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PCC recruiting second group to train through Advanced Manufacturing grant

PUEBLO – Workers with high-tech advanced manufacturing training are acutely needed in southeast Colorado, and Pueblo Community College is now recruiting individuals in the Rocky Ford and La Junta area who are seeking to acquire those highly-sought foundational and technical skills.

PCC's Economic and Workforce Development (E&WD) department will utilize its resources including new mobile learning labs to train participants in the southeastern area through a U.S. Department of Labor grant. PCC currently has a mobile learning lab providing Electrical Systems training at Oliver Manufacturing in La Junta. This first training group will conclude on Friday, June 18.

The Mobile Learning Labs, 48-foot, self-contained portable classrooms, are state-of-the-art facilities that enable PCC to deliver technical training on-site for employers and organizations. Three mobile labs were developed through the grant which adds to the college four such unique training tools. They are able to provide specialized technical skills training in these areas:

- Electrical Systems – AC/DC, PLC, instrumentation, and motors & controls trainers
- Mechanical Systems – hydraulics and pneumatics trainers
- Manufacturing – industry-grade mill and lathe as well as additional CNC simulators
- Welding – Arc and GMAW stations

Career opportunities in the advanced manufacturing industry are plentiful because of a workforce shortage created by retiring workers and continuing manufacturing production in the region. PCC has partnered with the Southeast Colorado Workforce Center to address the shortage by providing a tiered training program that covers work readiness, production skills certification and specialized skills development for new workers.

“We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to bring this training to the Otero County area.” relays Nancy Zimmer, PCC Activities Coordinator. “This region has strong manufacturing employers committed to building their local workforce. It's a perfect fit!”

PCC's certified staff provides the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council's (MSSC) nationally recognized certification program that was developed by industry leaders. It focuses on the core skills and knowledge needed by the nation's production workers, and it is aimed at both entry-level and incumbent workers.

The training allows workers to be certified in four key areas: Safety, Manufacturing Processes & Production, Quality & Continuous Improvement, and Maintenance Awareness. Participants who complete all four areas successfully receive the MSSC's "*Certified Production Technician*" designation.

After completing production skills training, participants have the option of pursuing an additional 140 hours of specialized technical skills development. Five track options are available: Electrical Maintenance, Mechanical Maintenance, Machining, Welding, and Material Management.

Persons interested in being part of the July trainee group should contact the Southeast Colorado Workforce Center office in Rocky Ford (719) 254-3396 or La Junta (719) 383-3191.

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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.