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Selection of Kane Foundation scholars strengthens PCC's university connections

PUEBLO – Pueblo Community College's partnerships with four-year schools has been enhanced with the awarding of Kane Family Foundation scholarships to two exceptional students. Fabian Ramirez and Chris Weaver were selected on the basis of their academic record, a formal application with essay, and an interview.

The scholarships will cover up to five years of expenses for tuition, mandatory fees and books, starting with an associate's degree at PCC and finishing with a bachelor's degree at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Ramirez is currently completing his second semester at PCC while Weaver will graduate from Pueblo West High School in May.

Both students met the scholarship criteria and were impressive in their interviews.

Having enjoyed the mechanical drawing and surveying classes that he has taken at PCC, Ramirez will continue working toward an associate's degree before transferring to UCCS to study engineering. While attending Pueblo Central High School previously, he had gotten a jump on his college credits by taking welding and machining classes at PCC through the Advanced Vocational Education Program, which is a partnership between PCC and the two Pueblo school districts. In addition to attending PCC full time, Ramirez works 24 hours per week as a customer service representative for Innotrac and has an infant daughter.

Weaver has displayed leadership qualities in numerous ways at his high school. He has served as Student Council representative, competed at the marketing-based DECA national conference, been a member of TeenCERT (community emergency response team), and participated in lacrosse. He also founded a chapter of the Friends of Rachel Club, whose members perform acts of kindness and compassion in remembrance of Rachel Joy Scott, the first Columbine shooting victim. Among Weaver's career considerations is to become a high school teacher and lacrosse coach.

A year ago, the Kane Family Foundation expanded its merit-based University Connections scholarship program at UCCS to include students at four southern Colorado

community colleges – PCC, Lamar Community College, Otero Junior College and Trinidad State Junior College. The scholarships are intended to reward students for both merit and hard work.

In 2006, The Kane Family Foundation established one of the largest merit-based scholarship programs in the State of Colorado. Wanden and Andy Kane were Fountain, Colorado ranchers who shared an appreciation for learning and believed in the independence that it could provide. Their vision was to help others, and their foundation allows their vision to continue by helping thousands of Colorado residents achieve the dream of a college education.

For more information about the scholarship, contact the PCC Foundation at 549-3314 or 549-3303.

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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 21st 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.