

President's SBCCOE Report

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

Section One | Economic Mobility

Increase relevant offerings that will result in successful learners earning a sustaining wage.

Expanded Offerings for Fall 2025



PPSC is offering three new degree programs this fall, including two bridge programs for students who are Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) to become Registered Nurses (RN), and a Paramedic to RN bridge program.

“These bridge programs allow students to build upon their existing skills and transition into higher-level nursing roles efficiently,” says Carmen Luttrell, director of nursing education practices at PPSC. “With Colorado facing significant healthcare staffing shortages, these programs provide a much-needed solution to help fill critical roles while offering career advancement opportunities for students already in the field.”

The college will also begin its Bachelor of Science degree in Business, which includes internship opportunities, along with partnerships within the region’s business community to help provide hands-on learning experiences.

“This degree is designed for students who want to take their careers to the next level—whether they’re aiming for management positions, starting their own business, or pursuing specialized business fields,” says Dr. Carol Kurkowski, co-department chair of the business department at PPSC. “By offering this program at an affordable cost, we’re making a four-year business degree more accessible to students in the Pikes Peak Region.”

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PPSC Nursing Best in the State



PPSC was named the #1 Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program in the state by the Board of Nursing, following another outstanding 100% pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

This prestigious ranking places PPSC at the top among 722 ADN programs across the country and solidifies its reputation as a leader in nursing education.

The ranking is based on NCLEX pass rates, program quality, and student success outcomes, demonstrating PPSC's commitment to excellence in nursing education.

With Colorado facing a significant nursing shortage, PPSC continues to provide highly skilled and workforce-ready nurses to fill critical healthcare roles in the community.

"This recognition is a direct result of our dedicated faculty, rigorous curriculum, and the passion our students bring to the program," says Carmen Luttrell, director of nursing education practices. "Our goal is not just to prepare students for the NCLEX, but to also equip them with the critical thinking, hands-on experience, and confidence needed to be exceptional caregivers in a demanding field."

PPSC's high-tech simulation labs, strong clinical partnerships, and focus on real-world experience contribute to the program's success. Nursing students receive hands-on training through clinical rotations at leading healthcare facilities in the region, ensuring they are well-prepared to transition from classroom learning to professional practice.

New Short-term Intensive Courses

The PPSC Downtown Campus is piloting a new short-term intensive class format. The campus will offer PSY 1016, Stress Management, from April 28 – May 9, at 6 – 8 p.m. Taught by PPSC Associate Dean Misty Hull, the course is offered both in-person and hyflex. If the pilot goes well, the Downtown Campus hopes to offer this course once a month. Employees can take advantage of Tuition Reimbursement or Tuition Assistance for this course.

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Section Two | Education for All

Increase equitable, learner-centered environments that support all learners meeting their goals.

Mobile Food Market A Success



On February 17 & 18, PPSC partnered with Care and Share Food Bank and Canvas Credit Union to provide Mobile Food Markets at the Centennial and Rampart Range Campuses. Nearly 1,150 visitors accessed food at these markets, which were staffed by PPSC volunteers. The next Mobile Food Market events are April 21, at Centennial Campus, and April 22, at Rampart Campus.

Section Three | Empowered Talent

Increase our ability to attract, retain, and sustain the highest quality workforce to advance our mission.

Police Sgt. Honored

On Feb. 11, 2025, law enforcement from across the Pikes Peak Region gathered to celebrate 2024 DUI enforcement accomplishments as part of the annual Ken Jordan Awards. PPSC's own, Sgt. Chad Bauer, was honored with a Career Achievement Award for his exceptional DUI enforcement efforts in the Pikes Peak Region. This recognition highlights Sgt. Bauer's dedication to keeping the PPSC community safe. [You can see local news coverage in the Gazette here.](#)

Faculty Member Co-Authors Book

Antoinette Trujillo-Fergus, PPSC Surgical Technology Faculty, co-authored a book, "Time Out: Everything You Need to Know About Surgical Technology Foundations." The book is a comprehensive resource for students, educators, and professionals in the field of surgical technology and was written to help support the next generation of Certified Surgical Technologists.

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Section Four | Partner of Choice

Increase capability, trust, and credibility with partners across all sectors to build shared prosperity.

Good Friends & Good Books



PPSC President Lance Bolton visited Early Connections Learning Center on Feb. 28, 2025, for Read Across America Day, an annual event that encourages children to read with support from community leaders.

Ashley Groves, Vice President of Community Engagement at Early Connections said, “Dr. Bolton’s visit was truly special! The children loved reading with him. PPSC educates our biggest learners, and we have the joy of educating our littlest ones—it was wonderful to bring those worlds together.”

Arnie’s Love Mix



PPSC’s Theatre Department partnered with Springs Ensemble Theatre (SET) to presents *Arnie’s Love Mix*—a vibrant, heartfelt showcase of love scenes written, directed, and performed by local artists. This collaboration, which ran from March 6 – 16, continued both organizations’ commitment to fostering local talent and engaging the community in meaningful artistic experiences. PPSC’s Interpreting Prep Students provided ASL services for the production.

PPSC & UCCS Partner for International Women’s Day

The PPSC Women’s Resource Group partnered with the UCCS Feminist Club for the Fourth Annual Women’s March. The event, open to all, celebrated International Women’s Day, honored the incredible achievements of women, and provided educational opportunities to learn about gender equality.

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Boots to Business Reboot



PPSC's Veteran and Military Programs partnered with the Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) for a "Boots to Business Reboot" on March 7, 2025.

Boots to Business Reboot is an entrepreneurial education and training program offered by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

The course provides an overview of entrepreneurship and applicable business ownership fundamentals. Veterans of all eras, Active-Duty Service members (including National Guard and Reserve) and spouses were eligible to participate in the free workshop.

Section Five | Power of 13

Increase shared opportunities to grow enrollment, improve quality, and achieve cost efficiencies through consortial, models and collaboration while leveraging each college's unique strengths.

Diving Deeper into AI



Educators, administrators, and staff from CCCS and community colleges across the western U.S., dove deeper into AI, on Feb. 14, during an Instructional Technology Council Virtual AI Summit that showcased the innovation and collaboration of PPSC's [Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning](#) (CETL).

The keynote webinar, delivered by PPSC CETL Director Katie Wheeler, provided an advanced introduction to AI.

The session introduced practical tools that educators and students can easily use, and attendees learned how to turn AI channels into useful bots that enhance work in higher education.

[You can read an article here about the event, which was written by PPSC's own Dean of Online Learning, Cynthia Krutsinger.](#)