



**Contacts for more information:**

Debbie Borchers, English Department Chair  
549-3346, debbie.borchers@pueblocc.edu

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

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## **Three PCC English instructors team to write student-friendly textbook**

**PUEBLO** – Pueblo Community College’s reputation as a premier teaching institution has just received another huge positive shot in the arm.

Three members of PCC’s English Department have teamed to write a textbook that has been published by Wadsworth Cengage Learning. Instructors Luis Nazario, Bill Lewis and Debbie Borchers (who also chairs the English Dept.), pooled their 50+ combined years of English teaching experience and worked on their “Bridges to Better Writing” text for more than 3½ years.

The 832-page text is being made available this month and marketed to educational institutions throughout the country. The book is intended to be a resource bridge between high school and college writing for students, and it is useful for academic, professional and personal writing.

It integrates both grammar and academic instruction, makes liberal use of charts and graphics for explanatory effect, has local (Pueblo) references and contains writings from PCC students. It even contains a research paper and related argumentative statements. The book will be used for PCC’s Basic Composition (ENG 090) classes and includes material that can be used in English Composition 1 (ENG 121) courses as well.

Nazario was the driving force behind the endeavor. Having previously written several instructional manuals for the Wadsworth Cengage Learning publishing company, he was asked him to write such a textbook. He immediately brought Borchers and Lewis, his English Department comrades, into the project.

“It says something about our department that we had the knowledge and expertise to, first, be commissioned to write such a unique textbook and, second, to accomplish this despite having a heavy teaching load,” said Borchers.

And it’s already drawing a good response from educators.

“While being marketed nationally, the book was reviewed by a network of faculty and has been received positively,” pointed out Lewis.

The three instructors worked on individual chapters initially, but they all went through and discussed each chapter. Nazario was the leader and main contact person throughout the production.

“We’ve all had different types of classroom experiences that we brought to this book,” added Nazario. “We had our arguments along the way (during the prolonged writing period), but now that it’s completed it’s hard to tell who wrote what pages.”

The teaching ability of Borchers, Nazario and Lewis has repeatedly drawn praise from students, and all three have earned Faculty of the Year awards at PCC during their careers.

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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.*