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Several fund-raising activities planned for Fremont Campus expansion campaign

CANON CITY – The capital campaign aimed at financing the much-needed expansion of Pueblo Community College’s Fremont Campus is already more than one-fourth of the way toward its goal of raising \$2 million. This week, the campaign’s steering committee noted that it has received donations and pledges worth \$521,713.

The committee also is developing a series of fund-raising activities over the next two years. Coming up is the “Going for Gold at the Gorge” party that will take place from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 14, at the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park. It will include a social hour, barbecue dinner, silent auction, live classic rock music by The Geezers and dancing, not to mention the breath-taking scenery.

Tickets for the event are \$30 and available at the PCC Fremont Campus and at the Canon City Daily Record newspaper. The event is sponsored by the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park and Canon National Bank.

The next fund-raising event in the campaign, whose theme is “Celebrating Silver ... Going for Gold,” will be the inaugural Gorge Hills Disc Golf Open that will be held at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 4, on the Fremont Campus. Competitors will play two rounds of nine holes, and there are five different divisions, with the field limited to 45 players. The entry fee is \$20, and the registration deadline is Aug. 30. For information, call Don at 719-371-0979.

Other fund-raising events are in the planning stages. Because the Fremont Campus is operating at near capacity – with close to 850 students enrolled compared to 350 students when the building opened in 2001 – a master plan for the campus has been in the development stage.

Plans were developed by the original firm that designed the current building (Bennett Wagner & Grody Architects). The college’s leaders and advisory council adopted the plans after getting input from students, faculty, staff and community members while giving careful consideration to campus needs and the current state of the economy.

The expansion plan includes:

- A wing addition with 3 lecture classrooms, restrooms, storage for health occupations equipment, 4 faculty offices, and a student and community activity center that can also be used for short-term training
- An addition of a large lab, art, or science classroom
- A career technical addition, separated from the main building, containing 2 classrooms
- A remodel of a large existing classroom to include risers for lecture hall conversion
- The addition of 4 faculty offices
- The creation of 5 offices for academic advising and other student services plus an upgrade of a part-time faculty work area

The expansion will allow the Fremont Campus to increase its class and program capacity by more than 50% and to offer some courses (such as welding and machining) that it hasn't been able to because of facility constraints. The plan, in conjunction with a transition to some online courses, is expected to accommodate both current and near future course, program and service needs. Depending on the time needed to raise the development funds, the expansion could be done in two phases.

“We really need the community’s help to expand our building so we can continue providing high-quality, accessible programs to our growing number of students,” said Jennifer Pierceall Herman, Dean of the Fremont Campus. “Community support was the key element in getting this campus built, and that support will continue to be critical to keep up with the growing demand for our services in Fremont and Custer counties.”

The Fremont Campus is an eligible Enterprise Zone project within the Arkansas Valley Enterprise Zone. Contributions of \$250 or more qualify for a state tax credit equal to 25% of the total donation (subject to certain limitations). Donors may take advantage of this credit by making their checks payable to the PCC Foundation-Fremont Campus Building Fund and writing “Enterprise Zone” in the memo line. Contact Diane Porter, Executive Director of the PCC Foundation, at 719.549.3303 for more information.

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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.