



Pine Technical College

THE LINK

2012 / Volume 5 / Issue 1



More than just child's play

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THE LINK is published for students, alumni and friends of Pine Technical College.

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Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

Cover
Early childhood development program alumna Jessica Houghton finds her calling. For more about Jessica, see page 6.

From the President



Pine Technical College President
Robert L. Musgrove, Ph.D.

Welcome to Pine Technical College!

We are a new kind of PTC — engaged in our community, technologically sophisticated, and dedicated to teaching through a relevant curriculum with a global perspective. If you're looking for a quality education, a transferable degree, workforce training, or classes for personal interest, you've come to the right place. We offer courses

to fit a variety of needs. At PTC, we believe everyone who has a goal and is willing to work toward achieving that goal should be given the opportunity to succeed.

What makes PTC so special?

- Our high-quality and personal instruction, with a student-to-instructor ratio of 14:1.
- A technology-rich campus — the entire campus is equipped with high-speed Wi-Fi Internet access, and numerous “smart” classrooms offer either advanced multimedia or state-of-the-art simulation equipment as teaching and learning tools.
- A service-minded campus, offering an onsite daycare facility, disability services, counseling services, a career center, tutoring services, and a Veterans Center – all available for our 1,200+ students.
- A fun campus — with 10 student organizations ranging from honor societies to clubs and student government, opportunities for involvement and leadership abound.
- An expanding campus — current construction projects include a state-of-the-art light manufacturing business incubator and expansion to accommodate growth and new programs in health sciences.

A central part of PTC's mission is to provide a vibrant environment centered on learning and learner success. PTC can provide you with all the tools you need to achieve your educational goals.

6 - step Admissions Checklist

This checklist is designed to help new students cover the six steps needed for enrollment. Unless you have permission from an advisor or counselor, you must complete your application, assessment, and orientation before you can register for classes. For more information about the application process, call Admissions at 1.800.521.7463.



1 Application

- Pine Technical College or MN State College Application Form
- One-time \$20 Application Fee
- Official copies of high school transcripts or a GED copy
- Immunization Form

2 Financial Aid

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

3 Transfer Credits

- Official copies of college transcripts

4 Academic Skills Assessment

5 Orientation/Registration

6 Payment of Tuition, Fees, Books, & Other Costs

- For information regarding fees, tuition and payment, visit www.pinetech.edu/financial-aid

For current tuition and fee information, academic calendar, course schedule, or to schedule a visit, go to www.pinetech.edu or call 800.521.7463.

There's no place like PTC!
Come and see for yourself
Attend a "DISCOVER PINE" information session

Seeing is believing! What's the best way to know if Pine Technical College is right for you? Come for a campus visit! Visiting the PTC campus is a tried and true way to learn if the PTC campus community and atmosphere fit you. Receive program, admissions and financial aid information, and learn how PTC's approach to education helps students succeed.

The **Discover Pine** information session is offered every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and includes an informative presentation with a PTC Admissions Representative followed by a Walking Tour. The information session provides an overview of PTC, the application process, the financial aid process, plus an explanation of college programs and degrees. The Walking Tour highlights the LRTC, the Student Lounge, PTC's hi-tech labs, and more! The **Discover Pine** information session may last up to one hour, and the Walking Tour lasts about 20 minutes.

To attend, just plan ahead, and allow enough time for parking and to locate the **Discover Pine** classroom before the session begins. Unless your group is comprised of 10 or more people, there is no need to RSVP – just show up! (To ensure all guests receive the attention they deserve, groups of 10 or more should contact PTC Admissions, 320.629.5114.)

discover pine
information sessions
every tuesday

Class notes

General Education Options are Growing

Providing several hands-on, hi-tech programs focused on preparing students for skilled careers, PTC is known for its popular programs like automotive, information, and business technologies; however, with new courses such as *MUSC 1200, Music Appreciation* and *ENGL 2276, Multicultural Literature* added to the curriculum, the college is increasingly able to provide students with more general education options for those planning to transfer and pursue baccalaureate degrees.

