



Contacts for more information:

Butch Batchelder, Student Employment Advisor
549-3046, Butch.Batchelder@pueblocc.edu

Gary Franchi, Public Relations Coordinator
549-3053, Gary.Franchi@pueblocc.edu

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PCC offers expert free help on Feb. 13 to students needing to fill out FAFSA forms

PUEBLO – Area high school seniors wanting to get money to pay for college have the chance to take the critical first step by taking advantage of a resource at Pueblo Community College. On Sunday, Feb. 13, PCC will provide FREE professional help to students and parents filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms online.

The forum will be the fifth annual College Goal Sunday, which is a state-wide initiative. Financial aid experts will be on hand to provide help from 2 to 4 pm in PCC's Hoag Theatre, which is located in the lower level of the Mike Davis Academic Building at the corner of Orman Avenue and Arthur Street.

Filling out the FAFSA form is the critical first step for students who plan to pay for college with the help of grants, scholarships, student employment and student loans. It is used by the U.S. Department of Education to determine a student's financial need.

“The professionals who will be there will take all of the worry out of students needing to fill out their FAFSA form and they will provide one-on-one help,” said Butch Batchelder, PCC's Student Employment Advisor. “In addition to the assistance that will be given on filling out the FAFSA forms, this year's event will also include a scholarship workshop and a financial literacy component.”

In order to complete the FAFSA form at College Goal Sunday, students and their parents will need their 2010 federal tax records. They should bring the following:

- Social Security number
- Driver's license (if any)
- 2010 W-2 forms and other records of money earned
- 2010 untaxed income records - Social Security, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, welfare, or veterans benefits records
- 2010 bank statements
- 2010 business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bond, and other investment records
- Alien registration card (if not a U.S. citizen)

Also, if possible, prior to Feb. 13, students should register for a Personal Identification Number (or PIN) at www.pin.ed.gov. This will allow them to electronically sign their FAFSA for faster processing.

College Goal Sunday is a Colorado Department of Higher Education initiative, and PCC is one of 15 locations across Colorado that will be hosting such an event on Feb. 13. All of them will be helping students realize that, even in the current tough economic times, financial aid is available to those who access it as early as possible.

For more information, contact Batchelder at (719) 549-3046 or via e-mail at Butch.Batchelder@pueblocc.edu. Additional information on College Goal Sunday also is available at www.collegegoalcolorado.org.

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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 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.