



College Report – Nov. 8, 2023

Patty Erjavec, PhD, *President*

Transform the student experience

HSI Week events – PCC celebrated Hispanic-Serving Institution Week – and 30 years as an HSI – with multiple events Sept. 11-15. They included a discussion about the evolution of Hispanic education in Pueblo, performances by the Dolores Huerta Preparatory High School mariachi and folklorico groups, piñata making, and a documentary about [El Movimiento](#), our on-campus exhibit about the Chicano Movement in Pueblo and Colorado.



Suicide prevention awareness – PCC recognized National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month by hosting *Every Story has a Purpose*, a community event featuring speakers who discussed different aspects of mental health and suicide awareness. The college also promoted its partnership with BetterMynd, an online therapy resource for PCC students.

Industrial sewing class – PCC's Corporate College celebrated the completion of its [first industrial sewing class](#) in September. The course was made possible by an American Rescue Plan Act grant from the city of Pueblo. Representatives from [Fomcore](#), a furniture-manufacturing company that will expand to Pueblo next year, were among those excited to see the skill being taught to a new generation.

"By investing in this field, PCC has encouraged companies like ours to bring jobs and opportunities to this community," Fomcore leaders said in a statement.

Lisa Perri, one of the students in the class, later wrote online about how the class helped her strengthen a connection to her grandfather: "In the 1930s my grandpa, Pete Perri, came to America and earned this certificate (pictured below) from the American Gentlemen Cutting and Design School for Men's Garments. Fast forward to today and I

am excited to announce that I have added a Certificate of Industrial Sewing & Production to my Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Apparel/Merchandising!"



Transform our own workforce experience

President Erjavec announces retirement – PCC President Dr. Patty Erjavec [announced that she will retire in May 2024](#). She is PCC's first female leader and has been at the college since 2010. During her tenure, the college added more than two dozen degree programs and created seven bachelor-degree completion programs. Prior to becoming president, Erjavec served two terms on the state Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education (two as chair) and was interim CCCS president for nine months.

Concurrent enrollment faculty featured – John Sinks, a PCC graduate, built a successful career as a welder in Pueblo. Now he's [returning the favor](#) by educating the next generation of welders as a concurrent enrollment instructor at Pueblo County High School.

Create education without barriers through partnerships

Career & Education Day – As part of Colorado's Youth Awareness Week (which began in Pueblo before going statewide), PCC hosted Career & Education Day. Dozens of local students learned about programs, saw demonstrations, took tours, and enjoyed food and games during the afternoon event.

Habitat for Humanity partnership – PCC Southwest celebrated a new [collaboration with Habitat for Humanity of Montezuma County](#) on Sept. 25. The partnership will provide students in PCC's construction technology program an opportunity to gain experience by building a 750 square-foot Habitat house in Cortez.



K-12 connections – For the second year, PCC adopted the fourth-grade classes at Pueblo’s Eva Baca Elementary School. Representatives from different divisions of the college visit multiple times during the school year, highlighting various programs that are available. The kids also get to take a field trip to the PCC campus so they can see what college looks like. Students posed in their PCC T-shirts during the first visit of the year.



Raise value standards through excellence & accessibility

Marketing department honored – The Marketing and Communications department, led by senior director Erin Hergert Tafoya, was recognized by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations with three Medallion Awards at the annual District 4 regional conference. The NCMPR says the Medallion Awards “recognize outstanding achievement in design and communication at community and technical colleges.” PCC competed against community colleges in Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, and Wyoming.

PCC won bronze in the social media category for a TikTok video of 2023 graduates wearing PCC sunglasses; silver in the interior signage/displays (single or series) category; and gold in the outdoor signage/displays (single or series) category for the billboard pictured below.



2022-23 Quality Highlights report – PCC’s annual [Quality Highlights](#) report features some of the academic and community achievements of students and employees over the past academic year. It provides a way for stakeholders to learn about some of the college’s recent contributions to the communities we serve in southern Colorado.

Library events – The PCC Library hosted activities for Banned Books Week and the annual [All Pueblo Reads campaign](#). All Pueblo Reads is sponsored by the Pueblo City-County Library District, of which PCC’s library is a mini-branch. For Banned Books Week, students were able to choose a free copy of a banned book. During All Pueblo Reads, visitors were able to check out all three of this year’s featured novels, participate in a scavenger hunt and a book discussion, and watch a screening of a talk with author Lynne Kelly.

Adult learner spotlight – PCC was featured in a recent [Chalkbeat Colorado article](#) about adult learners. The article discussed the college’s efforts to attract adult learners, expand concurrent enrollment opportunities and support students so they can complete their education.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month – Students and employees at PCC’s Pueblo campus and Teaching and Learning Center at St. Mary-Corwin Hospital walked in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In addition, cosmetology and nail technician students offered hair extensions and nail art as part of a fundraiser for the Dorcy Cancer Center and, to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month, to aid domestic violence programs at the Mariposa Center for Safety.



Veterans Small Business Week – Pueblo City Council issued a proclamation recognizing Oct. 30-Nov. 3 as Veterans Small Business Week. The effort was supported by the Southern Colorado Small Business Development Center and PCC. Pictured from left to right are Heather Graham, Pueblo City Council president; Aikta Marcoulier, Region VIII administrator for the Small Business Administration; Kia Palmer, director of the Colorado Veterans Business Outreach Center; David Benavides of the SBA; Brian Estrada, Southern Colorado SBDC executive director; and Sal Katz, regional operations director for Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center.