"We've noticed a trend in students wanting to take more liberal arts courses, and we're responding," says Paula Hoffman, PTC's Director of Academic Planning. "The result is a schedule rich in diverse topics that give students a more well-rounded view – some would say, 'worldly,'" Paula adds.

PTC's added general education/liberal arts courses are transferable to all MnSCU upper-division universities – a common destination for many students planning to earn a bachelor's degree on top of their PTC education.

"It will be so smooth and easy when I transfer into a bachelor's program," says Greg Johnson, PTC business administration and accounting student. "I'll not only finish my A.S. in business and A.A.S. in accounting, but also, I'll have completed all my generals and requirements for the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum right here at PTC, before I make the transition," Greg adds.

Historically, PTC always has offered many general education courses, but staff members have been working especially hard to augment the college's existing curriculum, as well as to hire instructors for the new courses. The resulting expanded lineup of courses is impressive – a sample of just a few of the courses PTC offers:

- ANTH 1200, Introduction to Anthropology
- AMST 1205, Significance of the Environment in American History
- ARTS 1229, Introduction to the Visual Arts
- ENGL 2276, Multicultural Literature
- ENGL 2280, Introduction to Creative Writing
- MUSC 1200, Music Appreciation
- PHIL 1210, Foundations of Philosophy
- PHIL 1230, Philosophy of Religion
- POLS 1205, American Government and Politics
- POLS 1210, Environmental Politics
- SOCI 1225, Human Diversity

10^{top ten}

THE PLACES WE GO

The Top Ten Places Pines Transfer

- Southwest Minnesota State University
- Winona State University
- St. Cloud State University
- Bemidji State University
- University of Wisconsin – River Falls
- University of Minnesota – Duluth
- University of Wisconsin – Superior
- Minnesota State University – Moorhead
- University of Minnesota – Crookston
- University of Wisconsin – Stout

Fired up about the A.A.

The Associate of Arts: The ultimate transfer degree

Offering focused, technical programs including the A.S. (Associate of Science) and the A.A.S. (Associate of Applied Science), plus certificates and diplomas is a specialty of Pine Technical College; so, what's the Associate of Arts (A.A.) all about? PTC has partnered with Lake Superior College to offer the A.A. degree – a two-year associate's degree in liberal arts, also known as "general education." The A.A. degree is designed for students who intend to continue their education beyond a two-year degree in the pursuit of a bachelor's degree.

The A.A. program covers the core courses needed to complete the first two years of a four-year bachelor's degree, since many bachelor degrees are comprised of 60 credits (two years) of general education plus another 60 credits of focused courses within a particular field of study.

Courses within an A.A. degree are rich in social science, humanities, English, and more. The Pine Technical College/Lake Superior College A.A. program enables graduates to seamlessly transfer into a B.A. and/or B.S. programs within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system and beyond. Graduates of the partnership program will have earned a degree awarded by Lake Superior College.

PTC & LSC
Pine Technical College & Lake Superior College

together bring you the A.A. degree

PTC's 2011-2012 Student Senators.
 Front Row, L to R: Jodie Hochstatter, Treasurer;
 Ellen Dunbar, Secretary; Colin Roskos, Vice
 President. Back Row, L to R: Amanda Spencer,
 Student Senate Staff Advisor; Torfi Arnarson,
 President; Stephen Bobowski,
 Parliamentarian.



FIND YOUR NICHE

Student Organizations at PTC

- Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization (CEO Club)
- Computer Club
- Ever Green Club
- Math Club
- National Technical Honor Society chapter
- Nursing Club
- Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) chapter
- Shooters Association
- SkillsUSA
- Student Senate

American Sign Language Instructor and Advisor of PTC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, Kathy Krier plans the next PTK Induction Ceremony with input from Anne Kubesh, longtime PTK member and early childhood development student.

