

LEGACY

HONORING THE PAST · ENSURING THE FUTURE



The Year in Review

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION 2018-19 · JULY 1, 2018-JUNE 30, 2019



A NOTE FROM THE PCC PRESIDENT

PATTY ERJAVEC, PH.D.

Dear Friends and Supporters of
Pueblo Community College –

When I reflect on PCC and 2019, some key words immediately come to mind – visionary, student centric, scholarship, passionate, community, partnerships, innovative, flexible, persistent, and sustainable.

I like to think of PCC as a maverick in higher education, innovating in a classic American way, embracing changes in the education ecosystem to improve student outcomes, access, and affordability.

We've all seen the headlines about mounting student debt, unemployed graduates moving back in with parents, ever-increasing tuition, layoffs at colleges, and dramatically reduced government support for public

institutions. Yet the value of a degree or certificate earned at PCC remains undeniable. Our career and technical students graduate highly skilled, well educated, and job ready. Our transfer students complete their degrees with no worry of having to repeat courses at their chosen four-year institution.

This edition of *Legacy* highlights not only college accomplishments but all of you – our dear friends and supporters! Whether it's your involvement in a PCC Foundation event, a scholarship donation, or simply kind words of encouragement for our students, we appreciate your commitment to the role and mission of this great institution. Your contributions of time and treasure mean the world to us, and we remain committed



A NOTE FROM THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

THERESA DUDLEY

While serving as president of the PCC Foundation over the past year, I have been impressed and touched by the foundation's efforts to support and promote student success. In 2019 alone, the foundation has been the vehicle to award nearly 500 students with scholarships. In total, the PCC Foundation has played a part in awarding a total of \$686,614 in 2019-2020 scholarship awards to students pursuing their higher educational endeavors at PCC campuses in Pueblo, Cañon City, Bayfield, Durango and Mancos/Cortez.

In addition, the foundation worked with Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation and the Colorado Scholarship Initiative to

offer an additional \$100,000 in scholarship awards.

In addition to scholarship dollars, the foundation provides clothing from our career closet, grants to students who are financially struggling, and contributes to the food distribution efforts of the PCC Panther Student Pantry.

The foundation works to provide a variety of other resources for PCC, including salary funds for a grant writer, travel funds for culinary arts students to regional and national competitions, usable products for automotive students, overnight housing for allied health students completing their clinical rotations, new video monitors for campus special events, and even flowers to

to being good stewards of your generosity.

While a simple "thank you" hardly seems adequate, we – the administration, faculty, staff, and students of PCC – are ever grateful for your friendship and support.

Look for great things to come from your community college!

With warm regards,

Patty Erjavec, Ph.D.
PCC President



PCC PRESIDENT DR. PATTY ERJAVEC CELEBRATES NATIONAL FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT DAY AT PCC ON NOV. 8, 2019 WITH A GROUP OF FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS.

brighten the campus environment and neighborhood.

We have embarked on a \$10 million capital campaign to renovate and retrofit the Nursing and Allied Health Teaching and Learning Center that will open on the St. Mary-Corwin Campus in 2021. The additional 265 slots will help fill the demand for allied healthcare workers in the state. We extend our deepest thanks to Mary Jane Voelker and Walt Schepp who have committed the first two \$1,000,000 gifts to this initiative.

Finally, I am proud to report that the foundation completed its annual audit and passed with the highest rating; demonstrating to our donors that PCCF is truly

an outstanding steward of your donations! We look forward to providing even greater support in the year ahead...thanks to the thousands of donors who give of their time, talents and treasure to the PCC Foundation.

Theresa Dudley, President
PCC Foundation

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents.....	\$637,935
Investments.....	7,068,760
Unconditional Promises to Give, Net.....	10,129
Accounts Receivable.....	98,604
Prepaid Expenses.....	19,445
Property and Equipment, Net.....	122,022
Total Assets.....	\$7,956,895

Liabilities

Accounts Payable.....	\$48,355
Other Liabilities.....	59,540
Total Liabilities.....	\$107,895

Net Assets

Without donor restrictions.....	\$1,656,426
With donor restrictions.....	6,192,574
Total Net Assets.....	\$7,849,000
Total Liabilities & Net Assets ...	\$7,956,895

LEGACY

HONORING THE PAST - ENSURING THE FUTURE

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION FOR 2018-19

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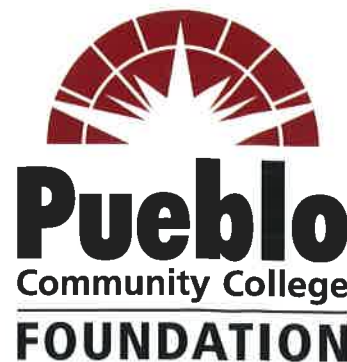
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puebloccfoundation.org

The donor lists in this report cover activity from July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019. These are not our complete donor lists. If you recently donated, your name will appear in future issues of Legacy.

