

# Workforce Education Newsletter

*The latest professional-technical program news from Peninsula College*



Summer 2022

## Welcome Dr. Suzanne Ames as Seventh President of Peninsula College



The Peninsula College Board of Trustees unanimously elected Suzanne Ames, E.D., as the institution's seventh president. Dr. Ames assumed the college's top position on July 1, 2022. "I am so excited to join Peninsula College and the greater community," Ames said.

Prior to her appointment at PC, Ames served for several years as an instructional administrator at Lake Washington Institute of Technology as a Vice President of Instruction, Associate Vice President of Instruction, and Dean of Instruction. Under her leadership LWTech launched many applied bachelor's and associate degrees, created a mandatory diversity and social justice requirement for students, and implemented student success strategies that closed equity gaps.

Her career in the state's community and technical college system includes Director of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness at Skagit Valley College, Vice President of Advancement and Executive Director of the Foundation at Pierce College, Director of Communications at the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, and Director of Marketing and Communications at Cascadia College.

She has taught Business Management courses and serves as an accreditation evaluator for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). She just completed a term as the Vice President of the National Council for Instructional Administrators ... [read more](#)

*"There are tremendous opportunities to put the college at the center of the community to provide meaningful educational opportunities for students and to support economic development throughout the region." Dr. Suzy Ames, President*

## PC Awarded Grants for 2022-23

### Career Launch FTE Funds

Supports the cost of Medical Assisting Apprenticeships (\$160,000)

### Job Skills Program

On the job training partnership with McKinley Mill and Impact Washington (\$201,278)

### Running Start ESSER Funds

Supports summer credit recovery and fees, textbooks, and lab materials for professional - technical running start students in fall, winter, and spring (\$339,754)

### Workforce Development Funds

Supports Dental Hygiene program development and classroom retrofit for new clinic (\$150,00)

## Faculty Highlight: Rob DeCou



We are pleased to announce Rob DeCou is our new full time tenure track Business Administration instructor. Born and raised in Port Angeles, Rob is an experienced entrepreneur and educator. Rob has developed curriculum and taught a variety of business, management, and GED courses. He also launched one of the first Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) programs. Rob serves as a Regional and State Judge for Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) and has participated as a Business Mentor and Grant Advisor for the National Science Foundation (NSF) I-CORPS program. Rob was recently accepted as a speaker for the November 5, 2022, [TEDx](#) Manhattan Beach event.

As an ultra-endurance athlete, Rob consistently combines his passions to raise awareness and build community around important issues. Rob has completed several of the world's toughest events including Uberman, the "World's Toughest Ultra-Triathlon," Badwater 146, the "World's Toughest Foot Race" and the solo Race Across America, the "World's Toughest Cycling Race," all raising funds and awareness for notable causes. As a serial entrepreneur and world record holder in endurance sports, Rob has learned the value of combining dedication, determination, and courage with a worthy cause.

Rob earned his B.A., Business and Philosophy, from Pacific University and his M.B.A., M.S.L. and M.Ed. from Grand Canyon University. Rob is currently pursuing his PhD from Northwest University. Rob is a proud member of the Nor'Wester Rotary Club and Port Angeles Chamber of Commerce. He lives in Port Angeles, WA with his wife Kristin, son Hudson, and daughter Kalea.

Learn about our Business degrees and certificates at  
<https://pencol.edu/proftech/business-administration>

## New for Fall 2022

- [Paralegal AAS Degree](#)
- [Photography Certificate](#)

## Register for Fall

[Fall Class Schedule](#)

## Need an Intern?

Internships help our students gain workplace experience. If you need a student intern, contact Mia Boster at [mboster@pencol.edu](mailto:mboster@pencol.edu)

## Career Launch

If you have paid internship opportunities for on-the-job training, we would like to partner with you through the [Career Launch](#) program. For more information, contact Mia Boster at [mboster@pencol.edu](mailto:mboster@pencol.edu)

## Worker Retraining Assistance

Worker Retraining is a state-funded program that provides job-related training and employment services to dislocated and unemployed workers to help them gain additional training in their existing field or get started on a new career path.

In response to dramatic changes in structure of Washington's economy, the layoffs of thousands of workers in major industries, and the long-term need for training programs for Washington citizens, the legislature enacted the Workforce Employment and Training Act in 1993. The law has significantly expanded the training available to the thousands of jobless workers who need to change careers in order to re-enter the workforce. As a result of this legislation, Worker Retraining programs have served over 100,000 unemployed and dislocated workers in Washington State.

The Worker Retraining Program is available for students in any of our Professional-Technical programs or our Bachelor of Applied Science Management Program. Because the emphasis in the Worker Retraining Program is retraining and rapid reemployment, programs designed for transfer to a four-year college or university are not eligible.

