



Contacts for more information:
Larry Bontrager, Radiologic Technician
Department Chair/Instructor
(719) 549-3285, larry.bontrager@pueblocc.edu

Gary Franchi, Public Relations Coordinator
(719) 549-3053, gary.franchi@pueblocc.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 14, 2011

PCC to host farewell reception Saturday for retiring, long-time Rad Tech instructor

PUEBLO – Current and former Pueblo Community College students, colleagues and friends are aiming to give Larry Bontrager one last fond memory before he retires next month. They've scheduled a farewell reception for the long-time PCC instructor from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday in the City Park Pavilion.

Bontrager is retiring after serving PCC for 29 years, first as a Radiologic Technician program instructor and then as the department's chair since 1987. In addition to eliminating the workday commute that he has made from his home in Colorado Springs since 1993, Larry also looks forward to the new life journey that will begin, especially doing "anything I want, whenever I want."

You could say that Bontrager got immersed in the radiologic profession by accident. While driving in the Midwest on Christmas Eve 1967, the Indiana native, then 21 years old, hit an icy patch of road and slid into a pole, sustaining multiple rib and back fractures and suffering short-term paralysis from the waist down. He was hospitalized for a month and spent approximately one year rehabbing from the injuries.

"Rehabbing from the accident and going through all the X-rays just enthralled me" with the profession," recalled Bontrager, who has battled the effects of those injuries ever since and has undergone several corrective surgeries.

Larry enrolled in the Bronson Methodist Hospital School of Radiologic Technology in Kalamazoo, Michigan, graduated in 1971 and worked there in Special Procedures for four years, also teaching in the hospital's imaging program.

When he and some buddies got the wanderlust to travel west, Larry moved to Pueblo in 1975 and worked at Parkview Medical Center until 1981, when he began his career at PCC as a clinical instructor. In 1982, he was hired full time at PCC. Along the way, he earned a bachelor's degree in Health Administration in 1986 from the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois, attending classes in Pueblo and Colorado Springs.

During his 29 years of teaching, Bontrager endeared himself to his students and colleagues with his humor, wisdom and kind spirit. Along the way, he also gave back to the profession by serving as president and board chairman for the Colorado Society of Radiologic Technologists and as Colorado's delegate at the annual meeting of the National American Society of Radiologic Technologists.

On a personal side, Larry has been married for 17 years to Michale and has two daughters, two stepdaughters and one stepson. He enjoys fishing, cowboy poetry and action shooting and is a Western history buff.

Those planning to attend the reception on Saturday are requested to RSVP with Marlene May at 549-3264.

*

Founded in 1933, Pueblo Community College is a premier teaching institution focused on providing academic and service excellence to help its students acquire the 21st Century skills needed to better their lives. An educational and technological leader, PCC fosters economic development and utilizes strong partnerships in the communities it serves through its Pueblo, Fremont and Southwest campuses.