



College Report – Dec. 11, 2024

Chato Hazelbaker, Ed.D., President

Transform the student experience

Veterans Day celebration – PCC’s leadership team helped celebrate our student and employee veterans with a complimentary lunch and recognition of three students who won scholarships from Veterans Upward Bound and the Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation. Yuridia Perez-Rebamontan, John Burns and Carlos Garcia received the scholarships for their academic and professional accomplishments.



First-generation College Celebration Day – PCC’s first-generation students, alumni and employees were recognized Nov. 8 during First-generation College Celebration Day activities on the Pueblo campus. In addition, a series of social media posts featured the stories of our first-generation students and graduates. More than 50% of PCC’s students are first generation.



Native American Heritage Month – As part of Native American Heritage Month, the PCC Southwest campus in Mancos held events including a lunch for students and employees and a performance by Dine' dancers from the Catching Eagle group. Students and employees also were encouraged to take part in [Rock your Mocs Week](#).



Pueblo History Speaker Series – History faculty member Brad Bowers started the PCC Pueblo History Speaker Series this semester after seeing how eagerly students responded to lessons about the city's history. Three well-attended presentations – open to students, faculty, staff and the community – focused on local historic buildings, rancher Charles Goodnight and the Mineral Palace. The series will resume in the spring with three more speakers.

Thanksgiving food drive – PCC employees and the PCC Foundation provided more than 400 Thanksgiving meals for PCC students in the school's annual holiday drive. The baskets included all the Thanksgiving dinner trimmings and a gift card for a turkey. The Automotive program collected the most meals among the school departments with 90. The foundation, with assistance from community members, collected 165 baskets as well as cash, gift cards and in-kind donations for more meals.



Fremont campus adds Narcan kiosk – As part of the [Dose of Hope Project](#) led by the Fremont County Department of Public Health and Environment, PCC's Fremont campus now has a Narcan (naloxone) kiosk. The project aims to make free doses of naloxone more accessible throughout the county so bystanders can provide life-saving assistance to someone who overdoses on opioids.

Transform our own workforce experience

New VP of Student Success – Michael Gage is PCC's new Vice President of Student Success. He has been with PCC since 2007 as Senior Director for Student Support and Outreach. Gage earned a bachelor's degree in English and secondary education at Adams State College and a master's degree in higher educational administration from Arizona State University. He worked at the University of Miami for more than a decade before joining PCC.



Pueblo YMCA Corporate Cup – PCC employees participated in the 2024 Pueblo YMCA Corporate Cup. The college placed third in its division in the overall competition and had the largest increase in the number of participants from 2023 to 2024. (Left to right) Employees Shanna Ricker, Kim McCullah, Lorna Jackson, Jeanelle Soto-Quintana, Jill Sanchez and Kari Yalotz took part in some of the run/walk events.



PCC employee wins YMCA award – Alex Winter, an implementation specialist with Children First at PCC, won the Spirit of the Cup award from the Pueblo YMCA. This recognition is given to one individual, nominated and selected by the YMCA staff, for best representing the values and vision of the YMCA Corporate Cup. Alex was nominated for his outstanding sportsmanship attitude, willingness to help during and

after events, and “overall devotion to his team and community.” Vice President of Student Success Mike Gage presented Alex with his award.



Marketing department recognized by peers – The PCC Marketing and Communications team won three gold, one silver and one bronze Medallion awards at this year’s District 4 National Council for Marketing and Public Relations conference in Texas. The categories were poster (single or series), logo design, interior signage/displays (single or series), and excellence in writing (short form).

Create education without barriers through partnerships

Cosmetology hosts Santa Self-care Day – PCC’s cosmetology students got to practice their skills and serve the community by providing haircuts and manicures for about 200 Pueblo K-12 students at the annual Santa Self-care Day. The event is organized through the [Collaborative Management Program](#) in Pueblo County, which serves at-risk youth and families who are involved with multiple systems – K-12 education, juvenile justice, mental health and/or child welfare. In Pueblo County, CMP focuses on students in truancy court.



***Milagro Beanfield War* production** – In conjunction with National Hispanic Heritage Month, PCC's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Committee and Colorado State University Pueblo hosted a production of *The Milagro Beanfield War* put on by [Casa Milagro Youth Solutions](#). The play took place on PCC's campus and was open to the community.

Raise value standards through excellence & accessibility

PCC earns CDHE designations – PCC recently was awarded two designations from the Colorado Department of Higher Education: [First Generation-Serving Institution](#) and [Career Connected Campus](#).

The first-generation designation acknowledges PCC for having a percentage of first-generation students that is equal to or higher than the statewide average (37%) over three years. The Career Connected Campus designation recognizes PCC for its commitment to preparing students to succeed in the workforce. PCC was the only two-year school in the state to receive the designation.

Horror on the Hoag – Hundreds of students, employees and community members turned out for Horror on the Hoag Oct. 27. The annual family-friendly event featured games, food, prizes and of course plenty of candy for young trick-or-treaters.