



Pratt Community College Monthly Newsletter

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Happy New Year, Beaver Nation!

Campus has resumed activity and is ready for Spring 2024. Residence halls welcomed students back on January 8th and the first day of Spring classes began on January 10th.

In this edition of the Beaver Buzz newsletter, we will take a look back on the many accomplishments of 2023.

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

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WELCOME BACK
Beavers!



#BEAVERNATION

Quote of the Month

“ If you can't fly, THEN RUN. If you can't run, THEN WALK.
if you can't walk, THEN CRAWL.
But whatever you do, you have to
KEEP MOVING FOWARD

- DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

January 2024

Important dates

Campus Reopens

January 3rd

Residence Halls & Cafeteria Reopen

January 8th

Registration Days

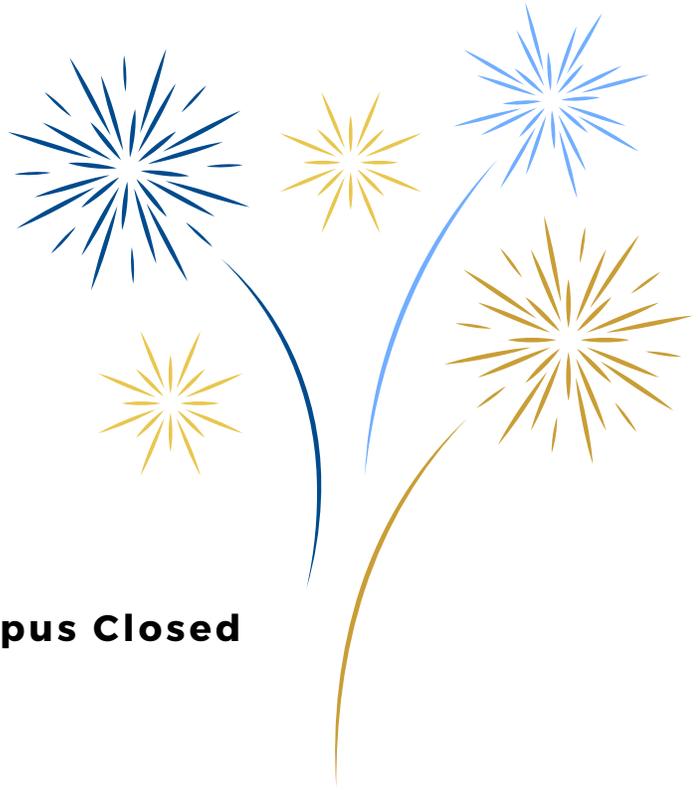
January 8 & 9

Spring 2024 Classes Begin

January 10th

Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday - Campus Closed

January 15th



February 2024 - A look ahead

Certification Day for Full-Semester Classes

February 7th

Performing Arts - Valentine's Dinner Show

February 12th - 6:30pm - Reservations Required

Academic Olympics - No Classes

February 26th



A LOOK BACK AT 2023



Wildlife Outfitting and Operations Takes Trip

A group of sophomore students planned a backcountry hunting trip to the Gila National Forest in New Mexico to pursue Merriam's turkey. The forest is one of the first wilderness areas in the USA and covers about 3.3 million acres. The students went on the trip to complete a "Wild Turkey Grand Slam" which requires harvesting all four U.S. turkey subspecies. The students enjoyed the trip, saw various wildlife, and learned about the Gila's rich hunting history.

New STEM Club Visits Local Area Schools & Library

Pratt Community College's STEM club, led by students and faculty members, is making waves by teaching Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math to area students. They traveled to different schools and libraries, performing experiments like Elephant Toothpaste, expanding marshmallows, and creating static electricity. The shows have been a hit with the kids, and the STEM club plans to bring their shows to other service areas in the future.



Three PCC Students Recognized as PTK All-State Scholars

Three Pratt CC students - Tamara Radovanov, Jordyn Sanko, and Ethan Paris - were recognized for their academic achievements and community service at the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) luncheon in Junction City, KS. The event, co-sponsored by PTK and the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, honored the Kansas All-State Academic Team.

Beaver Wrestling Win Third Conference Title in a Row

The Pratt wrestling team won their third consecutive Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference Championship by defeating Cloud County, Northwest Tech, Colby, and Barton at the Jayhawk Duals in Salina, KS. Head Wrestling Coach Ken Kepley was named KJCCC Coach of the Year, while Devon Dawson and Easton Taylor received individual awards.



Scholarship Auction Sets New Record

On May 5th, the PCC Foundation held its 35th Annual Scholarship Auction inside the Dennis Lesh Sports Arena. The PCC auction exceeded the set goal of \$100,000 and raising over \$107,000. Bidding was active, and the philanthropic intent of the auction-goers, as well as the testimonials of PCC students, contributed to the success.

