

President's SBCCOE Report

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

Section One | Transform the Student Experience

PPSC Hosts MLK Jr.'s Nephew During Panel Discussion



The Pikes Peak State College (PPSC) Black Student Union, in partnership with the Pikes Peak Diversity Council and the Legacy Society of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., hosted an inspiring panel discussion: “Mission Possible: Advancing Racial Justice, Freedom, and Democracy Through Nonviolence.”

Isaac Newton Farris, Jr., Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s nephew, led the panel. Together the group engaged in discussions about Dr. King’s principles of nonviolence and how these principals can be used to guide action for racial equity and justice.

The panel discussion was mentioned in the Colorado Springs Gazette. Read the story, [MLK Jr. Nephew to Speak at COS Events, here.](#)

Canvas Credit Union Helps Students Learn Financial Skills



Canvas Credit Union once again stepped up to help PPSC students. After committing to fully funding the college’s food pantries and sponsoring Appreciation Breakfasts, Canvas is now providing an informative series to help students build strong financial foundations. The three-part series, from Feb. 26 – April 10, will teach students skills to help them take control of their finances.

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Section Two | Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

New Semester Starts with Professional Development Week



Faculty, instructors, and staff kicked-off the semester during Professional Development Week (PDW). Hosted by the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning (CETL), participants engaged in sessions about neurodiversity, cyber security, fostering supportive campus cultures, digital accessibility, teaching practices for high school students, and much more. Employees also connected during lunch and learns at each of PPSC's four campuses.

The PPSC CETL Team provides year-round professional development opportunities across the campus. Last semester the department held 16 workshops where more than 200 employees participated. The group also held two book club studies, where employees read *Teaching with AI* and *Wicked Students*.

Financial Aid Staff Members Nationally Recognized



Rhonda Johnson and Kristina Moss, members of the PPSC Financial Aid Team, earned the prestigious FAAC® designation from the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

This national certification recognizes their expertise and commitment to excellence in financial aid administration. They join an elite group of more than 300 certified professionals nationwide, including just 13 in Colorado.

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Section Three | Create Education Without Barriers Through Transformational Partnerships

D2 & PPSC Join for Storytellers



PPSC President Dr. Lance Bolton joined Harrison School District 2 Superintendent Wendy Birhanzel on Dec. 11, 2024, to discuss the D2 Promise Program on D2 Storytellers, the school district's podcast.

It was a lively conversation that highlighted information about the success of the program, while also celebrating the passage of D2's recent Mill Levy Override (MLO). Voters' approval of the MLO not only sustains the D2 Promise Program but also transforms it to a first-dollar scholarship.

Links to the podcast can be accessed on D2s Facebook/Instagram/LinkedIn. Or you listen and watch (there is a video podcast as well) by accessing the following links: [Apple Only Podcast](#), [SoundCloud](#) (for non-apple users), and [video podcast via the D2 Vimeo Channel](#).

Bloomberg Foundation Visits PPSC



After learning about PPSC's Center for Healthcare Education & Simulation (CHES), representatives from the Bloomberg Foundation traveled to Colorado to learn more about the facility and the programs housed within its four walls. President Bolton, along with Executive Dean of Health Science Joe Charleman, provided a tour of the facility and engaged in discussion about the importance and impact of the CHES facility to the Pikes Peak Region.

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

President Bolton Participates on Two National Panels



Dr. Bolton traveled to the CollegeBoard Higher Education Colloquium in San Diego where he served on two panels.

During the President's Opening Panel, Dr. Bolton joined presidents from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Macalester College, and Simmons University. They discussed innovative strategies that help propel change within college campus communities.

He also participated in the S.O.S.: Stories of Successfully Redefining Career Pathways and Institutional Partnerships panel. Joined by college leaders from Lone Star College and the University of California San Diego, they examined how to enhance student motivation by effectively connecting academic and career advising.

\$1.5M Grant to Supports Gene-Editing Studies at PPSC & UCCS

PPSC, in partnership with the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS), was awarded a \$1.5 million grant to develop an undergraduate research program with gene-editing technology.

The grant comes from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and aims to help develop course-based undergraduate research experiences (CUREs). Local Colorado Springs news stations covered this announcement. [Learn more by watching this Fox21 News Story.](#)

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First Graduates of Sterile Processing Certificate Program



Last December, PPSC celebrated its first graduating class from the Sterile Processing Certificate Program. These graduates will now sit for a global certification in central service sterilization. This one semester certificate program allows graduates to quickly have impact in their community. Ideal for high school and workforce adult learners, the program helps students immediately find entry-level positions in healthcare organizations.

PPSC Advisory Council Member Celebrates PPSC's Economic Impacts



Dr. Tatiana Bailey, local economist, owner of Data-Driven Economic Strategies, and PPSC Advisory Council member, recently published a piece in the Colorado Springs Gazette about the positive impacts of PPSC's Delta Dental Oral Health Center.

She praised the college for aligning educational programs with labor demand and went on to write that programs like this raise the standard of living for individuals and families, supports employers and the economy at large, while simultaneously providing vital health care for residents.

[Read Dr. Bailey's piece here via the Gazette's online edition.](#)