GREETINGS FROM THE PCC FOUNDATION



MARTHA SIMMONS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This issue of *Legacy* gives me the timely opportunity to thank you for your involvement with the PCC Foundation this past year and the perfect canvas to share examples of the dramatic impacts we have made throughout our campuses – successes that would absolutely not have been possible without our volunteers.

Scholarships – the foundation continues to award scholarships to students needing support to achieve their educational goals. Thanks to the generosity of many, the foundation awarded more than \$686,614 in scholarships to 250+ students in Pueblo, Cañon City, Durango, Mancos and Bayfield. We express the utmost thanks to hundreds of scholarship donors, Legacy Bank, the Colorado Department of Higher Education for their COSI match to the Return to Earn scholarship program, and the Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation for their support in putting PCCF over the top in scholarship awards this year!

Campus Renovations – The foundation worked with Walter Schepp to update the nursing and science classrooms on the Fremont Campus, which now boast state-of-the-art equipment thanks to his generosity.

In addition to the Fremont Campus, the foundation has joined forces with the college to undertake a renovation campaign that will offer a new Nursing and Allied Health Teaching and Learning Center in the east tower of the St. Mary-Corwin campus in Pueblo. Once funded and completed (August 2021), the facility will be home to more than 1,000 students seeking two- and four-year nursing and allied health degrees at PCC.

**“NEVER UNDERESTIMATE
THE POWER OF A SMALL
GROUP OF COMMITTED
PEOPLE TO CHANGE THE
WORLD. IN FACT, IT IS
THE ONLY THING THAT
EVER HAS.”**

~ MARGARET MEAD

Enrollment Assistance – We have aligned with the PCC Office of Recruitment to offer Panther Grants to new students who are ineligible for other forms of institutional funding.

Human Service Support – Thanks to a grant from the LeVert Hoag Foundation, the PCC Foundation assisted students in financial distress while going to school; providing funding for rent, lapsed utility bills, medical issues and more. In addition, the Panther Student Clothing Closet offers clothing for interviews and special events thanks to the generosity of donors who drop off their gently used professional clothing at the foundation office.

Expanded Learning – Mary Jane Voelker continued to offer the funding for PCC culinary arts students to attend regional competitions and host an invitational event which allows them to hone their skills. And, thanks to the Jim Jatras Fund, the foundation was able to offer transportation and lodging for respiratory students to travel to Denver for clinical rotations.

Departmental Cost Savings – The foundation has partnered with Network for Good to obtain in excess of \$100,000 in donations of consumable products for the PCC automotive department.

These are just a few of the highlights from the past year that the PCC Foundation has facilitated on behalf of the college and our students. We cannot thank our donors enough for their past, present, and future support, which allows our foundation to lead the way in advancing the educational opportunities at Pueblo Community College.

Whatever your level of support, we stand willing to work with you to advance higher education in southern Colorado.

Most sincerely,

Martha Simmons, Executive Director

SHAUNA BOYD

Bookkeeper

Employed at PCCF: 4 years in April

What do you enjoy most about working at the PCCF? There is nothing better than having a student come into the office in tears so grateful for the help that is provided through the generosity of our donors.

Favorite PCCF Memory: There are so many great memories, it is difficult to choose just one. I guess it is because we have such a great team, and I truly enjoy my work "family."

Hobbies/Interests: I love golf, although my handicap is that I am holding a club! I also love watching my kids play sports.

Favorite quote or life

philosophy: Optimism is a happiness magnet. If you're positive, good things and good people will be drawn to you.

LORNA JACKSON

Administrative and Data Specialist

Employed at PCCF:
4 years in April

What do you enjoy most about working at the PCCF? Our students and seeing how happy and appreciative they are to receive scholarships. They become part of our family and know that we are here for them. Their smiles are so rewarding!

Favorite PCCF Memory: So many! I love my PCCF family and have wonderful memories - two of my favorites are traveling to Durango and meeting the staff at the Mancos campus and the students there; doing yard work/planting at the PCCF house with Martha. Hot and hard work, but we managed to laugh so much. I am now very skeptical when she tells me I can wear shorts to work.

