



## College Report – June 14, 2023

Patty Erjavec, PhD, *President*

### Transform the student experience

**More than 1,600 graduate** – PCC's 2023 graduating class had 1,627 students who earned 2,355 degrees and/or certificates. Ceremonies took place on May 11 for the Pueblo and Fremont campuses and May 13 for the Southwest campus. Twenty-five bachelor degrees were awarded this year. In addition, 70 of the 320 concurrent enrollment students recognized earned an associate degree.



**Gateway to College program recognized** – PCC's Gateway to College program is being recognized nationally for [exceeding all program benchmarks](#) for the 2021-22 academic year. PCC's program surpassed the targets for first-term student success, one- and two-year persistence, and graduation with continued growth over time, according to a press release from Achieving the Dream. In recognition of the accomplishment, Director Jeanelle Soto-Quintana and her staff will receive the Program Excellence Award.

**Spring art show** – More than 130 pieces of artwork from several dozen talented students were featured in the [Spring 2023 Student Art Show](#). In addition to first-, second- and third-place winners in seven categories, awards included best of show,

juror's choice, chair's choice and the president's purchase award. The full exhibit is available to view in [PCC's virtual gallery](#). Pictured here is *Self Portrait* by Lauren O'Mara, the best of show winner.



**President's Distinguished Scholar** – Halka Brunerova was named the 2023 President's Distinguished Scholar for her academic achievements and extracurricular involvement at PCC. She is a native of the Czech Republic who found her way to the college after living in the U.S. for more than 20 years. Brunerova was featured in a [Pueblo Chieftain article](#) about PCC's graduation. She is continuing her education at Colorado State University Pueblo where she is majoring in history.



**PCC earns high ranking in National Cyber League** – PCC students coached by faculty member Tim Gama ranked 46<sup>th</sup> overall nationwide in the National Cyber League’s spring 2023 cyber power rankings. PCC’s team ranking (36<sup>th</sup>) and participation ranking (42<sup>nd</sup>) place it in the top 10% among 450 competing 2- and 4-year colleges and universities. Among all western colleges, PCC ranked 16<sup>th</sup> overall and was fourth among Colorado schools – earning a higher ranking than both Colorado School of Mines and CU-Boulder. NCL participants test their abilities in nine cybersecurity categories that enable them to identify their own strengths and weaknesses and receive a scouting report that summarizes their performance in each task. This is the [second consecutive year](#) PCC students have ranked among the top 50 NCL teams.

Transform our own workforce experience

**Dog days at PCC** – Friday, May 19 was Bring Your Dog to Work Day at PCC. Multiple canines visited campus for the day with their humans, bringing their mighty stress-busting skills and general adorability. Featured here are Javi (left) and Denny.



Create education without barriers through partnerships

**SBDC earns national recognition** – The Southern Colorado Small Business Development Center, led by Executive Director Brian Estrada, recently received the 2023 Colorado and Region 8 SBDC Innovation and Excellence Award. It recognizes the Southern Colorado SBDC as the top SBDC in Colorado and one of the top 10 in the United States.

Estrada joined PCC in 2016 as business manager. He became director of the SBDC – which operates under the umbrella of PCC’s Corporate College – in 2020. In October 2022, he received the Colorado Small Business Development Network’s State Star Award.

Raise value standards through excellence & accessibility

**BSN program accreditation** – PCC's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program received notification of its accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education in late May. The CCNE found that PCC's program met all accreditation standards and had no compliance concerns. The accreditation extends through June 30, 2028. PCC pursued the additional discipline-specific accreditation from the CCNE to ensure the highest standards for its students and the communities served by program graduates.