A LOOK BACK AT 2023 - Continued

PCC Performing Arts New York City Trip

PCC's Performing Arts students and area theatre enthusiasts ventured off on the bi-annual trip to New York City in January just before Spring classes started. It's a fun trip full of appreciation for the arts, culture, food, camaraderie and visits to professional venues such as multiple Broadway Theatres and Radio City Music Hall. The group packs in up to five Broadway Musicals during the five day trip along with other major tourist sites.



Men's Tennis Finishes Tenth at NJCAA Championships

The Beaver men's tennis team finished their season ranked 10th at the NJCAA Men's Tennis Championships. The team achieved a 9-11 overall record with a runner-up position in regular season KJCCC play and third-place position at the NJCAA Region VI Tournament. Head Tennis Coach Jeret Johnson praised the sophomores for their contribution to the team's success and expressed hope for continued progress in the right direction.

Pratt Cheer Wins National Runner-Up at NCA Competition

The Pratt cheer team competed in the National Cheerleaders Association College Nationals in Florida for the third time, finishing as the National Runner-Up in their division. They had won the Region VI Intermediate Large Coed Championship earlier. The team attended a NCA Summer Camp in July to qualify for the NCA College Nationals for the fourth time in a row.



Beaver Track & Field Finish Season at Nationals

The Pratt Beaver track and field team competed in the NJCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Hobbs, NM. Jamaira Ross finished sixth in the steeplechase and set a new school record, becoming an All-American. Tishere Dockery and Braden Colglazier were also top performers. Overall, Pratt finished with two All-Americans, 17 All-KJCCA West, and seven All-Region VI accolades. The team broke seven school records.

PCC Performing Arts Annual Road Trip

PCC's Performing Arts students hit the road shortly after Commencement on their annual road trip to Tennessee. They visit Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge with many stops in between for food, fun, sightseeing and opportunities to perform. Local businesses & families sponsor the matching shirts for each day & the majority of funding is gathered from fundraising. An amazing way to enjoy each other and close out the academic year.



A LOOK BACK AT 2023 - Continued



Pratt Community College Receives KBOR Award

Pratt Community College received the Kansas Board of Regents Data Quality Award for their excellence in data submission. President Dr. Michael Calvert celebrated and thanked various departments for their contributions, including the Office of Admissions, Registrar, Student Success Center, Financial Aid Office, Student Accounts, Data Services, and Cathy Blasi.



PCC Students Compete in Collegiate Farm Bureau Meet

Nicole Haase, a Pratt Community College Ag student and Collegiate Farm Bureau member, won the Kansas Collegiate Farm Bureau Discussion Meet. She will compete in the National Farm Bureau Discussion Meet in March 2023. The PCC Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter, advised by Jackie Mundt, is supported by local Pratt County & Kiowa County Farm Bureau chapters.



PCC Ranks 18th In The Nation On The 2023 WalletHub List

WalletHub.com compiled a list of the best and worst community colleges in the US, with Pratt Community College ranking 18th among two-year post-secondary institutions. The ranking was based on factors such as financing, cost, education, and career outcomes. Pratt Community College excelled in all areas, reflecting the institution's mission, vision, and aims.

Dwane DeWeese Receives the Outstanding Alumni Award

Dwane DeWeese, a former automotive technology and diesel mechanic instructor at Pratt Community College, is the recipient of the 2023 Outstanding Alumni Award. After earning his degrees from PCC and Emporia State University, he served PCC for over 30 years and was a member of its Board of Trustees for more than 20 years. Dwane's dedication to promoting accessible and quality education, as well as his financial support of PCC, has had a significant impact on numerous aspiring individuals.



PCC Rodeo Team Hosts a Inter-Squad Jackpot on Campus

The PCC Rodeo team hosted an inter-squad jackpot on September 20, 2023 at the Herb Huffman Arena. It was a great event and was attended by friends, family and open to the public. The Student Life Department partnered with the team for the event. The Rodeo team participated in many events during the Fall 2023 semester. We are proud of the growth and skill of this years' group.

A LOOK BACK AT 2023 - Continued

Celebrating our Automotive team's Outstanding Achievement

The Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) program has achieved the maximum 5-year ASE accreditation, thanks to the hard work of the automotive faculty and support staff. An outside party recognized the strength of the program's curriculum, instruction, and shop, confirming its overall quality. The achievement demonstrates the dedication and commitment of everyone involved.



40 Dedicated years to Pratt Community College

Lisa Perez-Miller, who has served as Vice President of Students/Enrollment Management at Pratt Community College for almost forty years, is retired at the end of the 2023 calendar year. The Office of Admissions was named in her honor, as the Lisa Perez-Miller Office of Admissions on December 19, 2023, to commemorate her time at PCC. Her colleagues hosted a reception in her honor following the dedication.

