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## **Pueblo native will return here May 6 to deliver PCC's commencement address**

**PUEBLO** – F.C. “Chuck” Luna has always had a fond place in his heart for his native Pueblo, and growing up in a multi-cultural Bessemer neighborhood and attending Pueblo Central High School made him appreciate diversity and had a direct positive influence on his entire life.

Luna will be returning here on Friday, May 6, to deliver the keynote address at Pueblo Community College's 2011 commencement. Graduates of PCC's Pueblo and Fremont campuses will be recognized at the ceremony that will begin at 7 p.m. at the Colorado State Fair Events Center. He plans to speak on the importance of interfacing family values and post-secondary education.

“We are so pleased that Dr. Luna has accepted our invitation to address our graduates, their families and friends at this, our 78th Commencement Exercise,” said PCC President Patty Erjavec. “His diverse background and experiences are sure to bring much breath to his message.”

Luna said he has nothing but great memories from his childhood here.

“I had a lot of good times in Pueblo, and I grew up in a very multi-cultural environment,” said Luna, the youngest of six children raised by Sista and Francisco Luna, Mexico natives who are now deceased. “The area around Central High School was like a United Nations,” he added, noting the diversity of its people and the many different denominations of churches that dotted the neighborhood.

That cultural education shaped his career and life. Luna currently is a national trainer and consultant for the Rocky Mountain Intercultural Institute, providing intercultural competency skills training throughout the United States. He also is an adjunct faculty member for Regis University in Denver, and he lives in the area with his wife Sherri.

Chuck grew up in an atmosphere of strong family ties and high academic standards. He earned both a bachelor's degree in Modern Languages and a Master of Arts degree in Educational Administration from Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

He returned to Pueblo in 1968 and taught at Pitts Middle School, coached tennis at Central High and served as a counselor at Corwin Middle School. At the age of 28, Luna left Pueblo to become assistant principal at Greeley Central High School and pursue his doctoral degree. Three years later, he had earned a Doctor of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Northern Colorado.

During his career, Luna has served in an administrative capacity in four schools and as a professor at four collegiate institutions. His experience includes being a professor of educational leadership at CSU, where he engaged in research and organizational restructuring. He created a video titled “Building Championship Schools” that was released by the Center for Peak Performing Schools. He is a past executive director of the Colorado Hispanic Institute and director of the Diversity and Equity Office for the Boulder School District.

Luna has provided workshops on intercultural skillfulness and leadership for a number of national, city and county businesses and organizations, and he has been the keynote speaker, workshop facilitator and teacher educator on similar topics for school districts and universities throughout the country. Two years ago, he gave a keynote address on diversity during professional development days for Pueblo Community College employees.

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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.*