



SBCCOE Report – September 2022
Dr. Lance Bolton, President

TRANSFORM THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- **Project Connect**

Pikes Peak State College's Project Connect, launching in October, aims to address student self-perceptions and build a personal sense of empowerment by expanding their social and cultural networks. Its ultimate goal is to increase retention and graduation among its most vulnerable students.

As a federal grant designed to support primarily first-generation and low-income college students, Pikes Peak's TRIO Student Support Services provides a wide range of services to support students in reaching individual academic and career goals.

However, observation suggests that this vulnerable student population is often not fully engaged in either TRIO or larger college events. This lack of engagement results in fewer students continuing to move forward through college to graduation.

Project Connect is designed to build social capital by structuring experiences for under-represented and marginalized student populations to connect with other students and community members outside of students' typical social connections and relationships," said Carrie Riffe, TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) Project Specialist and creator of Project Connect.

The expected result of Project Connect is increased student confidence and well-being, the creation of mentoring relationships, and increased retention and graduation rates among participating students.

The first annual event is set for Oct 6 where students will enjoy a free lunch, connect with other students, and hear from a guest panel. The panel, members of the Black and Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, will share their experience of being first-generation college students and what drove them to become successful business people.

Karen Kovaly, *Communications Coordinator*

- **American Music Society**

Enjoy a free musical performance on Sunday, October 2 at Downtown Campus, N214 at 2 p.m.

- **Faculty Art Exhibition: Opening Reception**

Experience the talents of PPSC's Art, Photography & Multimedia Graphic Design faculty and instructors. Dance and music performance. Part of the First Friday Downtown Art Walk. Show runs through October 21.

- **reverb: A Contemporary Dance Performance**

Three PPSC alumni and emerging local artists explore the disorder and emotions felt while yearning for relationships and structure. This free multi-media performance is engaging, entertaining, and thought-provoking.

Seats are limited. Reservations Required

Saturday, October 8 from 7:30 – 9 p.m. at Studio West, Black Box Theater

TRANSFORM OUR OWN WORKFORCE EXPERIENCE

- **PPSC On- Campus Job Fair**



Career Services & Financial Aid held an in-person Campus Job Fair for on-site campus jobs. Students got to learn more about available student employment positions and meet the department supervisors.

Questions? 719.502.2360 or Career@pikespeak.edu

CREATE EDUCATION WITHOUT BARRIERS THROUGH TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- **Free Medical Certificate Programs**

Pikes Peak State College is now offering several free medical certificate programs, thanks to the Care Forward Colorado program. Created with federal funds, Care Forward aims to meet the heavy demand for entry-level healthcare positions in our state.

Students pursuing certificates in the follow programs can now get free tuition, fees, books, materials, and necessary vaccinations. Any other financial aid could be used on top of that for living expenses, technology needs, or other related costs.

- Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Advanced Emergency Medical Technician
- EMT Enhanced Curriculum
- Paramedic
- Phlebotomy Technician
- Pharmacy Technician
- Advanced Pharmacy Practice
- Medical Receptionist
- Clinical Office Assistant
- Medical Coding Specialist
- Dental Assisting

Enroll now >>> pikespeak.edu/enroll

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

- **PPSC “Best for Vets: Colleges” Award**

PPSC has been awarded the Military Times “Best for Vets” again for 2022-23. The “Best for Vets: Colleges” listing is published once a year and hundreds of institutions compete to be part of the listing.



Some statistics specific to Pikes Peak State:

- Ranked 2nd in Colorado
- Ranked 6th in the Nation for 2-year schools
- Ranked 47th among all institutions

The entire listing for this Military Times Best for Vets can be found at: <https://colleges.militarytimes.com/2022/?page=1>

Paul DeCecco, *Director for Military and Veterans Programs*

- **Gazette: Pikes Peak State College ranked among nation's most military friendly schools** – [Pikes Peak State College ranked among nation's most military-friendly schools](#)

Colorado Springs Business Journal: New leadership center, course at PPSC
Pikes Peak State College is now home to a new center for developing community leaders — one of 10 in the nation established by the nonprofit organization The Citizens Campaign.

At PPSC; the Citizen Leadership Center, as it's called, will "aim to give citizens the tools and know-how to exercise their power beyond the ballot," according to a Sept. 19 press release.

As part of the center, PPSC will offer a free course on leadership and "No-Blame Problem Solving," based on The Citizens Campaign's staple method taught to achieve government engagement and change, PPSC's release said. The course is open to all students and the public, and its materials can be accessed at any time.

PPSC also announced its political science curriculum will now incorporate the nonpartisan organization's principles, which include "service, civility and pragmatism." The college and campaign's goal is to establish a "civic trust" based at PPSC — an association of citizens trained to address community issues and work productively with public officials.

"This program seeks to educate, to promote collaboration, and to unify broader interests while seeking solutions to 21st century community issues and problems," Dr. Elsa Dias, a PPSC political science faculty member, said in the release.

Karen Kovaly, *Communications Coordinator Marketing & Communication*

- **PPSC Leadership Center**
Pikes Peak State College has been chosen by The Citizens Campaign as one of the first 10 Citizen Leadership Centers based primarily at Community Colleges around the nation.

As part of this role, PPCC is offering The Citizen Power Course teaching leadership and no-blame problem-solving, and it plans to integrate the principles of the Citizen's Campaign into the college's political science curriculum.

The on-line course, free to the community, will teach people their legal rights as a citizen leader who can bring solutions. They will learn to get in the game of government decision making, with a proven method of no-blame problem solving. Click [here](#) to learn more.

- **Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Region & Service and Leadership Award**

Congrats to Paul Wilkinson, Computer Science faculty, for attaining the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Region 6 service and Leadership Award for his outstanding leadership and volunteer services to members, students, and young professionals. He has also earned Senior Member status, the only member in the Colorado Community College System to do so.

- **Pikes Peak State College Renaming Celebration**

On Friday, September 16 from 4 – 5:30 p.m., Dr. Lance Bolton (the last president of PPCC and first president of PPSC) and Dr. Don McInnis (the last president of EPCC and first president of PPCC) joined the celebration to help celebrate US, the faculty and staff of Pikes Peak State College, and a new era at the college.

Guests enjoyed free newly branded apparel, snacks, beverages, and music by The Plagiarists (featuring our own Gary Walker, Tom Lovell, Deidre Schoolcraft, and Amie Sharp)



- **New Shuttle Between CHES and Rampart**

To ease the parking situation at the CHES building, PPSC will provide a shuttle service between Rampart and the CHES building. There are designated parking areas for both shuttle riders and carpool participants on the SE side of the Rampart parking lot. Shuttle pick-up and drop-off times and locations will be posted.