Let's get together

Get involved: Student activities abound

PTC provides numerous opportunities for students to get involved in campus life. All new students start by participating in Orientation, a welcome to the college and a chance to get to know PTC and all its student activity opportunities. Getting involved in student organizations enriches a student's academic and social experience in college; plus, involvement in clubs and organizations helps students sharpen or gain leadership abilities, all while giving them a louder voice in campus activities.

"Founding the CEO Club has been very fun and very rewarding," says James Hinrichs, business administration and entrepreneurship student and President of the Collegiate Entrepreneurship Organization. "It's really something special to rally a group of fellow students and work together for a common cause," James adds.

Altogether, PTC recognizes 10 student organizations that cater to a variety of student interests – from computers to student government. And, if a student can't find a club or organization that precisely suits his or her interests, new clubs are always welcome!

not just child's play

Alumna Jessica Houghton
finds her calling

Jessica Houghton was a stand-out Pine during her time at PTC, and it's no surprise she's a stand-out alumna today. Jessica, a graduate of the early childhood development program, works as a preschool teacher at New Horizon Academy in Sartell, MN and commands a classroom full of three- and four-year-olds.



Jessica picks out a book to read to her class at New Horizon Academy in Sartell, MN

"I love my work. I feel very lucky to have such a fulfilling career working with children and also very lucky to have been so well-prepared for it at PTC," Jessica says.

Jessica started her academic career at PTC in 2007, having transferred from Ridgewater College in Hutchinson, MN. Jessica graduated three times; she earned her certificate, diploma and

A.A.S. degree, leaving PTC in May, 2010. Jessica was a familiar face on campus, having served the student body as Student Senate Secretary in the '09-'10 academic year and having interned at the on-campus daycare.

"I was such a busy student!" Jessica recalls. "I completed my internship right on campus, and I also was doing my practicum at Room for Growing in North Branch. I was doing so well at Room for Growing that they hired me even before I finished my practicum," Jessica explains. "Looking back, I'm so glad my program was designed with so much hands-on training alongside the classroom instruction. It's given me a true education for my profession, and also a lot of confidence," Jessica adds.

Statistics show one of the fastest-growing industries in the U.S. is the child care and child education field. Children's participation rates in early childhood programs continue to increase, but a lack of quality early childhood caregivers, educators and programs are a growing concern. The quality of children's care significantly contributes to children's school readiness, and an educated, prepared workforce is the link between quality programs and positive outcomes for children and families. PTC's early childhood development program prepares students for an in-demand and rewarding career in child education and/or child care.

"My main instructor and program advisor, Melissa Felland, was so encouraging," Jessica says. "She challenged and inspired me and my classmates the whole way. I'm so proud to be a Pine!"

running down a dream

Tamala Kolling
a class act

Tamala Kolling just can't get enough of PTC! Tamala started her academic career at PTC in June, 2005, having transferred a few courses from the University of Minnesota. Prior to coming to PTC, Tamala says she dreamed of working in a high-powered business setting wearing polished heels and power suits to work every day before realizing her true passion – working in healthcare alongside patients.

"When I started at the U, I was 18, and I just thought I would wear heels and a suit, and I would take over the finance world! But, then, I got real," Tamala says. "I worked for years at TCF Bank, and I realized that working more directly with people and helping in a hospital or clinical setting would be very fulfilling. Plus, my mom is a nurse, and I have a few aunts who are nurses, and the career switch just felt right," Tamala explains.



Tamala checks a Simulation manikin's heart rate in NURS 2935, Professional Nursing Theory II.

Tamala started by taking PTC's nursing assistant courses and soon after, graduated with honors from the practical nursing program in 2009. And, she did it all with a houseful of four children – each involved in at least one extra-curricular activity, a 65-mile (one-way) commute to a full-time job as a sleep technician at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, plus a husband who also is a PTC student in the gunsmithing technology program.

