



College Report – October 2011

Patty Erjavec, *President*

Student Access to comprehensive academic programs

Grant helps students become PTK members – A grant from Pueblo Rotary 43 as well as scholarship money received from the Phi Theta Kappa headquarters has provided funds for 10 scholarships to help incoming PTK members pay their membership dues in the honors organization. The scholarships are intended to cover the international and regional portion of membership dues. Forty-seven new members were inducted on Oct. 22.

Presentation aimed at helping retain students – Being a College Level Examination Program (CLEP) site that grants credit for CLEP and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests, PCC hosted a presentation on Oct. 14 for faculty, advisors and other college personnel that use it to help our students. CLEP is a retention tool that helps students earn college credit for knowledge they already possess, which can translate into higher completion rates, shorter time in school, and more financial aid for elective courses.

Donors connect with scholarship recipients – Community donors who make an education possible for many of our student scholarship recipients got the chance to meet and mingle with them Oct. 11 during a Scholarship & Donor Reception that was held in the Fortino Ballroom. It was hosted by the PCC Foundation, which awarded \$269,900 in scholarships to 119 students in the 2010-2011 academic year.

PCC joining All Pueblo Reads initiative – The PCC Reads program has adopted Carl Hiaasen’s “Hoot” novel that the All Pueblo Reads has selected as its fall book. The two organizations held a joint book discussion on the Pueblo campus on Oct. 26. “Hoot” can be purchased in the Pueblo campus bookstore.

Student Success through high-quality instruction and educational service

Award-winning Auto student gains spot in nationals – Four months after winning a gold medal at the SkillsUSA National Conference in Kansas City, Automotive Technology student Jonah Castillo was selected a finalist in the GUNK Serious Solutions Challenge, earning a \$3,500 scholarship and an all-expenses-paid trip for himself and Automotive Chair Robert Maez to the Specialty Equipment Market Association Show in Las Vegas in November.

National instructor engages state group – Award-winning instructor Elayn Martin-Gay, a nationally-known author of 14 arithmetic and algebra texts and accompanying videos, brought her message that every student can succeed when she spoke to approximately 160 members of the Colorado Association for Developmental Education at the conference that PCC hosted on Oct. 14.

Dental Hygiene student wins Excellence Award – Second-year Dental Hygiene student Leigha Studt was selected the recipient of the Colorado Dental Hygienists Association’s 2011 Student Excellence Award. Leigha carries a 3.5 GPA and will work at clinical sites in the spring prior to graduating in May. The award was based on academic achievement, leadership and positive attitude.

Student Success through development of a high-skilled workforce

SCCC awarded \$2.3 million to train energy workers – Our Southwest Colorado Community College will receive \$2.3 million in federal funds over the next three years to prepare workers for employment or improve workers’ skills in the energy sector. SCCC is part of the Colorado Online Energy Training Consortium that was awarded a \$17.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to address unemployment and underemployment in Colorado. SCCC received the largest portion of the grant award.

Students get chance to broadcast national comedienne – Nationally-known comedienne/actor Debi Gutierrez, known as “The Mommy Comic,” visited PCC’s Center for New Media studio on Oct. 7 to record a “PCC Connection” show for airing on the educational Comcast cable channel operated by PCC. Gutierrez was in Pueblo as the keynote speaker for a Latino Chamber of Commerce event that evening.