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## **PCC's new, modern Learning Center aimed at enhancing student success**

**PUEBLO** – Students arriving for the start of the Spring Semester at Pueblo Community College's main campus here earlier this month were in for a big treat. On the first day of classes on Jan. 16, PCC unveiled its new \$4 million Learning Center, a 10,000-square-foot facility in what previously had been an empty, unfinished portion of the basement in the Mike Davis Academic Building.

The new Learning Center contains:

- A check-in kiosk
- A reception counter
- An express computer area and a computer cyber café
- Rooms for individual and group tutoring
- Classrooms
- Open study and quiet study areas
- 75 laptop computers for checkout and use inside the facility
- An electronic bulletin board
- Space for student use of printers
- Administrative offices

The Learning Center is a vibrant area with ample space for study, tutoring, computer use and classrooms as necessitated by PCC's strong enrollment growth in recent years. It contains nearly triple the space as its previous location, which was directly above it. It also has a greater variety of learning spaces and enhanced technology to promote collaborative student learning.

During the 2010-2011 academic year, the Learning Center:

- Served more than 50,000 students compared to 15,000 in 1998
- Served students in 7,700 courses, or about 25% of Pueblo campus offerings
- Had a 48% increase in students visits for tutoring and a 76% increase in hours serviced
- Recorded 41,234 hours of tutoring vs. 23,454 the previous year
- Saw 88% of its students pass courses in which they were tutored

HGF Architect Co. of Pueblo was a major player in the development design of the new Learning Center, while Golden Triangle of Colorado Springs was the general contractor. The center also

supports campus efforts to be environmentally friendly, having been designed to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold status.

To help meet that goal, it will utilize geothermal energy to help reduce heating and cooling costs. There currently are only two other buildings in Pueblo that are gold-certified, and the Learning Center is the first in the Colorado Community College System to achieve such status.

The project was accomplished following 13-years of on-again, off-again funding and planning that saw it be approved for state funding twice only to be de-funded both times because of state budgetary pressures. To finance the project without state funding, PCC sold \$4 million in AA2-rated 2010 C & D series Build America bonds.

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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.*