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PCC to celebrate Hispanic Serving Institution Week with series of speakers, events, entertainment

PUEBLO – Pueblo Community College will recognize the Hispanic culture next week (Sept. 19-23) when it will host entertainment, speakers and educational experiences to mark National Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Week. Titled “La Influencia del Pueblo,” the program will have an official kickoff at 11:15 a.m. Monday in the campus courtyard.

“La Influencia del Pueblo” is intended to pay tribute to Hispanics who have had a positive influence on Pueblo while celebrating the fact that PCC is designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution. Such designation is based on a higher education institution having an enrollment that is at least 25 percent Hispanic.

There are HIS Week events scheduled each weekday, and all are free and open to the community. They include:

- Performance by Mariachi Aguila from Dolores Huerta Preparatory High School on Monday morning
- Poetry readings by Maria Melendez on Tuesday afternoon and by Juan Morales and Juliana Fatula-Aragon on Friday evening
- A Hispanic Heritage Poster & Art Show Tuesday afternoon featuring the artwork of local artist Tony Armijo
- Guest speakers Wednesday morning that will include State Sen. Angela Giron, Pueblo City Schools School Board President Stephanie Garcia and CSU-Pueblo professor Dr. Dora Luz Cobian-Klein.
- PCC’s Associated Student Government celebration Wednesday afternoon that will feature Cesar Chavez Executive Director Dr. Henry Roman, reigning Fiesta Queen Desirae Mendez and Pueblo Latino Chamber of Commerce Membership Coordinator Steven Trujillo

On the lighter side, for PCC students and staff there will be a Piñata Contest on Monday, a zumba class Monday evening, a Poster Contest with winners announced Tuesday, and a Salsa con Salsa competition on Thursday. At stake in the contests are gift certificates and scholarships.

“Our celebration gives us the chance to pay tribute to individuals who are having a positive impact on our community in an atmosphere that is educational but also fun and entertaining,” said Rosina Chaparro, PCC’s HIS Week committee chair.

Here is the complete schedule of events:

Monday, Sept. 19

- 11:00 a.m.: Mariachi lunch in Pueblo Joe’s
 - Performance by DHPH Mariachi Aguila
 - Lunch of carnitas tacos, tamale, elote (corn) and soft drink
- 11:15 a.m.: Kickoff celebration in campus courtyard
- 3:30 p.m. Pinata Contest in campus courtyard
- 5:30 p.m.: Zumba class in Fortino Ballroom

Tuesday, Sept. 20

- 2:00 p.m.: Poetry reading by Maria Melendez, San Juan Building-Room 214
- 3:00 p.m.: Hispanic Heritage Poster & Art Show featuring artwork of local artist Tony Armijo in San Juan Building - second floor

Wednesday, Sept. 21

(All guest speakers/performers will be in the Fortino Ballroom)

- 10:30 a.m.: Guest speaker Angelo Giron, State Sen.-District 3
- 10:45 a.m.: Guest speaker Stephanie Garcia, Pueblo City Schools Board President
- 11:00 a.m.: Guest speaker Dr. Dora Luz Cobian-Klein, CSU-Pueblo professor
- 4:00 p.m.: Student Government Celebration featuring guest speaker Dr. Henry Roman, Cesar Chavez Academy Executive Director; performer Queen Desirae Mendez, 2011 Fiesta Queen; and guest speaker Steven Trujillo, Pueblo Latino Chamber of Commerce Membership Coordinator

Thursday, Sept. 22

- 4:00 p.m.: Salsa con Salsa Contest in Fortino Ballroom

Friday, Sept. 23

- 6:00 p.m.: Poetry reading featuring Juan Morales and Juliana Fatula-Aragon in Pueblo Joe’s followed by open mic poetry readings at 7:15 p.m.

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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.