

# 1992

Paul Mai

Artangia Presley



Melissa Fern

Diana Weurtz

## CC'S ALL-STAR SCHOLARS GET GOVERNOR ROBERTS' VOTE

**PCC students** Paul Mai, Artangia Presley, Melissa Fern and Diana Weurtz travelled south recently.

**Along with** 15 other community college students from across Oregon, they arrived in Salem in February to be recognized by Gov. Barbara Roberts for academic excellence.

**The event** — the Oregon Community College Academic All-Star Awards — was organized by Oregon Community College Commissioner Dale Parnell who intends to turn the first-time ceremony into an annual event.

**The students**, ranging in age from 19 to 47, are symbolic of community colleges, said the Governor, who noted that they attract students who are just starting and those who are starting over.

**"That's been** the wonder of community colleges. They've been there for everyone," Roberts said. "They meet all kinds of needs for all kinds of people."

**Commissioner Parnell** added, "These 19 are symbolic of the high achievement of many of our students."

### Paul Mai

Sylvania Campus

■ Business Administration

Paul, 21, escaped from Vietnam with his family when he was five years old and lived in a resettlement camp in Arkansas, then moved to Texas. The move to Oregon was fifth or sixth on the list. After PCC, he plans to transfer to a four-year school and earn a degree in international business. Paul is president and founder of PCC's International Student Club and is also student government vice-chair at Sylvania Campus. The oldest of six children, Paul lives at home because, "My family still needs me."

Two terms ago, his father began full-time studies at PCC.

### Artangia Presley

Open Campus

■ Steps to Success,  
Skills Center

Artangia, 25, returned to school in 1990 with powerful hurdles to leap. A high school drop out and single mother with three children, ages 5, 7 and 9, Artangia received state assistance and had never had a "real job."

Her diligence and self-discipline has paid off.

She has landed her first job as office manager for the Black United Fund. Artangia completed her GED, then enrolled in the business-clerical program at the PCC Skills Center. After completing the seven-month program, she followed up with an on-the-job work experience. Artangia was hired by the Black United Fund this spring.

### Melissa Fern

Cascade Campus

■ Psychology

Melissa begins first-term studies at PSU this summer. She graduated from PCC spring term and plans to earn a doctorate in clinical psychology. The 33-year-old maintained a 3.95 GPA at PCC.

Melissa intends to set up her own practice and has strong ideas about providing affordable counseling services to those with lower incomes.

Melissa is light years from her former line of work. Before enrolling at PCC, she spent her time crisscrossing the country as a long-haul truck driver.

### Diana Weurtz

Rock Creek Campus

■ Mathematics

Diana, the mother of two school-aged children, is a first-time college student. The 32-year-old has plans to become a high school or community college math instructor. Diana is in her second year of studies and has maintained a 4.0 GPA.

Her children, ages 9 and 12, and her husband, who is an engineer at Intel, encouraged her to go to school.

"Before I entered college, I didn't realize I had such high personal expectations," said the straight-A student.

