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## **Two PCC students earn selection on All-Colorado Academic Team**

**PUEBLO** – Not all high school students follow the traditional route toward earning a high school diploma and gaining a college education. Proof is provided by two local students who took non-traditional paths but have excelled as students at Pueblo Community College.

Joshua Dismuke and Dana Nordberg utilized programs based at PCC to achieve academic success. They took paths that were available to them, have been outstanding college students and now have been selected to the Phi Theta Kappa All-Colorado Academic Team.

While attending Pueblo West High School, Josh took a semester off, then enrolled in the PCC-based Gateway to College program that provides an alternative means of earning a diploma for students who have left the traditional high school path and are between the ages of 17 and 20. Through Gateway, students can earn some college and high school credits simultaneously.

The college environment at PCC was a perfect fit for Dismuke, who immediately excelled. After completing the program in two semesters, he enrolled at PCC full time and has accumulated a 3.86 GPA grade-point average while pursuing an Associate of Science degree in pre-engineering. His dream is to become an aeronautical engineer because he is, in his words, “interested in putting things into space.”

The 20-year-old is well on his way. He has become a campus leader at PCC, currently serving as president of PCC’s Phi Theta Kappa chapter. He was chosen to be a member of PCC’s initial President’s Leadership Program class and is active on the Student Activities Board and the Earth Keepers Club. He also works 20 hours a week at FedEx and is an avid cyclist and reader.

Meanwhile, Dana was an over-achiever from the start who enrolled in PCC’s Early College concurrent enrollment program while just a sophomore at Pueblo South High School, and she earned three dozen college credits before graduating from South and enrolling as a full-time PCC student. She has a 3.51 GPA, is a Phi Theta Kappa member and volunteer participant, and works part-time at a retail clothing store in Pueblo.

Dana expects to graduate from PCC this spring with an Associate of Arts degree at the age of 19 and then plans to seek a bachelor’s degree in psychology at Colorado State University-Pueblo or another institution of higher education. Her goal is to enter the psychology profession.

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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.*