



College Report – April 9, 2025

Chato Hazelbaker, Ed.D., *President*

Economic mobility

Care Forward Colorado recipients featured – Two PCC students who completed their studies thanks to the Care Forward Colorado program were among those featured in a recent social media campaign by CDHE and the governor's office. Isaac Aguirre (EMS) and Heather Black (Pharmacy Technician) shared how the Care Forward funding made it possible for them to start their respective careers.



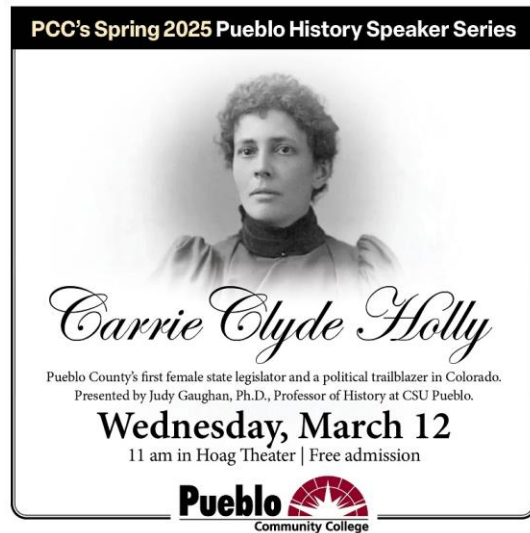
Nursing Simulation Center plans move forward – In February, the college selected RTA Architects to oversee construction of the Fremont campus Nursing Simulation Center. The goal is to begin construction in September and the center is expected to be complete in May 2026.

Education for all

Phi Theta Kappa induction – Twenty-one students were inducted into PCC's Alpha Rho Theta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa on March 19. A crowd of nearly 100 proud family members, friends and PCC employees joined to celebrate their accomplishment. PTK added 70 members over the 2024-25 academic year, according to advisor Dana Trujillo, a member of PCC's English faculty.



Pueblo History Speaker Series continues – CSU Pueblo History professor Dr. Judy Gaughan was the featured speaker in the March edition of PCC's Pueblo History Speaker Series. She shared the story of Carrie Clyde Holly, Pueblo County's first female state legislator. The successful series, created by PCC History professor Brad Bowers, will conclude its first year in April with a presentation about the 1921 Pueblo flood.



OTA artwork - Brittney Van Buren, a student in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program, created an OTA-themed painting as part of her management hours project. The piece was temporarily displayed at a local library.



Senior Mini College returns – The popular Senior Mini College on PCC’s Fremont campus returned for the 39th year. The event takes place during spring break and is attended by hundreds of community members each year. More than 120 classes were offered, including topics such as xeriscaping, yoga and pysanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs).

Empowered talent

Part-time instructor honored – Nathan Cape, a part-time business instructor at PCC, recently was named Professional of the Year by the Latino Chamber of Commerce. Cape is the CEO of Minnequa Works Credit Union in Pueblo.

Customer Solutions Center earns award – PCC’s Customer Solutions Center won a LiveHelpNow annual award for best customer service. This is the sixth year in a row the CSC has received the honor. In 2024, the three-person CSC staff conducted 3,341 live chats and answered 28,097 phone calls. The average survey rating from students was 4.6 out of 5. Specialist Robin Romero, Director Richie Ince and Specialist Cheryl Ayala – pictured below, left to right – personally respond to every call and text.



Outstanding Women Awards – PCC employees Dr. Michele Sweeney and Brandi Halvorson were nominated for the Pueblo City-County Library District’s Outstanding Women Awards. Sweeney spent more than 20 years as a faculty member in the EMS program. She retired last year but still teaches at the college. Halvorson, a former Pueblo police officer, is the department chair for PCC’s Health Professions programs.

Partner of choice

Fremont campus disc golf – The Fremont campus celebrated the return of disc golf to its campus with the inaugural Panther Classic Doubles Disc Golf Tournament on March 22. The event was open to PCC students, employees, and PCC's Fremont and Custer County high school partners. A community-wide tournament is planned for fall. The renovated course is already a popular destination for disc golfers throughout the region.

