



Contacts for more information:
Patty Erjavec, President
(719) 549-3213, patti.erjavec@pueblocc.edu

Gary Franchi, Public Relations Coordinator
(719) 549-3053, gary.franchi@pueblocc.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 22, 2010

Two PCC capital construction bond issues aim to increase student retention, success

PUEBLO – Pueblo Community College announces today an upcoming revenue bond issuance that it will use to launch two capital construction projects on its Pueblo campus. The start of the sale of bonds on Sept. 29 will finance a \$9 million improvement to PCC’s College Center and a \$4 million development of a new Learning Center.

Both projects aim to increase student access, academic success and retention, one by directly supporting student learning and the other by enhancing student life as well as providing educational tools. By sustaining student success, PCC expects both projects to help students continue their education through graduation, thus bettering their lives while providing the workforce with more high-skilled employees.

The issuance of the AA2-rated 2010C & D series Build America Bonds was approved Sept. 8 by the State Board for Community Colleges & Occupational Education. PCC will be taking advantage of the low 3.69% interest rate financing on the bonds, and the timetable calls for both projects to be completed within three years.

The renovation and expansion to the College Center is an Associated Student Government initiative that was approved by PCC students through a voting held last spring. Its aim is to energize the College Center into a more student friendly facility along with enhanced resources to provide a more fulfilling collegiate lifestyle.

Through the voting, students approved increased fees of \$7 per credit hour up to a maximum of 12 credits per semester beginning with the current semester. They are already seeing some of the benefits including free swimming and bowling availability, more computer access, expanded drop-in tutor services and expanded hours of other services. Those and other amenities were things students indicated they wanted when filling out a survey during the previous academic year.

Meanwhile, the renovation of the Learning Center in the Mike Davis Academic Building is something that has been needed for many years because of PCC’s enrollment growth. It has been approved as a state-funded project three times, only to have the funding subsequently pulled back all three times because of state budgetary pressures.

The renovation will greatly expand the Learning Center's space to approximately 10,000 assignable square feet while freeing current LC space for additional classrooms and other usage. The center currently operates in about 6,000 square feet spread over three different portions of the Academic Building.

"We consider this project to be critical to the overall success of our students, so we made a decision to self-fund this project - given our commitment to student access, retention and success," said Patty Erjavec, PCC's president.

"Our students are important to us," she added. "We are committed to their success, and these enhancements to our campus will lead us on that journey of a thousand miles beginning with these new steps today."

Both projects will require the normal design, bid and construction procedures.

*

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