



Contacts for more information:

Dr. Lynn Urban, East Campus Dean
970.247.2929, ext. 7216
Lynn.Urban@pueblocc.edu

Teresa Malone, Coordinator of Grants
& Public Relations
970.247.2929, ext. 7238
Teresa.Malone@pueblocc.edu

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**After graduating, SCCC nursing student will
travel to Uganda to help medical teams**

DURANGO – For Bethany Graf, concluding her studies at Pueblo Community College’s Southwest Colorado Community College (SCCC) East Campus here is just the beginning of her quest to give back. What’s more, she’ll immediately get to utilize her Associate of Science Degree skills as a Registered Nurse.

Graf is one of 13 PCC students who currently are finishing up clinical rotations and final exams. They will participate in the college-wide graduation ceremony that will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Whalen Gymnasium at Fort Lewis College.

Later this month, Bethany will be journey to Uganda, Africa, where she will assist the Ssejinja Children's Foundation (Durango, Colorado) medical team in the remote villages of Katosi, Bira and Lungunja. While living with a host family in the village community, Bethany looks forward to new experiences relative to Third World nursing, midwifery and diseases uncommon to the U.S.

In Uganda, Maxensia Nakibuka, the director of Ssejinja Foundation in Africa, will oversee Bethany as she works with children and widows suffering from AIDS, diabetes, syphilis, sedentary diseases, pregnancy/childbearing, jiggers, malnutrition and malaria. While the Ssejinja medical team focuses on meeting medical needs, they also encounter psychosocial, cultural, political and economic challenges.

“This will be an excellent experience for Bethany to further her education and training,” states Carolle Anne Massone, SCCC Nursing Program coordinator. “Bethany will also be doing such a wonderful service to impoverished people. We are honored to have her as a student.”

Massone wanted to contribute to the initiative as well. Bethany’s Ugandan translator, Aida, has a dream of also becoming a nurse so she can help end suffering in her country.

Now her dream has become a reality since Massone has sponsored Aida's first year of nursing school in Uganda.

Ssejinja Children's Foundation would like to thank PCC nursing students for purchasing handmade crafts from Ugandan widows. The proceeds will enable Bethany to purchase medical supplies for her trip.

Bethany is traveling with a group from the Ssejinja Children's Foundation. For more information, contact:

Kathy Darnell, Executive Director
Ssejinja Children's Foundation - Durango
P.O. Box 855 Durango, CO 81302
Ph: 970-764-4608
Email: kathydarnell@hotmail.com
website: www.ssejinja.org

Ssejinja Children's Foundation is hosting "Sunrise Over Africa Mother's Day Telegraph Races" on Sunday, May 8, at Horse Gulch. For more information, contact the race director at efeazell@gmail.com.

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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 Colorado campuses.