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## **PCC Fremont Campus to honor founding members, unveil Heritage Hall during Emeritus Celebration**

**CANON CITY** – Fremont and Custer counties have a thriving, modern Fremont Campus here today, but the initial seeds aimed at attempting to meet the region’s higher education needs were initially planted almost 30 years ago.

Back in 1982, 21 visionary community members came together to comprise the advisory committee that helped launch what then was called the Canon City Extension Center of Pueblo Community College.

On Monday, March 21, those charter members will be recognized during the Fremont Campus Emeritus Celebration that will begin with lunch at 11:30 a.m. and will be followed by the celebration program. It will take place in the Darryl Biggerstaff Learning Resource Center during the first day of the annual Senior Mini College, allowing those attendees to share in the celebration.

The 21 founding members are:

Carlos Baca, Marv Bradley, Darryl Biggerstaff, Ann Brown, Roy Canterbury, Tom Cooper, Bob Kirscht, Harold McCormick, Mark McGoff, Jim Milam, Doug Miles, Bruce Mohr, Eddie Orff, Judi Rupp, Sue Seuffer, Helen Shoemaker, Robert Shoemaker, John Smith, George Turner, John Wilson and Elizabeth Winters.

“It gives us great pleasure to recognize these individuals for their vision and the tenacity to work for a sustainable alternative to higher education right in their own community,” said PCC President Patty Erjavec. “Pueblo Community College is proud to serve the students of Fremont and Custer counties with that same passion and vigor.”

Miles, editor and general manager of The Daily Record newspaper here back then, served as the advisory committee’s president and is now deceased. Marv Bradley, the committee’s vice president, is expected to attend Monday’s celebration along with several other founders. The minutes of the committee’s first formal meeting are dated Dec. 9, 1982.

Ron Meek served as president of Pueblo Community College in 1982, and Al Futch was the director of the Canon City Extension Center. Futch started the Criminal Justice Academy to train law enforcement officers and other security personnel for the growing number of Colorado Department of Corrections facilities in the region.

The program in the LRC will be followed by a dedication of the new Heritage Hall, which will include the unveiling of a historically symbolic plaque in the hallway outside the Fremont Campus' conference room. It is intended to honor both the founding advisory committee members and others who were instrumental in subsequent initiatives that led to the permanent Fremont Campus being built on its present site on the west edge of campus, just north of Tunnel Drive.

“We are very excited for the opportunity to create a permanent tribute all of the great citizens who worked so hard to bring a college to our local area,” said Jennifer Pierceall Herman, Dean of the Fremont Campus. “Our hope is that Heritage Hall will serve as an inspiration to students, as they see how their community supports their career and educational aspirations.”

The public is invited to attend Monday's celebration, and lunch will be available for \$7. Those planning to have lunch are requested to RSVP by calling 269-6106.

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*Founded in 1933, Pueblo Community College is a premier teaching institution focused on providing academic and service excellence to help its students acquire the 21<sup>st</sup> 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.*