



**Contacts for more information:**

Jennifer Herman, Dean of Fremont Campus  
296-6109, [jennifer.herman@pueblocc.edu](mailto:jennifer.herman@pueblocc.edu)

Gary Franchi, Office of Communications  
549-3053, [gary.franchi@pueblocc.edu](mailto:gary.franchi@pueblocc.edu)

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## **Fremont Campus' fall enrollment continues long-term growth trend**

**CANON CITY** – The ongoing enrollment growth pattern at Pueblo Community College's Fremont Campus has continued this fall with a 4.5 percent jump from the previous fall. The Fremont Campus now has 554 students taking classes, and enrollment at the Canon City site has risen 8.2 percent since 2003.

The growth has been sparked by a combination of the addition of more evening classes at the College, education partnerships that enable courses to be taught at off-campus sites, and offering attractive programs that are giving students the 21st Century skills needed to enter the workforce quickly.

“One of the advantages of our small campus environment is the ability to be flexible with course schedules and to implement new programs quickly to meet the students' needs,” said Jennifer Pierceall Herman, the Dean of the Fremont Campus. “We are pretty much out of classroom space at 5:30 in the evening. We have a large number of students needing classes at certain times and we're accommodating them.”

One of the more popular career paths continues to be the Certified Nursing Aide program, which has 17 students are enrolled in the three-class CAN program.

To continue the PCC tradition of nursing program teaching excellence, the Fremont Campus hired Cathy Coram as its new program coordinator this fall and also added Diane Madsen, nursing faculty, and Tammy Carriger as nursing assistant faculty and coordinator.

The CNA program is attractive to students who are interested in a health career, want to complete their education quickly and find a job even faster. This program makes that possible, noted Herman.

“CNA jobs are everywhere, and students can earn a certificate in just one semester and get a good job,” said Herman. “There is a huge need for CNAs both here and across the country because of our aging population.”

Those who earn a certificate can start work earning between \$10 and \$12 an hour. These services are needed mainly in hospitals, long-term care centers and other health care facilities, and the salary rate rises with experience. Herman noted that many nursing aides are able to make a good income and gain valuable experience while continuing their education toward a Nursing degree.

Several other factors have contributed to the fall enrollment climb.

- The number of students taking business classes has increased, partially because a “Legal Environment to Business” course is being conducted at Canon City High School through the dual enrollment program. This program allows students to earn both high school and college credits for courses taught by PCC at the high school. Other courses being offered through the high school partnership are psychology, computer applications, desktop publishing, and health and wellness. Similarly, three students are enrolled in welding classes offered for the first time this fall at Florence High School.
- Additional off-campus enrollment boosts have come from the start of the new Aviation Technology program that is being held at the Fremont County Airport through a partnership with the Florence School District and Pro Av Flight Services. The Aviation program began this fall with the “Private Pilot Ground School” course. Ten students are enrolled.
- Four students are enrolled in the new Fire Science Technology program that began at mid-term with the “Haz Mat Operations” class. Fire Science is designed to meet the growing needs of fire protection and safety personnel, and it includes both certificate and associate degree programs. The program is designed to both prepare students for entry-level positions in the firefighting profession and allow experienced firefighters to augment their training by completing a degree. The certificate requires 21 credits that can be completed in just two semesters. The degree requires an additional 48 credits.

More Fremont Campus growth in the future could result from the new High School Diploma Program that started this fall. The program provides an alternate means for displaced Fremont County students between the ages of 18 and 21 to earn a high school degree, and 14 students are enrolled. PCC’s Pueblo Campus has been the base for a similar program since 2003 and has been a great student feeder program for the College.

Registration will begin Nov. 12 for spring semester classes. For information, call the Fremont Campus at 296-6100.

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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.*