

Student Stories



MARIUS' STORY

MARIUS IBUYE is a refugee of war-torn Congo who left Africa and emigrated to the U.S. to pursue a better life for himself and his family. He believes the Future Connect program guided him to where he is today: an Oregon State University student.

With assistance from dedicated success coaches who mapped out a plan and stood by ready to help when he found himself overwhelmed with the entire college application process, Ibuye, a 2011 David Douglas High School graduate, is reaching his educational goals.

"I really enjoyed all of my classes at PCC and the instructors were inspiring, encouraging and supportive. It wasn't only about getting good grades but also finding new ways to learn the class material," said Ibuye, who hopes to study in the College of Pharmacy at OHSU once he earns a bachelor's degree.

One major lesson he learned from Future Connect was the importance of regularly meeting

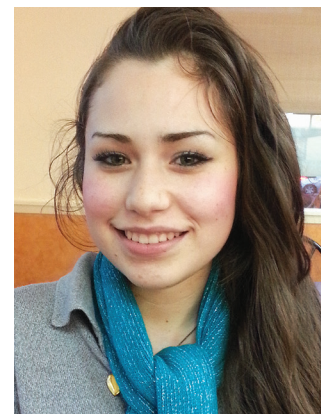
with instructors and other college support staff who took time to answer questions and give advice about transferring to OSU.

Once he completes his academic work, Ibuye hopes to become a pharmacist in Portland near his family.

"And now Future Connect coaches are also part of my family," he said.

"Not having the support of Future Connect at PCC and going straight to a four-year university would have been crazy. I feel I'm well prepared and now I can fly at OSU."

MARIUS IBUYE, Future Connect alum and current OSU student



DAISY'S STORY

AS SHE THOUGHT about life after high school graduation, Daisy Toledo considered a full-time job in food service as her best opportunity. Then she heard a counselor talk about Future Connect and she suddenly saw another path open before her.

"I never expected to have enough money to go to college," said the Century High School graduate. "The more I learned the more I realized that this is the perfect program for me."

At first she worried about juggling school, studying and a job but Future Connect coaches helped her create a time management plan. While her schedule is busy, she's thriving.

She's also become a more assertive, confident individual who knows how to meet her educational goals. With a 4.0 grade point average during her first term in college she's already researching four-year universities and careers in the medical field.

Now Daisy is sharing her talents with others. As a member of the Oregon Leadership Institute at PCC's Rock Creek Campus she's working with students on volunteerism and fundraising. She sees it as a good opportunity to network and learn new skills such as public speaking.

"I talk to my friends about Future Connect. I tell them that they can reach their goals because there is a lot of support," said Toledo.

"The classes have been challenging but I'm persistent and my success coach motivates me every day. I believe I have what it takes to be successful in college and to be successful in life."

DAISY TOLEDO, Future Connect student

"When I was in high school, I did not really have anyone who believed in me. Everyone in my family told me I could not make it, I would not graduate, but I did. Because of Future Connect, I am able to pursue my dream."

—MEYYIEN SAEPHARN, Future Connect Student

Hoffman Construction knows the value of supporting access to education. That's why we support PCC's Future Connect program. Ensuring these students succeed is vital to the growth and prosperity of our region's economy and the local communities where they live and work.

—WAYNE DRINKWARD, Hoffman Construction Company

"We believe in students until they are ready to believe in themselves."

—JOSE ESPARZA, Future Connect Success Coach

PCC is leading the way to meeting Oregon's 40-40-20 education goals with programs like Future Connect. With even a modest investment, donors can change a young person's life forever for the better. That kind of impact is amazing. That's why we are supporters and why we encourage others to invest in the program and its students."

—KIMBERLY COOPER AND JON JAQUA



To learn more about the PCC Future Connect program

PCC Foundation

call 971.722.4382 or visit: www.pcc.edu/foundation

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For the first time, Oregon's younger generation is less educated than its older one.

PCC's Future Connect program is changing that.



PCC Foundation
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