



College Report

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Student Access to comprehensive academic programs

Massage Therapy shows off its high-tech facility – PCC celebrated the grand opening of its beautiful new Massage Therapy facility on April 27 with an outdoor news conference and ribbon cutting ceremony. The event attracted college, community and chambers of commerce representatives along with members of the media. Afterward, attendees went inside to see demonstrations of the facility's many high-tech instructional capabilities as well as the client massage areas.

Student Success through development of a high-skilled workforce

Welding student makes mark in state competitions – PCC student Kyle Houston became what is believed to be the first three-time state champion in SkillsUSA welding when he finished first at the state tournament last month. Kyle first won the state title while competing for PCC in the secondary division as a senior at Pueblo County High School, and he now has won two additional state crowns as a PCC post-secondary student. He was among four PCC students and a three-person team that qualified for nationals to be held in June in Kansas City, Missouri.

PTA student honored at state conference – Dessa Warren was honored April 25 with the Outstanding PTA Student Award for Colorado during the 40th annual conference of the Colorado chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association held at the University of Colorado-Denver's Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora. Dessa was selected because of her GPA (3.84), involvement with campus and community activities, and for both her positive attitude at PCC and professional attitude with staff and patients at clinical sites.

Dental Hygiene students have 100% passing rate on exam – All 13 of PCC's Dental Hygiene students passed the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam that they took over spring break at sites in either Pueblo or Denver. The students did exceptionally well on the case studies portion in which they utilize critical thinking skills to solve a specific problem they are given. Next for the graduating students will be their clinical texts in May, which they will take in Denver. After that, they will apply for their licensure.

Students learn what the homeless face – Students in the PS CARE Club gained a greater awareness of the adversities faced by the homeless population when they took part in the eighth annual "Building Bridges" sleep out in the outdoor amphitheater the night of April 16. PS CARE is an acronym for Psychology and Social Work Careers and Resources for Education. The sleep out is intended to raise both awareness of the homeless population and funds for two homeless-serving local agencies – Posada and the Soup Kitchen, two organizations that have an even tougher time trying to provide needed services to the homeless population during difficult economic times.

Culinary Arts students wrap up school year in “grand” style – The culmination of each semester for Culinary Arts program students is the traditional Grand Buffet, a several-course lunch-time dining extravaganza that features several options within each course. In April, more than 500 PCC and community members were served in the biggest Grand Buffet ever held.

Student Success through transition opportunities

New master’s, leadership online programs offered – Through a partnership with Adams State College, PCC students now have online access to earning Higher Education Administration and Leadership (HEAL) degrees. An information session with an Adams State representative was held on the Pueblo campus last month to explain both the Master of Arts and the post-graduate Executive Leadership Institute HEAL programs. Both are geared specifically toward individuals who work in Hispanic-serving institutions and require a two-day orientation/training residency prior to the beginning of the programs and a two-day leadership summit residency at their respective mid-points.

Two students earn Kane Foundation scholarships – PCC’s partnership with the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs paid off for two PCC students who have been awarded Kane Family Foundation scholarships. Michelle Gonzales of Fowler and Andrew Shahmohammadi of Pueblo were chosen on the basis of their academic record, a formal application with essay, and an interview. The scholarships will cover up to five years of expenses for tuition, fees and books, starting with an associate’s degree at PCC and finishing with a bachelor’s degree at UCCS.

Student Success through high-quality instruction & services

New initiative will train students to be Orientation Leaders – Students with good leadership and interpersonal skills are being recruited to be trained as Orientation Leaders and to take part in upcoming New Student Orientations throughout the summer. The new initiative includes a Student Orientation Leadership Education class, and those completing it with grade of “B” or higher will be eligible to be on the team. These students will be paid to receiving training and to plan and attend all orientation activities.

Highly-involved students earn “Rising Star” awards – Students Muriel Blacksher-Martinez and Jessica Evig were presented with “Rising Star” awards by the Colorado Community College System’s State Student Advisory Council during its annual luncheon held at Red Rocks Community College in Denver. Students from other community colleges in Colorado also were recognized with awards based on exhibiting a high level of leadership, involvement in student activities and having at least a 3.0 grade-point average.

Operational Excellence to ensure financial stability & student safety

Staff receives training on campus safety measures – PCC’s annual professional development days, held May 4-5, included sessions on an overview of the National Incident Management System training on how to use an automated external defibrillator and a fire extinguisher, crisis intervention – suicide prevention, and how to help create a respectful workplace in order to prevent issues from developing.

“Go Green” efforts expanding – PCC, which first launched an extensive recycling program in 2006, is about to enter new territory by installing co-mingler bins on its Pueblo campus. The bins will allow all PCC employees and students to recycle the following products in one bin: aluminum food and beverage containers, glass food and beverage containers (brown, clear or green), tin food cans and Nos. 1-7 plastic container.

Students, staff get access to free immunizations -- After receiving free vaccines, the Pueblo City-County Health Department came to PCC’s Pueblo campus last month and provided them to students and staff free at a pair of immunization clinics held in the Health Clinic. Pneumonia, pertussis and HPV vaccines were made available.