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## **PCC accounting students to provide free income tax preparation service**

**PUEBLO** – For the second consecutive year, Pueblo Community College accounting students will be making a contribution to the community by providing free income tax return preparation service. Eligible are community members who have children at home and had a household income of less than \$49,000 in 2010.

The service will be available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on six consecutive Saturdays beginning Jan. 29 and from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on five Thursdays beginning Feb. 3. It will take place in Room 157 of PCC's Gorsich Advanced Technology Center, which is located at Orman Avenue and Arthur Street.

Twelve students took PCC Accounting instructor Margie Walker's "Income Tax" class during PCC's fall semester and then passed examinations to become Internal Revenue Service-certified to prepare tax returns. Four students who provided the service last year will be joining them. All of the students have volunteered to work a minimum of 30 hours preparing tax returns.

"It's such a pleasure to work with the high-caliber students in this program," Walker said. "The program is a great opportunity as it further enhances these students' skills in customer service, understanding the importance of community service by volunteering their time and by emphasizing the importance of confidentiality in dealing with an individual's tax return information."

Those utilizing the service are urged to bring the following to the tax site:

- All W-2, 1099s and other income-related documents
- Proof of mortgage interest, property taxes, daycare payments, college education expenses, charitable contributions and all other tax-deductible expenses
- Social Security cards for all family members
- A copy of last year's tax return, if available
- Bank account number and routing number to have one's refund direct deposited

PCC is one of several colleges in Colorado participating in the third year of Tax Help Colorado, a program sponsored by The Piton Foundation. It is aimed at working families

and is intended to help them take advantage of Earned Income and Child Care tax credits as well as credits available for saving for retirement, paying for college and buying a first home. Last year, the nine colleges participating in the program helped 4,086 taxpayers receive refunds of more than \$8.3 million.

The Piton Foundation is the community investment division of Gary-Williams Energy. It sponsors Tax Help Colorado as part of its efforts to help move families from poverty and dependence to self-sufficiency. While helping them supplement their income through tax savings, the program also serves as a method of returning money to the local economies where the initiative will be taking place.

Questions can be made by dialing 2-1-1 (a free call). More information is available by contacting Walker at 549-3180 or [Margie.Walker@pueblocc.edu](mailto:Margie.Walker@pueblocc.edu), or by going The Piton Foundation website at [www.piton.org](http://www.piton.org).

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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.*