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## **History instructor's dedication to students earns him PCC's top instructor award**

**PUEBLO** – Students in Michael Engle's history classes at Pueblo Community College realize rather quickly that he is a special instructor. He captures their interest, engages them with his applicable stories, relates historical people and events to today's world, and engages them in the learning process. For these and other reasons, Michael has been selected PCC's Faculty of the Year for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Engle is a native of La Junta who has been teaching for 18 years at the elementary school, middle school, high school and collegiate levels, including the past five years at PCC. He even spent a year teaching at a federal penitentiary and another as the high school principal at Dolores Huerta Preparatory School.

Those years have made him realize that teachers have both a power and an accompanying responsibility. "The ultimate goal of teaching is to help students be successful, and you have to realize that the simplest thing you might say to them can make a world of difference in their lives," he noted.

Engle is making an impact on PCC's Pueblo campus in other ways, too. He is assistant chair of the Social Sciences, Education and Library Technician department, vice chair of Faculty Council, host of the PCC Connection community television program broadcast at PCC and past chair of the Curriculum Committee.

Michael's community college roots run deep since he earned an associate degree at Otero Junior College before getting his bachelor's degree in history and social studies/education from Adams State College and his master's in history and government from the University of Texas at El Paso. He has been married to Paula for 16 years and they have a 12-year-old daughter, Gabriella.

Engle and other top faculty members from the Colorado Community College System will be recognized February 9, 2011, at an award ceremony and luncheon that will be held in conjunction with the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education meeting at the Community College of Aurora.

PCC also honored these three other employees of the year on its Pueblo campus:

- Pat Hegler, Classified Employee of the Year. Hegler is the administrative assistant in the Financial Aid office.
- Carriann Martinez, Administrative and Professional/Technical Employee of the Year. Martinez is the Director of Recruitment.
- Pam Tyner, Part-Time Instructor of the Year. Pam is a math instructor.

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*Founded in 1933, Pueblo Community College is a premier teaching institution focused on providing academic and service excellence to help its students acquire the 21<sup>st</sup> 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.*