Hobbies/Interests: I love spending time with my family. Camping is one of our favorite things to do. I also love reading and crocheting (not very good at it, but it keeps me busy).

Favorite quote or life philosophy: I don't know that it's a quote or philosophy, but I believe that you should treat others the way you would want to be

treated. I always try to treat others with respect, I always think of how I would want someone to treat me, or my parents, or my child, and try to extend the same respect.

MARTHA SIMMONS

Executive Director

Employed at PCCF: 6 years

What do you enjoy most about working at the PCCF? Working with our student scholars and witnessing their personal and educational growth.

Favorite PCCF Memory: Mingling and Mocktails when the foundation helped to bring in Gigi Butler, the founder of Gigi's cupcakes; the real-life wisdom that she shared with our students. Many a-ha moments.

Hobbies/Interests: Gardening (aka the PCC Planter project), crafting (aka PCCF event decorations) and traveling (beach destinations).

Favorite quote or life

philosophy: "Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead

CORA ZALETEL

Marketing/Scholarship Coordinator

Employed at PCCF: 8 months

What do you enjoy most about working at the PCCF? After a 30-year career

in higher education public relations, I enjoy giving back to the students rather than handling the crisis of the day.

Favorite PCCF Memory: Having a donor walk into my office and hand me a check to establish a scholarship in honor of a PCC employee who impressed her.

Hobbies/Interests: Watching and participating in sports (golf, tennis, racquetball, Kansas City Chiefs football), reading, writing, traveling the world, and buying and selling antiques

Favorite quote or life philosophy:

"Nothing is worth more than this day." – Goethe

"What you give comes back to you tenfold." – My Momma



PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS & RECIPIENTS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Jami Navarro

ANNE FARLEY

Ryan Sumsion

ART & LORRAINE GONZALES NURSING

Jaycee Sanchez

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Zebulen Garcia

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Lea Rivera

B.J. MCNAMARA FAMILY

Elijah Miessler

CARLOS & OLIVE BACA CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Lea Rivera

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Morgan Rose

BATTELLE

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Caitlynn McPherson

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Tabitha Leeson
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Noah Ruybal
Ryan Sumsion

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BLACK HILLS

Dakota Lucero

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BOUNDLESS OPPORTUNITY PCC SOUTHWEST

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Rebecca Moser
Isidra Ortega
Shyla Provinzano
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Nicole Stephens
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I KNOW I CAN

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PINNACOL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PCC SOUTHWEST

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PINNACOL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PUEBLO CAMPUS

Christopher Serracino
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POSADA MOVING UP

Brandon Sirotnak
Rhonda Van De Grift

PUEBLO LODGE NO. 17

A.F. & A.M. WARREN SKRIFVAR'S SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

Sidney Bailey

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Tyran Johnson
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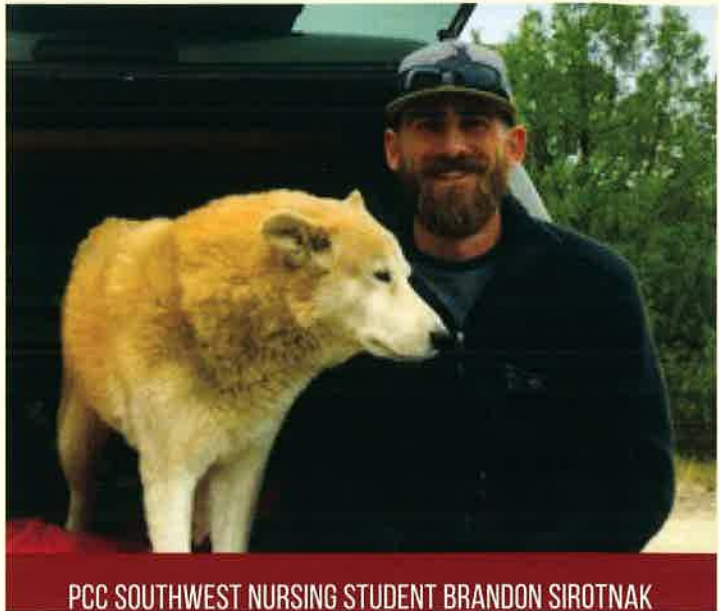
SOUTHWEST CAMPUS

Lisa Johnson
Misty Smith
Lindsay Thorburn

POSADA SCHOLARSHIP SENDS MESSAGE OF HOPE

Representatives at Posada know firsthand how homelessness can affect students' daily lives and their plans for the future. Posada recently funded two \$3000 scholarships at PCC for students who are homeless or who have experienced homelessness to send a message of hope to individuals who often struggle to find any nugget of positivity. The Posada Moving UP scholarship is one of 250+ scholarship awards totaling \$686,614 dispersed by the PCC Foundation to students annually at all PCC campuses.

