



Contents

Spring Sports Season Kick off	1
Important Dates	2
New Faces	3
PCC Performing Arts	4
Beaver Building Days	4
Graduation Fair	5
PCC Beaver Rodeo	6
Student Spotlight	7
Staff Spotlight	8
Faculty Spotlight	9
Let's Celebrate	10
Student Life	11
Student Leadership Council	12
College Health Hints	12
Beaver Wrestling	13
Beaver Track & Field	14
Beaver Softball	14
Beaver Basketball	15
Beaver Tennis	16
Beaver Baseball	16
36th Annual Scholarship Auction	17

Spring Sports Season Kicks Off on Campus

The spring sports season is in full swing on campus, with basketball and wrestling wrapping up their regular seasons soon. Check out what the other teams are up to:

- **Baseball:** The team is practicing their swings while their new turf field, Stanion Field, is being renovated. The outfield fence is currently being installed and the turf is expected to arrive soon. The project was funded through a generous private donation and everyone is eager to see the final outcome.
- **Softball:** The team is busy honing their skills and heading to warmer climates for their first tournament of the season.
- **Track and Field:** Athletes are training hard and participating in indoor events.
- **Tennis:** The team is perfecting their serves and volleys on the court. After finishing in the top ten at the NJCAA, the men's team is set for another great year. Meanwhile, the women's team is facing tough competition but improving every day.
- **Women's Flag Football:** The team is practicing every chance they can and are excited to showcase their skills at the home game on March 23, 2024.

As the campus comes alive with activity, we're looking forward to an exciting season ahead!



Call for upcoming newsletter content

If you have information or ideas for new content, fun facts, or PCC trivia, send them to Marketing for inclusion in the next newsletter

>>> marketing@prattcc.edu

Contributors

Thank you to all of our contributors.

Dr. Kwanna King
Leah Patterson
Misty Beck

Charles Keefer
Kenny McCartney
Lori Montgomery

Quote of the Month

**“ Never let SUCCESS go to your HEAD.
Never let FAILURE get to your HEART.”**

- BEYONCÉ

February 2024

Important dates

Certification Day for Full-Semester Classes
February 7th

Performing Arts - Valentine's Dinner Show
February 12th - 6:30pm - Reservations Required

PCC Rodeo Alumni Bash
February 24th - Dinner & Auction -RSVP 

Academic Olympics - No Daytime Classes
February 26th

March 2024 - A look ahead

Mid-Term Week
March 4-8th

Spring Break - No Classes (PCC Offices Open)
March 11-15th

Early Enrollment Begins - Summer & Fall 2024
March 18th

Performing Arts - Broadway Review Show
March 22-24th - Fri & Sat @ 7:30pm &
Sun @ 2:30pm

Good Friday - No Classes (Campus Closed)
March 29th



NEW FACES ACROSS CAMPUS

For 2024, we see some new faces on campus.
We are happy to have them all in our PCC community.

Chase



Chase Ward joins us as our North Campus Farmhand/CDL Instructor & Maintenance /Carpenter. Ward is a former PCC graduate and we are glad to have him back with us.

Michelle



Michelle McVey joins two of our areas here at PCC, as the Financial aid admin assistant and as our Library Clerk. We are excited to have Michelle join our team.

Jack



We are ecstatic to welcome Jack Kuehnel to our team at PCC. He will be serving as our North Campus Farm Hand /Shooting Sports Assistant & Maintenance Personnel. We couldn't be happier to have him on board!

Mindy



We're thrilled to announce that Mindy Sluss will be joining our team as the Coordinator of Special Programs Admissions. Her wealth of knowledge and experience will be invaluable to the team.

Larry



Pratt Community College is excited to announce the hiring of Larry Johnston as its new Athletic Director. Johnston started on campus on Wednesday, January 3 and hit the ground running with in-service meetings, training, and events. Johnston comes to Beaver Nation from Frederick Community College in Frederick, Maryland. where he served as director of athletics since September 2021.

"I'm looking forward to partnering with a great group of PCC coaches, the campus, and greater community to provide the best possible experience for our student-athletes at PCC," said athletic director Larry Johnston. "The true blessing of being an Athletic Director is the opportunity to interact with and watch the PCC student-athlete excel both in the classroom and on the field while becoming a future leader in our community and abroad."

