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## **PCC receives glowing evaluation from accreditation review team**

**PUEBLO** – Pueblo Community College appears to have all the pieces in place to have its national accreditation reaffirmed next year by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. That was the consensus of a trained and experienced two-person team that conducted a Quality Checkup Visit at the college recently.

In their summary report to PCC faculty, staff and students, the visitors gave a superb evaluation of the college for its continuous improvement process. That followed two days of analysis, documentation of facts, and dialogue with students, various college groups, business partners, and members of the community on topics identified in advance by the review team and the institution.

The visit was part of the Academic Quality Improvement Program that PCC adopted in 2002, one year after being accredited for the maximum 10 years. By adopting AQIP, PCC committed to continuous and recurring quality improvement based on valid performance measures, reliable assessment data, and utilization of that data.

The objectives of the Checkup Visit were:

- To verify that PCC has met the expectations of the Higher Learning Commission's Federal Compliance Program;
- To affirm the accuracy of PCC's Systems Portfolio;
- To examine the actions PCC has taken to capitalize on the strategic issues and opportunities for improvement identified by the last systems appraisal;
- To assess the strength and direction of PCC's commitment to systematic quality improvement.

In their summary, the review team recognized a strong commitment at PCC to always do better and that efficient processes are in place. It said it found three key areas of focus were being addressed: college-wide shared governance, decision-making based on data collection, and student outcome assessments.

It added that PCC has a good Systems Portfolio of action projects in place, a continuous flow of communications among its campuses, strong community involvement, and a student-centered faculty and staff. Importantly, they noted positive comments made by many students during a reception held with them, including high marks given for faculty, the “family” feeling that exists, the quality of the library, and the overall support they get from faculty and staff. The review team’s conclusion was that PCC is on the right track and its emphasis on students is very evident.

Under AQIP, colleges must have at least three ongoing action projects at any time. Action projects serve to guide strategic planning and influence resource allocation. PCC’s current action projects are:

- Institutional Research
- Assessment of Student Learning
- Workforce Training
- Developmental Math

The AQIP accreditation cycle includes a Quality Checkup Visit in the year before Reaffirmation of Accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission. A Quality Checkup is a formative evaluation activity designed to help the institution accelerate its continuous improvement journey.

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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.*