



College Report – Feb. 12, 2025

Chato Hazelbaker, Ed.D., *President*

Transform the student experience

Donation to fund Fremont nursing simulation center – A \$2 million gift from longtime supporter Walter Schepp will bring a nursing simulation lab to the PCC Fremont campus. The funding will enable the college to add more than 2,700 square feet of instructional space and expand program capacity, build more community partnerships and provide improved experiential learning for other medical programs. The center is expected to open in fall 2026.

Fall art show highlights student work – More than two dozen students displayed their talents in the [Fall 2024 Student Art Show](#) in December. Artists submitted work in six categories – ceramics, drawing and figure drawing, 2D design, 3D design, photography and jewelry. There were first-, second- and third-place winners in each category as well as honorable mention. They were recognized Dec. 5 at a public reception. President Hazelbaker selected one piece to become part of the school's permanent collection.

Holiday festivities spread the joy – The annual tree lighting on the Pueblo campus drew a large crowd of employees, students, family members, neighbors and Santa Claus on Dec. 3. Thanks to donors including former President Patty Erjavec and her family, PCC can continue to offer this holiday cheer to the community.

The Pueblo Parade of Lights on Nov. 30 featured the PCC Express float – a locomotive created by our Welding students and lots of extras put together by members of the Associated Student Government.



Transform our own workforce experience

2024 employees of the year – Susann Anger, Lisa Molina, Shanda Vidmar and Kimberly Wells (pictured below, left to right) were honored by their colleagues and families Jan. 16 as PCC's 2024 employees of the year. They were featured at the annual Spring Kickoff and employee recognition breakfast. In addition, 94 employees were recognized for their time working at PCC, with service anniversaries ranging from 1 to 25 years.



Latino Chamber award – Catherine O'Grady, the education and specialty projects coordinator for the Southern Colorado Small Business Development Center (part of PCC's Corporate College), received the Lorraine K. Salas Outstanding Community Partner of the Year award from the Pueblo Latino Chamber of Commerce. She will be recognized at the chamber's annual dinner Feb. 22. The award honors a corporate member who exemplifies dedication to the chamber's mission and demonstrates a steadfast commitment to helping make a difference for all to succeed across the community.



Create education without barriers through partnerships

Grant helps PCC, TSC expand manufacturing pathways – PCC, Trinidad State College and Emergent Campus are part of a regional coalition that received a \$5.75 million Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The money will enable PCC to expand programming in advanced manufacturing pathways such as robotics, automation, welding and construction to meet workforce demand in emerging industries.

Doula certification program – PCC’s Corporate College is partnering with [Allo Doula Academy](#) to offer online doula certification training. Doulas provide comprehensive emotional, physical and informational support to individuals and families during some of life’s most significant transitions. The 15-week training sessions will provide more than 200 hours of training in addition to clinical experience. Students will learn birth anatomy and physiology, protocols, professional ethics and business development skills.

Raise value standards through excellence & accessibility

Governor visits Pueblo campus – Gov. Jared Polis visited the PCC campus Jan. 24 to welcome President Hazelbaker to Colorado and tour PCC’s welding labs. The labs were renovated in 2020 thanks to funding from the state Capital Development Committee. The governor also attended an on-campus luncheon honoring the Slovenian ambassador to the United States and Slovenian consul and recognizing the long-standing ties between Colorado and Slovenia. Pueblo’s first Slovenian immigrants came to the city more than 140 years ago and the culture remains a celebrated component of Pueblo’s heritage.



Photos donated to Teaching and Learning Center – Pueblo physician Carl Bartecchi, an accomplished photographer, donated some of his work to PCC’s Nursing and Allied Health Teaching and Learning Center. The photos are among those he took in Vietnam over a 50-year period. He was an Army flight surgeon there in the 1960s and in the 1990s created the Bach Mai Hospital Project to offer training opportunities to Vietnamese physicians and other health care workers. Ann Oreskovich, assistant chair

of the Fine Arts, Humanities & Media Communications department, created the display.