"It helps that PTC is small, and all the staff and instructors know everyone. It's the truly caring atmosphere and the personal touches that keep me going," Tamala says. "I just know the instructors have our backs, because with adult learners, there is just always something that comes up – a family illness, an emergency of some kind – it's just excellent to have such supportive, compassionate, understanding people managing the program," Tamala adds.

PTC just began offering the A.S. in nursing in Aug. 2011, and Tamala is a part of the first cohort. Tamala says she would recommend the program to anyone considering a career in nursing.

"Working toward my R.N. is so worth it – the well-structured curriculum, the experienced staff and clinical exposure makes the program stand out. Plus, PTC incorporates some of the most updated technological advances such as simulation learning. This will help keep nurses up-to-date and well-prepared for future technological advancements in the medical world."

Your legacy is our future

The PTC Foundation continues to bring opportunity to more students

In 2011, the PTC Foundation disbursed more than \$42,600 in the form of scholarships to 37 students. The Foundation is an important partner to the College and is committed to serving the Pine community's needs by promoting and making higher education more available, in turn, building a better workforce for the area and brighter futures for students. The Foundation collects financial contributions and other generous gifts from alumni, staff and faculty members, and business and industry partners, and invests it all in the success of PTC students. The most prominent campaign the Foundation manages is the annual *Bridging the Dream* scholarship program.

"While many of our students obtain and use federal financial aid to offset the cost of college, it's not always enough," says PTC President Robert Musgrove. "The Foundation works to provide a bit more for the student and help ease the financial burden, plus, it's just so encouraging to be rewarded in the form of a scholarship," Musgrove adds.



Frank Christopherson, President of U.S. Bank of Pine City, presents PTC President Robert Musgrove with a check in the amount of \$2,500 in June, 2011. U.S. Bank has been a longtime supporter of PTC; the bank has given regularly to the *Bridging the Dream* scholarship fund since 2003. Altogether, U.S. Bank has given \$14,250 to the college and PTC students.

In addition to the cost of tuition and books, most students have living, transportation and childcare costs. And, since statistics show nearly eighty-five percent of PTC graduates stay in the region and contribute to the social, cultural and economic vitality of the community, the Foundation is proud to both

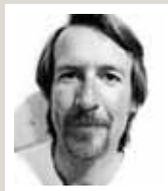
directly and indirectly serve its own community-minded students and graduates.

"We are very thankful to all our generous business and community partners, students' families, alumni, and staff and faculty who contribute," Musgrove says. "And, we continue to be so proud of our students who work so hard and are on the receiving end of those scholarship dollars. It makes a difference," Musgrove adds.

The Pine Technical College Foundation welcomes your generous support – your investment in your community. To learn more about the PTC Foundation and how you may give, call 320.629.5140 or e-mail carlisses@pinetech.edu.

Why we give...

The PTC Foundation receives a high level of support from alumni and community partnerships. Every donor has a unique and personal reason for choosing to make a gift to the college.



"PTC really opened doors for me. My education made my career change possible, and it also led me to make lifelong friends. To me, the question isn't why I give — it's how can I *not* give, when PTC has given me so much!"

Class of '10 Advanced Gunsmithing Diploma alumnus Gregory Shufelt.



"PTC provided me with an excellent, relevant, hands-on education. Because of PTC, I received an education on which I rely daily, and I want to be sure others will have the same experience. PTC is a part of me, and I want to continue, in some small way, to be a part of PTC."

Class of '09 Accounting A.A.S. alumna Andrea Boulineau.



"PTC is an important part of East Central Minnesota's economy — PTC provides educated, skilled workers that contribute toward and positively impact our local economy. It's important to me that we support the college — one of our region's strongest economic engines."

PTC Foundation board member, Mary Kay Brautigam.

What's happening?

PTC not only educates and prepares students for advanced degrees or fulfilling careers, but also goes the extra mile for learners of all ages and from all corners of the Pine Area. PTC's special events and programs go a long way to inspire learning – take, for example, events like *Women in Technology* and *Gold Collar Career Day*...



