



## SBCCOE Report – November 2023

Dr. Lance Bolton, President

### TRANSFORM THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- **Pikes Peak State College showcases student art at Fiestas Patrias' Art Zone to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month.**

Art Students Clarissa Begay and Giselle Warner displayed their art pieces and interacted with guests. Nelson Vargas designed an obstacle course made with sidewalk chalk providing a unique experience for future artists.



Painter Giselle Warner spent the weekend completing her art piece *The Wrong Side*. Visitors and PPSC appreciated Giselle's time finishing her piece in person.

- **Pikes Peak State College First Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival**

On Friday, October 13, PPSC celebrated its First Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival at Centennial Campus open to the public with live music, lunch, and information tables.



- **Pikes Peak State College to launch vocational scholarship program**

Students interested in vocational skills could be eligible for thousands of dollars in new scholarships at PPSC. PPSC announced on Friday it was launching a vocational scholarship program after an anonymous donor gave more than \$843,750 to establish the Spark Fund.

Each student is eligible for up to \$2,500 per year for two years as long as they meet the scholarship's criteria. Qualified students reside in El Paso County, are high school graduates or equivalent, maintain a 2.0 GPA, enroll in a minimum of six credit hours per semester and are committed to completing a degree or certificate. Spark Fund scholarship recipients can use this money on tuition assistance, books or supplies.

*Nick Sullivan, The Gazette*

- **SGA Townhall with PPSC Leadership**

SGA coordinated a student town hall meeting with college leadership. Students had the opportunity to ask questions and enjoy lunch with the leadership.



## **TRANSFORM OUR OWN WORKFORCE EXPERIENCE**

- **Congratulations to Dr. Herman Crawford, PPSC Hospitality and Culinary Chair**

Dr. Crawford has written the [\*Food Protection Manager Certification Guide 2023 – 2024\*](#) which prepares food service professionals for various Food Manager Certification Exams.

*Dr. Herman Crawford*

## **CREATE EDUCATION WITHOUT BARRIERS THROUGH TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS**

- **Pikes Peak State College, Peak Education launch 2-year program to support Hispanic, Latino students**

PPSC is increasing its concurrent enrollment opportunities and support services for Colorado Springs' Hispanic and Latino high school students through a two-year pilot program, the college announced in a news release Tuesday. The program is a joint effort alongside Peak Education, an organization supporting low-income students with the college admission process. PPSC will hire a full-time concurrent enrollment navigator, who will train with Peak Education and

“play a vital role” in implementing initiatives and fostering connections with students and families with Spanish fluency and a bicultural background.

*Nick Sullivan, The Gazette*

- **District 11 expands promise scholarship to give students free ride to college**

The D11 Promise Scholarship Program guarantees free tuition and requires books to attend Pikes Peak State college for a period of up to three years or 60 credit hours. The program started last year as the Mitchell Promise program and was only offered to qualifying seniors and Mitchell High School.

The program is made possible by funding from organizations including the Bruni Foundation, Dakota Foundation, and Legacy Institute to offer scholarships to any eligible D11 senior.

To be eligible students must graduate from a D11 high school or D11 charter school with a 2.5 or better GPA, complete a FASFA and/or Colorado Application for State Financial Aid (CASFA) application, achieve at least 90% attendance records during high school, and enroll at Pikes Peak State College within 18 months of graduation.

The district said it and Pikes Peak State College are seeking permanent funding for the program during the initial period of the D11 Promise Program.

- **Pikes Peak State College, Colorado State University Pueblo partner to ease transfer process**

PPSC held a Ribbon Cutting ceremony at PPSC Centennial Campus on September 25 to celebrate a joint partnership between the college and CSU Pueblo.

CSU Pueblo created a transfer center on PPSC’s Centennial campus as part of its five-year agreement to ease students’ transfer process. Students can now stay at

the PPSC Centennial campus to obtain both an associate and a bachelor's degree from the two institutions.

*Nick Sullivan, The Gazette*



### **[Pikes Peak State College Eyes Hispanic-Serving Institution Designation](#)**

CCCS news highlights PPSC efforts on building relationships, fostering community, and keeping up momentum. Janae Knipp, PPSC College Bilingual Recruitment and Admissions Specialist claims, "We are on the right track, and we need to keep the momentum."

After years of planning, the college is eyeing a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) designation from the U.S. Department of Education. The status would make PPSC eligible for additional federal funding and resources to support its Hispanic and Latiné students, who currently make up about 23% of PPSC's student body. To apply, that percentage must tick up two points to 25%.

But the college has set a broader goal than reaching a specific threshold, says Roberto Garcia, PPSC vice president of student services. Becoming an HSI means giving back to families who have shaped the history, culture, and economic strength of the region.

"Our Latiné community has been an engine for prosperity and progress in our region, and they have high expectations for themselves for their children," said Garcia. "We're positioned for and committed to advancing the educational and career interests of the community."

- **Pikes Peak State College celebrates National Hispanic Heritage month at Fiestas Patrias**

[Fiestas Patrias](#) held a two-day community festival in Downtown Colorado Springs. PPSC hosted a booth engaging with the community, current and future students.



**REDEFINE OUR VALUE PROPOSITION THROUGH ACCESSIBILITY,  
AFFORDABILITY, QUALITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT,  
AND OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

- **Dr. Gina Ann Garcia is back!**

PPSC kicked off a Campus-Wide Book Club Kickoff. The college heard from Dr. Gina Ann Garcia, author of *Hispanic-Serving Institutions: Opportunities for Colleges and Universities* during Fall Professional Development Week held in August.

On Friday, October 20, Dr. Garcia returned for a virtual workshop event to discuss the "Becoming Hispanic-Serving Institutions Workshop."

- **Pikes Peak State College welcomes Matt Radcliffe, Executive Director of Marketing and Communications**

After serving in the interim role for several months, Matt Radcliffe has been named PPSC's Executive Director of Marketing and Communications. Matt graduated from UCCS School of Business and the PPSC Multimedia Graphic Design Program. He is a Veteran of the Army Police Corps earning a Bronze Star Medal and Army Commendation Medal with Valor.

- **Mayor's Young Leaders Awards finalist in the category of Education**

Matt has also been selected as a finalist for the Mayor's Young Leaders Award. His leadership in the community, expertise in his professional field, and love of the City of Colorado Springs, have set him apart from his peers.

- **Town Halls with Executive Leadership**

PPSC's Executive Team has launched a series of town halls, designed to share College updates, introduce new staff members and respond to concerns from the PPSC community. The town halls are scheduled on a monthly basis, with both in-person and virtual options for attendance. President Bolton and other members of the Executive Team attend each town hall and address questions and issues raised by audience members. Town Hall videos are posted on the [town hall pages](#) or as a podcast, through the Extra Music [streaming app](#).