



College Report

Dr. J.D. Garvin, *President*

December 2009 / January 2010

Student Access to comprehensive academic programs

Enrollment jump continues in spring semester – Following a 25% enrollment leap in the fall semester, PCC's student numbers showed a 23% FTE jump and a 17.5% headcount increase on the Jan. 26 census date. That was based on 6,412 students taking classes compared to 5,486 on the same date last year. The Fremont Campus in Canon City has shown the biggest FTE percentage gain (27%), and it has 756 students enrolled. The number of students taking "PCC Online" classes increased 29% to 198 students.

SCCC Cosmetology facility taking shape – Work on the development of a Cosmetology program headquarters at the Southwest Colorado Community College's West Campus in Mancos is progressing rapidly and it should be operational in time for the start of a mid-semester evening class to begin on March 29. The 1,944-square-foot facility will have 12 work stations. Heading the construction project has been Bobby Sinton, who both teaches Construction Management and handles facility projects there.

Student Success through development of a high-skilled workforce

Two robust programs gain national attention – Two recent PCC innovations were recognized by the Institute of Higher Education at the University of Florida for using unique methods of instructional services and delivery. The development of a series of mobile learning labs to provide advanced manufacturing training and the launching of the HOPE Bridge Program as a way to address recidivism by "bridging" parolees into educational paths were both among the finalists for national Bellwether awards at the Institute's recent Community College Futures Assembly held recently in Orlando. The Institute aims to present cutting-edge, trend-setting programs that other colleges might find worth replicating.

Accounting students helping community members – Thirteen PCC students who took an Income Tax course last semester and received IRS certification are providing free income tax preparation to community working families with household incomes of less than \$49,000 a year. PCC is one of 11 colleges in the state participating in Tax Help Colorado, which is sponsored by The Piton Foundation. They will be preparing income tax returns on five consecutive Saturdays on the Pueblo campus. The program was orchestrated by accounting instructor Margie Walker.

Culinary Arts students showcase their talent – Two teams of Culinary Arts students had an opportunity to display their cooking skills in a community setting on January 30 when they contested each other in an Iron Chef Competition that was held during the Pueblo Health Expo at the Pueblo Convention Center. Program instructors assembled and coached the teams. Other Culinary students prepared product samples for the audience.

Student Success through seamless transition opportunities

High school students getting younger at PCC – House Bill 1319, which was signed into state law in 2009, opened the door for all high school grade levels to receive concurrent enrollment college credits last fall. This semester, PCC has 24 sophomores and 14 freshmen enrolled in PCC classes after they qualified through an academic screening process that included passing Accuplacer tests and receiving letters of recommendation from their school. All of the students are from Dolores Huerta Preparatory High School and attend PCC part-time.

Student ambassadors, liaisons to work in SCCC high schools – Steps are being taken to launch a student ambassador and high school liaison program that will give the SCCC a student presence in area high schools. Best practices from such programs used by the Pueblo and Fremont campuses are being evaluated and applied. The program has drawn such tremendous community support that the Regional Service Area 9 Council voted unanimously to provide \$4,500 in funding to help start it.

Student Success through high-quality instruction & services

SCCC focusing on professional development – Considerable emphasis has been devoted to providing mentoring and professional development opportunities for faculty at both SCCC campuses. Cameras for virtual face-to-face mentoring have been installed, professional development events for instructors were held in January, and the resources available through the college's Center for Teaching Excellence & Academic Leadership (CTEAL), a comprehensive faculty development program, are being utilized. In addition, PCC is planning its third annual two-day professional development program on the Pueblo campus in May.

Operational Excellence to ensure financial stability & student safety

HLC reps leave PCC encouraged with visit – A two-member team from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools visited PCC in January to compile information about last year's merger of PCC's Southwest Campus and the San Juan Basin Technical College into Southwest Colorado Community College. The HLC oversees the accreditation of degree-granting colleges and universities in 19 states, including Colorado. The visitors complimented PCC for the information given, and their report is expected in late February.

PCC gets serious about security, safety – At the start of the new year, PCC took the security of all of its campuses in-house by creating a Department of Public Safety comprised of its own hired employees. A total of 11 officers are now providing 24/7 surveillance of the main campus in Pueblo as well as the branches in Canon City, Durango and Mancos. Their focus is on law enforcement and public safety, and they will conduct a number of real-life drills to prepare campus personnel for a variety of different scenarios that could occur.

Fremont Campus to launch capital campaign – Escalating enrollment over several semesters has maxed out instructional space at the Fremont Campus, and a three-year campus study by an expansion task force has yielded a \$2 million architects' expansion plan. Nearly \$500,000 has already been raised toward the expansion, and the PCC Foundation is preparing to announce a Capital Campaign to raise the remaining funds. In the meantime, a kitchen area is being remodeled to allow a medical clinic to be established on campus.

Emergency response program expanded to SCCC campuses – The deans of the respective SCCC East and West campuses have received training in the use of "My PCC Alert," which will allow them to send emergency phone calls, e-mails, and text messages in the event of inclement weather or other campus emergency. They put it to use when a snowstorm cancelled classes for two days in late January. Over several months, the alert system was marketed heavily on all campuses to encourage faculty, staff and students to sign up for the free service.