

April/May 2024 | SBCCOE Report

Dr. Lance Bolton, Pikes Peak State College President

Section One: Transform the Student Experience

The Grandmother of Juneteenth Visits PPSC



Pikes Peak State College (PPSC) students and staff were joined by local K-12 students and community members, for an inspirational fireside chat with the Grandmother of Juneteenth, Dr. Opal Lee, on Thursday, April 11.

Nearly 200 individuals packed the PPSC Centennial Campus to hear Dr. Lee’s inspirational stories. Accompanied by her granddaughter, the pair detailed their efforts to ensure Juneteenth became a federal holiday. Dr. Lee also reflected on the lessons learned during her 97-years. She encouraged audience members to do one thing each day that makes a difference in your community, and said, “as long as you can help others, you should do so!”

Student Government Association Elections/Vote

PPSC students held Student Government Association (SGA) Elections on April 10. After all votes were counted, the SGA Constitution was adopted, and a student technology fee passed.

The technology is \$4.85 per credit hour a semester. Starting in fall 2024:

- 25% of the funding goes toward subsidizing computers for students, and
- 75% of the funding goes toward modernizing and updating class/lab technology.

Students also voted on the following for SGA leadership: Tron Jarret, President; Jillian Stork, Vice President; Alicia Esparza, State Student Advisory Council Representative; and Michelle Harris Diversity and Public Relations Senator.

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Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Induction Ceremony

During a special ceremony 37 students were inducted into the Alpha Gamma Alpha (AGA) Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society on Friday, April 12, in the Centennial Campus Theatre. Chapter Advisors, Glenn Rohlfing and Ilah Jackson, along with Vice President of Student Experience and Equity, Enrique Romo, presided over the induction. During the ceremony, PTK also recognized its outgoing and incoming chapter leadership.

Phi Theta Kappa Receives Honors at Regional Conference



The PPSC PTK AGA chapter attended the Spring Colorado-Wyoming (COWY) Regional Conference, where it launched the new Honors Study Topic: The Power of Stories. Students worked in collaborative leadership team-building exercises and also learned best practices for the new *Honors In Action Project*.

While at the conference the chapter received the below recognitions:

- Hitcel Hernandez, second place for Distinguished Chapter Officer;
- Suzan Perrault fourth place for Distinguished Chapter Officer;
- Team Award (second place), which recognized the following students: Vanessa Arguelles Delao, Hitcel Hernandez, Suzan Perreault, Quincy Dion Williams Jr.;
- Best College Project; and
- Most Distinguished Chapter in the COWY Region.

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Lunch with Leadership

The PPSC Executive Leadership Team met with students during lunch on Monday, April 8. Students could attend in-person or online. Those in-person snacked on chips and sandwiches while asking questions, expressing concerns and raising awareness about important student issues. Hot topics included concerns and opinions about online courses, the future of the Downtown Campus, and parking.

DMV2GO

When taking classes, working, and managing home life, it can sometimes be impossible to travel to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). PPSC therefore partnered with the DMV for DMV2GO Day. The DMV visited PPSC's Centennial Campus to help students with ID services, including renewal, replacement, first-time licenses, IDs, permits and out-of-state transfers. There was no appointment necessary, and students dropped by throughout the day.

Section Two: Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

Annual Service Awards

PPSC held its 2024 Pikes Peak State College Service Awards & Retirement Ceremony on April 12, in the Centennial Campus Theatre. The event paid homage to retiring staff and those employees who have reached 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 Years of Service. In total, the college recognized 943 years of service to PPSC!

New & Improved Staff/Faculty Leadership Council Begins

PPSC kicked-off its reconfigured Staff/Faculty Leadership Council at the end of March. The newly formed council has 16 members who represent: student government, faculty, instructors, classified staff, deans, APT staff, and college leadership.

During its first meeting, the group established working norms, discussed the CCCS Strategic Plan and heard updates about: the College's search and screen process, the Downtown Campus Strategic Visioning work, and the updated Focus Goal Process. The council has one more meeting this academic year, and starting next academic year it will meet three times per semester.

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Budget Town Hall

On Monday, March 8, President Lance Bolton partnered with Chief Financial Officer/Vice President of Administrative Service Darlene Melby to present the College's budget to staff and faculty. Nearly 100 faculty and staff members participated in the annual Town Hall where Dr. Bolton shared information about enrollment trends and predictions, the College's budget, revenue streams, and expenses. He also mapped the College's expectations for the school next year. Following his presentation, he and VP Melby fielded questions from faculty and staff.

Downtown Campus Focus Groups & Listening Sessions



With two meetings under its belt, the 17-person cross-functional work team continues creating a plan for the future of the PPSC Downtown Campus. Led by facilitators from Inspirati Leadership, the team is working to better understand the realities, challenges and hopes for the campus. This month student and staff surveys were deployed and there was both a Downtown Campus faculty/staff focus group, and a college-wide listening session.

