



College Report – December 2021

Patty Erjavec, PhD, *President*

Transform the student experience

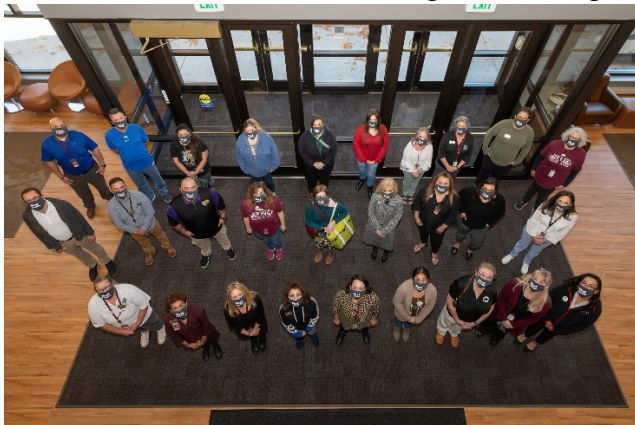
EDA grant benefits hospital project – PCC will receive a \$4.9 million [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Recovery Assistance grant](#) from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration to expand its healthcare training programs at St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center. The grant will provide funding to complete the Nursing and Allied Health Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) at St. Mary-Corwin. PCC is renovating two floors of the hospital's vacant East Tower with a planned opening date of fall 2022. The project will allow PCC to add 225 students to its healthcare programs.

Funds improve persistence rates – More than 46% of PCC students who received funding through CARES/CD/Title V persisted from fall 2020 to fall 2021, compared to a 31% persistence rate for students who did not receive the funding.

Persistence numbers were even higher for spring 2021 to fall 2021: Nearly 55% of students who received CARES/CD/Title V funding continued their studies. Of students who did not receive the funding, nearly 37% persisted from spring to fall.

More grants awarded to PCC – PCC received another [\\$11 million in grants](#) over the past few months that will help with various projects. Programs such as STEM, medical assisting, computer information systems, Children First and the Return to Earn scholarship will benefit from funds awarded at the federal, state and local levels.

First-generation celebration – PCC celebrated first-generation students and employees on Nov. 8, National First-Generation College Celebration Day. PCC's social media accounts featured first-generation graduates throughout the week.



Thanksgiving basket collection – PCC employees collected 544 Thanksgiving meal baskets to give to PCC students. It was the largest number ever donated. The PCC Foundation claimed top honors for the department with the most meals: 252. President Erjavec and her husband, Ray, donated to the Panther Student Pantry in honor of the winning department.



Club and resource fair – A club and resource fair sponsored by Associated Student Government brought out a good crowd Oct. 13. It was a chance for students to visit with club representatives and learn more about the many on-campus resources that are available to them as part of the PCC community.



DOC director on campus – Dean Williams, executive director of the Colorado Department of Corrections, gave a community presentation Oct. 28 on the PCC Pueblo campus. He shared his vision for reforming the state's prison systems, took questions from audience members, and screened the documentary *Breaking the Cycle*, which chronicles reforms at Attica Correctional Facility in New York.

PCC receives HB21-1264 funds – PCC received \$294,520 from HB21-1264 to “expand equipment, facility, and instruction capacity in key career and technical education job demand areas identified in the annual Colorado talent report.”

The money will be used to fund full-time Computer Information Systems instructors on the Fremont and Southwest campuses; provide equipment and training to prepare Automotive Service Technology students to service electric and hybrid vehicles; and purchase four new mechanical ventilators (two invasive and two non-invasive) for the Respiratory Therapy program.

Transform our own workforce experience

History professor publishes book – PCC history professor Brad Bowers recently published [“Bound by Steel & Stone,”](#) a history of the shortline Colorado-Kansas Railway that ran through part of what is now Pueblo West. Bowers, who has been teaching at PCC since 2011, conducted research over a 20-year period. He learned about the railroad itself and the local entrepreneurs, economics and politics of that era.



Marketing department awards – PCC’s Marketing and Communications department won two [Medallion awards](#) at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District 4 conference in October. PCC took gold for interior signage/displays and silver for its new website, competing against community colleges from Colorado, Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming.

Create education without barriers through partnerships

Partnership success story – PCC’s Corporate College recently collaborated with Rocky Mountain Eye Center to create a successful eye care pre-apprenticeship program. Dr. Donald Schlomer of RMEC took part in a [testimonial video](#) to explain how PCC can create customized partner solutions to help any business prosper.

Auto program donations – PCC’s Automotive Service Technology program recently received a 2021 Subaru for students to use as part of their training. The donation is part of the program’s affiliation with [Subaru University](#), which allows students to complete the company’s web-based training as part of PCC’s basic curriculum.

The program also received 13 pallets of automotive consumable supplies from Good360 and a trailer full of diagnostic and specialty equipment from Vidmar Honda in Pueblo.



Elementary school partnership – At the request of Baca Elementary School teacher Patricia Mancilla, PCC's Business & Advanced Technology division recently adopted Mancilla's fourth-grade class for the 2021-22 school year. Representatives of BAT programs will visit the class each month to talk about careers in their respective fields and hope to coordinate a class visit to the PCC campus in the spring. In the meantime, our mini Panthers have some new PCC T-shirts to wear.



Positioning Pueblo – As part of PCC's role in helping business and industry fill the skills gap, the college created [*Positioning Pueblo*](#), a brochure that highlights and explains some of our program offerings. Local businesses and economic development organizations utilize the publication in their efforts to train or retrain employees and bring companies to PCC's service area.

Elementary school visit – Third-graders from Villa Bella Expeditionary School recently visited the Pueblo campus. They toured the STEM Center and talked with Rebecca Wasil, our disability resources advisor, about overcoming learning challenges. The trip wrapped up with a visit from the PCC Panther.



Raise value standards through excellence & accessibility

Quality Highlights – PCC's annual [Quality Highlights](#) put a spotlight on some of the past year's accomplishments. An academic year dominated by COVID-related adjustments did not put a damper on the many endeavors of our students, employees and community partners.

Marketing successes – During July and August, the PCC Marketing department did a final enrollment push utilizing seven digital and social media advertising campaigns. One of the most successful was *This is College*, which provided a hands-on perspective of classes. The campaign geotargeted a number of key locations – including workforce centers, DVMs and sport parks – and those who are interested in working with their hands, underemployed, high school graduates, ages 18-40 or had attended PCC in the last few years and never finished. Over 400,000 impressions were served with a click-through rate of .1584% (benchmark .14-16%) and ultimately contributed to the enrollment of 786 students.

Legislators visit campus exhibits – A group of Latino legislators from the Colorado General Assembly visited PCC's *El Movimiento* exhibit recently. The exhibit chronicles the history of the Chicano movement in Pueblo and Colorado. Members of the Capital Development Committee visited to see the mural *Los Seis de Boulder*, created in 1987 by Pedro Romero. It honors six activists in Boulder who died in separate car bombings in May 1974.



Mosaic brightens campus – A ceramic mosaic by artist Nicole Banowetz now fills an outer wall of the San Juan building on the Pueblo campus. Banowetz installed the piece over a weeklong period and took time to speak with art students about the project and her other work. The installation is part of Colorado's Art in Public Spaces project and its funding was part of the recent renovation of PCC's welding lab.

