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PCC signs agreement to team with PPCC to provide workforce training in Pikes Peak region

PUEBLO – The already robust Economic and Workforce Development Division at Pueblo Community will now be expanding its training region thanks to a new agreement that was signed last week with Pikes Peak Community College. Through the partnership, PCC will provide non-credit customized training in Elbert, El Paso and Teller counties. PCC’s fleet of mobile learning labs will be valuable assets to assist in the delivery of technical training programs.

The intent of the agreement is to address Colorado Springs’ manufacturing community concerns that there are not enough skilled workers in the areas of welding, machining, fabrication and industrial maintenance technicians. The shortage could become even more acute in the near future when the “baby boomer” generation workers retire.

PCC’s four 48-foot mobile learning labs can go on site to train or retrain manufacturers’ employees on basic to advanced processes. They are outfitted with the latest technology in electrical, mechanical, manufacturing and welding systems. PCC will hire a part-time employee to be located at PPCC’s Centennial Campus to organize the training for Colorado Springs manufacturers and work closely with the Pikes Peak Manufacturing Forum as well as the Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation.

“Now, Colorado Springs employers will be able take advantage of Pueblo’s assets,” said John Vukich, PCC’s Dean of the Economic and Workforce Development Division. “We will be able to provide services to help manufacturers remain competitive, stay in business, hire new people, expand operations and retain manufacturers in the community.”

PCC has established an impressive Economic and Workforce Development Division. During 2010-2011, it trained more than 5,700 people in industrial and manufacturing topics. The utilization rate of the mobile labs has reached an all-time high of nearly 90 percent.

The division is represented on both the Colorado Workforce Development Council and the National Governor’s Association for Advanced Manufacturing. In addition, it is part of Southeast Colorado’s initiative to establish a Manufacturing Innovation Center.

In October, PCC was awarded \$2.3 million of a state-wide \$17.2 million U.S. Department of Labor grant to build three more mobile labs that will be operated out of its Southwest Colorado Community College campus. SCCC's project will focus on providing accelerated foundational education and skills training to individuals seeking employment in the energy industry. The mobile labs will be equipped separately with electrical, mechanical and welding systems and other processes specific to the mining, oil and gas industries in addition to renewable energy production.

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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.