



College Report

Cliff Richardson, CCCS VP of Administration & Finance

February 2010

Student Access to comprehensive academic programs

PCC gets grant from El Pomar Foundation– PCC has been awarded a \$1,500 grant from the El Pomar Foundation to be used for a Partnership for Success program, specifically by our Alternative High School Diploma Program students. It will pay the cost of their WorkKeys assessment test, which is the final exam they take to gauge their job-readiness. The Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce recommended PCC for the grant through Ray Aguilera, PCC's enrollment specialist for special populations. It will be administered through the PCC Foundation.

Student get help filling out FAFSA form – Continuing PCC students as well as area high school seniors planning to attend college next fall had a great opportunity to get assistance in filling out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form on Feb. 21 when PCC hosted a College Goal Sunday afternoon. Financial aid experts were on hand to provide free help. In addition, a \$1,000 college scholarship was awarded via a drawing from the names attending.

New scholarships available to nursing students – Kaiser Permanente has made a monetary contribution to PCC to be used to award scholarships primarily to full-time Associate Degree Nursing Program students who are Hispanic or from another ethnic minority population. The Scholarship Committee at PCC will determine the number of recipients and the dollar amount of each scholarship. The scholarship funds will be applied to the current semester.

Ambassador program starting at SCCC campuses – Southwest Colorado Community College, a branch of PCC, has launched a new Student Ambassador scholarship program following the success of the program at the Pueblo campus. Qualifying criteria are a 3.0 cumulative GPA, being enrolled full-time in the current semester and considered a candidate to represent the SCCC to prospective students and current SCCC students. The students will provide 30 hours of student recruitment and support activities to continuing students in the Go!Zone enrollment center during the semester and receive a \$500 scholarship.

Student Success through development of a high-skilled workforce

Dental Hygiene students provide free dental service to kids – PCC again participated in the national Give Kids a Smile day on February 5. Dental Hygiene program students, faculty and staff provided free dental services worth \$4,000 to 26 community children, between the ages of 4 and 14, who lack dental insurance, while students honed their skills under the supervision of the program's dentist and faculty.

EMS program receives valuable equipment donation – The Emergency Medical Services department has received a 12-lead electrocardiogram defibrillator/monitor as a donation from AMR, a Pueblo ambulance company. The Medtronic Lifepak 12 unit, valued at up to \$15,000 if purchased new, will be used in all EMS classes. It is valued for its portable ease of use.

Students' video lands on Save the Internet website – When two Broadcasting students in an “Intro to Mass Communications” class got an assignment to produce a case study of a textbook topic, they created a rap video on the net neutrality issue (keeping the Internet free). After presenting it in their class, they posted it on YouTube. The video was then seen by the “Save the Internet” organization, which posted it on the cover of its website for a day. Two television stations in the Pueblo/Colorado Springs region also did substantial feature reports on the students and their video.

Culinary students compete in Iron Chef Competition – Two 4-person teams of Culinary Arts students competed against each other in an Iron Chef Competition Jan. 30 during the Pueblo Health Expo at the Pueblo Convention Center. The teams were given secret ingredients that they were required to use in their culinary productions. Other students prepared product samples, made from citrus items, for the audience. This was a great opportunity for our Culinary students to display their talents to the Pueblo community.

Accounting students put their tax preparation skills to good use – Thirteen accounting students volunteered their time on five consecutive Saturdays to provide free income tax preparation to Pueblo families with household incomes of less than \$49,000 a year as part of the state-wide Tax Help Colorado initiative funded by The Piton Foundation. The students completed last semester's “Income Tax” course at PCC and were subsequently IRS-certified.

Student Success through high-quality instruction & services

PCC gets glowing report from review team – PCC received a positive report from a two-person team that visited PCC Feb. 10-12 to review its Academic Quality Improvement Program progress. The team had praise for PCC's college-wide shared governance, decision-making based on data collection, student outcome assessment, portfolio of action projects, flow of communications, strong community involvement, and its student-focused faculty and staff. They noted positive comments made by many students, including high marks for faculty, the “family” feeling that exists at PCC, the quality of the library, and the overall support they get from faculty and staff. Their conclusion was that PCC is on the right track and its emphasis on students is very evident.

Fremont Campus fundraising campaign readied – Later this month, PCC will launch a capital campaign aimed at raising \$2 million to expand its Fremont Campus, which has experienced more than a threefold enrollment growth since opening its permanent building in 2001. With this being the 25th year that PCC has offered classes in Canon City, a steering committee has identified a “Celebrating Silver – Going for Gold” campaign theme. Nearly \$500,000 in donations already have been received toward the \$2 million goal.

Operational Excellence to ensure financial stability & student safety

Focus on security and safety continues to expand – All Pueblo campus staff members were instructed about procedures that are to be followed on campus in case of emergency situations. New, updated PCC emergency flip charts that include instructions and procedures for dealing with emergency situations have been placed on the doors in all classrooms and office complexes. Each classroom is also now equipped with a telephone for emergency purposes.

Staff reminded about procedures on student issues – An emphasis also has been placed on safety and security procedures that are to be followed by PCC personnel as they teach in the classroom or work with students in service offices. Staff members also have been notified about how to handle student behavior programs, including the reporting process that is in place. At the same time, they have been reminded of FERPA privacy and confidentiality laws.