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IRS-certified PCC accounting students to provide free income tax preparation service

PUEBLO – For the third consecutive year, Pueblo Community College accounting students will be making a contribution to the community by providing free basic and intermediate 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 2011.

The service will be available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on six consecutive Saturdays beginning Jan. 28 and from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on five Thursdays beginning Feb. 2. It will take place in Room 157 of PCC's Gorsich Advanced Technology Center, which is located at Orman Avenue and Arthur Street.

Fourteen 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 basic and intermediate income tax returns. They will be joined by 3-5 returning students, and all of them 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 and a photo I.D.
- A copy of last year's tax return, if available
- Bank account number and routing number to have one's refund direct deposited (normally in 7-10 days)

PCC is one of 16 colleges in Colorado participating in 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 tax season, the program helped nearly 6,000 lower-income taxpayers file for \$11.2 million in refunds.

Questions can be made by dialing 2-1-1 (a free call) and more information is available by contacting Walker at 549-3180 or Margie.Walker@pueblocc.edu, or by going to The Piton Foundation website at 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 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.