Johnston has a Bachelor of Arts degree in physical education from Azusa Pacific University where he was a member of the 1992 NAIA national championship track and field team competing in the hammer throw. He received a master's in science, kinesiology degree from California State University Fullerton and spent one year as a strength and conditioning coach at the University of Southern California.

During his tenure at Frederick Community College, Johnston provided leadership, planning, and management of the athletics programs, ensured compliance with national and regional sports regulations. Johnston's responsibilities included staff supervision, goal setting, and performance reviews. Johnston has a track record of securing funding for sports equipment, facilities, and technology. He also overseen student-athlete enrollment and academic success, as well as manage budgets and inventories, and coordinated with relevant personnel to ensure safe transportation for events. Johnston also represented the college at local, state, regional, and national meetings, and working collaboratively with other departments to support institutional initiatives.

Prior to his role at Frederick Community College, Johnston served in positions such as Commissioner of the Texas Trinity League, Athletic Director of the Texas Christian Athletic League, and the Interim Athletic Director and Interim Dean of Students and Faculty at the Sterling Classical School in Leander, Texas.

"Larry brings extensive experience as a director of athletics at the community college level, and we are excited to have him be a part of Pratt Community College, said college president Dr. Michael Calvert. "I am confident he will make a positive impact in our athletic department, for our coaches and student athletes and at Pratt Community College as a whole."

With close to 25 years of experience in Athletic departments, including overseeing programs, managing staff, ensuring compliance with regulations, and budget management. We are grateful to have Larry here at Pratt Community College.

Pratt Community College Performing Arts Department presents

Valentine's Dinner & Show

FEBRUARY

12

AT 6:30 PM

Tickets are \$20 and include dinner and a show.

Reservations are required -
please email mistyb@prattcc.edu

Located at
The Front Porch, 115 E 4th Street,
Pratt, Kansas



PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BEAVER

Building Days

PREPARE FOR FALL 2024
& Choose your session

<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>JULY</u>
23rd	14th	12th	18th
26th-EPT	23rd	26th	

LEARN ABOUT
STUDENT SERVICES,
MEET WITH ADVISORS

and **REGISTER FOR CLASSES**



**SIGN UP opens
February 19th!!**



PRATT 
Community College

DEPARTING THE DAM!

GRADUATION FAIR

**Wednesday,
February 28th**

**Benson Education
Center Commons
1:00pm - 4:00pm**

**Planning to graduate
in Spring 2024?**

**Join us to complete your
graduation checklist**

**For questions contact:
620-450-2221 or registrar@prattcc.edu**



**Staff will be
available to
assist with the
following...**

- *Register for degree completion*
- *Sign up to participate in the commencement ceremony*

PGC BEAVER RODEO

ALUMNI

Bash



SATURDAY

5PM

SOCIAL HOUR

24

FEBRUARY

6PM

DINNER

LIVE AUCTION TO FOLLOW

Pratt County 4H Events Center

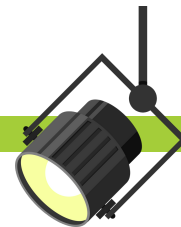
RSVP & Purchase Tickets by Feb. 21

SCAN CODE TO VIEW ONLINE
SILENT AUCTION ITEMS OR DONATE



To RSVP and purchase tickets, please email jaker@prattcc.edu OR call 620-388-0405

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Tasia Bell

Hometown: Dallas, Texas

Field of Study: Pre-Law

What brought you to PCC?

"My best friend. I told myself that I'm going to try something new"

Do you participate in a sport or activity?

"I participate in track and have since middle school. I compete in the 200m and 400m sprinting events and went to state every year in high school."

Do you have any Career goals?

