROGRAM

“PTP has given me the opportunity to fulfill this goal of becoming a teacher by helping me financially, but it also offered me a network of support. It has been so empowering to participate in PTP activities. There is nothing like walking into a room full of people who look like you and have had similar experiences as you. It is simply healing.” **Anibal Rivera, PTP Graduate**

Program Overview

PTP is a partnership effort among Portland Public Schools (PPS), Portland Community College (PCC), Portland State University (PSU) and Beaverton School District (BSD). It is designed to recruit and help prepare culturally competent teachers, **with a special focus on historically under-represented groups in the teaching profession**. As a retention/scholarship program, PTP assists selected students in completing teacher education through the regular coursework at PCC and PSU.

It is a program committed to *diversity, equity, excellence and collaboration* through the development of a multicultural workforce in the educational system. There are approximately 50-60 students in PTP at any given time, from freshman to graduate students, and from age 18 to 50.

The Need for PTP

Teachers from culturally and ethnically diverse backgrounds (who have been historically underrepresented in Oregon’s teaching workforce) are critical to the education of ALL children as they prepare to join an increasingly diverse society where understanding and valuing differences are key to creativity, productivity and personal enrichment. Well trained teachers from diverse backgrounds can: assist in breaking down the stereotypes that inform racism in America; serve as role models for students who look like they do; enhance communication and engagement with parents and communities of color; and bring rich new perspectives and narratives to school buildings that can help close the achievement gap.

Program Structure

Although there are multiple possible entry points into PTP, most students start as freshmen. After completing two years of lower division course requirements at PCC, they transfer to PSU for two years of upper division coursework to earn their baccalaureate degree, and then complete a year in the Graduate Teacher Education Program. Their tuition is waived throughout the program, but students must meet or exceed program requirements involving academic performance, attitude, professionalism, attendance at program meetings, activities and classes. They are also expected to practice PTP core values.

In addition to carrying a full time academic course load required for a bachelor’s degree and licensure, PTP students must attend seminars, colloquia and other activities in which they explore such topics as: leadership as service; systemic oppression; race and class in America; impacts of racism and white privilege on K-12 education; issues in education in African American, Native