

STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION

December 11, 2024

TOPIC: Pueblo Community College (PCC) Spending Authority Request for the Construction of a Nursing Simulation Lab at the Fremont campus

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Chato Hazelbaker, President

RELATIONSHIP TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN:

Transforming the Student Experience.

EXPLANATION:

Pueblo Community College has received a restricted gift of \$2.0 million dollars to design and construct a Nursing Simulation Lab on the Fremont campus for its nursing program. The Lab will add 2,733 of Gross Square Feet (GSF) to the campus facility, bringing the total GSF to 36,926. The current space to be built on contains an outdoor student and event space that will be relocated as part of the project and is included in the cost estimate.

The Nursing Program is the highest enrollment program on the Fremont Campus. The campus has a lecture and general lab area for its students, but the simulation experience is currently off-campus. The college's goal has been to provide all services for our students on campus. The current program capacity is 60, and the addition of this space will enhance recruiting efforts, build more community partnerships, and provide high quality educational experiences for other programs like Certified Nurse Assistant and Emergency Medical Services. Local health care providers have already reached out about using a future facility for their own professional development.

Some of the benefits of the Nursing Simulation Lab being on-site include increased time on campus and, therefore, increased access to resources such as libraries, tutoring services, and support services. Additionally, it reduces travel time, allows more time for studying and engaging in campus life, and increases accessibility, especially during times of inclement weather.

The Simulation Lab has had two different off-campus homes over the past three years, with one location in Florence (20 miles away) and, more recently, St. Thomas More Hospital in Canon City.

Mr. Walter Schepp, a long-time friend of the college, has generously donated \$2 million dollars to construct this Nursing Simulation Lab. The college has received an initial cost estimate of \$1,811,797 from RTA Architects to build the Simulation Lab. If approved, PCC

will move forward with the selection of an Architect by January 2025. The Lab is projected to be ready for use for the fall of 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board approve spending authority with a do not exceed amount of \$2,000,000 from the donated funds referenced above. Staff also recommends the Board delegate contract and other related document approvals and signature authority up to the maximum amount authorized by the Board for this project to the CCCS Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, as long as all State and Board requirements are met.

ATTACHMENTS:

PCC 2024-066.00 Schematic Budget_updates
PCC 2024-066.00_Fremont Nursing Sim-Lab Concept