

President's SBCCOE Report

Dr. Lance Bolton | Pikes Peak State College | February 2025

Section One | Economic Mobility

Increase relevant offerings that will result in successful learners earning a sustaining wage.

Aerospace Nursing Offerings on the Horizon



The Colorado Council of Black Nurses (CCBN) Aerospace Nursing Department is continuing to research the best ways to provide healthcare to astronauts and others spending time in space.

In a recent Denver 7 news story, Robin Bruce, immediate past president of the CCBN said, "If we are going to have a colony on the moon . . . we need actual health care, and that's what nurses do."

CCBN and Bruce are now researching how to best provide healthcare in space. That research has pointed them toward Pikes Peak State College, and MSU Denver.

Bruce shared that CCBN sees great partnership potential in working with PPSC to create advanced degrees in aerospace nursing. [Watch the full story here.](#)

Financing Certificate

The PPSC Accounting and Finance Department is offering a new Financing Certificate that can be completed in just two semesters (10 classes). The program helps students build valuable skills to prepare them for the finance and banking industries.

HLC Certifies Two New Programs

This month the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accepted PPSC's Practical Nursing certificate program (43 credit hours) and approved PPSC's AES Engineering – Mechatronics program (65 credit hours).

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Section Two | Education for All

Increase equitable, learner-centered environments that support all learners meeting their goals.

BSU Holds First-ever Black History Month Assembly



The PPSC Black Student Union (BSU) hosted the college's first-ever Black History Month Assembly. The theme, Rest as Resistance, aimed to celebrate culture while building community connections.

The assembly took place on Wednesday, Feb. 26, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Centennial Campus Atrium, and featured a keynote speech by Kimberly Gold, president of the Colorado Springs Black Chamber of Commerce.

The BSU also planned a Black Book Exchange, a performance by the Colorado Springs Poetry Slam, and an exciting Greek Step Show. The BSU's goal is to create lasting change on campus, promote healing and self-care, and celebrate the achievements of Black individuals and communities.

Students Go Behind the Scenes at Fox21



The PPSC Broadcasting and Electronic Media Career Start students received an exclusive, behind-the-scenes experience at local TV Station, Fox21. The students watched the news come to life while meeting reporters, producers and support staff. They gained valuable insights into what it takes to thrive in a newsroom.

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New Computer Subsidy

This semester PPSC launched its new Student Technology Fee Computer Subsidy Program. The Student Experience & Equity office partnered with the PPSC Bookstore to provide a computer subsidy for students to put toward the purchase of a laptop or desktop from the PPSC Bookstore. This subsidy is funded through a student fee and eligible students receive a one-time, \$500 subsidy toward a computer. To date, the college has received 84 applications, demonstrating student need for reliable technology.

Section Three | Empowered Talent

Increase our ability to attract, retain, and sustain the highest quality workforce to advance our mission.

40 Under 40



Kandy Ruiz, PPSC's Single Stop Director, was named a Colorado Springs 40 Under 40 during a special ceremony on Feb. 25, 2025.

Nearly 400 young professionals across El Paso County were nominated and only 40 selected.

Each honoree was judged based on their innovation, career expertise, leadership, ethics, integrity, and overall impact in Southern Colorado.

Teach Like a Gamer

The PPSC Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) in partnership with Course Designer Christine Gaccetta-Sharp, created a new program to help faculty and instructors learn about the power of gamification for student learning and motivation. During the series, participants learned practical tips and strategies for integrating game-like elements into courses, while also discussing real world examples of successful gamification in higher education.

HLC Mock Accreditation Visit

In preparation for its upcoming HLC Accreditation visit, PPSC partnered with consultants Dr. Janna Oakes, Dr. Tristan Londre, and Dr. Jennifer Miller for a Mock Accreditation Visit. During the two-day event, PPSC employees participated in numerous open and closed sessions designed to mimic the actual accreditation visit, which will take place from April 14 – 16. The Mock Visit provided PPSC Leadership critical feedback about the strengths and weaknesses of its Assurance Argument so the college can now fine tune its document and hold Town Halls and work sessions to help employees further prepare.

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Section Four | Partner of Choice

Increase capability, trust, and credibility with partners across all sectors to build shared prosperity.



The new PPSC Delta Dental Oral Health Career Center is now accepting patients for its Expanded Functions Dental Assisting Clinic. This clinic offers high-quality, affordable dental care to the community while providing students essential hands-on training.

These clinics are held in the college's state-of-the-art facility that opened in the summer of 2024, thanks to a historic \$2.5 million grant from the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation (DDCOF).

This initiative provides affordable dental services while addressing the region's critical shortage of dental professionals. All treatments are performed by PPSC Dental Assisting students under the supervision of licensed dentists, ensuring safe and professional care. The clinic is open to PPSC students, staff, their families (including children 8 years and older), and the public. The clinic runs from Feb. 10 through May 7. [Watch the story here.](#)

Section Five | Power of 13

Increase shared opportunities to grow enrollment, improve quality, and achieve cost efficiencies through consortial, models and collaboration while leveraging each college's unique strengths.



Front Range Community College (FRCC) reached out to PPSC inviting members from the Promise Program Team to visit and share information these impactful programs. A team of PPSC staff members and Promise Program students made the trip north and shared best practices about the PPSC Promise Program coaching model, specifically how the programs build student trust and create strong teams.

PPSC students spoke about their experiences as Promise Scholars and FRCC's leadership expressed their appreciation to partner and share lessons learned.