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

**PUEBLO** – Muriel Blacksher-Martinez and Jessica Evig are Pueblo Community College students with very similar positive personality traits – they are high academic achievers, like to be involved in activities, and usually take on leadership roles once involved.

Those attributes paid off for Blacksher-Martinez and Evig on Wednesday when they were presented with “Rising Star” awards by the Colorado Community College System’s State Student Advisory Council (SSAC) during its annual luncheon held at Red Rocks Community College in Denver. They were introduced by Cliff Richardson, PCC’s acting president and the Vice President for Finance and Administration for CCCS.

Students from other community colleges in Colorado also were recognized with awards based on exhibiting a high level of leadership, involvement in student activities and having at least a 3.0 grade-point average. All received a certificate from the CCCS.

### **Muriel Blacksher-Martinez**

Muriel is involved in Associated Student Government as its Committee Chair, is an enthusiastic member of the Student Activities Board and Performing Arts Club, and has served as the Aviation Club’s representative.

Academically, she currently has a 3.06 GPA and made the President’s Honor List in the spring 2008 semester. She will graduate April 30 with an Associate of Science degree and previously earned a private pilot ground school certificate. Muriel intends to continue her college studies at Colorado State University-Pueblo.

Among Muriel’s other accomplishments:

- Music Department Outstanding Student 2008 award
- Third place award in Mixed Media category of the Spring 2007 Student Art Show
- Graduate of the Small Business Development Center’s Leading Edge program
- Mrs. Southern Colorado 2010 in the State Preliminary Pageant to Mrs. America

Her involvement in off-campus organizations includes:

- Out Reach Commission

- Navajo Land Youth Ministry
- Church of the Ascension & Holy Trinity church choirs
- Share Food America volunteer
- Neighborhood Clean-Up organizer

### **Jessica Evig**

Jessica is a single parent who attends nearly every campus activity and demonstrates tremendous leadership qualities. She also has a work-study position in the Career and Counseling Services office and is an exceptional role model for her family and other students.

Jessica excels in the classroom, carrying a 3.82 GPA while studying social work and earning the President's Honor List twice. She also is an active PS CARE Club member. She expects to complete her PCC associate degree studies this summer and then plans to continue her education at CSU-Pueblo.

Her community involvement includes:

- Hope Bridge Project – advisory board member
- Posada – volunteer and manager of a 10-unit homeless shelter for families
- Colorado Meth Project – volunteer

Honors / Recognition:

- Hope Bridge Project honoree
- Phi Theta Kappa inductee
- President's Honor List twice
- Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship nominee

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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.*