



College Report – February 2022

Patty Erjavec, PhD, *President*

Transform the student experience

Hunger Free Campus designation – The Colorado Department of Higher Education named [PCC a Hunger Free Campus](#) in December. The designation applies to all PCC campuses and recognizes the school's efforts to combat food insecurity among its students. Food insecurity affects more than 45 percent of college students in the United States, according to a 2018 Hope Center #RealCollege survey.

To receive the CDHE designation, schools must implement six focused initiatives – two each in the focus areas of awareness, access and integration – and four core programs: Run a campus food pantry; provide SNAP enrollment help; hold one awareness event each year; and collect data and report on student food insecurity.

PCC is one of eight schools in Colorado to receive this designation.

Transform our own workforce experience

Employees of the year – PCC formally recognized its outstanding [2021 employees of the year](#) at the Spring Kickoff and Employee Appreciation Breakfast on Jan. 13. The recipients are (from left) Brad Bowers, history instructor (faculty); Maria de la Cruz, academic excellence administrator for the Business and Advanced Technology division (administrative/professional/technical); Brandi Halvorson, health professions instructor, Simulation Center technician and Human Anatomy Learning Center assistant (part-time instructor); and Jake Renner, Pueblo campus police officer (classified).



Create education without barriers through partnerships

EDL partnership for micro-pathways – PCC was selected as a pilot school for a new partnership between CCCS and the [Education Design Lab](#) to develop five micro-pathways in energy and healthcare.

Designed with input from learners and employers, micro-pathway programs combine two or more stackable credentials in high-growth, high-paying fields that can be completed in a year or less. The [Foundation for Colorado Community Colleges](#) will receive a \$262,500 grant from the EDL to build the program and will advise colleges on

best practices. The EDL will also provide an additional \$1 million in technical support to CCCS for a total investment of more than \$1.25 million.

“A whole new world of learners has emerged as we embrace the new normal of higher education,” said President Erjavec. “Bite-size education is needed for the right learner at the right time and micro-credentials are becoming the favorable solution – from both the learner and employer perspective – to achieve this.”

Grow with Google – PCC will conduct a series of workshops for the Grow with Google Hispanic-Serving Institution Career Readiness Program. The workshops are designed to equip students with fundamental digital and professional skills for career success. The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities awarded PCC a micro-grant of \$25,000 to fund program operation and training costs. The college will be eligible to receive additional funds of up to \$25,000 at the end of spring 2022, upon program completion evaluation.

Funding boosts noncredit training, business classes – PCC’s Pueblo Corporate College and Southern Colorado Small Business Development Center each were awarded \$10,000 from the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority Direct Effect program. Pueblo Corporate College will use the funds for noncredit training program scholarships. The SBDC will use its money for class development and scholarships for an e-commerce series and its Female Founders series.

Raise value standards through excellence & accessibility

New strategic plan – Individuals from multiple college departments, working with the President’s Cabinet, President’s Advisory Council, GOLD Panel, and other stakeholders, recently completed [Destination 2027](#), PCC’s new five-year strategic plan. It aligns with the direction set forth by CCCS, the CDHE, the Higher Learning Commission, and PCC’s internal DEI framework.

Governor visits campus – Gov. Jared Polis visited the Pueblo campus on Jan. 19 to meet with President Erjavec and State Sen. Leroy Garcia, who represents Pueblo and is a faculty member of PCC’s EMS program. PCC maintains a close relationship with its state legislators and each year provides, with CCCS, a [college fact sheet](#) to keep the legislature updated with the most recent college data.



NABCEP accreditation – PCC has been accredited by the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners as a photovoltaic associate training provider. The college will be able to qualify candidates to take the NABCEP PV Associate exam through a computer-based testing vendor, Scantron or paper and pencil exam. The designation will enable students in PCC's photovoltaic panel installation program to earn a core industry credential before leaving the college.

PCC is in the process of [expanding and diversifying its renewable energy curriculum](#) to meet the growing demand in Pueblo County.

Community newsletter debuts – In order to provide our communities regular updates about the college, PCC introduced an email newsletter late in 2021 to highlight students, employees and campus news. The newsletter goes out monthly and those interested in receiving it can subscribe through PCC's [newsroom page](#) or by filling out a [subscription form](#).

Spring Kickoff message – President Erjavec delivered her spring semester message to faculty and staff on Jan. 13. Her message focused on the challenges and opportunities facing PCC as higher education moves forward. She specifically mentioned the importance of serving the modern learner by providing greater services, more course options, and shorter completion times.

President Erjavec also noted that PCC has \$49,148,020 in current multi-year grants to improve and expand programs and offer enhanced student support.

Miracle on Orman Avenue – Students, employees and community members gathered on the Pueblo campus Nov. 30 for the traditional Miracle on Orman Avenue tree lighting ceremony. The mild weather didn't damper the holiday spirit as kids enjoyed cookies and a visit with the PCC Panther.



