



**Contacts for more information:**

Roger Weitzel, Machining Chair/Instructor  
549-3124, Roger.Weitzel@pueblocc.edu

Bill Hardwick, Machining Instructor  
549-3135, William.Hardwick@pueblocc.edu

Gary Franchi, Public Relations Coordinator  
549-3053, Gary.Franchi@pueblocc.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 16, 2010

## **PCC to pay respects to instructor with an outdoor memorial tribute**

**PUEBLO** – As an instructor at Pueblo Community College, Vernon Stringer endeared himself to his students by always trying to make learning fun for them, often using hands-on lesson techniques. Through his 10 years as a part-time PCC faculty member, he also developed a great fellowship with other college instructors and staff members.

Hence, when Stringer passed away at the age of 59 on March 1 following a heart attack, his loss was felt deeply throughout PCC. To pay respect to him, a memorial tribute in his honor will be held at 5:30 p.m. Friday (March 19) outside the front entrance to the Gorsich Advanced Technology Center in which Vernon taught many of his machining classes. The public is invited to join the “PCC community” at the tribute.

Stringer was known for being extremely creative, having a vast diversity of interests, and being a positive and selfless person. He loved going on hiking expeditions to find rare rocks, climbing 14ers in Colorado and studying space, particularly when he could share these experiences with students.

He taught a wide range of classes after coming to PCC in 2001 as a lab instructor. Over the next nine years he taught math, physics, astronomy, geology, and machining, and he also served as a tutor.

Vernon was deeply involved in the Battlebots program that enabled high school students to learn not only robotics but teamwork through planning, design, and competitions. He saw the program as a perfect way to incorporate his philosophy of making learning fun for students.

To his credit, his interest in science and space led him to write a grant that enabled Pueblo Community College to be part of the NASA-funded Colorado Space Grant Consortium, giving students the opportunity to participate in hands-on satellite and other aeronautic programs. The balloon payload they designed and built was launched recently in Boulder along with payloads from three other state community colleges.

Friday's memorial tribute will include statements from staff and students as well as events befitting Stringer's personality and interests. Inside the GATC, a PowerPoint presentation depicting his teaching career at PCC will be shown continuously in the Occhiato Theater.

\*

*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.*