



Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic and Pacific Northwest University Celebrate Opening of Miramar Dental

A new dental clinic in Kennewick aims to increase access to oral health care while helping train future dentists for communities facing persistent provider shortages across the region

KENNEWICK, Wash. – Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic (YVFWC) and Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences (PNWU) celebrated the opening of Miramar Dental, Tuesday, August 4, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by over 80 community leaders, healthcare professionals, educators, students, and project partners.

Located at 6335 W. Rio Grande Ave., Kennewick, WA 99336, Miramar Dental will serve as both a patient care facility and a training site for students from the PNWU School of Dental Medicine, creating new opportunities to improve access to oral health services while preparing future providers to serve communities throughout the region.

“I think the ribbon cutting really represents a bridge,” said Kari Steadman, YVFWC Chief Operations Officer. “It’s an opportunity for these two groups to come together and bring students to a place where they can learn to practice and do the community good at the same time.”

The project represents a shared commitment by YVFWC and PNWU to address community health needs through high-quality, patient-centered care and workforce development. By

bringing education and clinical practice together under one roof, the partnership helps strengthen the pipeline of dental professionals serving rural and underserved communities.

“We know that oral health is incredibly important to your overall health, so it’s exciting to know that we are continuing our commitment to training the dentists of the future,” said Christy Trotter, YVFWC Chief Executive Officer. “We really want to expand access to the communities we serve and try to find ways to encourage providers to stay in communities that are underrepresented.”

The ribbon-cutting program featured remarks from both organizations, including Christy Bracewell Trotter, Chief Executive Officer of Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic; John Mittleman, President of Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences; Fotinos Panagakos, Founding Dean of the PNWU School of Dental Medicine; and Student Doctor Maryam Ammar, whose personal journey from dental assistant at Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic to dental student at PNWU highlighted the impact of educational pathways and community investment.

Following the ceremony, guests toured the facility and learned more about how the collaboration will support both patient care and dental education in the Tri-Cities region.

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic is one of the Pacific Northwest's largest community health centers, providing medical, dental, behavioral health and social services to more than 200,000 people a year. With 48 unique service locations across Oregon and Washington, we deliver affordable, comprehensive primary care for underserved populations. Our mobile health units and virtual visit technology make essential care more accessible to patients with transportation challenges. Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic employs 2,178 regular employees, 22 residents, 572 students and volunteers. Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization recognized by HRSA, The Joint Commission, and The National Committee for Quality Assurance. For more information, please visit yvfwc.com/about.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

DSC02192: Student Doctor Maryam Ammar is joined by leaders of Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic and Pacific Northwest University in the ceremonial ribbon cutting of Miramar Dental

DCS_8441: Students and Faculty of Miramar Dental gather in front of the new dental clinic to celebrate its ribbon cutting.