Pharmacist Kati Dvorak gives sixth-grade girls an inside look at her work by demonstrating how she measures exact amounts of powders, tablets and ointments in a WIT workshop.



Robert Flannery, Advanced Manufacturing Technology student, calibrates machinery affectionately called "The Robot" in PTC's manufacturing lab in preparation for its center-stage demonstrations during *Gold Collar Career Day*.

Girl Power!

PTC has hosted the annual *Women in Technology* event for 11 years in a row. The two-day event draws more than 260 sixth-grade girls from seven area schools for a hands-on, activity-packed field trip focused on learning about careers in hi-tech industries. Organized by PTC faculty and staff members, WIT offers hands-on demonstrations, a tour of the college and guest presentations such as "The Chemistry of Makeup," "Fun with Robotics," "The Geology of Venus," "Paper Making," "Virtual Reality," and more.

"Every year, we look forward to sending our sixth-grade girls to this event," says Wendy Wall, Counselor at Grantsburg Middle School. "They come back with such vibrant energy and enthusiasm for careers in technology and science they may not have considered yet," Wall adds.

"Research has shown girls at this age begin to formulate ideas regarding what careers they may see themselves pursuing in the future," says PTC Dean of Student Affairs Nancy Mach. "We've designed this event to help young girls see and imagine themselves in roles where they are contributing to advanced, hi-tech industries. Many girls at this impressionable age are forming thoughts about what they want to do when they grow up, and this kind of field trip makes a lasting, positive impression about all that grown-up girls are capable of doing," Mach adds.

Gold Rush!

Gold Collar Career Day, an annual event that brings more than 200 area high school juniors and seniors to campus, is designed to help inspire the next generation of inventors, engineers, entrepreneurs, and manufacturers. *Gold Collar Career Day* is a technical, hands-on experience that introduces young learners to 21st-century manufacturing technology and gold-collar careers.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, gold collar careers are typically high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand occupations that, at least for the next 15 years, will be very much sought-after. Also notable, gold collar workers account for 65 to 70 percent of the workforce. Students attending PTC's *Gold Collar Career Day* get to experience hands-on, high-tech demonstrations and gain an understanding of how hi-tech industry shapes our world, as well as up-close viewing of products being made at industry sites, directly from the entrepreneurs who run the companies.

Making tracks

PTC has plenty happening on campus, but Pines like to step out of the box once in a while. Not only does PTC make it happen on campus, but Pines are seen and heard all around east central Minnesota making a difference off campus, too. Pines are everywhere at special events!



L to R: You can always catch the PTC car – a Mercedes Excalibur – in the annual Pine County Fair parade! | Members of PTC's Diversity Committee attend the annual Pride in the Park event. | ITS staff member Heather Hansen Mead pitches in and gets dirty at the annual Highway CleanUp event.



MaryAnn Schefers, Accounting Officer, takes her Pine pride with her on a trip to Alaska.

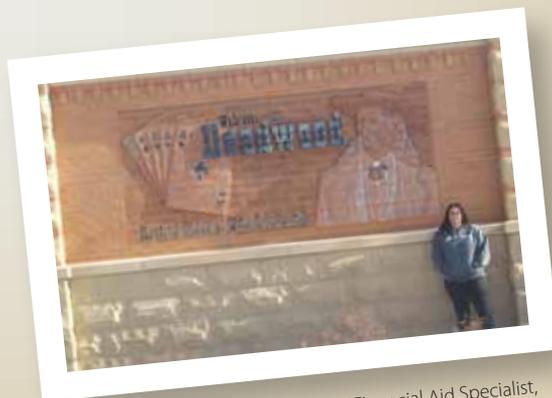


Marc Balgobin, Information Technology Specialist in the Johnson Center for Simulation, shows his Pine pride in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

*pinetech around the world
these Pines get around - and show it!*



Alumnus Nathan Johnson, class of '02, was spotted showing off his alma mater in Miami, Florida.



