



## **College Report – Dec. 14, 2022**

**Patty Erjavec, PhD, *President***

### Transform the student experience

**Runyon Days scholarships** – PCC students Erin Bingham, Halka Brunerova, Reagan Hall, Ian Pallozzi and Ember Peaslee were honored Oct. 28 with scholarships from the Damon Runyon Days Pueblo committee at the Guys and Dolls for Scholars banquet at Pueblo Union Depot. Halka, PCC’s Associated Student Government president, spoke about her journey to PCC and history professor Brad Bowers spoke about the history of men’s hats.

Runyon Days celebrates the life of famous writer Damon Runyon, newspaper reporter and creator of Guys & Dolls, who grew up in Pueblo. The Runyon committee provides scholarships for journalism, history and English students at PCC and CSU Pueblo.



**Student pantry gets additional funds** – PCC’s Panther Student Pantry recently received \$45,000 from Project Success, a collaboration between the Federal Student Aid program and Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) that focuses on strengthening student outcomes and institutional performance at Minority Serving Institutions. The money will benefit the pantries on all PCC campuses.

**Breast cancer and domestic violence awareness** – In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, PCC faculty, students and staff took part in campus walks on the main campus and at the Teaching and Learning Center at St. Mary-Corwin Hospital.

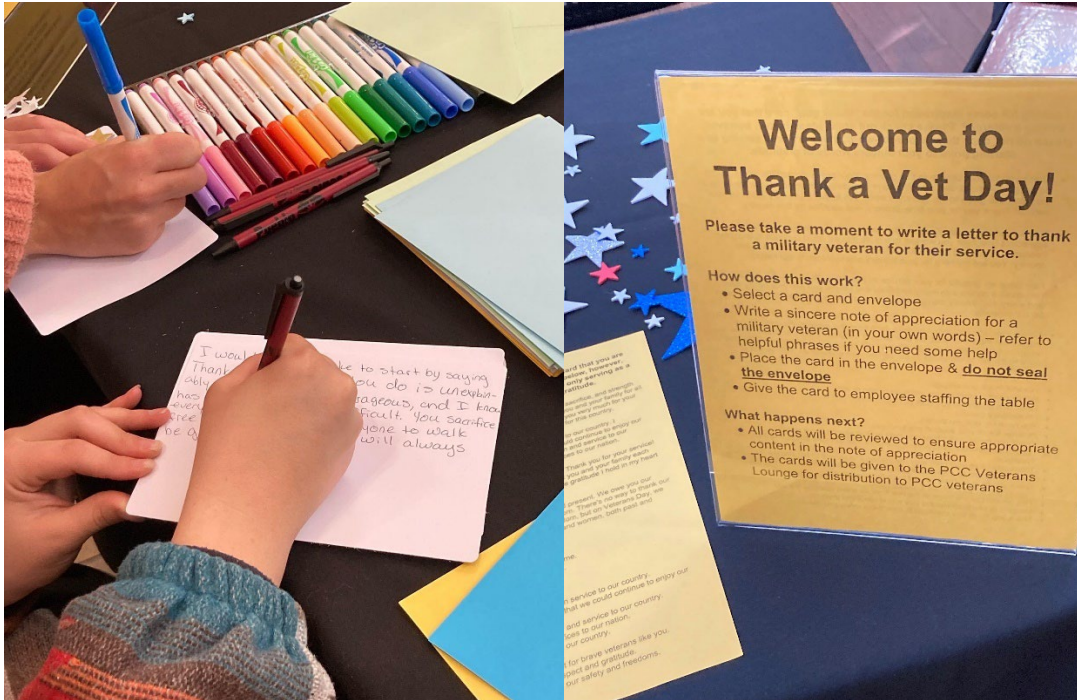
In addition, PCC's senior cosmetology and nail technician students offered pink and purple hair extensions, tinsel and nail art for \$5 per item for breast cancer awareness and domestic violence awareness. The money they raised went to the mammography center at St. Mary-Corwin to assist women who can't afford mammograms and to the YWCA of Pueblo to aid its domestic violence programs.



**First-gen celebration** – Trio Student Support Services hosted PCC's first-generation students and employees for National First-generation Celebration Day Nov. 8. Student Pablo Velasquez and English faculty member Nadine Donoho shared their experiences as the first in their families to attend college. President Erjavec, who also is a first-generation student, congratulated the group on their accomplishments and perseverance.



**Thank you to veterans** – The Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Committee hosted a “thank a veteran” card-making event in honor of Veterans Day. Students and employees created thank-you notes that were distributed to PCC students who are veterans.