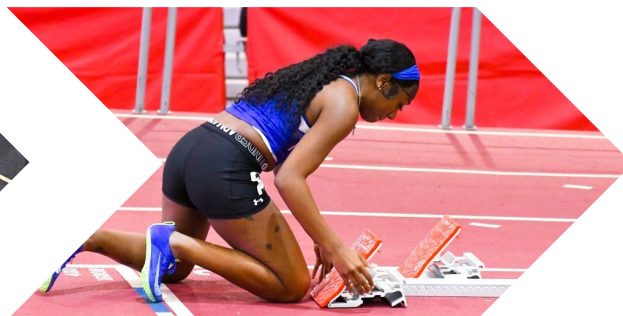
"I want to be an attorney. I am thinking more criminal law at the misdemeanor level. Hoping to transfer to a university that has a good law program and start with the basics first."

What inspired you to pursue this career?

"I like to talk and feel that I am a good communicator and debater and like to pursue something new."

What has been your favorite class so far? Why?

"Math and biology. Mr. Jackson has helped me with tutoring and class work. Mr. Chambers is really interesting and makes biology fun."



What do you love about being a PCC Beaver?

"I feel like I can be myself and have the ability to talk to people if I need anything."

Who has influenced you the most in Life?

"My mom, she showed me how to be strong, be a woman, and be respectful and independent."

Do you have any interest and/or hobbies in your free time?

"I love to do hair and cook, my favorite is soul food."

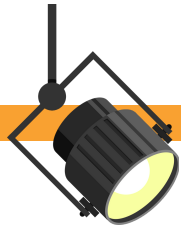
What advice would you give to future students?

"To just be yourself. Go for your dreams, even if its hard."

Is there anything you would like to add?

Thank you, Coach Q, for helping me with my attitude and become a better person. Keep it cute and keep it classy!





STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Monette DePew

Monette has been with Pratt Community College for over 35 years! She started at PCC as an English department faculty member and moved to her current position as the Vice President of Instruction four years ago.

What project, responsibility, and/or aspect of your position do you enjoy the most?

"What I enjoy most is to assist students, faculty and other employees in their roles so that their success contributes to PCC's success. I want the PCC culture to be something that everyone finds fulfilling. "

What do you consider your biggest accomplishment to date?

"I hope I have helped people in some way, perhaps just by listening. I try to help people find a sense of belonging. I try to be a support and a resource for my coworkers and family. Life can be challenging and I want to help and support others. "

What do you do for fun/relaxation outside of the PCC Community?

"I enjoy traveling, spending time with family and reading."

Before joining the PCC community, what was the most unusual or interesting job/position you have had?

"I have always been a teacher. One of my favorite aspects of being a faculty member was creating assignments. Being able to be creative and connect the assignments in English/literature to the student experience and other aspects of life."

What is an interesting fact about yourself that you believe fellow employees would be surprised about?

"I enjoy baking and sharing the finished products with others. "

Growing up, what did you want to be?

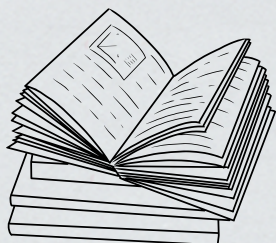
"I always wanted to be a teacher, but knew the elementary level wasn't for me."

Do you have a motto, personal mantra, or favorite quote to share?

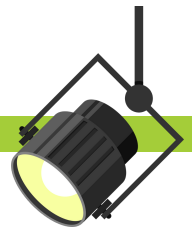
"A favorite quote of mine is from Maya Angelou."

"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style."

-Maya Angelou



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Lori Montgomery

Lori was raised in NE Indiana, where she grew up on a dairy and diverse crop operation. During her formative years, she was involved in both 4H and FFA. Lori pursued her higher education at community colleges in Illinois and Oklahoma before moving on to Oklahoma State University. She has also completed her Master's degree at Fort Hays State University, and acquired graduate hours from K-State University. While in Oklahoma, Lori met her husband, and they both relocated to Pratt, America. The couple has two boys, and Lori remains actively involved in the beef industry and 4H in Pratt county. Lori's dedication and passion for agriculture have been steadfast for over 25 years as an agriculture instructor and coordinator for the Rodeo program at Pratt Community College.

What is your favorite part of your job?

"A lot of flexibility, the ability to raise a family and the support of the college during my cancer treatments. I also enjoy the kids and the rodeo program. They make it fun and exciting. I feel like I can relate to them. "

What is the most challenging part of your job?

