



President's Report

Dr. J.D. Garvin, *President*

– March 2009 –

PCC in the news

State Representative Pace to speak at commencement – First-year State Representative Sal Pace, a Pueblo Democrat who represents House District 46, will deliver the keynote address at PCC's commencement next month. Graduates of the Pueblo and Fremont campuses will be recognized May 1 at the Colorado State Fair Events Center. Pace currently serves on the House Majority leadership team as the Majority Assistant Caucus Chair and sits on three committees – the influential Appropriations Committee, the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and the Judiciary Committee.

Alignment machine donated to Fremont Campus – Lindner Chevrolet in Canon City has donated an alignment machine to PCC's Automotive Technology program to help train students taking PCC classes in Canon City High School's auto shop. The machine would cost about \$10,000 new and the used one received has a value of several thousand dollars. The donation was arranged through John Duston, PCC's Auto Tech instructor.

City Council receives a PCC "State of Address" – PCC President Dr. J.D. Garvin gave City Council an update on the college during one of the city leaders' recent work sessions. Dr. Garvin covered a broad range of topics including how PCC is playing a key role in addressing Pueblo County's high poverty rate through its programs, graduate placement rate, scholarship opportunities, economic and workforce development efforts and other initiatives.

Community Connections

Alumni in spotlight at Hall of Fame Banquet – Two alumni recalled earlier times while attending Pueblo Junior College, which was one of PCC's many previous names, during the 19th annual Pueblo Hall of Fame Banquet that was held March 6. Inducted were former state representative, senator and lobbyist Ray Kogovsek along with the late Harry "Chief" Simmons, long-time Pueblo Junior College basketball coach. Representing Harry was his son Tim, who kept statistics for his father's basketball teams while attending PJC. The Hall of Fame honors individuals who have made a significant contribution to the betterment of Pueblo. The PCC Foundation uses the proceeds from the event to help provide scholarships to students.

New grant program wants girls to consider nontraditional careers – A new grant-funded Prefreshmen Engineering Program (PREP) aims to increase the number of women and under-represented minorities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics career fields. PREP will begin this summer and will provide instruction to middle and high school students through seven-week, half-day instruction over four summers. The initial target audience is eighth grade graduates entering high school, especially those from advanced math and science grades or from gifted students programs. PREP is being launched through a partnership between PCC, Colorado State University-Pueblo and the two Pueblo school districts. The first two summers of instruction will be held at PCC and the final two will take place at CSU-Pueblo.

Senior Mini College attracts huge crowd – Close to 300 senior citizens made the 24th annual Senior Mini College another big success at the Fremont Campus over spring break. Dozens of hands-on classes were offered covering a wide range of topics taught by local experts. Special events included a Fremont Cattlewomen's Association barbecue lunch as well as senior resource and health resource days. Several field trips to nearby areas of interest were held during the week-long event.

PCC sponsoring event during Wild Wild West Fest – PCC will be a key player during the Professional Bull Riders' inaugural Wild Wild West Fest in May through the Foundation's sponsorship of a team roping and barrel racing competition. While its headquarters are based in Pueblo, the PBR is an international professional bull riding organization whose competitive series includes more than 30 nationally televised events across the country each year. PCC's event will be held at the Colorado State Fairgrounds.

Southwest Campus answers queries at Ag Expo – Southwest Campus and San Juan Basin Technical College personnel jointly operated a booth at the recent Four States Ag Expo held in Cortez. The majority of booth visitors had questions related to the two institutions' upcoming merger that awaits legislative approval, and many wanted information about programs and courses that the new community college will offer.

Student/Staff News & Services

Automotive student's star is on the rise – Automotive Technology student Frank Cowgill has been selected to receive a "Rising Star" award by the Colorado Community College State Student Advisory Council because of his demonstrated student leadership, involvement in campus activities, scholastics and campus involvement. Frank serves as Associated Student Government's representative on the Student Activities Board. The past two years, he captured gold and silver medals, respectively, in the SkillsUSA national automotive competition while vying in the Job Skills Demonstration category. Frank and "Rising Star" recipients from other Colorado community colleges will be feted at a luncheon next month at Front Range Community College.

PTA program student gains state honor – Leonard DeNardis, a second-year student in the Physical Therapist Assistant program, has been selected to receive the Academic and Clinical Excellence Award by the Colorado Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association. An honor student, Leonard will receive his award at the organization's spring convention this month. This is the second consecutive year that a PCC student has received the state-wide award.

Math mentoring now available to students – Students who have difficulty with a math class can now participate in a free new program called Math Connections that can provide a mentoring relationship with a caring PCC staff member. The role model can provide math support and advice as well as identify useful resources. Math Connections is yet another new PCC initiative aimed at helping students succeed.

Teacher discovers student's singing talent – Friends and family members of student Shane Trujillo always thought he had a good singing voice, but it took PCC music instructor Judith DeRosa to bring it out of him. DeRosa encouraged Trujillo to enter the Pueblo Has Talent competition last month, and the Dolores Huerta Preparatory High dual-enrollment student advanced all the way to the semifinal round. This semester, the 18-year-old is taking his second private singing lesson as a Special Topics course from DeRosa. He will graduate with an associate's degree from PCC next month..

PCC shows adjunct faculty that they are special – With so many part-time instructors playing such key roles in educating PCC students, the college wanted to pay tribute to them for the great job that they do. Hence, PCC has inaugurated a monthly adjunct faculty recognition award for each of its Arts & Sciences, Business & Technology and Health Professions divisions. To make the awarding ceremonies more meaningful, they are held during one of the instructors' regular classes, which both the instructors and students have enjoyed thoroughly.