



College Report

Dr. J.D. Garvin, *President*

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Student Access to comprehensive academic programs

PCC receives significant Fremont Campus building fund pledge – The PCC Foundation has received a \$200,000 pledge from Darryn Biggerstaff for the Fremont Campus' building expansion fund. Darryn's late father Darryl was a huge supporter of higher education and the leader of a committee of local community members who raised \$1 million toward the capital construction of the current Fremont Campus in Canon City almost a decade ago. Steady enrollment growth has made PCC consider campus expansion options.

Endowment to aid health students – The uncle of a former PCC instructor/department head has contributed \$40,000 to PCC to create an endowment fund that will fund scholarships for students enrolled in health career programs. The Jim Jatras Scholarship will benefit all health students with a priority to those in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program. His niece, Becky Robler, was an instructor and the chair of the OTA program before retiring several years ago.

Creative students win scholarship money – Six PCC students earned scholarship awards as prizes in the bookmark and poster contests that were part of a month-long “**Pueblo Connections: The Hispanic Influence**” series of events on the Pueblo campus. In both categories, first place was worth \$200, second place \$150 and third place \$100. The contest was conducted by the Arts & Sciences Division.

SCCC-East working to add parking spaces – Higher traffic levels at PCC's Southwest Community College East Campus in Durango have caused meetings with management of The Commons building, where the college leases space, about increasing parking for students and staff. Parking access could become a bigger issue as planned work on several exterior improvement projects accelerates.

Student Success through development of a high-skilled workforce

PCC's unique partnership with Vestas showcased – PCC's ever-growing role in workforce development in the Pueblo region was showcased Oct. 15 through a series of activities held on the Pueblo campus. The unique partnership that exists between Vestas Towers and PCC was highlighted first during a news conference that included comments by Vestas Plant Manager Tony Knopp and various city officials. It was followed by a ribbon cutting and tour of the south high bay area of the Gorsich Advanced Technology Center, where employees are being trained to work for Vestas Towers. PCC's Economic & Workforce Development Division has the exclusive role in training 500+ employees for the plant that will begin manufacturing operations in late fall. Vestas donated to PCC a \$180,000 submerged arc welding machine being used in part of that training.

New mobile learning labs unveiled – Later that day, the Economic & Workforce Development Division gave tours of its three new mobile learning labs that will extend PCC's manufacturing

training outreach in the region and throughout Colorado. The mobile labs were developed as part of a \$2 million U.S. Department of Labor grant that was awarded to PCC in May 2008. Along with a fourth mobile lab that was launched two years ago, the Economic & Workforce Development Division now has a fleet capable of delivering on-site training in four different learning disciplines – electrical systems, manufacturing systems, mechanical systems and welding.

Broadcasting students getting great hands-on experience – Students enrolled in the Center for New Media program continue to receive some excellent real-life training. They recently broadcast live a series of political debates between candidates for local school boards and City Council and those with opposing views on a mayoral system of city government. A mail-in ballot voting is currently under way on these positions/issues. Crews also are broadcasting high school football games each weekend for Comcast cable channel 19, which is operated by PCC.

SCCC-East students taking advantage of new classes – The Southwest Community College East Campus in Durango has a full class of 24 students in a new EMT-Basic course that is being taught by a team of four firefighters from Durango Fire and Rescue Authority. Also, there are eight students enrolled in the new Radiologic Technology program and attending classes via Polycom videoconferencing. In addition, students are learning about different opportunities through new introductory Criminal Justice and Social Work classes being offered this fall.

Student Success through high-quality instruction & services

New 21st Century Skills class format clicks with students – New 21st Century Skills classes are being held in the technologically-upgraded Occhiato Theatre and providing an exciting mix of traditional classroom with online instruction. Students work on classroom laptops and benefit from in-class instruction at the same time. The classes allow for video clips, online chat rooms, blogging and online quizzes as well as the recording of class content for download and streaming to students.

Faculty receive training in Desire2Learn teaching methods – PCC is converting to the use of Desire2Learn as an online learning system. It is a web-based suite of teaching and learning tools that provide course development, delivery and management. To help faculty members make the transition, PCC conducted a series of training modules in October.

Instructor uses innovation to aid students – Engineering instructor Ken Schrettner is incorporating innovative hands-on exercises to help his “Engineering Statics” class students better comprehend structural analysis. During the classroom lectures, students learn to calculate the tensile and compressive forces in bridges, cranes, roller coasters and other structures. This supplemental instruction allows them to design simple structures, calculate the forces in them and then build a model of their design. They then install load cells or strain gauges in their models to measure the actual forces and compare them to the theoretical calculated design values.

SCCC-West Campus aims to raise Accuplacer scores – Southwest Colorado Community College’s West Campus is conducting basic skills study sessions to help its students score higher on their Accuplacer placement test. The sessions focus primarily on a review of math, especially basic operations such as division, fractions, decimals and percentages. But they also review reading and English. Students are able to receive additional small group instruction and individual tutoring after the group session.

Operational Excellence to ensure financial stability & student safety

Latest teaching technologies being incorporated into new classrooms – The renovation of the Central Administration Building on the Pueblo campus is nearing completion and the beginning of occupancy is anticipated in late December. Included among the renovations will be several new classrooms equipped with the latest teaching technologies, including the new generation of SMART Boards. The added classroom space is much needed following strong campus enrollment growth the past three semesters.