"Communication between departments and administrators and the changes in technology."

Before joining the PCC community, what was an unusual or interesting job/position you have had?

"Probably the Oklahoma State Vet Hospital. I worked with the large animals. "

What do you like most about mentoring students?

"Getting to know the students and help them get to know what they want to do after PCC. It is a great age, community college is a great stepping stone. "

How do you like to spend your free time?

"With my cows. We have a red angus herd. I also cook, research genealogy and help with 4H. My husband and I golf during the summer and this summer will be going to Cabo again."

Who has been the most helpful in your career and what words of advice you would give others?

"Daryl Lucas and Doc Hunter were the most helpful throughout starting teaching here at PCC. Monette DePew was a great mentor for me as well. Advice for others would have to be, your not going to get rich teaching. "

Growing up, what did you want to be?

"I was the first one in my family to go to college and I grew up on a dairy farm. I was active in 4H and FFA and knew I didn't want to stay in Indiana. But I knew I wanted it to be something in ag."

If you won the lottery tomorrow, what would you do?

"Pay off my house, my kids' student loans, use it for the 4H program, my family and more cows. I would probably still work, but I would use it for good."



LET'S CELEBRATE



Black History Month celebrates African American history, contributions, and achievements. It started as a weeklong event in 1926 and expanded to a month-long celebration in 1976. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) leads nationwide Black History Month celebrations and establishes its themes. In 1968, Black students protested to extend History Week, which ultimately led to the nationwide observance of Black History Month. The month of February was chosen to honor the birth dates of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Each year, ASALH selects a theme for Black History Month, with the 2024 theme being African Americans and the arts, focusing on art is infused with African, Caribbean, and the Black American lived experiences.

February is a time to celebrate and honor prominent Black Americans and their contributions to the United States. It recognizes individuals such as Harriet Tubman, Maya Angelou, and George Washington Carver. The month also highlights the achievements of lesser-known figures like Onesimus, who brought vaccinations to America, and Hiram Rhodes Revels, the first African American elected to the U.S. Senate. Various national organizations, including the Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress, sponsor events and activities to commemorate Black History Month. The celebration is not limited to the United States, as Canada, the Netherlands, Ireland, and the United Kingdom also observe the month in different ways. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) play a significant role in promoting Black history year-round and uplifting the rights and needs of Black communities. Black History Month aims to recognize the diverse African American experiences, with over 45 million different lived experiences in the country. The celebrations often involve honoring community leaders, family members, and stories that bring people together.



Source: <https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/black-history-month-facts/>

Valentine's Day

Each year on February 14, people exchange cards, candy or flowers with their special "valentine." St. Valentine's Day is named for a Christian martyr and dates back to the 5th century, but has origins in the Roman holiday Lupercalia. Different times, places and cultures have commemorated February 14 and the days surrounding it in other ways. Here are seven of these lesser-known traditions.

- In the 19th century, bouquets of flowers were used to convey specific meanings. Florists had flower dictionaries that categorized and listed the meanings of each flower. Roses became the go-to flower at the end of the 19th century.
- Puzzle purses were popular Valentine's gifts in England and the US during the 18th and 19th centuries. They were made of intricately folded paper with parts of a message or verses written on different corners.
- Ayo Handy-Kendi, founder of the African American Holiday Association, started Black Love Day. Celebrated on February 13, focusing on increasing peace, stopping violence and to remind us of the love in the Black community."
- Valentine's Day became popular in Germany after World War II. Germans celebrate by giving gifts that include pigs, a symbol of luck, and heart-shaped gingerbread cookies called lebkuchen, which may include a personal message.
- Celebrating friendship instead, February 14 is for friends, not just lovers. In parts of Latin America, Estonia and Finland many have started to recognize the holiday as a way to honor friendship.
- To help couples who can't afford their own wedding, the governments in the Philippines began to organize mass weddings. As a result of these efforts, February 14 is the most common wedding anniversary in the country.
- In Japan, women traditionally give men Valentine's chocolates, with different types for different relationships. However, the popularity of obligation chocolate has been declining.

