



# President's Report

Dr. J.D. Garvin, *President*

– January 2008 –

## PCC in the news

**Bill introduced to merge Southwest Campus, San Juan Tech** – At the start of the legislative session in January, State Senator James Isgar sponsored a bill for the merger of PCC's Southwest Campus and the San Juan Basin Technical College near Cortez. The bill was expected to be approved by Colorado's House and Senate and then signed by Governor Bill Ritter. The new school will be a branch of PCC. It will expand the programs offered to students and provide a huge economic and workforce development impact in the Four Corners region.

**Enrollment continues dramatic rise** – The surging enrollment trend that saw a 10 percent jump in the fall semester has continued this spring with a full-time equivalency increase of 11.2 percent for the spring semester. In actual headcount, PCC has 5,458 students now attending classes, which represents 410 more students compared to a year ago. Enrollment is up at all PCC sites, including 22.3 percent at the Southwest Campus, and the number of first-time students has risen 21.8 percent.

**PCC aims to drive economies in its service areas** – PCC has taken steps for its Economic and Workforce Development Division staff to have a major impact on the economy in its service areas. Nine division instructors recently completed a Manufacturing Skills Standards Council training program to become the first such nationally-certified instructors in Colorado and making PCC the state's only certified MSSC Assessment Site. The grant-funded training will enable PCC to positively impact the manufacturing workforce shortage in the region. To lead the division's expanded role, John Vukich has been promoted to Dean of Economic Development & Workforce Training. Vukich and his staff will expand PCC's workforce training both in the southern Colorado region and in the college's service areas in the Four Corners region.

**English instructors' textbook published** – Three members of PCC's English Department have teamed to write a textbook that has been published by Wadsworth Cengage Learning. Instructors Luis Nazario, Bill Lewis and Debbie Borchers pooled their 50+ combined years of English teaching experience and worked on their "Bridges to Better Writing" text for 3½ years. The 832-page text is intended to be a resource bridge between high school and college writing for students, and it is useful for academic, professional and personal writing. The book will be used for PCC's Basic Composition (ENG 090) classes and includes material that is applicable for English Composition 1 (ENG 121) courses as well.

## Community Connections

**PCC becomes professional testing center** – PCC's role as a resource for impacting the region's workforce and economic development needs was enhanced further when its Testing Center was designated a computer-based ACT professional testing site for individuals, employers and organizations. The center provides testing that leads to licensure and certification in two dozen professions, and it will service the area between Denver and Albuquerque and from Delta to western Kansas.

**New PCC course to benefit massage therapists** – PCC has developed a course to help massage therapists in this region meet the new Colorado registration standard that requires all practicing Colorado massage therapists to be registered by April 1, 2009. To be eligible for state registration, therapists must meet certain criteria standards of education, experience and licensure. PCC's three-credit "Special Topics: Massage Therapy Certification Exam Preparation" course aims to assist current practitioners who do not meet all of the qualifying criteria.

**City proclamation recognizes PCC-supported event** – On Jan. 26, Pueblo City Council recognized PCC for its effort to make college more affordable to students in southern Colorado by reading an official proclamation denoting Feb. 8 as "College Goal Sunday" in Pueblo. College Goal Sunday is an event that gives prospective and current college students free professional help with their federal financial aid forms. Rosina Chaparro, a Financial Aid counselor at PCC, served as the chair of the event.

**Inauguration viewed in PCC's Ballroom** – Huge interest in the presidential inauguration of Barack Obama caused PCC's Student Activities Board to invite the community to watch the broadcast live on the big flat-screen TVs in the Fortino Ballroom on Jan. 20. Several dozen viewers took advantage of the opportunity to view the historic event.

**Crowds witness ML King celebration** – A Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday celebration at PCC on Jan. 19 featured a welcome from PCC President Dr. J.D. Garvin and a keynote address by Pastor Dr. Jerome Perkins. Perkins restated segments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech, and his two separate addresses in Pueblo Joe's included audio recordings from King's speech. The event was sponsored by PCC's Multicultural Committee and Student Activities Board.

**High school sophomores learn about career choices** – More than 500 Pueblo high school sophomores were on PCC's Pueblo campus in early January to learn about career opportunities and the college's education programs. The day included a motivational speech from PCC President Dr. J.D. Garvin, lunch, and several informative morning and afternoon workshops at program sites on campus.

**Fremont Campus instructor honored** – Kathy Herrin, a part-time Criminal Justice instructor at the Fremont Campus, has been named this year's Distinguished Citizen of the Year by the Cañon City Chamber of Commerce. Herrin was honored at the Chamber's annual meeting and banquet. She was selected for her involvement in community service, youth activities, recreation, civil service and community promotion. Kathy also is a volunteer instructor for the Fremont Campus' Senior Mini College that is held annually during spring break, and she helped the campus develop its safety and security plans and assessments. During the banquet, Ace Hardware, owned by Fremont Advisory Committee member Sonny Smaller, was named the Fremont Chamber's Business of the Year.

## **Student/Staff News & Services**

**Learning Center becomes more user-friendly** – Students were greeted by a remodeled Learning Center when they arrived on the Pueblo campus for the start of the spring semester. The Learning Center was given a facelift with bright, cheerful paint colors, some new furniture and décor, and a visually attractive 4-foot by 8-foot mural that was painted by PCC art student Kevin Jiminez. In addition, the facility went "wireless," and students are now able to check out a laptop computer for use inside the center.

**Bookstore added to Southwest Campus in Durango** – Students at the Southwest Campus now have their own bookstore in "The Commons" building in Durango. Besides serving students in Durango, the bookstore delivers PCC textbooks to students on the San Juan Basin Technical College's Cortez/Mancos campus. Previously, Southwest Campus students purchased their textbooks at the Fort Lewis College bookstore.