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PCC's 14th annual Kids' College aims to make learning a fun experience

PUEBLO – Who said learning can't be fun? It's been just that for thousands of elementary, middle and high school students who have attended Kids' College at Pueblo Community College during the summer over the past 13 years.

This year's 14th annual version, which will begin Monday (June 14), is shaping up to be another huge Kids' College, which is saying something since more than 800 kids participated last year. They will be attracted by the more than 70 classes offered this in a wide variety of interest areas.

“We think we've got our most wide-ranging topics of courses this summer, and parents have kept us busy signing up their kids already,” noted Kari Yalotz, who is in her fifth year of coordinating Kids' College for PCC's Community Education and Training Department.

The first two weeks (June 14-25) of Kids' College is the Mini College for tots in grades 1 through 3, and each class meets for an hour and a half five days a week for one week. With a couple of exceptions, classes are \$20 each. These youngsters can take courses ranging from crafts, cooking, outdoor activities and health and sciences. The more traditional classes – geography, languages, math, reading, writing and technology – are given “kids-style” formats that allow them to have fun and be creative.

Following a two-week break, Kids' College will resume with three weeks (July 12-30) for kids in grades 4 through 12. Some of the same general topics as in the Mini College are offered at a more advanced level, and kids also can learn about computers, life skills, music, theatre, art, cooking, languages, broadcasting, robotics, outdoor activities, machining and automotive skills among many subjects.

A complete printed schedule of classes is available in all buildings on PCC's Pueblo campus. An online version of the schedule is accessible by going to PCC's website at www.pueblocc.edu and clicking on “Outreach,” then clicking on “Kids College.”

The cost for students in first through third grades is \$20 per class with a few exceptions. For grades four through 12, the cost is \$35 per class with exceptions. Since new classes start each week, registration is continuing in Room 201 of PCC's Gorsich Advanced Technology Center. For more information, call 549-3252 or 549-3368.

Partners with PCC on this year's Kids College are the Pueblo City-County Library District, Pueblo Zoo and Wendy.

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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.