



College Report – June 2022

Patty Erjavec, PhD, *President*

Transform the student experience

PCC 2022 graduation – More than 2,000 students earned a degree or certificate from PCC during the 2021-22 academic year. Pueblo and Fremont graduates were recognized in a May 12 ceremony and Mancos/Cortez, Durango and Bayfield graduates were honored May 14. This year's graduates included 179 concurrent enrollment students and 810 inmates from federal and state correctional facilities. Twenty-four students earned a bachelor's degree – two in advanced paramedic practice, eight in dental hygiene, six in radiologic technology, two in respiratory therapy and six in nursing.



Academic and leadership awards – The Academic Achievement and Student Leadership Awards ceremony took place May 5 on the Pueblo campus. The college honored 4.0 graduates, Phi Theta Kappa officers and All-Colorado Academic Team members, student government leaders and the Inclusive Excellence Award recipient. In all, 93 students received recognition.



Gateway to College graduation – PCC’s Gateway to College program held its graduation ceremonies May 20 (Pueblo and Fremont campuses) and May 23 (Southwest campus). Pueblo had 28 graduates, the Fremont campus had five and the Southwest campus had 18. Each student earned a diploma from their district high school and graduated with college credits from PCC.



Graduate spotlights – Graduates in a variety of PCC programs took the spotlight on the college’s [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts during commencement week. Each student shared thoughts about their PCC experience and plans for life after graduation.

Learn with Me scholarship – High school graduates on any PCC campus who take advantage of PCC’s \$1,000 scholarship offer will be able to bring up to two family members who also will receive the \$1,000 offer. Family members can apply the scholarship to certificate programs that last one semester. Programs include welding, automotive, computer information systems, basic EMT, mental health, fire science, early childhood education or general education courses. Students also can use the money for GED classes.

President’s Distinguished Scholars – The 2022 President’s Distinguished Scholars at PCC are Blake Boone (Pueblo and Fremont campuses) and Jon Landtiser (Southwest campus). Blake (below left) is a nursing major who will transfer to Colorado State University Pueblo to complete his bachelor’s degree. He plans to become a nurse practitioner.

Jon, a philosophy major, will transfer to the University of Colorado at Denver to complete his bachelor’s and begin pursuing a law degree. He wants to specialize in criminal justice and civil rights violations, offering his services to those who typically can’t afford representation.

The President’s Distinguished Scholar award goes to a full-time student who met or exceeded the requirements of graduating with a 3.5 GPA or better, completed their degree program in less than 3.25 years, and is transferring to a four-year school upon completion.



Spring art show – PCC’s [Spring 2022 Student Art Show](#) featured more than 120 entries in six categories. First-, second- and third-place [winners were announced](#) for each category along with honorable mentions. In addition, there were awards for best of show (*Bill Admiring the Wild Flowers* by Chuck McGee, below left), juror’s choice (*Pollock’s Aspens* by Gwyne Morehead-Smith, below right) and chair’s choice. As is tradition, President Erjavec selected one entry, “Dragonflies Fill the Sky,” to become part of the college’s permanent collection.



Transform our own workforce experience

Come to Campus Wednesdays – President Erjavec announced a new initiative, Come to Campus Wednesdays, for the summer months. Employees can take part in planned weekly activities or use the time to take a walk, play games, read a book – whatever they choose to reconnect and relax.



Create education without barriers through partnerships

National panel discussion – President Erjavec recently took part in a National Student Clearinghouse Research Center [panel discussion](#) about Some College, No Credential students. The panel included representatives of the Lumina Foundation, NSCRC and Higher Ed Insight. The event focused on findings from the NSCRC's *Some College, No Credential Student Outcomes Annual Status Report: Academic Year 2020-21*.

Raise value standards through excellence & accessibility

Perennials brighten campus – The Pueblo campus has an extra splash of color this summer thanks to a grant from the Audubon Society. The grant money was used to purchase perennials to plant along Orman Avenue, the main street that runs through campus. Members of the PCC STEM Club joined fellow students and employees to plant the flowers on May 6.