Introducing PCC's New Board of Trustees Member

Suzan Patton has been appointed as a new member of Pratt Community College's Board of Trustees. Patton is a former English teacher and educator, spending 12 years at Pratt High School, 8 of which were as the district's Superintendent. She earned her academic degrees from various universities. Patton aims to work together to support PCC's success, listen to the community, and be an advocate for education. She is active in the Pratt community, serving in various organizations.



Dr. Wojciechowski Donation to PCC Foundation Scholarship

Dr. Bill Wojciechowski has gifted \$250,000 to Pratt Community College. The funds will be added to the William and Terri Wojciechowski Endowed Scholarship. Dr. Wojciechowski left an indelible mark on the institution and was recognized for his contributions. The scholarship reflects his commitment to education and making it more accessible. Pratt Community College is grateful for his generosity and efforts to create opportunities for students.

**Congratulations Beaver Nation on all of
your accomplishments in 2023!**



STUDENT LIFE

Student life is ready to go for the new year with a list of events going on for the month of January. From Skate Night to Wiffle Ball and Snow Cones there is something for everyone.

January 2024 Student Life Activities

Monday, January 8

College Football
National Finals

Woj Hall
6:30 pm



Thursday, January 11

Skate Night

Rolla-Rena
8-10 pm



Tuesday, January 16

Water Pong
Tournament

(Sign up @ 7:50pm)

Commons
8:00 pm



Tuesday, January 23

Casino Night

Commons
8:00 pm



Wednesday, January 24

The Consent Event
Outside Cafe
11am-1pm



New Date



Thursday, January 25

Wiffle Ball &
Snow Cones

Beaver Dome
8:00 pm



Tuesday, January 30

3vs3 Basketball
Tournament

(Sign up by 1/29 12:00pm)

Beaver Dome
8:00 pm



LET'S CELEBRATE

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day



The Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday is a time to reflect on the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. Dr. King taught us timeless values such as courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility, and service through his example. These values defined his character and empowered his leadership, and we commemorate them on this holiday. Dr. King's revolutionary spirit was fueled by his belief in universal, unconditional love, forgiveness, and nonviolence.

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service (MLK Day) takes place every year on the third Monday in January. It is the only federal holiday designated by Congress as a national day of service. MLK Day is a "day on, not a day off," encouraging Americans to provide meaningful change in their communities. Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a beloved community. It breaks down barriers and brings people from different backgrounds together, benefiting those who choose to serve.

Source: <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/mlk-day-service>

National Mentoring Month



Passions to awaken. Dreams to achieve.
An endless sense of possibility every new year.

National Mentoring Month is an annual campaign that aims to unite and expand the mentoring community, celebrate the impact of relationships, and raise awareness on the significance of youth mentoring in the United States. It is celebrated throughout January and offers several opportunities for individuals and organizations to get involved, including celebrating important dates, attending events and learning opportunities, and joining the mentoring movement through toolkits and a national database of mentoring programs.

Source: <https://www.mentoring.org/campaigns/national-mentoring-month/>



National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Every year since 2010, the President has dedicated the month to raise awareness about human trafficking and to educate the public about how to identify and prevent this crime. The U.S. Department of State raises awareness of human trafficking domestically and abroad, through U.S. embassies and consulates.

During this month, we celebrate the efforts of foreign governments, international organizations, anti-trafficking entities, law enforcement officials, survivor advocates, communities of faith, businesses, and private citizens all around the world to raise awareness about human trafficking.

More than 20 years ago, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) enshrined the United States' commitment to combating human trafficking domestically and internationally.

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





BEAVER ESPORTS

Pratt Community College Esports Team Takes Second Place in Wildcat League Finals

On December 9th, the Pratt Community College Esports team competed in the Wildcat League Finals, held at Kansas State University. The Wildcat League is a coalition of Kansas community colleges that challenge each other in various games throughout the fall semester. The top four teams from the league's competition earned the right to participate in the finals.

The Overwatch 2 team advanced to the finals as the third seed, winning 2-0 in the semi-finals against Highland Community College, the second seed. Unfortunately, they lost 3-0 to the first seed, Independence Pirates, concluding their fall semester as runners-up.

Head Esports coach, Charles Keefer, praised the team's tenacity and resilience, despite recent roster changes and game updates. He said, "To end the semester with a second-place finish in the Wildcat League is a great accomplishment and a step in the right direction as we continue to grow our program."



In solo competition, sophomore Christopher Whitaker emerged victorious in Fortnite with 35 eliminations over three games, beating five other players. Additionally, Whitaker and Samuel Kelly placed third in Fortnite squads, with Highland taking first and second place.

