

President's SBCCOE Report

Dr. Lance Bolton | Pikes Peak State College | October 2024

Section One | Transform the Student Experience

PPSC Achieves HSI Goal



PPSC is celebrating! After working for several years to become a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) by increasing Hispanic student enrollment to 25%, **PPSC's Hispanic student enrollment for fall 2024 reached 25.5%.**

This achievement reflects PPSC's sustained efforts to better serve its growing Hispanic/Latine student population through a variety of initiatives focused on equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging. These initiatives include offering diversity training for faculty and staff, providing bilingual student support services, organizing cultural events, fostering community partnerships, introducing new scholarships, and strengthening inclusive hiring practices.

Throughout the past eight years, PPSC's Hispanic full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment grew by 7.5 %, from 18% in fall 2017 to 25.5% in fall 2024.

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Data Shows D11 Promise Makes College More Accessible



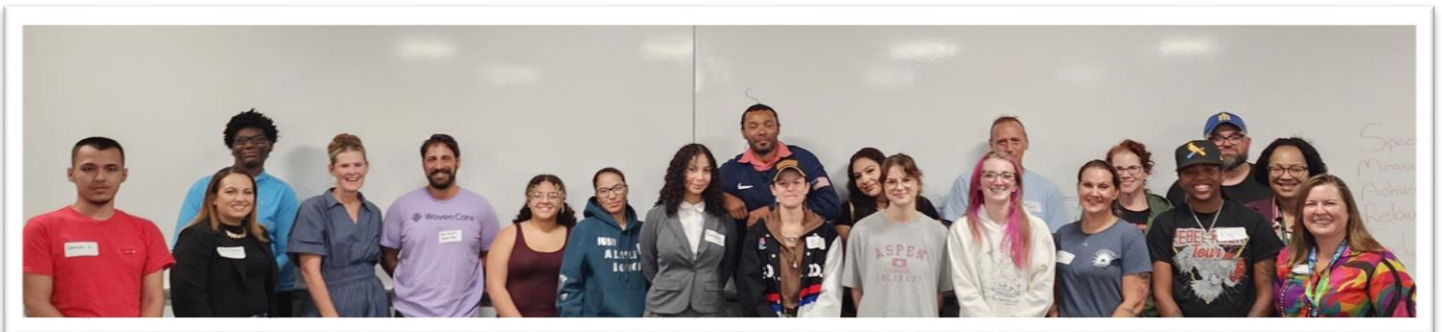
Following the 2023 announcement of the Colorado Springs School District 11 (D11) Promise for All Program, PPSC experienced a 67% enrollment increase of D11 high school graduates (288 D11 graduates for fall 2024 compared to 172 D11 graduates for fall 2023.)

The program began in fall 2023 with just 28 students from one D11 high school. Of that first cohort, 16 students (57%) are currently registered at PPSC for fall 2024, one student has graduated, and one has transferred to a four-year university. When the program

expanded to include more D11 high schools, there was an increase of 101 D11 Promise students (28 versus 129).

While it is still too early to fully assess progress against the program's goals for completion, graduation, and transfer rates, these early results show promising progress and suggest Promise Programs are successful in making college more accessible to students across the D11 school district.

Behavioral Health Program Hosts Meet & Greet



After successfully launching a comprehensive Behavioral Health program that addresses critical workforce needs in Colorado, PPSC held a Behavioral Health Program Meet and Greet. The gathering provided students and industry partners an opportunity to connect and learn more about the recently approved PPSC Bachelor of Applied Science degree. This new degree not only provides more opportunities for students, it also helps position PPSC as a leader in behavioral health education, directly contributing to the state's efforts to improve mental health services and substance abuse treatment accessibility.

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PPSC Comes Together for First Hispanic Heritage Week



PPSC held its inaugural Hispanic Heritage Week from Sept. 23 – 27. The celebration featured daily themed programming: Motivational Monday, Teaching Tuesday, Wellness Wednesday, Thoughtful Thursday and Fiesta Friday. The celebration wrapped up with the college's second annual Hispanic Heritage Festival.



The series of events, organized by the Latino Alliance, Phi Theta Kappa, Student Experience and College Leadership, highlighted the diverse contributions of the Hispanic community and PPSC's commitment to fostering inclusivity.

Students, staff and community members participated in events like bilingual poetry readings, Zumba, the "Passport to College Completion" launch, and a seminar about inclusive and equitable lesson planning.

The one-of-a-kind event even got the attention of several location media outlets.

Local television station Fox21 wrote an article about the celebration, [read it here.](#)

And KRDO Channel 13 interviewed students, [watch the coverage here!](#)

Local radio also interviewed Araceli Delgado, Student President of the Latino Alliance, and Dr. Enrique Romo, Vice President of Student Experience and Equity.



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Section Two | Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

MVP Assistant Director Earns Prestigious Award



During the Fort Carson U.S. Army Post Graduation Ceremony on Sept. 20, PPSC's Military and Veteran Programs Assistant Director Gail Bicknell was honored with the Army's prestigious Educator of the Year Award.

Recognized by Ft. Carson's education leadership for her impact on both service members and staff, Gail has been a pillar of support and guidance at the Ft. Carson Education Center for more than two decades. She is well-known for her tireless work behind the scenes, always offering wisdom, encouragement, and unwavering dedication.

Professional Development Reduces Stress & Builds Confidence

The PPSC Human Resource Services Team began providing new professional development opportunities that can help employees reduce stress, increase productivity, grow confidence and build self-esteem.



The Kolbe Index helps employees develop a greater understanding of their unique problem-solving instincts to help them maximize their potential and productivity. Each participant completes a Kolbe Index and then participates in one-on-one coaching sessions, and four one-hour group training sessions.



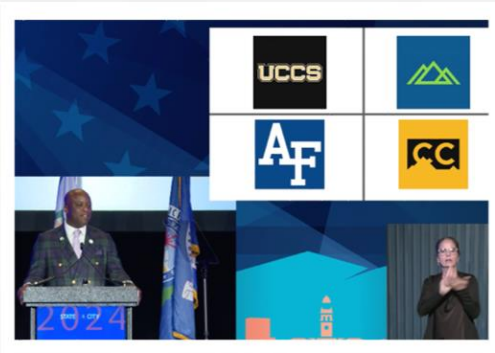
True Colors allows employees the opportunity learn about their personal pathway to self-esteem and confidence through completing the Colors Assessment and then participating in group learning sessions.

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Section Three | Create Education Without Barriers Through Transformational Partnerships

PPSC Supports Community Organizations Across the City



During September, PPSC employees could be found supporting partner organizations across the city. PPSC participated in Peak Education's 25th Anniversary Celebration, The Colorado Springs Downtown Partnership's Annual Update, the Colorado Springs State of the City Address with Mayor Moblade, the Colorado Springs Business Journal Economic Impact Event, and Fiestas Patrias. PPSC was well-represented across the community and promoted the importance of being a vibrant and engaged partner.

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Section Four | Redefine Our Value Proposition Through Accessibility, Affordability, Quality, Accountability, Resource Development, and Operational Excellence

PPSC Featured in HealthCare Sim Week



PPSC's Center for Healthcare Simulation & Education and the Delta Dental Foundation of Colorado Education Center were featured in Elevate Healthcare's celebration of HealthCare Simulation Week! Thanks to Kim Whitten-Chung, Ewa Posorski, Amy Reed and Jennifer Hawkins for continuing to strive for innovation and excellence in teaching and training tomorrow's healthcare professionals. [Watch the video here.](#)