And if your Valentine's Day is difficult, several zoos now have a solution. The cockroach. Allowing people to pay a small fee to name a selected cockroach of their choosing.

Source: <https://www.state.gov/national-human-trafficking-prevention-month/>

STUDENT LIFE

There's something for everyone this month! We had a range of activities and events including sports tournaments, movie nights, grocery bingo and more. Our team has been working hard to ensure that we cater to all interests and backgrounds, making sure that every student feels included and valued. We believe that student life is an important part of the college experience, and we're dedicated to creating a fun and engaging environment for all. So come on down and join in on the fun this February - we can't wait to see you there!



February 2024 Student Life Activities


Tuesday, February 6
3vs3 Basketball Tournament Bracket Play
 Beaver Dome
 8:30 pm 


Thursday, February 8
Grocery Bingo
 Cafeteria
 8:00 pm 

Sunday, February 11
Super Bowl LVIII & Pizza Party
 Woj Hall
 5:30 pm 



Tuesday, February 13
Valentines Day Movie
 Woj Hall
 8:00 pm 

Wednesday, February 14
Don't Be a Dum Dum
 Riney Building
 11:00 am 

Thursday, February 22
Wiffle Ball & Snow Cones
 Beaver Dome
 8:30 pm 

Tuesday, February 27
Dodge Ball & Snow Cones
 Beaver Dome
 8:30 pm 



STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Representing the Athletics department, a group of students from Basketball, Softball, Cross Country, Tennis, Esports, Baseball, Soccer, Cheer, Women's flag football, and Volleyball met with President's Cabinet as the monthly student leaders. The students and cabinet members discussed topics relating to facilities, uniforms, student events, student life and game day experiences at PCC. The Student Leadership council is a great way that our students can have a voice and help improve the college as a whole.



COLLEGE HEALTH HINTS

February Self-Care Challenge

Everyone needs to remember self-care.

Here are a few things to promote relaxation, joy and not add stress.

 <p>Try a new healthy recipe</p>	<p>Elastic waistband all day long</p> 	 <p>Start a journal</p>	 <p>Clean out your closet & donate</p>	<p>Volunteer at least twice this month</p> 
<p>Dance & Sing like no one is watching</p> 	<p>Go to the movies</p> 	<p>Take a nap</p> 	<p>Have a picnic in your room</p> 	<p>Play & snuggle with a pet</p> 
<p>Give someone a hug</p> 	<p>Walk away from a toxic relationship</p> 	<p>Play a board game</p> 	<p>Try a meditation app</p> 	<p>Send five Valentines</p> 
<p>List self-care practices that alleviate stress</p> 	<p>Look up at the stars</p> 	<p>Take yourself out for lunch</p> 	<p>Netflix viewing party</p> 	<p>Look for the positives in people</p> 
<p>Compliment five people in one day</p> 	<p>Go for a walk with a friend</p> 	<p>Remember to breathe</p> 	<p>Eat a piece of chocolate</p> 	<p>Have a spa day with friends</p> 



PCC College Health

620-450-2150 - Riney Student Center

Monday - Thursday: 8:30am - 3:00pm & Friday: 8:30am - 12:30pm

BEAVER WRESTLING



Busy Month for KJCCC Champion Beaver Wrestling Team

The second-ranked Pratt Community College wrestling team has captured the Fourth straight KJCCC Championship this January with a busy month of matches.

On January 18, the team hosted the Battle of Highway 281 against the Barton Community College Cougars. Pratt's performance was impressive as they dominated the Cougars and won 46-0. This win puts them in a 7-3 position against Barton, and it was also their first dual win of the season. The event kicked off with five exhibition matches with the Beavers taking four out of five wins from Barton. The only victory for the Cougars was in the 149lb exhibition match. Additionally, the 405 attendees had the pleasure of watching two Pratt Wrestling Club kids matches during intermission.

On January 22, the PCC Beavers secured their second dual win of the season when they faced off against Cloud County Community College in a thrilling dual meet. The Beavers emerged victorious with a dominant score of 60-6.



