



## College Report – February 2012

*Patty Erjavec, President*

### **Student Access to comprehensive academic programs**

**Foundation making college more affordable** – The PCC Foundation will be awarding more than \$250,000 in scholarships to PCC students in the 2012-2013 academic year. On its website, PCC has established a “Scholarships Quick Link” that enables students to apply for several scholarships by completing a single form.

**Senator Udall discusses jobs with business people** – U.S. Senator Mark Udall visited PCC on Jan. 12 to conduct a roundtable discussion with key players in Southeast Colorado's manufacturing industry. Udall gathered information from representatives of PCC, small business, Pueblo City Council and economic development and vowed to create policies that spur job growth in 2012.

**Community members advised of career opportunities** – People out of work or just looking to gain new career skills attended a “Get Back to Work” seminar prior to the start of the Spring Semester. PCC staff members provided information on careers with good employment prospects and the PCC programs that can help attendees get the skills needed to qualify for those jobs.

### **Student Success through high-quality instruction and educational service**

**Fremont Campus to provide supplemental math instruction** – Students taking remedial math classes at PCC's Fremont Campus and having difficulty with fractions, integers and word problems will be able to get supplemental instruction at weekly sessions through the remainder of the semester. The sessions will be semi-structured mini-courses focused on the mastering of skills.

**Student academic life enhanced with new Learning Center** – With the start of the Spring Semester, PCC now boasts a new 10,000-square-foot, \$4 million Learning Center that aims to increase student access, academic success and retention by supporting learning. The center accommodates PCC's long-time enrollment growth by providing space for individual and group study, scheduled and drop-in tutoring and classroom instruction, all in a modern facility that enhances the learning experience.

**Two students gain All-Colorado Academic Team** – Two students who used different non-traditional programs based at PCC to become outstanding achievers have been selected to the Phi Theta Kappa All-Colorado Academic Team. Dana Nordberg was an Early College student who first attended PCC as a high school sophomore. Josh Dismuke was a dropout who used the Gateway to College program to earn his high school diploma. They will seek careers in psychology (Dana) and aeronautical engineering.

**AmeriCorps helps support children's reading** – PCC's AmeriCorps program organized a Literacy Matters Book Drive in honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on Jan. 16. Members collected new or gently used children's books for a book exchange that day for kids and later held an educational day for children in the city's main library, where it gave kids the chance to create their own books.

### **Student Success through development of a high-skilled workforce**

**Governor gets look at PCC's job-training initiatives** – Governor John Hickenlooper visited PCC on Jan. 12 to learn what the college is doing in the area of workforce training. He was given tours of a mobile learning lab and many of the activities in PCC's tech center. Following his visit, an agreement was signed with Pikes Peak Community College for PCC's Economic & Workforce Development Division to use its mobile learning labs to provide customized training in the three-county Pikes Peak region.

**Accounting students providing income tax return service** – For the third consecutive year, IRS-certified PCC accounting students are providing free income tax return preparation service for members of the college and Pueblo communities who have a family income under \$49,000. The program is part of The Piton Foundation's Tax Help Colorado initiative.