Coach Keefer expressed his pride in Whitaker's success, saying, "Chris brought home the first-ever trophy under my tenure as coach. For that, I am super proud of him and the dedication he has shown this past semester." He continued, "As a team, we have had our ups and downs this first semester working through three map changes, but a third-place finish in the first semester of ever competing in Fortnite is more than I could have asked for. Both of these finishes put us in a place to continue to grow our Fortnite squads and bring in top-level players."

The team will take a break before returning to competition in February.

PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#DefendtheDam

BEAVER WRESTLING



Beaver Wrestling Opens Up 2024 With Rescheduled Tri-Dual

With the postponement of last week's tri-dual the No. two ranked Beaver wrestling team are eager to now start their conference season on Thursday, January 18 against Barton Community College. What is being dubbed the Battle of Highway 281 has Pratt up 6-3 in the series. The action is scheduled to get underway at 7:00 PM in the Beaver Dome. The Beavers will host their rescheduled tri-dual against Neosho County Community College and Cloud County Community College on Monday, January 22. The team will then travel to Parsons, Kan. on January 24 to face Labette Community College and Colby Community College.

Beavers Begin Conference Title Defense

The Beavers remain ranked No. two in the nation heading into 2024. After a successful fall tournament season Pratt is ready to defend their three-time Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference title with a competitive dual schedule throughout January and February. Several wrestlers remain nationally ranked heading into the spring semester.

125 | Kaden Spragis | Ranked Third
141 | Easton Taylor | Ranked First
149 | Gabe Maki | Ranked Fifth
165 | Cayleb Atkins | Ranked First
185 | Blake Jouret | Ranked Third



Scouting the Panthers

Since 2011, the Beavers are 8-4 over the Neosho County Panthers most recently with a 54-0 sweep back on January 24, 2023. The last time the Panthers' defeated Pratt was back in 2019. This season the Panthers sit at 0-3 with dual losses against Labette, Southeast, and Carl Albert State College. Wrestlers to watch for the Panthers include Treyton Burns 133-lbs, Johnathan Perryman 141-lbs, Hunter Jennings 157-lbs and Dilen Barrington-Miller 197 lbs.

Scouting the T-Birds

In the past three seasons, Pratt has defeated Cloud County in duals with their most recent win coming on January 29, 2023, 44-6. The T-Birds are currently 1-2 this season with one win against Trinidad State and two losses against No. 1 Western Wyoming and Northeastern Junior College. Easton Boone at 165 lbs leads the T-Birds with a 2-1 dual record. Before winter break, Gavin Netting-285 lbs defeated the No. 10 ranked Riley Butt from Northeastern Junior College.

#DefendtheDam

MEN'S BASKETBALL



Beavers face a heart-breaking loss in Texas

Pratt Community College fought a good fight against South Plains College, the No. 1 ranked team, with a final score of 87-82. The game took place in Levelland, Texas on Wednesday, January 3.

Pratt started strong, taking a five-point lead in the first half, thanks to Caleb Smith's impressive performance. Smith led the team with 21 points while Deon McLaughlin contributed 15 points and 5 rebounds. Zion Cruz was the top scorer for Pratt, finishing with 25 points, including 4 three-pointers.

South Plains, however, managed to turn the game around in the second half. Jermahri Hill led the team with 20 points, followed by Malique Ewin, who scored 18 points on 7-8 shooting. Jabori Mcghee also made a significant impact, scoring 15 points and grabbing 6 rebounds.

Although both teams had their fair share of turnovers, South Plains managed to capitalize on their opportunities and convert them into points. They committed 15 turnovers while Pratt committed 13.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

A Thrilling Basketball Match with Independence

On December 9, 2023, Independence Community College managed to secure a hard-fought victory over Pratt Community College, with a final score of 75-69. The game began with a competitive first quarter, in which Pratt took the lead, scoring 19 points compared to the Pirates' 16 points. Princess Anderson of Pratt Community College emerged as a key player, contributing 12 points in the quarter.

However, Independence fought back in the second quarter, outscoring the Beavers with a score of 25-16. Kyunna Thomas and Merveille Nkoyock were instrumental in Independence's comeback, combining for 19 points in the first half. Macy Hanzlick also had a strong performance, scoring 16 points by halftime.

The third quarter saw a close battle between the two teams, with Pratt scoring 21 points and the Pirates scoring 15 points. Isis Sanders showcased her scoring ability, contributing 18 points overall in the game. In the final quarter, both teams fought hard to secure the victory. Serenity Echols and Sabrina Larsson of Independence played crucial roles in their team's success, combining for 25 points in the game. Princess Anderson of Pratt had an outstanding performance, scoring 26 points and grabbing 9 rebounds.



#DefendtheDam