Amanda Spencer, Admissions and Financial Aid Specialist, shows off her Pine pride on a trip to South Dakota.



Connect with us

Stay informed, and keep up!

Social media tools are not only a great way to engage students in class but are also a means of preparing students for careers after graduation. Students should learn how to use social media to find jobs, research companies, collaborate on projects, and build professional relationships. Stay informed, and read the PTC blog, follow PTC on Twitter, "like" PTC on Facebook, and reference PTC on your LinkedIn account!

What's your major?

Academic and technical programs

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY

Precision Machining: Certificate
Computer Controlled Precision Machining: Diploma
Computer Controlled Precision Manufacturing: AAS Degree
Prototyping and Reverse Engineering: Certificate

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE: Certificate

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Automotive Technology: Certificate
Automotive Technology: Diploma
Automotive Technology: AAS Degree

BUSINESS

Accounting: Certificate
Accounting: AAS Degree
Business Administration: AS Degree
Business Technology: AAS Degree
Entrepreneurship: Certificate
Office Technology Specialist: Certificate

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science: AS Degree
Computer Programming: AAS Degree
Network Administration: Certificate

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Early Childhood Development: Certificate
Early Childhood Development: Diploma
Early Childhood Development: AAS Degree
Early Childhood Development: AS Degree

GENERAL EDUCATION

AA Degree (jointly offered with Lake Superior College)
Minnesota Transfer Curriculum

GUNSMITHING TECHNOLOGY

Gun Repair: Certificate
Advanced Gunsmithing: Diploma
Prototyping Gunsmithing: Diploma

NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCE

Electrocardiography: Credential
Health Sciences – Broad Field: AS Degree
Long-Term Care Assistant: Certificate
Medical Assistant: AAS Degree
Phlebotomy: Credential
Practical Nursing: Diploma
Nursing Mobility: AS Degree

PUBLIC WELFARE FINANCIAL WORKER

Public Welfare Financial Worker: Diploma
Public Welfare Financial Worker: AAS Degree



New medical programs

PTC welcomes Medical Assistant, Electrocardiography, and Phlebotomy students to campus

PTC offers a variety of programs in four academic divisions (Business, Computer Technology, and Health and Human Services; Nursing and Health Sciences; Industrial Technology; and, Math, Science, and Liberal Arts). New in 2012, PTC welcomes additional programs to its growing Nursing and Health Sciences division including a Medical Assistant A.A.S. degree and credentials in Electrocardiography and Phlebotomy. PTC invites you to check www.pinetech.edu for current program plans. All programs are accredited and approved by the Minnesota State College and University system and the Higher Learning Commission, as well as additional, individual program accreditations where applicable.



**Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES**



Get the big picture

Pine Technical College is a part of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system – a statewide organization comprised of 32 institutions of higher learning, including 25 two-year colleges and seven state universities. The system is governed by a single board and chancellor and includes 54 campuses across 47 communities. The MnSCU system is the largest single provider of higher education in the state of Minnesota. With 277,000 students in credit-based courses, about 157,000 students in non-credit courses, and about 35,000 graduates every year, PTC is proud to be a part of the system and a play an impactful role in contributing to the state and region's economy.

Additionally, PTC is regionally accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools of the Higher Learning Commission. The HLC is an independent corporation and one of two commission members of the NCA, which was founded in 1895 as one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. The HLC accredits, and thereby grants membership in the Commission and in the NCA, degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions in the North Central region of the U.S.

Where is PTC?



Miles from Pine City, MN

City	Distance
Twin Cities, MN	65 miles
St. Cloud, MN	70 miles
Duluth, MN	86 miles
Eau Claire, WI	140 miles
Fargo, ND	243 miles
Des Moines, IA	309 miles
Madison, WI	320 miles
Sioux Falls, SD	334 miles
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada	419 miles
Chicago, IL	460 miles

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set your career in motion



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