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**New PCC/CSU-Pueblo partnership
aims to provide community leaders**

PUEBLO – A new collaboration between Pueblo Community College (PCC) and Colorado State University-Pueblo aims to guarantee that Pueblo will have a constant stream of prepared, effective and civic-minded community leaders. PCC announced today a new President’s Leadership Program (PLP) certificate that will feed directly into the existing four-year program at CSU-Pueblo.

The PLP will develop personal leadership skills and recognize the value of being engaged with the Pueblo community. Eligible participants will be incoming first-time, full-time PCC students who have achieved a 3.2 or higher GPA in high school, where they also should have demonstrated outstanding extracurricular involvement, volunteerism and/or successful work experience. The program will begin with the 2011 fall semester.

The PCC PLP is a four-semester program that includes two required core leadership courses totaling six credit hours and two elective courses (also worth six credit hours) that the student selects from a wide choice of academic courses at offered at PCC. The two required courses are “Foundations of Leadership” (Management 175) and “Leadership” (Management 224).

PCC students who successfully complete their degree program as specified are also eligible to apply for a Destination CSU-Pueblo scholarship. CSU-Pueblo guarantees the transfer of credit from PCC’s two core leadership courses and all electives with a grade of C minus or better in each class associated with the President’s Leadership Program.

Other requirements of the initiative are attendance/participation in and/or planning of:

- Student leadership retreats
- New Student Orientation session

- Campus club or organization
- Community service projects, including a collaboration with CSU-Pueblo's PLP
- Leadership conference and seminars
- Social or education campus event in collaboration with CSU-Pueblo's PLP

Paramount in the program goals is to foster the development of a student's:

- Personal leadership skills
- Critical thinking
- Knowledge of leadership theory
- Civic engagement
- Appreciation for diversity

"We are pleased to be the first within the Colorado Community College System to launch a leadership initiative, and especially pleased to be doing so in collaboration with CSU-Pueblo," said PCC President Patty Erjavec. "Our dedication to students drives us to continually seek ways by which we can enrich our programs, ensuring that the 'whole student' grows."

More than 75 students have completed CSU-Pueblo's four-year President's Leadership Program since it began in 2000. CSU-Pueblo's program develops multi-culturally competent transformational leaders to serve either Pueblo or the Colorado communities in which they live and work.

Both leadership programs fill a growing need for effective leaders entering the workforce after college in Pueblo and Southern Colorado. PCC completers who transfer to CSU-Pueblo will be prepared to take part in a capstone experience in which students engage in a team leadership project. Past community projects have addressed the housing and recreational needs of local migrant workers, community recycling, hospital emergency visits by area youth, high school preparation for college admission, and the impact of the arts on a community's economic state.

CSU-Pueblo's PLP program is a member of the Colorado Leadership Alliance, a consortium of comprehensive leadership education programs at undergraduate institutions across Colorado. Through shared resources and collaborative efforts, CLA's focus is to develop the next generation of Colorado's leaders. CSU-Pueblo's PLP concludes with a local internship.

"We're looking forward to working with PCC to extend the leadership education opportunities available to students in Southern Colorado through programming, community service projects, and internships in hopes of creating successful graduates who give back to the communities in which they live," said CSU-Pueblo Interim President Dr. Julio Leon.

For more information about PCC's new President's Leadership Program certificate, contact Rachel Anderson, PCC's assistant director of student life, at 549-3019.

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-- Pueblo Community College --

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.

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-- CSU-Pueblo --

Colorado State University - Pueblo is a regional, comprehensive university emphasizing professional, career-oriented, and applied programs. Displaying excellence in teaching, celebrating diversity, and engaging in service and outreach, CSU-Pueblo is distinguished by access, opportunity, and the overall quality of services provided to its students.