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English instructors use their vast experience to help students improve their writing skills

PUEBLO – Three experienced members of the English Department at Pueblo Community College have pooled their expertise to help students make the transition between basic and college writing. They recently completed the revised edition of a textbook they first authored in 2009, and it has been published by Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

To mark the occasion, a “Meet the Authors” reception will be held at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17, in the PCC Library, located on the main floor of the Academic Building. It will serve as a vehicle to honor instructors Luis Nazario, Bill Lewis and Debbie Borchers (who also chairs the English Dept.), who pooled their 50+ combined years of English teaching experience for the “Bridges to Better Writing” textbook.

The book is being marketed to educational institutions throughout the country as a resource bridge between basic and college writing for students, and it is also considered useful for academic, professional and personal writing. The book will be used for PCC’s Basic Composition (ENG 090) and English Composition 1 (ENG 121) courses.

The second edition of “Bridges to Better Writing” is slightly shorter than its predecessor since the grammar, punctuation and style exercises have been removed and put online via Cengage’s CourseMate platform. In addition, the readings that were originally in the back of the book have been integrated into the writing chapters, and new high-interest readings have been added. The Modern Language Association of America information has been updated and more graphs, tables and charts added.

“ ‘*Bridges to Better Writing*’ is all about connecting basic writing skills to college coursework, professional writing, and personal communication,” noted Borchers. “ ‘Bridges’ ” encourages students to reflect on how to apply and transfer their writing skills to a variety of situations.”

The impetus for the three authors to become involved with the project originally came from Cengage, which asked Nazario to write such a textbook after he had previously written several instructional manuals for the company. He immediately asked his comrades, Borchers and Lewis, to help author the text.

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.

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 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.