On January 24, the PCC wrestling team traveled to Parsons, KS. to face off against Colby Community College and the No. 11 ranked Labette Community College. The Beavers achieved an impressive victory against both teams, upping their conference dual season record to 4-0 with three more matches yet to come. The Trojans of Colby were defeated 56-0, while the Beavers triumphed over the No. 11 ranked Labette with a 40-12 victory.

On January 31, PCC faced off against Northwest Kansas Technical College and Cowley College. They secured a win with a score of 24-18 against Northwest Tech. With a quick pin from 141-pound weight class, Easton Taylor; a close but successful match in the 149-pound weight class by Gabe Maki; A 40 second pin by 165-pound weight class Cayleb Atkins; and a victory by 197-pound weight class Kaden Glass, the PCC Beavers brought home the win. The Beavers dominated their wrestling match against Cowley, winning with a final score of 47-7.

On February 1, the Beavers finished their dual season with a rescheduled home dual against Neosho County. They dominated with a final score of 57-0. With five matches ending in pins under 2 minutes and 15 seconds and as quick as 46 seconds, the PCC wrestling team wasted no time in securing their final W.

The Pratt Community College wrestling program concluded their regular season with an unprecedented 7-0 season record and the teams fourth consecutive Kansas Community College Jayhawk Conference championship!

The Beavers will travel to Great Bend, KS on February 10 for the NJCAA South Central District Wrestling Tournament taking place at Barton Community College.



#DefendtheDam

BEAVER TRACK & FIELD



Pratt Community College's Track and Field Team Shines at Wilson Invitational

Pratt Community College's track and field program recently participated in the Wilson Invitational at Wichita State University. The Beavers had a strong showing, with six top-5 finishes and a top-10 finish. In addition, the team competed in the men's indoor heptathlon for the first time under the current coaching staff. Freshman Aiden Skiles finished 12th overall in the heptathlon with 3907 points.

Other men's results from the meet included a first-place preliminary finish in the 60m dash for Joseph Michel. Michel finished third in the 60m finals, with Kareem Small finishing behind him in fifth place with a time of 6.92. Sophomore Quintin Johnson finished the 800m run in third with a time of 2:01.88. The men's 4x400m relay team of JaMauri Brooks-Davis, Sebastian Gilbreath, Daniel Amparan and Quintin Johnson finished second overall with a time of 3:26.16.

For the women, Mikayla Henry finished fourth in the 60m dash with a time of 7.79. Freshman Riley Grusing finished tenth in the 800m run with a time of 2:42.73. The women's 4x400m relay team, consisting of Serenity Jackson, Mikayla Henry, Naomi Vagher, and Tasia Bell, finished in second place.



SOFTBALL



Pratt Community College Softball Season Preview

Pratt Community College's softball team began their season at the Mardi Gras Invitational Tournament in Louisiana, playing four games in two days against Mississippi colleges. "I like to play southern JUCO teams as the majority of the time they are really good," said head softball coach Joely Rogers. "With the Louisiana trip we are playing Mississippi colleges that have gone to the national tournament every year. We are playing national contenders in this tournament to see where we rank up."

The Beavers finished 5-45 last season but advanced to the NJCAA Region VI tournament for the first time since 2018. This season, they have 14 new players, including transfers Isabel Patty and Gabbi Everitt, who bring a much-needed shift and prowess to the pitching staff and a strong freshman class. The team aims to finish in the top five in conference play and advance to the playoff tournament as a higher seed.



#DefendtheDam

MEN'S BASKETBALL



Pratt College Secures a Win Against Coffeyville in a Thrilling Game

On the 24th of January 2024, the Pratt Community College Beavers went head-to-head with Coffeyville Community College in an intense basketball match that had fans on the edge of their seats. The Beavers emerged victorious, winning 74-71 against their opponents.

The game started with both teams playing competitively, and Coffeyville taking a slight lead in the first half, ending with a score of 33-32. In the second half, Pratt made a strong comeback and outscored their rivals 42-38 to secure the win.

Zion Cruz was the leading scorer for the Beavers, scoring 22 points and demonstrating his skills from beyond the arc, shooting 4-10 from three-point range. Caleb Smith and Davonte "Bubba" Russ also had impressive performances, scoring 16 and 17 points respectively. Cris Carroll was the standout player for Coffeyville, scoring 19 points and grabbing nine rebounds.

