



## College Report – June 2011

Patty Erjavec, *President*

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

**Graduation ranks soar** – A record number of 885 PCC students completed certificates or associate degrees during the spring semester and another 199 more earned mini-certificates. Commencement ceremonies were held May 6 at the State Fair Events Center in Pueblo for Pueblo and Fremont Campus graduates and May 8 at Fort Lewis College in Durango for grads of PCC's Southwest Colorado Community College campuses in Durango and Cortez/Mancos.

**Partnership helps make education accessible** – PCC and the Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation developed an "Educational Partnership Day" to introduce higher education to 100 high school sophomores from Pueblo City Schools on May 5. Students visited specific program areas and received helpful education and career advice. In the evening, PCC's Center for New Media crew broadcast live the annual PHEF Dollars & Scholars Telethon that raised more than \$150,000 toward college scholarships.

**Students make most of second chance at diploma** – A combined graduation ceremony for three of PCC's dropout-retrieval programs that are held on the Pueblo campus recognized 112 individuals for turning their lives around by earning high school or equivalency diplomas. The May 23 event honored students from the Gateway to College, GED and Alternative High School Diploma programs. Two days later, another 34 students from the Canon City and Florence/Penrose school districts graduated from the Fremont County Alternative High School Diploma program.

**Community supporters gain Fremont Hall** – Frank Cooper and the husband/wife tandem of Walt and Gloria Schepp were inducted into the Fremont Hall of Fame on May 20 during the fourth annual banquet held at PCC's Fremont Campus in Canon City. The Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have positively impacted education and the communities of Fremont and/or Custer counties.

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

**Summer Institute 2011 focuses on living the "PCC Promise"** – To accent PCC's adoption of "customer service" as its new AQIP accreditation initiative, the two-day Summer Institute 2011 held May 10-11 focused on how to provide premium service to students, customers and fellow employees. The "PCC Promise" was unveiled as the theme of the professional development forum along with its anthem to recognize and greet everyone with a smile, listen to them, respond to their needs, respect and value them, and celebrate their accomplishments and successes.

**Nursing Chair selected for national award** – Nursing program Chair Eva Tapia has been chosen to receive the Sigma Theta Tau Iota Pi Chapter Hall of Fame award for Excellence in Education by the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society. In addition, her abstract, "Expanding Diversity in the Nursing Workforce," has been accepted as a poster presentation for the 36th annual National Association of Hispanic Nurses Conference to be held July 19-22 in Las Vegas.

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

**SCCC offers renewable energy classes** – PCC is establishing new training centers for weatherization and solar energy programs at its Southwest Colorado Community College West Campus in Mancos/Cortez. This summer, three weatherization classes have been scheduled to retrain construction workers and subcontractors in building science and energy retrofits. Solar classes will begin in the fall.

**PCC students gain berths in SkillsUSA nationals** – Students in vocational programs qualified for SkillsUSA nationals during state competitions held in March. Winning gold medals were Jonah Castillo in the Automotive Skills Demonstration category, Steve Drake in Machining-CNC Milling and the Automated Manufacturing team of Dale Morey, Marcus DeVries and Casey Houston. Nationals will be conducted in June in Kansas City, MO.