



College Report – June 12, 2024

Patty Erjavec, PhD, President

Transform the student experience

PCC recognizes more than 1,600 graduates – PCC celebrated 1,626 graduates in its 2024 commencement ceremonies in Pueblo and Cortez. Thirty-seven bachelor's degrees were awarded and 335 high school students earned an associate degree or certificate(s) through concurrent enrollment. In her final commencement ceremonies as PCC president, Dr. Erjavec told graduates, "Remember that your education does not end here. It is a lifelong journey that will continue to shape and mold you into the person you aspire to be. Never stop seeking knowledge, for it is the key to unlocking endless possibilities."



Outstanding students recognized – Pueblo and Fremont campus students were honored April 29 at the Student Leadership and Academic Achievement Awards. Those receiving recognition included Phi Theta Kappa members, President's Leadership

Program participants, National Society of Leadership and Success graduates and Title V peer mentors.

Graduates in the spotlight – Seven 2024 graduates were profiled on PCC’s [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages ahead of the May 9 graduation ceremonies. The students represented health information technology, history, psychology, graphic design, law enforcement and automotive technology. Allison Renshaw, an automotive graduate, began the program as a concurrent enrollment student in Cañon City and commuted to the Pueblo campus for the past year to complete her degree.



[Gateway to College student excels](#) – Delphina Medina, a 2024 graduate of PCC’s Gateway to College program, overcame numerous trials to get her high school diploma and start her college career. Her family’s biggest challenge is ongoing, but Delphina’s perspective helps her keep moving forward.

Damon Runyon scholarships – PCC students Marika Guthrie, Ryna Bailey and Sarah Iskra each received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Damon Runyon Days committee in April. Damon Runyon Days recognizes local college students studying English, history and journalism/media communications in honor of author, reporter and playwright Damon Runyon, who started his career in Pueblo in the early 20th century. PCC history professor Brad Bowers is a member of the Runyon committee. Pictured left to right: English professor Jamie Patti, students Marika Guthrie, Ryna Bailey and Sarah Iskra, communications professor Nadine Donoho and Bowers.



Spring 2024 Student Art Show – More than two dozen students participated in the Spring 2024 Student Art Show. Winners were recognized in six categories – ceramics, drawing/figure drawing, design/multimedia, jewelry, painting and photography. “Portrait,” a painting by Lauren O’Mara (pictured below), was named best of show and was selected by President Erjavec to be a part of PCC’s permanent art collection. A public reception took place May 3 to announce the winners and welcome the community to the exhibit. The show also is [available online](#).



Transform our own workforce experience

Farewell reception for President Erjavec – PCC President Patty Erjavec, who will retire this summer, was honored at a reception May 2. PCC faculty and staff and community members enjoyed a video of some of the highlights of Erjavec’s 14-year career at PCC and got to have one more sing-along to “Sweet Caroline,” courtesy of musical duo The CooperSonics.



Retirees recognized – President Erjavec took time at a reception before commencement to recognize employees who will be retiring this year – Kimberlee Ackles, nursing faculty member at PCC Southwest; Bryan Crawford, senior director of IT services; Paula McPheeters, grant compliance director; John Webber, fire science program manager; Dr. Michele Sweeney, EMS faculty member; and Martha Simmons, CEO of the PCC Foundation. James Cordova, chair of the automotive technology program, also recognized soon-to-be retiree Dr. Erjavec and presented her with a personalized automotive technician's shirt.

Create education without barriers through partnerships

PCC partners with Pueblo Police Department – A collaboration between the PCC Law Enforcement Academy and the Pueblo Police Department means seven new officers are on the streets with more on the way. Due to staffing shortages, the department had difficulty scheduling veteran officers to teach at its own academy. Under the new plan, PCC will train Pueblo PD cadets during spring and fall academies while the police department will continue to operate its own summer academy.

