



College Report – Sept. 13, 2023

Patty Erjavec, PhD, *President*

Transform the student experience

PCC Southwest student finds her purpose – Through a painful life experience, PCC Southwest student Kimberly Jellison [discovered her career path](#). She already has her LPN certificate and associate degree in nursing; now she is working on her Bachelor of Science degree – all part of a promise kept to her late husband.

Celebration Walk tradition continues – The 14th Celebration Walk took place on the first day of classes, Aug. 21, to welcome students and encourage them as they begin or continue their education at PCC. Students walked the Pueblo and Fremont campuses, cheered by faculty and staff, and the PCC Southwest campus planned a series of Celebration Days for the first week in September.



New bachelor's degree – PCC now offers a fully online [Bachelor of Applied Science degree in health information management](#). The program was approved in July by the Higher Learning Commission and is PCC's seventh bachelor-degree program. The college also is seeking additional industry-specific accreditation for the program from the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education.

Summer STEM programs – PCC Southwest offered [STEM education opportunities](#) to students at Animas High School over the summer. A workshop and STEMward Bound program gave high schoolers insight into career possibilities, as well as important information about the transition to being a college student.

Transform our own workforce experience

Faculty, staff welcomed – The Fall Kickoff breakfast on Aug. 17 recognized the large number of new PCC employees as everyone returned to campus for the fall semester. President Erjavec gave a presentation about PCC’s areas of progress and opportunity as they relate to the college’s strategic plan, Destination 2027.

Create education without barriers through partnerships

Welding Club makes a big impact – Members of the SkillsUSA Welding Club at PCC are making a [major contribution](#) to the Mission: Wolf sanctuary near Westcliffe, combining community service with experiential learning. Over the summer, students have created dozens of gates and frames to replace those that were lost to a storm in 2022. Mission: Wolf relies on volunteers for nearly every aspect of its operation so PCC’s involvement enabled the sanctuary to accomplish something that, without help, would have taken several years.

The students got to travel to the refuge to meet some of the animals that are being helped by their work and will help install the gates for another experiential learning opportunity.



PCC Southwest offers drone training – Instructors at the PCC Southwest campus in Mancos taught students how to fly drones during an [intensive summer course](#). Those who complete the “train the trainer” program are prepared to get their FAA unmanned aircraft system license and teach others how to fly drones.

Colorado State Fair traditions – PCC’s relationship with the Colorado State Fair continues to provide opportunities for students and the community. The partnership with the fair’s fine arts exhibit has existed for more than 25 years. Each year PCC students assist with all aspects of creating the show, from intake to hanging the artwork. Students Emma Harry, Stephanie Boulet, Lauren O’Mara (left-right in the photo on the left) and Joshua Davis participated this year; Stephanie and Lauren worked as interns. The State Fair Parade once again was broadcast live by PCC’s Center for New Media team on public access TV and Facebook. Health Solutions generously sponsored the broadcast.

Students with Associated Student Government created PCC's float for the parade and took second place in the civic/community division for their interpretation of this year's theme, Mountains of Fun. Posing with Frankie the Panther (aka Preston Terrell-Hefty) are (left-right) Hyang "Sunshine" Archibeque, Mikayla Cunigan and Adrian Hernandez.



Raise value standards through excellence & accessibility

Pueblo classic comes to PCC – KDZA Radio has a new home on the Pueblo campus. The station has been part of the Pueblo community since the 1960s and has been revived with a classic rock/pop format. The studio on the lower level of PCC's Student Center offers a central location for the station and connects two longtime pillars of the Pueblo community, PCC and KDZA. A ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 17 was attended by a large crowd of community supporters.



Slovenian exhibit – PCC’s Pueblo campus hosted “Us & Them Without Frontiers,” an exhibit from the Technical Museum of Slovenia, during the month of August. The exhibit highlights the many connections between Slovenia and the United States.

