



Contacts for more information:

Juanita Fuentes, Dean of Community Education Training
Division & Pre-College Programs
549-3252, juanita.fuentes@pueblocc.edu

Jennifer Pierceall Herman, Dean of Fremont Campus
719.296.6109, Jennifer.Herman@pueblocc.edu

Gary Franchi, Public Relations Coordinator
549-3053, gary.franchi@pueblocc.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 19, 2010

Ceremonies slated in Pueblo, Canon City for alternative high school diploma grads

PUEBLO – Perseverance and tenacity will be rewarded next week when Pueblo Community College will conduct separate graduation ceremonies in Pueblo and Canon City for students who have completed the Alternative High School Diploma Program or passed their General Educational Development (GED) exams. A total of 141 students will receive their high school diplomas.

The Pueblo ceremony will honor 114 graduates beginning at 6 p.m. Monday (May 24) at the Colorado State Fair Events Center. On Wednesday (May 26), 27 students from the Fremont RE-1 and RE-2 school districts as well as South-Central Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) will receive their diplomas at 6 p.m. at Harrison School in Canon City.

A welcome and comments at the Pueblo ceremony from Juanita Fuentes, Dean of PCC's Community Education Training Division & Pre-College Programs, and Laura Solano, PCC's Vice President of Learning, will precede brief addresses by graduating students from City Schools, District 70 and the GED program. Then administrators from the respective educational institutions will award the diplomas.

The Canon City ceremony will include a welcome from Fuentes and remarks from Jennifer Pierceall Herman, Dean of PCC's Fremont Campus, as well as from graduating students from the two RE school districts. The awarding of the diplomas will follow.

“This is a very special time for these graduates and we look forward to honoring them for their focus and commitment to getting their high school diplomas,” Fuentes said. “Our faculty and staff also should be applauded for their hard work and dedication that helps make this possible for our graduates.”

The AHSDP was created in 2003 through a partnership between PCC and the Pueblo school districts. In 2006, the program expanded to incorporate the Florence and Canon

City school districts. PCC has taken the leadership role by conducting the program on its campuses through its Community Education Training Division & Pre-College Programs.

The program's aim is to recapture high school students between the ages of 18 and 21 who have fallen off the traditional educational path. It provides a self-paced and competency-based alternative for them to earn a diploma in PCC's adult learning environment, plus get a jump start on earning college credits for technology-based courses.

The program's courses include orientation, career assessment and planning, introduction to computing, applied mathematics, applied technology, writing, civics, etc. It also includes a portfolio development presentation that is required as a final learning capstone.

Students must successfully complete all of the components to receive a diploma issued by their local school district. Importantly, they also acquire the confidence and positive self-esteem needed to pursue higher education.

The majority of the students continue their education at PCC, which gives them the instructional support system that helps them to succeed and gain the skills needed to enter the local workforce.

*

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.