

# President's SBCCOE Report

Dr. Lance Bolton | Pikes Peak State College | September 2024

## Section One | Transform the Student Experience

### Oral Health Career Center Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting



Ominous storm clouds did not dampen the energy and excitement on July 16, when PPSC and the Delta Dental Colorado Foundation opened the state-of-the-art Oral Health Career Center.

More than 150 guests gathered to celebrate this new facility, that will house the PPSC dental assisting program and its new dental hygiene program, set to begin in 2025.

Students will learn from industry experts, work with state-of-the-art equipment and upon graduation, enter the workforce. There they will help to lessen the severe shortage of dental hygienists and dental assistant

providers throughout Colorado. Faculty will also work closely with students to provide no, or low, cost dental clinics for up to 200 patients a week

This positive step forward for the region – and state – is possible because of the generosity of the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation. The group provided PPSC its largest grant in the College's history.

Learn more about the Oral Health Career Center, and Grand Opening, via media stories from the [Colorado Springs Gazette](#), [Denver 7](#), and [KOAA Channel 5](#).



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## First Nation's Promise Program: Press Conference & Listening Session



PPSC launched its new Promise Program focused on Native American communities with both a community listening session and press conference. The First Nations Promise is a last-dollar grant initiative that covers direct costs like tuition and fees for members of federally recognized American Indian tribes residing in El Paso, Teller, or Elbert counties. First Nations Promise scholars will receive academic coaching and support during their time at PPSC.

The development of the First Nations Promise Program is a significant step forward in PPSC's commitment to inclusivity and education for Native Americans. According to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2022, nearly 30% of the Native Americans living in El Paso County lived below the poverty line and only about 50% graduated from high school. PPSC is committed to educational access that transforms lives and this program ensures Native Americans in Colorado Springs are actively invited to pursue and complete their academic and career interests.

The Dakota Foundation is committed to gifting \$50,000 per year for the next five years toward the initiative. This generous contribution is coupled with a \$250,000 commitment from the Daniels Fund, bringing the total funding to half a million dollars. [Learn more about the First Nations Promise Program through media stories on Colorado Public Radio, Fox 21, KOAA Channel 5, and KRDO Channel 13.](#)

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## New Promise Students Start Strong



Prior to the start of the fall semester, PPSC welcomed 193 Promise Program students from Colorado Springs District 11 and Harrison School District 2. The students came together for four days to learn about all aspects of being a PPSC student, forge connections with fellow students, faculty and staff, and sign their pledges to commit to the Promise Program requirements.

## Back-to-School Events Provide Student Support



During the first two weeks of class, students were met with a host of new events to set them up for success!

Numerous departments across all four PPSC campuses came together to host: Ask an Aardvark, Arnie's Back-2-School Bash, Coffee with Cops, Welcome Back Game & Play. These events helped students navigate new buildings, learn about helpful academic resources and find supports like the Food Pantry and Counseling Services.

Students were also invited to participate in the Career Services and Financial Aid Employment Job Fair.



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## Section Two | Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

### Women's Resource Group Takes Root



In alignment with PPSC's strategic goal to Create a Thriving and Energizing Employee Environment, the college announced its new Women's Employee Resource Group (WERG).

WERG's goal is to empower women at PPSC to achieve their full potential, ensuring their representation, advancement, and well-being within the college community. The group strives to be a leading advocate for women's equity and professional development in higher education, while contributing to PPSC's goal of creating an authentic climate and culture of inclusion.

Group officers are as follows: Brook Koltun (pictured above), President; Julie Fleming, Vice President; Krista Wallace (pictured above), Communications Coordinator; and Desiree Bowlby, Membership Coordinator.

### PDW: Navigating Innovation in Education

Faculty and staff kicked-off the fall semester during Professional Development Week (PDW). Organized by the college's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning's (CETL), the pre-semester conference helps faculty, instructors, and staff learn more about the campus community while providing sessions that support effective teaching in higher education.

This year the keynote speaker was Dr. C. Eddie Watson, author of *Teaching with AI*. His session set the stage for other courses centered around harnessing the power of AI in classrooms. Participants also attended President Lance Bolton's State of the College Address and Q & A sessions from different college departments.

### PPSC Director Appointed to National Board



Antoinette Trujillo, PPSC's Program Director of Surgical Technology, was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Accreditation Review Council of Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA). The ARC/STSA has set the gold standard for higher education programs in surgical technology and surgical assisting since 1972.

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## Section Three | Create Education Without Barriers Through Transformational Partnerships

### Navy Inspector General Visits PPSC



During the first-ever Colorado Springs Navy Week, the Inspector General of the U.S. Navy, Vice Admiral John Fuller, visited PPSC. He was accompanied by a delegation of Navy leaders. Together with PPSC leadership, they discussed current supports for active military and veteran students, as well as innovative ideas for the future.

### PPSC Partnerships Garner Media Attention

Throughout the summer, PPSC was highlighted in several news stories because of its commitment to building positive partnerships within the community.

- Dr. Lance Bolton was featured in a story about the local K-12 landscape. This [North Magazine feature](#) said, "PPSC is one of the nimblest educational institutions in responding to workforce needs."
- Local NBC affiliate, KOAA Channel 5 covered a story on Mission Medical, a local non-profit working to provide medical supplies for uninsured community members. [The story reported on the importance of PPSC students who worked on this effort.](#)
- The U.S Department of Commerce distributed a press release regarding the domestic production of semiconductors. PPSC was specifically mentioned for its successful partnership with local semiconductor company Entegris.

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## Section Four | Redefine Our Value Proposition Through Accessibility, Affordability, Quality, Accountability, Resource Development, and Operational Excellence

### PPSC Lauded for Accessibility Efforts



On July 30, the Colorado Springs Gazette wrote a glowing review of PPSC and the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS). The piece cited PPSC and UCCS efforts to ensure residents have accessible pathways to four-year degrees. The story said, “. . .this is not-only a win-win for PPSC and UCCS, but for students.” [Read the full story in the Colorado Springs Gazette.](#)

Just a few weeks prior, PPSC received praise from the Colorado Springs Gazette for its new direct admissions program for Harrison School District 2 students. The news outlet reported, “This agreement is another step in making higher education more accessible and equitable for D2 students.” [Read the full story in the Colorado Springs Gazette.](#)