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KinderCaminata program to get kindergarteners thinking about education and career opportunities

PUEBLO – Pueblo Community College believes that planting the seed for career dreams starts at an early age. In fact, its newest initiative – KinderCaminata – is aimed at sparking Pueblo kindergarteners to begin thinking about education and learning during an early stage of their intellectual development.

KinderCaminata is a show-and-tell program that introduces the concepts of college education and career options to kindergarten children, their parents and families. It is modeled after a similar program that has been successful in California since the early 1990s and was converted to comply to Colorado standards.

It is being conducted by PCC's Community Education and Training & Pre-College Programs department, and the inaugural KinderCaminata will involve at least four local schools – Cesar Chavez Academy, St. Therese, St. John Neumann and McClelland Elementary – and others are considering it.

The program will take place next week, with teachers from the four participating schools providing a curriculum consisting of five standards-based lessons promoting literacy, cultural heritage and career education from Monday through Thursday at their home schools. It will culminate on Friday, Oct. 7, when a "mini-job fair" for the youths will take place from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in PCC's Fortino Ballroom.

The day will allow the youths to experience age-appropriate, interactive career activities/displays and gain valuable exposure to how higher education can be a vehicle to their future careers. College employees and student leaders will be on hand to introduce them to careers in a child-friendly manner.

The focus will be on helping the young students understand career choices and the benefits of education while getting their families to have respect for the dreams of their young children. On hand will be representatives of the Pueblo County Commissioners, Pueblo City Council, the local school boards and the two chambers of commerce.

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.