



College Report

Patty Erjavec, *President*

May 2010

Note:

On April 23, Dr. Nancy McCallin, president of the Colorado Community College System, announced the appointment of Patty Erjavec as the new president of Pueblo Community College. Erjavec assumed her position on June 1. She most recently was president and CEO of El Pueblo ... an Adolescent Treatment Community. She also served on the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education from 2001 to 2010, when her term expired.

Student Access to comprehensive academic programs

New Medical Coding certificate program to begin – With approval pending from the American Health Information Management Association, PCC is starting a Medical Coding certificate program in the fall semester and held a public information session on it in May. Students will be able to prepare for an entry-level position as a coder in an acute care hospital, ambulatory care facility, physician office, long-term care site or other health care settings. Those completing the program will be eligible to take the Certified Coding Associate examination that is administered by the AHIMA.

PCC first in Colorado to offer sleep tech program – This fall semester, PCC will become the first college in Colorado to offer a new Polysomnographic Technologist certificate program for which accreditation is pending. PSG Techs operate a variety of sophisticated monitoring devices that analyze sleep disorders and help evaluate treatment methods. Sleep disorder analysis clinics are located in hospitals, including the two in Pueblo, and other health labs in larger cities. The average PSG Tech earns an annual salary between \$38,000 and \$43,000, and those with advanced training earn an average salary of \$47,000.

Student Success through development of a high-skilled workforce

Part-time Law Enforcement Academy added in Durango – PCC's Southwest Colorado Community College East Campus in Durango is adding a part-time Southwest Regional Law Enforcement Academy that will be offered during the evenings beginning Aug. 16 and running through the entire 2010-2011 academic year. A full-time Academy, which will meet from August to December, will continue to be offered.

Toolbox for Education grant program benefits students – PCC's Auto Service Technology program has been given \$1,100 worth of Kobalt tools through the Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant initiative. The Toolbox program is the result of a partnership between Lowe's, Kobalt Tools and the national SkillsUSA organization in which PCC participates. PCC was one of 11 Colorado colleges, technical schools or high schools to receive tools through the initiative and one of approximately 400 from across the country.

PCC's TV crew covers JUCO World Series – For the second consecutive year, PCC's Center for New Media sports broadcasting program (CNM Sports) covered the National Junior College World Series baseball tournament for the Altitude Sports television network. The tournament was held May 29 through June 5 at Suplez Field in Grand Junction. Altitude aired live broadcasts of the semifinals and championship game on Altitude Sports. A crew of 16 people, half of them PCC students, took part in the production under the direction of Scott Richards, PCC's Coordinator of Media Productions. In late July, CNM Sports will cover the week-long National Britches Rodeo finals for the fourth time. It will again cover Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference college football and basketball games for Altitude Sports in the upcoming academic year.

Student Success through transition opportunities

Pre-college programs giving students a second chance – Graduation ceremonies held the last week of May showed the true success of PCC's pre-college programs. A total of 114 GED and Alternative High School Diploma Program completers were presented high school diplomas at a ceremony held May 24 at PCC. Two days later, there were 27 graduates from the Fremont County Alternative High School Diploma Program honored in a ceremony held at the Harrison School in Canon City. The programs provide a means for dropouts to earn a high school diploma and the bridge that most of the students use to pursue higher education.

Student Success through high-quality instruction & services

Education group honors GED instructor – Dora Hawkins, who has been teaching for 57 years including the last 40 at PCC, was honored recently as the Educator of the Year by the Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation. Afterward, PCC held a special celebration for Hawkins in her morning GED class, giving both students and staff the opportunity to pay tribute to her. Dora missed just five days of work in her first 50 years of teaching.

Hall of Fame banquet benefits Fremont Campus – Former Canon City Center (now Fremont Campus) Director Dr. Shirley Squier and the late Joe Chapman were inducted into the Fremont Hall of Fame at a dinner/banquet held May 7. Squier spent more than 35 years in education and headed the Canon City Center from 1985 to 1991 before founding and serving as director of Canon City's first charter school. She also was part of the group that had the early vision to establish a permanent PCC campus in Canon City. The dinner/banquet took place in the Learning Resource Center at the Fremont Campus. Proceeds from the banquet will be used for special Fremont Campus service needs.

Operational Excellence to ensure financial stability & student safety

Veterans counselor providing services on Pueblo campus – PCC students, faculty and staff who are war veterans now have regular twice-monthly access to counseling services at the Pueblo campus. A readjustment counseling therapist from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs visits in a mobile vet center and provides information about the various non-medical readjustment services that are available to war veterans. This is a stop-in, cost-free service with no appointment necessary.

New smoking policy enacted – A new smoking policy took effect June 1 on all PCC campuses in an effort to promote a healthy environment to students, faculty and staff as well as to the public. The policy is to permit smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco products only in designated smoking areas on the campuses, with no such products permitted inside or at the entrances to any college building. New signage was installed at the entrances to all buildings to create policy awareness, and all smoking receptacles at the entrances were removed. The new policy is part of PCC's Campus Pride program that includes a "Ready, Set Go" healthy eating initiative, the availability of a variety of indoor and outdoor exercise activities, an emphasis on reducing stress, and promotion of the college's Health Clinic services.