



College Report – Feb. 14, 2024

Patty Erjavec, PhD, *President*

Transform the student experience

PCC Southwest secures wildfire mitigation grant – PCC Southwest recently received a Forestry and Wildfire Mitigation Workforce Development grant from the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. The grant total is \$429,140, with funding to be used in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years. Thanks to the grant, the Southwest campus will be able to offer a 16-credit certificate in forestry and wildland fire. Classes will begin in fall 2024.

Transform our own workforce experience

Employees of the year recognized – PCC honored its 2023 employees of the year at the annual Spring Kickoff Employee Appreciation Breakfast Jan. 11. They are pictured left to right: James Cordova, department chair of the Automotive Technology department (faculty); Lorna Jackson, administrative assistant for the Dental Hygiene program (classified); Aaron Lucero, engagement coach for TRIO Student Support Services (APT); and Maurie Lucero, instructor in the Health Information Technology program (part-time instructor). The college also recognized emeritus employees, retirees, and those who reached years-of-service milestones.



New dean of Arts and Sciences – Dr. Patrick Maille joined PCC Jan. 1 as the new dean of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Maille most recently served as dean of the College of Arts and Education at Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Prior to that, he was a department chair for Behavioral and Social Sciences and an associate dean of the College of Arts and Education. He earned his bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees in History from Texas Tech University.



Faculty member receives national recognition – James Cordova, chair of the Automotive Technology department, was named educator of the year by the [Electric Vehicle Association](#). He was recognized Jan. 27 at the EVA annual meeting in Carlsbad, Calif. Erik Lundeen, the electric vehicle program manager for Black Hills Energy, nominated Cordova for the award, outlining his efforts to create an EV program at PCC and saying, “James is truly an EV advocate and highly deserves to be recognized for his efforts.”

Create education without barriers through partnerships

Home, sweet home – PCC Southwest construction trades students completed their first Habitat for Humanity home in December. The 750-square-foot house was built on campus and assembled on site in Cortez. The home is part of PCC’s [collaboration with Habitat for Humanity of Montezuma County](#), which was formalized last September.



Kunsan National University visit – PCC welcomed a delegation from Kunsan National University in South Korea on Jan. 5. This was the second visit by leaders from the university. PCC and KNU continue to discuss opportunities to support CS Wind, the largest manufacturer of wind towers in North America, which is in Pueblo.

