



## College Report – Sept. 11, 2024

Chato Hazelbaker, Ed.D., *President*

### Transform the student experience

Cosmetology program back on campus – After more than a decade operating off campus, PCC’s cosmetology program is back on the grounds with a renovated space and new equipment. It was part of a \$6.3 million capital improvement project – funded by the Colorado General Assembly – that included renovation of PCC’s Health Sciences building. The popular cosmetology clinic will reopen to the public this semester with discounted haircuts, manicures, facials and other services performed by students under instructor supervision.



Southwest campus expands CTE opportunities – Perry Pepper, director of academic services for PCC’s Southwest campus, co-wrote an article for the Association for Career & Technical Education about efforts to make CTE more accessible to underrepresented students in the region. About half of the students in a new carpentry class were from the Ute Mountain Ute reservation and helped build a Habitat for Humanity home in Cortez.



**OTA program collaborates with school district** – PCC’s Occupational Therapy Assistant program partnered with Widefield School District 3 during the spring semester to help students in Widefield’s Transition Link Services program prepare to live independently. The trial run was so successful that another collaboration is planned for the upcoming school year.



**ASG team earns whitewater win** – Members of Fremont Campus Associated Student Government won the Build Your Own Boat race in the 2024 Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival in July. Lashea Brady, Cody Dornhecker, Paul Link and Darren Norberg were the navigators. Maddie Cope and Jesse Lutz helped with the boat construction and decoration. (Photo credit: Mike Maffucci, Fremont Campus Administrator)



**15<sup>th</sup> annual Celebration Walk** – Faculty and staff members gathered to salute students during the Celebration Walk that takes place on the first day of the fall semester. Students received a free PCC T-shirt and lunch to kick off the first day of classes. Students from the Cosmetology program, which just moved back on campus, carried the banner for the walk. Students and staff at the Fremont Campus had their own event and took a photo in front of the famous large dinosaur statue on campus.



### **Transform our own workforce experience**

**Welcome, President Hazelbaker** – Dr. Chato Hazelbaker began his tenure as PCC president July 1. An all-employee lunch took place July 11 to give Dr. Hazelbaker and his wife, Shari, an opportunity to meet faculty and staff.



**HIT leader earns statewide award** – Marianne Horvath, coordinator and faculty member with PCC’s Health Information Technology program, recently received the Distinguished Member award from the Colorado Health Information Management Association. Business and Advanced Technology Dean Brett Burke said, “While Marianne humbly credits the team, her leadership, vision, and dedication to her students continue to help cement PCC as the leader in the state when it comes to HIT/HIM. I am incredibly grateful for the leadership and passion that Marianne shows up with day in and day out for her programs and students.”

**Bring Your Dog to Work Day** – Tails were wagging June 13 when PCC employees brought their canines to campus for a little fun in the sun. As the humans enjoyed an ice cream break, the dogs had treats of their own and competed for recognition in categories such as waggiest tail and best trick.



**Create education without barriers through partnerships**

**Behavioral Health Administration visit** – Commissioner Dannette Smith and other members of the state Behavioral Health Administration visited PCC Aug. 22 for a meeting with the college administration and Behavioral Health instructors. The group also held a Community Conversations event with legislators, employers and community members on the PCC campus. The BHA regulates behavioral health programs in Colorado, including PCC’s Certified Addiction Counseling (CAC) courses. The college and the BHA recently signed a memorandum of understanding for the CAC program.



**State Fair partnership continues** – For more than 25 years, the Colorado State Fair and PCC have partnered to give PCC Art students direct experience working with the fair’s Fine Arts Exhibit. In addition, PCC’s Center for New Media brings the State Fair Parade to TV and online audiences while Associated Student Government creates a float and walks in the event – and this year’s float won second place in the community division. This year’s parade grand marshal was former PCC President Patty Erjavec.



**Raise value standards through excellence & accessibility**

**Art department helps bring dream to life** – Rebecca Wasil, an advisor in the PCC Accessibility Center, wanted to create a mural to honor those who, like her, have survived depression, strokes, brain injuries and other life challenges. Members of the PCC Art department helped make it happen, producing a large-scale version of original artwork by PCC student Lauren O'Mara. It took a volunteer group of students, faculty and staff six weeks to complete the mural.