Worker Retraining is loan free and provides financial assistance to students for the following.

- Tuition and fees
- Book expenses
- Child and/or dependent care costs
- Transportation
- Educational supplies/tools
- Career exploration

For more information and eligibility requirements contact: Julie Miller at [jmiller@pencol.edu](mailto:jmiller@pencol.edu)

*"It was really scary putting everything into school because there are no guarantees, but the Worker Retraining program was always there when I needed it." -Shaina Gonzales, Medical Assistant, North Olympic Healthcare Network*

**227**

Students received worker retraining funding in 2021-22



Construction student O'Rion Jones works in the lab.

## Watch

Construction Technology and Worker Retraining student, O'Rion Jones share his story at [O'Rion's Tuition is Covered](#)

## Professional-Technical Advisory Committees

We want to thank our advisory committee members for their time and commitment to Peninsula College.

Our professional-technical advisory committees are at the core of how we develop curriculum and implement new programming. Advisory committee members help the College keep up with the ever-changing workforce by keeping our programs relevant to industry demand. Your input also helps us assess the effectiveness of our programs and anticipate changes in workforce training needs.

We recognize how busy you are and being a member of a committee is a commitment we truly value. We strive to make the most out of the time you volunteer, and your efforts will have a direct impact on your future workforce.

If you are not already a member of an advisory committee, or know of someone who might be interested in serving, contact Mia Boster at [mboster@pencol.edu](mailto:mboster@pencol.edu)

Help us identify new programming and training needs on the Olympic Peninsula

[Click here to take our employer survey](#)

Learn more about our Professional-Technical degrees and certificates at <https://pencol.edu/proftech>

**100+**  
Advisory Committee Members

**30+**  
Healthcare Clinical Partners

**64+**  
Internship Partners

**40+**  
Dual Credit Agreements



## 239 Local Students Earned College Credits in High School CTE Classes

Our CTE Dual Credit Program provides the opportunity for high school students to earn Peninsula College credit in their high school career and technical education (CTE) classes without leaving their high school campus. We added several new Dual Credit articulations with local high schools and 239 students earned Peninsula College dual credits in 2021-22. For more information contact Brian Kneidl at [bkneidl@pencol.edu](mailto:bkneidl@pencol.edu)

## New Funding for Running Start Students in Professional-Technical programs

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction partnered with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to support high school students pursuing career and technical education (CTE) opportunities, including professional-technical courses at Peninsula College, that support the completion of a CTE Sequence Graduation Pathway and progress toward certificate or degree completion.

Funding for the following is available for running start students who enroll in professional-technical courses during fall, winter, and spring.

- Tuition and class fees
- Textbooks
- Class materials & tools
- Testing fees
- Loaner laptops

[Click here to sign up for our Running Start info session- August 15 at 6:00pm in Zoom](#)

For more information about Running Start contact Cindy Lauderback at [clauderback@pencol.edu](mailto:clauderback@pencol.edu)

## Qualifying Programs

- Addiction Studies
- Administrative Office Systems
- Business Administration
- Computer Applications Technology
- Construction Technology
- Criminal Justice
- Cybersecurity & Computer Forensics
- Early Childhood Education
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Entrepreneurship
- Homeland Security/Emergency Management
- Hospitality and Ecotourism
- Information Technology - Systems Administration
- Medical Assisting
- Medical Office Assisting
- Multimedia Communications
- Pre-Nursing
- Nursing Assistant Certified
- Paralegal
- Phlebotomy
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Welding

# Employment Opportunities at Peninsula College

## Full-time, Classified and Exempt Staff:

- Custodian 1
- Customer Service Specialist 1
- Dental Hygiene Program Director
- Early Childhood Specialist 2; full-time, temporary
- Executive Assistant to the VP for Finance and Administration
- Executive Assistant to the VP for Student Services
- International Programs Admissions Specialist

## Full Time, Tenure Track Faculty:

- Humanities, Tenure Track Faculty
- Sociology Instructor; Tenure Track position

## Full Time, Temporary Faculty:

- Medical Assisting Faculty

## Part-time Faculty:

- Cybersecurity Instructor
- Nursing Assistant Certified Instructor
- Nursing Instructor
- Corrections Education, Transitional Studies-continuous
- Phlebotomy Instructor
- Transitional Studies Instructors, IBEST-continuous
- Upward Bound Summer Program Instructor

## Part Time, Hourly Staff:

- Early Childhood Specialist 1
- Grounds & Nursery Specialist 1
- Security Guard 1

For more information about jobs at PC, check out employment webpage at <https://pencol.edu/employment>

# Workforce Education Team

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To opt out of receiving future newsletters contact Georgina Borte at [gborre@pencol.edu](mailto:gborre@pencol.edu)