



# President's Report

Dr. J.D. Garvin, *President*

– Summer 2009 –

## **Student Access to comprehensive academic programs**

**PCC opens new, robust division in Southwest** – Following Governor Bill Ritter's legislative bill signing that merged the Southwest Campus and the San Juan Basin Technical College, the newly created Southwest Colorado Community College opened July 1 as a division of PCC. It has an East Campus in Durango and a West Campus in Mancos near Cortez. An official opening and dedication of a new SJBTC Heritage Hall was held at the West Campus on Aug. 24, which was the historical first day of classes for SCCC. As a division of PCC, the SCCC can offer students in the Four Corners region of Colorado tremendously expanded educational opportunities, learning and financial aid resources, and access to hybrid and online classes.

**Fall semester enrollment skyrockets** – Student enrollment has literally jumped off the charts this semester. On the first day of classes Aug. 24, PCC's full-time equivalency (FTE) was up 25% and headcount was up 22%, and there were 6,216 students taking classes compared to 5,086 at the same time last fall. The Fremont Campus in Canon City has shown the biggest percentage gain (34% FTE), and it has 657 students enrolled. The number of students taking PCC Online classes has increased 61% to 156 students, and they are taking more classes via that route as illustrated by the 98% jump in PCC Online FTE.

**More students receiving financial assistance** – PCC's one-third increase in financial aid applications this year has come at a good time since the maximum Pell Grant awards have increased by approximately \$600 to \$5,350 for an academic year. In addition, a year-round Pell Grant formula has been adopted, meaning that students who attend in the summer semester next year will have access to additional funds for the first time.

**PCC returning to Pagosa Springs** – PCC reached out to a community setting by having the newly created Southwest Colorado Community College's East Campus in Durango schedule two general education evening courses – English Composition I and General Psychology I – on site at Pagosa Springs High School this fall semester. Both are part of the guaranteed transfer general pathways curriculum. Before this, PCC hadn't offered classes in Pagosa Springs for several years.

## **Student Success through development of a high-skilled workforce**

**Grant to help disadvantaged pursue nursing career** – The Nursing program has been selected to receive a three-year Nursing Workforce Diversity grant of \$292,000 to enhance opportunities for diverse and disadvantaged Associate Degree of Nursing program candidates. The American Recovery Reinvestment Act federal stimulus funds also will be used both to help students succeed in the program and to prepare them for the national licensing exam. The ultimate goal is to increase the number of people entering the workforce from diverse and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds.

**More stimulus funding being put to good use** – PCC has partnered with the Pueblo County Department of Health & Human Services to provide fast-track training initially in nine career fields and eventually in 15 programs for up to 240 unemployed or low-income community members. The program is fueled by Colorado Senate Bill 247 that extends unemployment benefits for 20 weeks plus a grant to DHHS for \$452,000 in American Recovery Reinvestment Act federal stimulus funding. A PCC career advisor will work to help program completers get hired locally.

**HOPE Bridge Project funded for year two** – PCC’s HOPE Bridge Project, funded a year ago to help probationers transition to college and career pathways, has been approved for second-year funding by the Justice Assistance Grant Committee. HOPE is an acronym for Helping Offenders Prepare for Education and Employment. PCC is the coordinating agency for the program, and its partners are the Pueblo Probation Department, the 10th Judicial District, Pueblo County Sheriff’s office, Pueblo District Attorney’s office, Pueblo Workforce Development Center, Pueblo Workforce Investment Board, Pueblo Intervention Inc., and the PCC Foundation.

### **Student Success through seamless transition opportunities**

**Concurrent enrollment program soars** – The Pueblo Early College partnership with Pueblo City Schools has expanded to include Pueblo School District 70 this year, and the enrollment this fall has grown from 136 high school students last year to 220 this fall. Pueblo Early College was launched four years ago and had six graduating high school seniors simultaneously earn associate degrees from PCC in its first graduating class in 2008. There were 15 such graduates this past May, and there could be as many as 40 next year and twice as many the following year.

**Fremont Campus challenges gifted students** – PCC’s Fremont Campus teamed with the Canon City and Florence school districts to host the fifth annual Summer Program Learning for Advanced Students this summer. While the program was based at the Fremont Campus, activities took students to other Canon City sites as well. A total of 135 gifted and talented students in grades 1 through 8 participated and were introduced to the college environment.

### **Student Success through high-quality instruction & services**

**One-stop service centers established at two campuses** -- A one-stop Go!Zone enrollment center was created at both the West and East SCCC campuses to make it easier for students to take care of all of their service needs. The center gives them the ability to enroll, get advised, register for classes, receive financial aid assistance, and purchase textbooks all in the same vicinity. The new center was part of a 3,350-square-foot expansion at SCCC-East that also included the development of new science/health labs, facilities, and improved projection capabilities.

### **Operational Excellence to ensure financial stability & student safety**

**SCCC West Campus has state-of-art technology** – PCC made a substantial investment in the information technology infrastructure at the Southwest Colorado Community College West Campus before it opened on Aug. 24. The campus is now fully wireless, is equipped with 165 new computers for classrooms and administrative offices, has three laptop computer carts available for on-campus usage, includes classrooms with hybrid and video conference capabilities, and has a telephone system with direct connectivity to all PCC campuses and wireless phones for key administrative areas.

**PCC campuses make safety moves** – PCC is putting the safety of its students, faculty and staff a main area of focus. To that end, new surveillance cameras are being installed both internally and externally at the Pueblo, Fremont and SCCC-West campuses as a safety measure. In addition, telephones have been installed in classrooms and are equipped for security, campus to campus and local calling.