



College Report – April 2022

Patty Erjavec, PhD, *President*

Transform the student experience

PCC joins Intel's AI for Workforce program – PCC will be the first college in Colorado to offer Intel's [AI for Workforce program](#). Intel will provide PCC with more than 225 hours of content to develop AI certificates, enhance existing courses or launch AI associate degree programs. The company also provides training and implementation guidance. The [Pueblo Chieftain](#) interviewed Mike Krakow, PCC's computer information systems program manager, about the partnership.

SkillsUSA competition – In February, PCC's welding program hosted a [SkillsUSA](#) competition as part of SkillsUSA Week. Students were tested on different aspects of the welding process and designed a product based on prints and materials provided to them. SkillsUSA is a nonprofit national education association that serves middle school, high school and college/postsecondary students preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations.



PCC student creates winning design – Graphic design student Elena Ornelas put her skills to use to [win \\$1,000 in a local poster design contest](#). Elena created the poster for the second annual Pueblo Classic Bike Race. Pueblo Mayor Nick Gradisar and Karen Foglesong, executive director of the Pueblo Arts Alliance (and former PCC instructor), recognized Elena’s achievement at a press conference.



ASG president to attend conference – PCC’s Associated Student Government president, Mark Sandoval, will attend the annual student leadership conference, *Improving You in '22*, in April with other members of the CCCS State Student Advisory Council and Student Life staff from the system colleges. The group will take part in leadership development, networking and skills-building activities.

Transform our own workforce experience

Budget forums – PCC held virtual forums March 30 and 31 to discuss college budget priorities with employees. The moderated sessions allowed faculty and staff to offer their input about how the college could prioritize spending. President Erjavec also provided employees with a list of budget considerations for the upcoming fiscal year and a timeline explaining the budget development process.

Create education without barriers through partnerships

Medical assisting apprenticeship approved – PCC recently received final approval from the Colorado Department of Labor to begin its registered apprenticeship in medical assisting. The program will begin this fall at PCC’s Pueblo and Southwest campuses. (The Pueblo program will include students from the Pueblo and Fremont campuses.) The program received Colorado Healthcare Experiential Pathways to Success grant dollars to assist with startup.

Parkview Medical Center, the Pueblo Community Health Center and Centura are current partners. The program utilizes face-to-face, online and lab sessions and takes 23 weeks to finish. At that point, students/apprentices will continue to work with the employer until they have completed 2,000 hours on the job. Students will be paid during all apprenticeship hours and will receive a medical assisting certificate upon completion.

Graphic design class helps local business – Jayson Peters, a part-time instructor in web design and content management systems at PCC, found a new way to engage students in his fall 2021 Web Design I class: They [helped a popular local bookstore modernize its website](#). The project enabled Peters to teach basic concepts while applying them to a real-world project.

Raise value standards through excellence & accessibility

Relationship building increases retention – PCC takes an individualized approach to scholarship awards. Even with the large pool of Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund money, members of the recruitment and advising teams met with each student to understand their needs, connect them with resources and see how PCC could best assist them financially.

These relationship-building steps have a significant impact on retention. Among HEERF fund recipients, 1,883 students completed the fall semester and 1,378 – 73 percent – are enrolled this semester. Through PCC’s Conquering Dreams scholarship, 364 students enrolled in and completed the fall 2021 semester and 261 of them – 71.7 percent – continued this semester.

Approximately 1,820 students enrolled in fall 2021 did not receive HEERF funds. Of those, 804 are enrolled this spring – a retention rate of 44 percent.

HIT program approved by HIMSS – PCC’s Health Information Technology program is now an Approved Educational Partner of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society. This means PCC is authorized to offer HIMSS-approved education programs to prepare students for careers in HIT and health care. PCC’s acceptance letter from HIMSS said, in part, “We especially like the thought and detail you put into the learning objectives for the courses and the surveys for student feedback about the course and instructors. It is also clear that you strive to involve a variety of industry professionals in the development of your course content.”

PCC welcomes Einstein Bros. – Einstein Bros. Bagels is now open in the PCC Student Center on the Pueblo campus to serve students and employees. A grand opening and ribbon cutting took place on March 17 to welcome the company. Thanks to its convenient street-side location, members of the Pueblo community also have easy access to the store.