"From the perspective of our staff and board, there is no better way to demonstrate Posada's commitment to self-sufficiency and the improvement of our community than to provide these wonderful academic opportunities," Posada Executive Director Kim Bowman said.



Brandon Sirotnak, who is pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing at the PCC Southwest campus in Mancos, lost another scholarship last summer for failing to respond while living in his truck with his dog after being forced out of a rental without the time or financial capabilities to obtain a new home.

He quickly tried to find a reasonably priced rental, but funding security deposits for himself and his dog, plus first and last month's rent was not possible. He also had enrolled in two online courses that required constant access to the internet. High atop the mountain, he was able to log onto his online courses and download the class portal in order to view his assignments.

"I needed to find a place that was centrally located between town and work and with proper altitude to have cell phone reception to use my phone as a mobile hotspot. I ended up sleeping on Madden Peak for about four months, which was the only area that hosted strong enough cell phone service."

"The thought of missing assignments and falling behind was gut wrenching to me due to the heavy course loads and my commitment to creating a future for myself," he said.

Brandon dreams of becoming a flight nurse, but also has interest in working in emergency rooms, intensive care, and pediatric units.

STELLA TRUJILLO-FARLEY

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Courtney Lehrer

Louis Santos

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Destiny Smith

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PABLO & RUTH RODRIGUEZ

Andi Lyn Bustos

Maria Diaz Alvarez

Lucia Martinez

Laura Alejandra Reimer

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LOCAL LEADERS INDUCTED INTO HALLS OF FAME

Hall of Fame ceremonies again honored those who have made significant social, civil, and charitable contributions to their communities. The Pueblo and the Fremont Halls of Fame were established to honor those individuals who, by their extraordinary efforts, have contributed to the betterment or enhancement of Pueblo and Fremont County.



ENSHRINED FEBRUARY 16, 2019
FORTINO BALLROOM, PUEBLO



In the 15 years he has lived in Pueblo, **Andrew Trainor** has become one of the city's biggest proponents. As regional president of Legacy Bank-Colorado since 2004, he has grown the organization from one location to seven. In addition to serving on the Pueblo Economic Development Corporation, he is a committed supporter of higher education in Pueblo, serving on the CSU-Pueblo Foundation Board and providing the matching grant to start the Return to Earn Scholarship Program at PCC.



Dr. Carl Bartecchi arrived in Pueblo in 1970 after completing his residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He already was familiar with his new home, having been stationed at Fort Carson following his service as a flight surgeon in Vietnam in the mid-1960s. Bartecchi was a key figure in the public health campaign that led to Pueblo becoming the first Colorado city to ban smoking in all public places. With Sister Nancy Crafton, he established the health care clinic at Los Pobres Center in Avondale, which services migrant workers in Pueblo County.



Renee (Rodriquez) Carson is a southern Colorado native who has made her home in Pueblo for more than four decades. She is well known for her positive outlook, helpful nature, and love of Pueblo.

Carson applied for a temporary position with Express Employment Professionals in Pueblo and today is the majority owner. Out of 800 Express locations in the U.S., the Pueblo office is one of only 20 to have been designated a training office for the company. Carson has volunteered with numerous organizations throughout the years, including the Latino and Greater Pueblo chambers of commerce, Goodwill, PCC Foundation and CSU-Pueblo Career Center advisory board.



ENSHRINED APRIL 26, 2019
THE ABBEY EVENTS CENTER, CAÑON CITY



Dr. Lana Carter is dean emeritus of PCC's Fremont campus. Prior to beginning her PCC career in 1999, Carter worked as an expert advisor to the U.S. Departments of Defense and Justice concerning their studies about the psychological impact of terrorism. During her tenure at the Fremont campus, she oversaw major renovations of classrooms and the Learning Resource Center and additions to the Testing Center and study rooms. She also worked with the PCC Foundation and supporter Walt Schepp to plan and raise funds for a Student Commons addition.



Char Lindner made her way to Cañon City from her native Pennsylvania in 1975 and taught middle school physical education in Cañon City for 32 years. Through the Rotary Club, Lindner used her love of photography to create and fund tens of thousands of dollars in Let There Be Light Scholarships for first-generation Cañon City High School graduates. She is also active in her church, the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative committee, Rotary projects and the Fremont School and Public Employees Retirement Association.



