



**SBCCOE Report – June 2023**

**Dr. Lance Bolton, President**

## **TRANSFORM THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE**

- [\*\*PHOTOS: 2023 Pikes Peak State College commencement\*\*](#)  
*The Gazette*
- [\*\*Mayor-Elect Yemi Mobolade & President Bolton Pikes Peak State College Commencement 5.13.2023\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Pikes Peak State College Commencement 2023 Highlights\*\*](#)  
*Alex Cone, Videographer*
- [\*\*Pikes Peak State College commencement: Some moms have more to celebrate this Mother's Day weekend\*\*](#)

"I want to recognize you, our graduates – living tributes to the power of determination and heroism. You know the hardships and challenges you faced to get here today, and I want you to take a moment to take all that in, because you make it," Bolton said.

*Annika Schmidt*

- **Career Start Fire Science & Welding I Students Collaboration**

Career Start Fire Science students and Welding I students recently collaborated on a project to build a fire prop for Fire Science students. This tool is used by fire fighters to gain entry through a locked door in case of fire. Thanks to our faculty and instructors Travis Lee and Charles Covington from Welding, and Jose Garcia and Tim Renck from Career Start and their students for a successful collaborative effort.



- **National Cyber League (NCL)**

Congratulations to PPSC cybersecurity students who competed in the National Cyber League (NCL) Cyber Skyline Challenge. Nationally, PPSC was the top Colorado community college at #43 and the third-highest college in Colorado. About 3,600 teams and 6,700 individuals competed.

Top competitors include Graham Myers, Eric Barnes, Jillian Magiera, Anna Walsh, Scott Watkins, Curtis Pattison, Eric Barnes, Timothy Prien, Leo Power, Aarathi Parmley, Ashley Searles, Stacy Ricci, Elijah Boyd, Elias Roa, and Ryan Van Wagenen.

This is a huge accomplishment for our students! After participating in these events, students receive a scouting report that employers can review and see the

students' areas of specialty and interest. These skills are so important that after the competition results are posted, there is an online job fair sponsored by NCL.

- **[Pikes Peak State College receives a \\$2.5 million grant to go toward dental programs | KRDO](#)**

A \$2.5 million grant from the [Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation](#) (DDCOF) is going toward Pikes Peak State College's (PPSC) [dental assistant program](#).

[On May 1](#), the foundation joined Governor Jared Polis in announcing \$5 million worth of grants was going to community colleges throughout Colorado.

[Natasha Lynn](#)

- **[UPDATE on Salt and Pepper Competition reported last month.](#)**

[The School Buzz: Pikes Peak State College hosts student-led culinary contest](#)

Pikes Peak State College held a friendly culinary competition recently that's creating campus school buzz.

[Josh Helmuth](#)

## **TRANSFORM OUR OWN WORKFORCE EXPERIENCE**

- **[Pikes Peak State College Nursing Programs have some great news to report.](#)**

The associate degree Nursing (ADN) Program is off to a great start with 100% pass rates on the National State Licensure Exam (NCLEX) for the first quarter of 2023 (NCSBN, 2023). In addition, the ADN Program ranked 1 of 22 of all nursing programs across the jurisdiction, 1 of 744 of all similar nursing programs across every jurisdiction, and 1 of 1430 of all nursing programs across every jurisdiction for the quarter. In addition, the Nursing Assistant (NUA) Traditional and High School Programs had pass rates for NUA skills certification of 100% for Liberty Heights High School, 92.8% for Career Start, and 80% for Traditional Programs. The RN-BSN Program currently has 250 students enrolled and is meeting the

needs of our community partners who are requiring BSN graduates for their positions.

*Dawn Murphy, PdD RN CPNP-PC – Nursing Faculty*

## **CREATE EDUCATION WITHOUT BARRIERS THROUGH TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS**

- [\*\*Homeless While Studying: Colleges step up to help Colorado students facing food and housing insecurity\*\*](#)

The housing crisis and inflation are hitting a new group of people in southern Colorado, college students.

According to the College Board, the average in-state college student pays about \$28,000 a year, and almost half of that goes to room and board.

*[Brynn Carman](#)*

- [\*\*Mitchell High School graduates the first to receive 'life changing' promise scholarship\*\*](#)

As the Mitchell High School class of 2023 crossed the Broadmoor World Arena stage and received diplomas on Tuesday, the ceremony held additional meaning for some: It was a promise of academic pursuits to come, of a future in which higher education could be achieved without mounds of student debt trailing in its wake.

Forty-one students comprise the inaugural cohort of the Mitchell Promise, an initiative brought to Colorado Springs School District 11 by the Dakota Foundation and the Legacy Institute. Qualifying graduates receive full-ride scholarships to Pikes Peak State College under the new partnership.

*Nick Sullivan*

**REDEFINE OUR VALUE PROPOSITION THROUGH ACCESSIBILITY,  
AFFORDABILITY, QUALITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT,  
AND OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

- [\*\*A.I.'s Threat to Jobs Prompts Question of Who Protects Workers – The New York Times\*\*](#)

PPSC professor Dennis Natali was interviewed by the New York Times regarding how PPSC is preparing for a rush of workers displaced by A.I. Here's the excerpt: "As Wayne Gretzky once said when asked about his success, 'I skate to where the puck is going,'" said Dennis Natali, a professor at Pikes Peak State College in Colorado, which released a plan this year to roll out A.I. certificates. "Our college constantly assesses the work force landscape and prepares to support displaced workers."