



## College Report – May 10, 2023

Patty Erjavec, PhD, *President*

### Transform the student experience

**STEM Club helps kids be kids** – The PCC STEM Club recently started a project to adapt toys for children whose motor skill issues don't allow them to push small buttons. The plan came from PCC pre-engineering student Sarah Ahlstrom, whose 7-year-old daughter has Rett Syndrome, a neurological disorder. Club members are adapting bubble blowers and disco balls with large, responsive buttons that enable kids with Rett's to use them without assistance. The toys will be given to the Rett Clinic at Children's Hospital Colorado.



**Space Grant Symposium at PCC** – The Colorado Space Grant Consortium brought its space research symposium to the PCC campus April 22. This was the first time the event was held outside CU Boulder. Undergraduates from more than a dozen two- and four-year schools presented research and projects they worked on over the past year, competing for cash prizes in paper, poster and video categories.

**Courts in the Community comes to PCC** – The Colorado Court of Appeals brought its Courts in the Community program to PCC April 25. The court heard two real cases; students and community members were able to watch the proceedings and take part in a question-and-answer session with the judges afterward. PCC is the first college to host the event.

**Community mandala painting** – Art instructor Jamie Moon and her students, joined by other PCC students and employees, created a mandala painting in a PCC parking lot using clays and soils collected by Moon during her travels. The temporary piece

included colorful hues from Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and other areas of the U.S.



### Transform our own workforce experience

**Employees of the year recognized** – PCC’s 2022 employees of the year were honored at the CCCS Commitment to Excellence Awards. Alejandra de Anda (APT), Johanna Parkhurst (faculty) and Tim Brotherton (part-time instructor) are pictured with Chancellor Garcia and President Erjavec (not pictured: Kari Monack, classified employee of the year).



### Create education without barriers through partnerships

**Child care center opens** – Life Center Academy-PCC is open in PCC’s Teaching and Learning Center at St. Mary-Corwin Hospital. The center will serve PCC students and employees, St. Mary-Corwin employees and – if openings remain – the surrounding community. The center can accept up to 30 children ages 3-5 with plans to increase capacity in future phases. Hours are 6 a.m.-9 p.m. specifically to accommodate class schedules, removing a significant education barrier for students with young children. Life Center Academy operates two other locations in Pueblo.

**[South Korean business, education leaders visit](#)** – Representatives from Kunsan National University (KNSU) and CS Wind headquarters in South Korea visited the



Pueblo campus April 5. President Erjavec, Arts and Sciences Dean Young Kim and Pueblo city officials traveled overseas last fall to visit the two organizations. The meeting at PCC included discussions about how to further the growing relationships among the institutions. Ideas that are being explored with KNSU include classes that could be offered to students at both schools and exchange programs for students and faculty. Erjavec and Lee Jang-ho, president of KNSU, signed a memorandum of understanding last fall. Talks with CS Wind focused on increased collaboration and customized training for the hundreds of new employees that will be needed for the company's 900,000 square-foot expansion of its Pueblo facility.



**Tanzanian college officials visit** – Representatives from Tabora (E.A.) Polytechnic College in Tabora, Tanzania, met with PCC leadership in April to learn about ways the schools may be able to partner for shared instruction or curriculum and student and faculty exchange programs. The groups were connected through the efforts of Dr. Sylvester Kalevela, an engineering professor at Colorado State University Pueblo. The Tanzanian college offers health, business, journalism, early childhood education, office management and hospitality programs.



Raise value standards through excellence & accessibility

**Friday Academy offers CTE classes** – Students from Montezuma-Cortez, Dolores, and Mancos high schools, Southwest Open School and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe can get a head start on their college education thanks to the PCC Southwest Friday Academy. The program offers classes in areas such as construction, automotive technology and health care, giving students a chance to earn credentials in a short time while exploring different career possibilities.