**Season of giving** – Nearly 500 Thanksgiving baskets were donated by PCC employees so that students on each campus could have the ingredients needed for a complete holiday dinner. The PCC Foundation collected 246 baskets from its staff and community supporters, making it the repeat winner of the Golden Turkey award for most meals donated. As has become tradition, President Erjavec and her husband, Ray, donated to the Panther Student Pantry on behalf of the winning department. The annual Angel Tree project raised nearly \$2,000 in gift cards that will be distributed to students so they can purchase Christmas gifts for their children.



Transform our own workforce experience

**Part-time instructor job fair** – PCC held in-person and virtual part-time instructor job fairs in November to recruit great new instructors. The fairs, coordinated by Vice President of Academic Services Quincy Rose-Sewell, involved all four academic divisions and attracted a healthy number of potential candidates.



**PCC instructor/alum helps rescue hiker** – PCC Southwest graduate Kylah Breeden played a large role in the effort to [rescue an injured hiker](#) near Silverton recently. Breeden is a graduate of the PCCSW paramedic program and now works as a part-time instructor for the college.

**SBDC director honored** – Brian Estrada, executive director of the Southern Colorado Small Business Development Center, was named the Colorado SBDC Network's 2022 State Star Award recipient. The award is the organization's highest recognition for individual achievement, acknowledging and celebrating exemplary performance that has a significant and positive impact on advancing small business efforts. Estrada joined PCC in 2016 as a business manager. In September 2020, he became director of the Southern Colorado SBDC, which operates under the umbrella of PCC's Corporate College. He immediately began supporting a new team of employees and working with community partners to introduce small businesses in Pueblo, Custer, Fremont and Huerfano counties to SBDC programming and help them navigate the pandemic.

Create education without barriers through partnerships

**PCC, EVRAZ partnership recognized** – PCC's Pueblo Corporate College was [honored by the Economic Development Council of Colorado](#) for economic development partnership of the year for its 17-year workforce development partnership with EVRAZ (North America) in Pueblo. In addition, PCC's apprenticeship programs with EVRAZ were highlighted in a [recent story](#) by CCCS.

**Parkview, PCC strengthen healthcare workforce** – Parkview Health System is a longtime [contributor to PCC's healthcare programs](#). In addition to its other support, from

2022-2024 Parkview will contribute \$225,000 annually to PCC's nursing program to fund a student success coach, tutoring, and clinical instructors for specialty areas such as obstetrics and pediatrics.

**National Apprenticeship Month** – For National Apprenticeship Month, PCC featured [Hailey Adame](#), a student in our medical assisting apprenticeship program. Hailey, a first-generation college student, works at the Pueblo Community Health Center and loves the advantages of the earn-while-you-learn model.

**Economic Outlook forum** – PCC was a proud sponsor of and participant in the first City and County of Pueblo Economic Outlook Forum held Nov. 18 on the college campus. The event discussed the work being done to best position Pueblo for economic growth. President Erjavec spoke about the many ways PCC can help businesses and industries address all of their workforce needs.



Raise value standards through excellence & accessibility

**Fall enrollment increases** – PCC's [fall 2022 enrollment increased 12%](#) over 2021. High school students who are taking advantage of concurrent enrollment are a key reason for the jump. In addition, by the end of October more than 500 students had taken noncredit courses through Pueblo Corporate College, a division of PCC. At least 200 more students registered for Corporate College courses in November and December.

**IDEA newsletter** – The focus topic of the IDEA Committee's [fall newsletter](#) was implicit bias. It included classroom tips and a self-reflection activity to help people increase their awareness of internal biases.

**Halloween fun for all** – Horror on the Hoag brought approximately 700 ghosts, superheroes and other Halloween creatures to the PCC campus for games, activities, food and candy Oct. 28. The free community event was put on by PCC's Student Life department and Associated Student Government with participation from many PCC clubs and departments, as well as the Colorado State Patrol and other community organizations.



**Holiday spirit** – PCC’s Center for New Media once again presented the live broadcast of the annual Pueblo Parade of Lights on Nov. 26. Pueblo Water and Black Hills Energy generously sponsored the broadcast. Members of PCC’s Associated Student Government, joined by other students and staff members, created a steel mill-themed float and walked in the parade. They carried a banner honoring the late CNM director, Scott Richards, who passed away in June.

On a snowy Nov. 29, the annual tree-lighting celebration took place on the Pueblo campus. Thousands of lights will be on display throughout the holiday season so members of the community can enjoy them.

