



**Contacts for more information:**

Jamie Manzanares, Director, SSS TRIO Program  
(719) 549-3042, [Jamie.Manzanares@pueblocc.edu](mailto:Jamie.Manzanares@pueblocc.edu)

Cindy Mihelich, Vice President of Student Services  
(719) 549-3080, [Cindy.Mihelich@pueblocc.edu](mailto:Cindy.Mihelich@pueblocc.edu)

Gary Franchi, Public Relations Coordinator  
(719) 549-3053, [Gary.Franchi@pueblocc.edu](mailto:Gary.Franchi@pueblocc.edu)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 22, 2010

## **PCC's TRIO program awarded \$1.67 million grant to help students achieve academic success**

**PUEBLO** – Pueblo Community College's ability to help disadvantaged students succeed academically has received a major boost from the U.S. Department of Education. PCC's TRIO Student Support Services program has been selected for five-year grant funding of \$1.663 million, beginning with an initial year award of \$332,608.

TRIO SSS is a federally funded program that provides academic and other support services to low-income, first-generation or disabled college students to increase their retention and graduation rates, facilitate their transfer from two-year to four-year colleges, and foster an overall institutional climate of support for them. Qualifying students must be enrolled in a program of postsecondary education and have been determined to have academic need.

The federal grant will allow the TRIO SSS program to provide:

- Instruction in basic study skills
- Tutorial services
- Academic, financial or personal counseling
- Assistance in securing admission and financial aid for enrollment
- Guidance on career options
- Mentoring and special services for students with limited English proficiency
- Grant aid

"The funding of this program for another five years is great news to the college," said Jamie Manzanares, who is the director of the program. "The TRIO SSS program is experiencing its 20-year anniversary this year at PCC and it has provided services to over 4,000 participants. With the announcement of this grant, we look forward to continuing to provide services to the students from the community of Pueblo and its surrounding area for years to come."

The TRIO SSS program is funded to serve 220 students each year. It helps students overcome class, social, academic and cultural barriers to higher education. Services are provided free to qualifying participants. TRIO refers to the original number of U.S. federal programs (there are now seven) that were initially launched to provide greater access to higher education for economically disadvantaged students.

For more information, contact TRIO SSS program Director Jamie Manzanares at 549-3042 or [jamie.manzanares@pueblocc.edu](mailto:jamie.manzanares@pueblocc.edu)

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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.*