

# PCC THERAPEUTIC LEARNING GARDEN



## Connecting with Nature Where Learning and Healing Meet

Portland Community College's Therapeutic Learning Garden (TLG), the first healing and learning garden of its kind on a college campus, is currently under development. When completed, it will provide pioneering, replicable curricula for creating healing sanctuaries and vibrant learning environments. The garden will become a cutting-edge hub of natural and neurological innovation that will benefit PCC faculty, staff and students, as well as surrounding neighborhood residents, the Portland Oregon metropolitan region, and beyond.



*Brian Bainson, TLG Landscape Architect, and Melissa Bierman, PCC Horticultural Therapy Instructor, talk in the Portland Memory Garden.*

### Sharing characteristics of all therapeutic gardens, this learning and healing garden also offers:

- **Practicum Site** for PCC's horticultural therapy program
- **Nature-Neuro<sup>1</sup> Laboratory** applying cutting edge research to design healing spaces and enriched learning activities
- **Formal and Informal Learning Spaces** for multiple disciplines and programs
- **Training Site** for professionals applying therapeutic horticulture
- **Demonstration Areas** for home, business, health facility, school and park gardens
- **Natural Calming Setting** for restoration, meditation, reflection and movement



*Future site of the PCC Therapeutic Learning Garden, Sylvania Campus, west of the CC building cafeteria.*

To learn more about this evolving project, visit [pcc.edu/ger](http://pcc.edu/ger) (coming soon!), or contact Jan Abushakrah, Gerontology Program Director, at [jabushak@pcc.edu](mailto:jabushak@pcc.edu), 971-722-4077 about getting involved or donating!

<sup>1</sup> "Nature-Neuro": PCC's TLG has selected and embraced this term to capture the consilience of the nature and neuroscience research.

# Portland Community College Horticultural Therapy Program



*Teresia Hazen shares her passion for therapeutic gardens and horticulture at the PCC TLG Launch.*

PCC Gerontology's Horticultural Therapy Program began in 2008 in collaboration with Legacy Health Systems, and was led and inspired by Teresia Hazen. Our program prepares students for Horticultural Therapist-Registered (HTR) designation, and provides students still working on AHTA HTR requirements to develop the knowledge and skills to work as therapeutic horticulture activity specialists with diverse populations in a variety of settings.

## What the PCC Horticultural Therapy Program Offers

- A Therapeutic Horticulture Activity Specialist Certificate of 38 (term) credits, including the core horticultural therapy courses, as well as activity, psychology, and gerontology courses designed to prepare students to work with older persons in long-term care, memory care, senior and older adult centers, parks and recreation, and residential settings.
- The core 13 credits of horticultural therapy courses and the 36 credits of horticulture and human science courses required by the AHTA for Horticultural Therapist-Registered (HTR) status.
- Internship opportunities, meeting AHTA standards, supervised by an HTR.

## Program Details

The program is currently accredited by the American Horticultural Therapy Association through Legacy Health System, and will be re-accredited through PCC in January 2018, when the core courses are transplanted to the PCC Sylvania Campus in Winter term 2018. The sequence of 6 core courses will be offered over 6 terms, in a class-web format, with 2-3 Saturday meetings.



*Melissa Bierman engages in horticultural therapy with a client.*

## For More Information

See [ahta.org](http://ahta.org) on accreditation and HTR requirements.

See [pcc.edu/ger](http://pcc.edu/ger) about course offerings, certificate details, class meeting schedules, and other information. Contact Jan Abushakrah, Gerontology Program Director, about registration, advising and other questions, at [jabushak@pcc.edu](mailto:jabushak@pcc.edu), 971-722-4077.