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PCC receives glowing praise for use of federal Perkins funds

PUEBLO - The Colorado Perkins Field Council has selected Pueblo Community College's Perkins plan for the 2010-11 academic year as one that represents the best use of Carl D. Perkins funds for career and technical education programs. The "Best Practices" designation was issued in a report following both a site visit to PCC and an extensive review of its Perkins plan.

PCC was praised for:

- Moving to a system of managing Perkins funds via a strategic planning model to ensure that funded projects have a link to college priorities and industry needs;
- Having a model in which new academic programs will have a three-year implementation window in which to prove sustainability;
- Utilizing equipment purchases, resource materials and new learning initiatives to improve student success within various technical programs;
- Developing linkages to industry;
- Relying on advisory committees to improve current programs and add new ones.

The Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 provides funding for vocational and technical education for school districts and community colleges. The purpose of the funding is to:

- Build on the efforts of states and localities to develop challenging academic standards;
- Promote the development of services and activities that integrate academic, vocational and technical instruction and that link secondary and postsecondary education;
- Increase state and local flexibility to provide services and activities;
- Disseminate national research and to provide professional development and technical assistance that will improve vocational and technical education programs.

PCC was awarded \$1.24 million in Perkins funds for the 2010-2011 academic year that runs through June 30. The funds were allocated to 24 different program areas. The college must apply for new funding each year.

The Perkins Field Council is comprised of both educators and business and industry volunteers who are chosen by the Colorado Community College System. Its mission is to “facilitate the strategic use of Colorado Perkins distribution funds to enable student success in and through career and technical education.”

The federal Office of Vocational and Adult Education administers the Perkins Act federal funds to help provide vocational-technical education programs and services to youth and adults. The vast majority of funds appropriated under the Perkins Act are awarded as grants to state education agencies.

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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.