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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 3, 2010

PCC to honor new AmeriCorps students during kickoff breakfast on Nov. 11

PUEBLO – Pueblo Community College has scheduled a kickoff event on Thursday, Nov. 11, to recognize students who have signed on to become AmeriCorps members providing service through a new grant-funded AmeriCorps program. Members and host agencies will be guests at an invitation-only breakfast from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. in the Fortino Ballroom on PCC’s Pueblo campus, and the public is invited to the program that will follow.

Twenty-six participating students will be recognized by the 13 host agencies that are being serviced through the \$189,706 AmeriCorps federal grant that was part of \$3.5 million awarded state-wide to 17 programs. They are involved in projects that support education, health care, veterans assistance, clean energy, environmental protection and economic development.

“As an AmeriCorps alumnus, I am thrilled to be a part of this new program for our students,” said Michelle VonFange, director of PCC’s AmeriCorps program. “As AmeriCorps members, PCC students will have the opportunity to serve our community and be a part of the ever-growing national service programs supported by the Corporation of National and Community Service and the Colorado Governors Commission on Community Service. Students will also be conducting or supporting 24 service projects throughout the year for various causes.”

At the Nov. 11 kickoff, PCC President Patty Erjavec will give a welcome to the audience and will be followed by brief addresses from representatives of several of the non-profit host agencies. During the ceremony, AmeriCorps members will pledge one year of their life to service and be “pinned” by a representative from their respective host agency.

In exchange for their commitment, each member will receive a small living stipend and an educational award at the end of their service time. The program aims to break the cycle of poverty through education.

The participating agencies have made a commitment as well by pledging matching funds to the students, who were recruited at the start of PCC’s fall semester. PCC students interested in providing service to their community should call VonFange at 719-549-3175.

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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.