Section Three: Create Education Without Barriers Through Transformational Partnerships

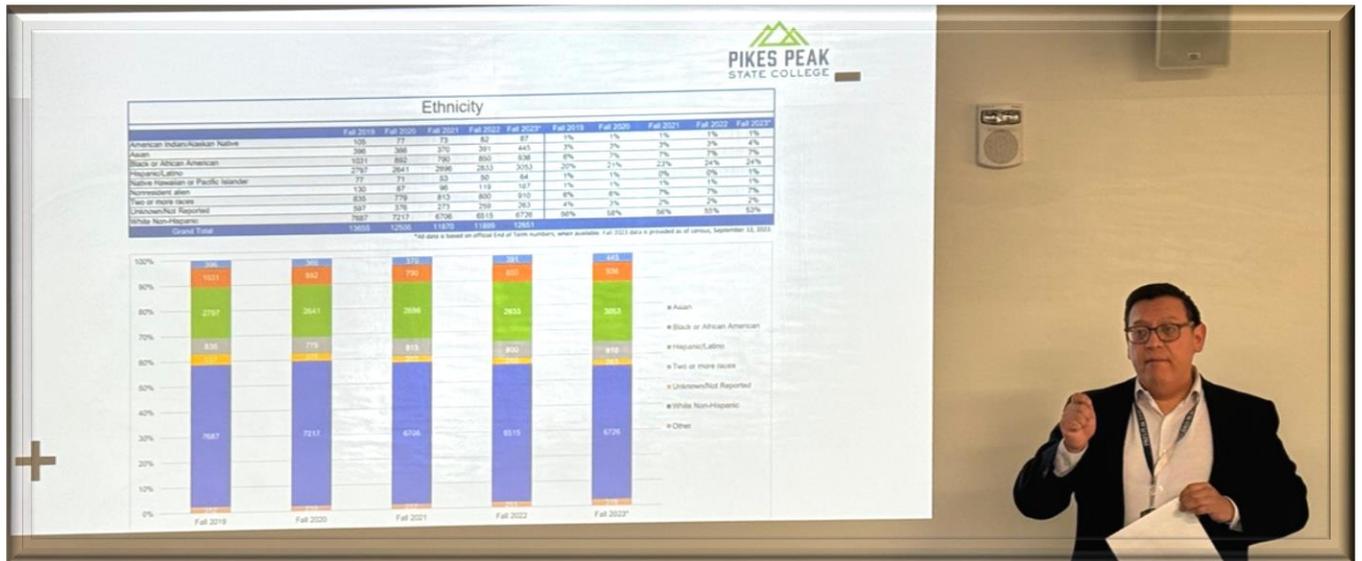
Peak Education & PPSC: The State of Post-Secondary Access in Colorado Springs

PPSC partnered with Peak Education to host "The State of Post-Secondary Access in Colorado Springs." The event brought together local education, business and civic leaders to share trends and opportunities in the attainment of higher education. The event served as a platform for informed discussion, collaborative problem-solving, networking opportunities and the advancement of education and workforce development. Nearly 100 local leaders participated in the event, which lasted a half day.

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CDHE Leadership Visits PPSC



Dr. Angie Paccione, the Executive Director for the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE), visited PPSC on Wednesday, April 3. She was joined by two of her commissioners, and members of her cabinet. They met with the PPSC Executive Leadership Team, and staff members from the College’s Center for Healthcare Education & Simulation (CHES). Following a tour of the CHES Campus, the group engaged in lively discussion about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work at PPSC, CDHE, in Colorado, and across the nation. They also discussed Senate Bill 164: the Student Bill of Rights, non-credit courses in Colorado, and how PPSC can assist in helping grow Promise Programs throughout Colorado.

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President Bolton Becomes Chair of CCAP

During its national conference in Austin, Texas, College Board named PPSC President Dr. Lance Bolton chair of its Community College Advisory Panel (CCAP). The panel assists the College Board in serving community colleges and promotes national recognition of the role of community colleges in providing access to higher education to many students across the U.S. CCAP also encourages increased participation of community colleges in College Board membership, meetings, governance, and advisory activities to build partnerships with schools and other sectors of higher education on behalf of educational excellence for all students.

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

President Bolton Serves on Panel at Prepárate Conference

PPSC President, Dr. Lance Bolton, served as a panelist at the 2024 Prepárate Conference in Austin, Texas. He was joined by four panelists representing colleges from across the U.S. Together they shared insights on financial aid empowerment and discussed the impact of FAFSA delays, specifically for Latine families. The group also shared strategies for navigating financial aid complexities when working with Latine students. They discussed innovative approaches to mitigate FAFSA delays and provided actionable takeaways to enhance college efforts in facilitating financial aid access for Latine students.

Career & Transfer Fairs

Students polished their resumes and sported their best interview outfits for the PPSC Spring Community Career Fair. They networked with representatives from businesses such as: KKTV Channel 11, Bal Seal, Colorado Springs Utilities, El Paso County and Walmart Data Services.

Days later, representatives from 16 colleges and universities visited Centennial Campus to help students navigate the college/university transfer process. Scholarship representatives were also available to help students learn about transfer student scholarships.