Calling all Social Activists
Do you want to make a difference? The Community Development undergraduate program within the Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning will educate your student on how to do just that! Community Development students are empowered to actively participate in the creation of sustainable communities that flourish. Coursework explores a wide variety of perspectives, allowing students to gain an understanding of the impact of social, economic, physical, and political forces on people and the environment.

The program offers great opportunities for “hands-on” service-learning. Students work on projects for local government, non-profit organizations, and advocacy groups in the Portland-Metro area. If you are interested in learning more, visit www.pdx.edu/usp/community-development, or call Tracy Braden, Student Services Coordinator, at 503-725-5477.

Does Your Student have a Meal Plan?
PSU Dining Services offers a full menu of choices. Whether your student is eating on-campus every day or just a few times a week, he or she could be saving money with a meal plan. With many options, your student can choose the plan that offers the best value for busy schedules. Excellent service, clean environments, and convenient locations make our dining very pleasant. Check out meal plans, hours, locations, and more online at http://www.pdx.edu/dining.

Electrical & Computer Engineering Opportunities
The Electrical & Computer Engineering department has some upcoming scholarship and honors opportunities for students. All of the following have an application and letter of reference deadline of March 12, 2010.

Undergraduate Teaching Experience Scholarship:
www.ece.pdx.edu/student_resources/UG_TE_Scholarship.php
This scholarship is designed to allow undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in the classroom and lab as well as to establish close working relationships with ECE faculty. Since regular Teaching Assistantships are reserved for Master’s and PhD students, this is a great opportunity for students to get ahead of the pack.

Undergraduate Honors Program:
www.ece.pdx.edu/student_resources/UG_Honors_Program.php
This program will enable undergraduates to go beyond their normal studies to work with faculty in the area of their choice: research, entrepreneurship, or innovation. Students successfully completing the ECE honor’s graduation requirements will have the words “Distinguished Graduate” printed on their diploma.

MS Graduate Teaching Assistantship (TA) Scholarship:
www.ece.pdx.edu/student_resources/MS_TA_Scholarship.php
This scholarship is for graduating or recently graduated ECE seniors and offers a comprehensive experience that engages the TA in activities that are meaningful and relevant to their intellectual and professional development. Being a TA also makes a significant difference in the educational environment of other students. Recipients of the scholarship will be assigned a specific teaching assignment at the beginning of each quarter and must be enrolled full-time in the MS program.

Contact Dr. Branimir Pejcinovic for more information: brano@ece.pdx.edu.
Freezing Pipes, Landlord-Tenant Issues
Read this landlord-tenant article written by PSU’s Student Legal and Mediation Services online at www.pdx.edu/sites/www.pdx.edu.family/files/media_assets/Freezing_Pipes.pdf. If your student rents in Oregon, this information outlines his or her rights and responsibilities as a renter, specifically in relation to possible pipe issues in the colder weather.

Library Update
The Library has launched its new next-gen catalog, Portland State WorldCat, which provides easier access to books, selected articles, and other materials through one interface. It includes materials housed here at PSU, available from our Summit regional partner libraries, and from libraries around the world. Previously, scholars have had to search three separate catalogs for these materials, now they can be searched from one place. Visit this new catalog online at http://library.pdx.edu and try out Portland State WorldCat.

The Library is also continually improving services, such as offering 24/7 online chat assistance to distance students, increasing the number of tutorials and other self-help materials, and hiring a new Distance Education Librarian to coordinate distance outreach efforts. For those who use the Branford P. Millar building, a coffee kiosk is on the way for Spring. In challenging times, the Library keeps changing to bring your students the best services possible.

Orientation Leader Applications
Is your student thinking about summer employment? Does she or he want to explore a great campus leadership opportunity? Encourage your student to apply for a 2010 Orientation Leader (OL) position! Students who serve as OLs are extraordinary resources for new students and families transitioning into the PSU community. In addition to helping during Orientation sessions, OLs coordinate activities during New Student Week, network with many PSU faculty and staff members, and become part of an extremely supportive Orientation team.

To access the online application, visit www.pdx.edu/orientation/orientationleader. The deadline for applying is 4:00pm PST on Wednesday, February 10. For questions, e-mail orientation@pdx.edu. The Orientation Office hopes your student will apply!

School of Fine and Performing Arts Winter Events
The School of Fine and Performing Arts offers many exciting events during Winter quarter. Live music, public lectures, and theater performances are examples of the many events available to the PSU community. To view the entire schedule, visit www.pdx.edu/sites/www.pdx.edu.family/files/media_assets/EventsWinter_2010.pdf.

Spring Break
Mark your calendars: PSU’s Spring Break is March 22-27, 2010. This represents a one-week break between Winter and Spring terms.

Student Health 101 and Parent Perspective
As a service to families at PSU, the Center for Student Health and Counseling (SHAC) is providing an online subscription to Student Health 101 for both your student and you. Student Health 101 is a monthly health and wellness magazine just for college students and their
parents. Each issue contains valuable information that will help your student make better decisions while in college, and can help you with a better understanding of the health and wellness challenges that face today’s students.


RecycleMania at PSU!
RecycleMania - www.recyclemaniacs.org/overview.htm - is a nation-wide, friendly competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities. From January 18 through March 19, Portland State will compete in the waste minimization category, measuring overall waste reduction. Student participation is highly encouraged for this fun and informative event. Students will have the opportunity to engage in the fun by visiting the PSU Recycles! booth between Smith Center and Neuberger Hall on Tuesdays during Winter term from 11:00am-2:00pm. For students with extra school spirit, volunteers are always needed to lend a hand and help PSU Go Green! To learn more, visit PSU Recycles! at www.pdx.edu/sustainability/psu_recycles.html, view the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/people/Portland-State-Recycles/100000396581012, or e-mail recycles@pdx.edu.

Tax Credits for Textbook Purchases
Encourage your students to save their receipts for all course materials purchased throughout the school year. Your student may be eligible for a tax credit up to $2,500!

Under the American Opportunity Tax Credit, a tax credit of up to $2,500 is available for the out-of-pocket cost of tuition, textbooks, and course materials incurred during 2009 and 2010. The incurred costs cannot be covered by scholarship or grant. Students are eligible for this tax credit during the first four years of college.

Updates to Students’ HigherOne Accounts
If your student has activated a HigherOne account through the PSU OneCard, there are some exciting new updates. Two new ATMs have been ordered for PSU: the Broadway location is scheduled to be installed early next year and will provide 24-hour access with HigherOne cards. In addition, HigherOne no longer charges for PIN-based debit transactions.

Please note that for new students, HigherOne cards with photos (taken during Orientation: Advising and Registration programs) are shipped approximately 6 weeks before the start of each term. Cards with no photo are sent 3 weeks before each term. Students should maintain current address and contact information with HigherOne if any updates are necessary.

If your student is or has been dually enrolled with another HigherOne participating university, it is possible to join the two accounts. Contact ID Services at 503-725-8333 for more details.