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## **PCC students earn “Rising Star” awards for leadership qualities, achievements**

**PUEBLO** – James Vasquez and Chris Weaver are two students who have made a big impression on Pueblo Community College’s campus. Now, they’ve gotten recognition from a state-wide organization.

Vasquez and Weaver, president and vice-president respectively of PCC’s Associated Student Government (ASG) have been selected to receive “Rising Star” awards by the Colorado Community College System. They will be honored at a Rising Star Luncheon to be held April 14 at Arapahoe Community College.

Rising Stars are selected based on exhibiting a high level of leadership, involvement in student activities and having at least a 3.0 grade-point average. Both students will receive a \$100 check and a certificate from CCCS at the April 14 luncheon.

Vasquez made PCC's Dean’s list for academic achievement last semester, has a 3.2 GPA and spearheaded ASG’s Thanksgiving Food Drive that provided 206 Thanksgiving meals to students in need. He is enrolled in the Cosmetology Program and expects to graduate in May 2012

James works as a student employee in the Student Center and does landscaping work during the summer. He is highly respected for raising his children by himself, having the courage to return to college to seek a degree, and for accepting challenges as opportunities with determination, grace and enthusiasm.

Weaver is passionate about leadership and politics. He is ASG’s State Student Advisory Council representative and was elected the State Student Advisory Council’s legislative liaison to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, serving as the voice for all community college students in Colorado. He has a 3.5 GPA.

The Pueblo West High School graduate is the recipient of a Kane Family Foundation scholarship that pays for his current schooling at PCC and his future education at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Weaver plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in political science with a minor in leadership at UCCS beginning this fall.

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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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.*