

# February/March 2024 | SBCCOE Report

## Dr. Lance Bolton, Pikes Peak State College President

### Section One: Transform the Student Experience

#### Black Student Union



The Pikes Peak State College (PPSC) Black Student Union (BSU) works to provide a sense of community, acceptance, and hope. During Black History Month, the BSU held the following events:

- On Feb. 15, the club organized “Food and Identity Program,” which unmasked negative branding in Black Cuisine.
- On Feb. 23, the BSU hosted a celebration of the important, yet often overlooked, impact Black Americans have had on the United States.
- On Feb. 27, the BSU President, Maya Harvin, [was featured in a news story on KOAA](#). Harvin stated diversity and inclusion are important to students all year, “not just Black History Month; I’m Black every month.”
- On Feb. 29, the BSU held a Black Renaissance Open Mic event to showcase poetry, rap, dance, and songs. [This event was featured on Fox21 News Colorado](#).

#### Prayer/Meditation Room

After receiving requests from PPSC students seeking a quiet place to reflect, pray, meditate, etc., the College appointed a space for a “Prayer/Meditation Room.” This space honors all students and deepens PPSC’s commitment to fostering a culture that respects and supports all students.

# February/March 2024 | SBCCOE Report

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### Queer Empowerment Student Club

Formerly known as the PPSC LGBTQ+ Club, the Queer Empowerment Student Club held its first meeting in February under its new name and structure. During the meeting students discussed officer positions, future meetings, and participation in the Colorado Springs Pride Festival and Parade.

### Student Government Association

The PPSC Student Government Association (SGA) held a “Week of Caring” in February that included a Mobile Flower Distribution Valentine’s Day event, a “Speed Friending” event to encourage student interaction, and a movie night.

SGA representatives also attended the Student Development Leadership Conference at Arapahoe Community College, on Feb. 23 – 24. Dr. Enrique Romo, Vice President of Student Experience, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, reported that the students not only had a great time, but also learned to unpack uncomfortable situations and best address them.

### Welding Instructional Team Supports the *2024 Weld Like a Girl Camp*

The PPSC Welding Team is committed to empowering women in the skilled trades. In February, they served as both presenters and attendees at the Weld Like a Girl Camp. Welding Lab Assistant, Kara Cartwright, was a presenter for girls ages 8-15, and the Welding Instructional Team, including Department Chair, Travis Lee, and Lab Assistant, Josh Butler, taught attendees how to weld a metal heart.

## Section Two: Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

### CCCS Strategic Plan Listening Tour

Chancellor Garcia and CCCS representatives visited PPSC as part of the CCCS Strategic Planning Listening Tour. Facilitators from the Keystone Policy Group led two sessions: an open session in the morning, and a small-group discussion in the afternoon. Throughout the day nearly 200 faculty, staff and students participated and provided feedback on priorities for the next CCCS Strategic Plan.

### PPSC Town Halls

On Feb. 21 and March 22, President Lance Bolton hosted monthly Town Halls for PPSC faculty and staff. Town Halls provide an opportunity for faculty and staff to hear the latest updates directly from College leadership, and provide a forum for raising staff and faculty questions and concerns. Topics included the implementation of Colorado

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Online, course enrollment caps, reorganization of PPSC's academic divisions, and recent DEI initiatives.

### Downtown Campus Design Process

Under the guidance of President Lance Bolton, and with facilitation expertise from Inspirati Leadership, a cross-functional team has begun meeting to discuss the evolution of PPSC's Downtown Campus. The guiding question for the project is: "How can we create a vibrant and sustainable Downtown Campus that will fulfill our mission, serve our community, and grow PPSC?" The team will work through the spring semester to develop possible scenarios for the Downtown Campus and is currently gathering feedback from both external and internal stakeholders.

## Section Three: Create Education Without Barriers Through Transformational Partnerships

### Behavioral Health/Woven Care Partnership

PPSC has entered a partnership with Woven Care Child Therapy. This groundbreaking program will not only serve as a training ground for skilled professionals in Behavioral Health, but will also ignite excitement and dedication in the field. Woven Care performs in a dual role as both a catalyst for change and a stronghold of advocacy for our community – be it children, adults, families, or educators – all relying on the critical services it provides. [The partnership was recently featured on KKTV.](#)

### Adelante Leadership Institute

PPSC is once again hosting the Colorado Springs' Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Adelante Leadership Institute (ALI). The ALI provides a culturally focused platform for Latino, Latina and BIPOC leaders to network, share ideas, problem solve and form collaborative relationships. It is the first Latino and Latina focused leadership program in Colorado Springs and identifies and encourages emerging Latino and leaders to embrace community involvement, civic engagement and service on local boards and commissions. Two PPSC staff members are among this year's ALI cohort.

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

#### Basic Needs Scholarships

PPSC is offering three new student scholarships for those enrolled in more than six credit hours: the Basic Need Scholarship, the Academic Need Scholarship, and the Childcare Need Scholarship. These \$400 scholarships are intended to provide short-term relief to students experiencing financial stress while pursuing their degree or certificate. Since these awards were added in early March, more than 40 students have applied, and more than 13 students received an award. This totals more than \$6,000 of relief for students in need. [Learn more about these scholarships on pikespeak.edu.](https://www.pikespeak.edu)

#### Single Stop Program

In February, PPSC provided food for 788 visitors across the Centennial Campus and Rampart Range Campus. We are grateful to have such generous volunteers and donors for it made a significant impact on our community.



# February/March 2024 | SBCCOE Report

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### Vocational Scholarship Opportunity

PPSC is grateful to partner with Lockheed Martin to provide students the Lockheed Martin Vocational Scholarship Program. This program offers 150 scholarships for students pursuing associate degrees, industry certifications, and credit-bearing certifications. The scholarships awarded provide \$5,000 for each student.