Both teams had similar shooting percentages, with Coffeyville shooting 50% from the field and the Beavers shooting 49.2%. However, Pratt had a slight advantage from three-point range, shooting 29.2% compared to Coffeyville's 23.8%.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Beavers get a Win Over Garden City in a Close Game

On January 31st, Pratt Community College triumphed over Garden City Community College in a thrilling basketball match. With a final score of 78-72, the game was a close contest from start to finish. Garden City took an early lead in the first quarter, outscoring Pratt 20-14. However, Pratt came back strong in the second quarter and narrowed the deficit to only four points at halftime, with a score of 43-38.

Garden City maintained their lead in the third quarter, with a score of 59-57. Nevertheless, the Beavers made a remarkable comeback in the final quarter, outscoring their opponents 28-15. This surge allowed Pratt to secure the victory with a final score of 78-72. Princess Anderson was the standout player for Pratt, leading her

team with an impressive 25 points. Isis Sanders also played a vital role, contributing 17 points.

Despite having a shooting percentage of 38.3%, with 29.2% accuracy from three-point range, the Beavers' free-throw shooting was particularly impressive with a success rate of 78.1%. Additionally, Pratt's rebounding efforts were commendable, as they outrebounded Garden City 43-29. Garden City, on the other hand, displayed a shooting percentage of 43.1%, with 36.0% accuracy from beyond the arc.



#DefendtheDam

BEAVER TENNIS



Pratt Community College Tennis Team Prepares for Spring 2024 Season

The Pratt Community College tennis team began their spring season at Kansas Wesleyan University on January 27. This is earlier than usual, as the team traditionally waits until February to open their season. With indoor courts accessible, they are traveling to Salina, Kan. for an early start.

Head tennis coach Jeret Johnson notes that early recovery time between matches is beneficial, particularly at the start of the season when injuries and illnesses are more common. Last season's NJCAA men's tennis championships saw the men's team finish in the top ten, and this year they are returning four sophomores, including Stefan Aigner, Alex Ballinger, Gabriel Cuenca, and Valentino Iveli. Freshmen Alexi Khamartu, Simeon Latinchev, and Martin Despodov will lead the top of the lineup card.

"We have a lot of talent on the team this year," said coach Johnson. "We have some good sophomore leadership on the team, and we are hoping to get some more early season experience for the freshman, so we are able to peak at the right time."

The women's team is composed of sophomores Emily Ryan and Olivet Shove, and freshmen Sienna Glazbrook, Yamile Mendoza, and Tabitha Pauly. Facing tough competition this year, coach Johnson expressed his determination to improve and work hard every day.



BEAVER BASEBALL

Pratt Community College Baseball: 2024 Season Preview

The Pratt Community College baseball team began their 2024 season with a match against the Allen County Red Devils on Feb. 1 & 2. The Beavers have won six out of eight season openers against the Red Devils in the past two years.

Coach Reller shared his thoughts, "It is a great opening weekend for us against a quality opponent and it gets our guys prepared for what Jayhawk baseball is about. Although we have taken three out of four the last two years, none of those games were easy."

The Beavers will have a very experienced group coming out of the bullpen this season with great pitching abilities. The top of the lineup card will look familiar to Beaver fans, with Gavin Djurovic healthy and ready for his final season in Beaver nation. Ben Waliczek, Drew Bugner, and Jaden Flores are all back and will lead the Beavers offensively.

Pratt is eagerly anticipating the turf installation at Stanion Field after two months of dirt work, rebuilding the outfield fence, and other improvements around the facility. Due to the ongoing construction, the Beavers will begin their season with three road series at Allen County, Fort Scott, and NOC-Tonkawa.



#DefendtheDam

36th ANNUAL

PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION

May 3, 2024

Dennis Lesh Sports Arena

**DOORS OPEN 6PM • DINNER 6-7:30PM
LIVE AUCTION 8PM**

Tickets \$50 & Reserved Tables \$350

ON SALE NOW

Contact Donna

620.450.2240 or donnamp@prattcc.edu

2024 PLATINUM UNDERWRITER

Southwest Truck Parts, Inc. 