Fremont County native **Brendan Pardue** graduated from Holy Cross Abbey, where he set several school records in track and football and worked as a teacher and coach in the 1980s. During a 25-year career with the Department of Corrections, he worked in housing, security, education and recreation. Over the past 36 years, Pardue has restored 12 historic properties, most recently the Gibson Mansion in Cañon City and has offered free use of the property to nonprofit organizations for fundraisers and other events. Through his membership and philanthropy, he has supported a variety of civic and arts-related organizations.

IN MEMORIAM

MYRON "SMITTY" SMITH, LONG-TIME FREMONT COUNTY ADVOCATE



Myron "Smitty" Smith, who passed away January 13, 2020 at the age of 84 after a brave fight against cancer, was a contributor to Fremont County's business and public service communities for more than six decades.

After graduating from Florence High School, he worked at *The Florence Citizen* as a printer. In 1970, he purchased Master Printers. The business is now owned by a second generation of the family – his daughter, Susie.

A longtime advocate for education, Smith has been a member of the PCC Fremont Campus Advisory Board since 1994. He also coordinate+d the Careers to School program for Fremont and Custer counties. He served as President and

member of the Fremont Elementary RE-2 PTO. Smith was inducted into the Pueblo Community College Fremont Campus Hall of Fame in 2016.

He served as a Fremont County Commissioner and Florence City Council member and was executive director of the Fremont Economic Development Corporation. Smith was a member of the Cañon City Chamber of Commerce for nearly 50 years. During that time, he and his business were selected Member of the Month countless times. He was selected as the Distinguished Citizen of the Year in 2005.

Smith was the inaugural recipient of the "Myron 'Smitty' Smith Lifetime Achievement Award" that was presented during the 132nd annual Cañon City Chamber of Commerce Banquet in January. The new award commemorates his legacy and his impact on the community for years to come.

IN MEMORIAM

ART GONZALES, STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE PUEBLO COMMUNITY



Art Gonzales, 89, a longtime supporter of Pueblo Community College and Colorado State University-Pueblo, passed away Jan. 29, 2020. A 2014 inductee into the Pueblo Hall of Fame along with his wife, Lorraine, the couple have been generous

supporters of the Pueblo community for more than four decades.

It would be more difficult to find a Pueblo "cause" or organization that Art and Lorraine Gonzales haven't supported over the years. The Pueblo Symphony, Pueblo Municipal Band, Broadway Theater League, Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, Pueblo YMCA, the Medal of Honor Society, Pueblo County Jazz Band and

numerous other groups have benefited from their generosity.

They have been inducted into both the PCC and CSU-Pueblo President's Circles, received the CSU-Pueblo Alumni Outstanding Service Award, and the university's President's Medallion for Distinguished Service to Education. He also was named to the CSU-Pueblo Athletics Hall of Fame and is a lifetime member of CSU-Pueblo's "Friends of Football" organization.

Art, who credited his success to the strong work ethic he learned from his father, partnered with Puebloan Sam Brown in 1966 to open Mountain States Sheet Metal Company. He lived by the motto: "Your word is your bond." Art retired in 1980, selling his company interest to Brown.



“ WHEN YOU LIVE IN A
COMMUNITY AND SEE A NEED,
YOU NEED TO SUPPORT IT. ”
MARY JANE VOELKER

**TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER
PROJECT TO BOLSTER SOUTHERN
COLORADO HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE**

An increase in demand for qualified healthcare workers and an offer of vacant space at St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center have resulted in a \$10 million fundraising effort by Pueblo Community College and the PCC Foundation. The Nursing and Allied Health Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) project aims to convert a portion of St. Mary-Corwin into classrooms and laboratories for a variety of the College's allied health programs.

"Opportunities of this magnitude are rare," said PCC President Dr. Patty Erjavec. "This is our chance to fill the skills gap for St. Mary-Corwin and other health care organizations while we add to the economic vitality of our neighborhood and community."

St. Mary-Corwin approached PCC with an offer of 450,000 square feet of space in its East Tower to increase classroom and clinical space and expand nursing and allied health programs. Phase I will include the remodeling of 58,544 square feet to house eight programs as well as nursing simulation and learning labs, including a \$300,000 Human Anatomy Learning Center. The additional 350,000 square feet of space will remain available for growth and expansion.

The \$10 million capital campaign will fund a \$7.3 million renovation and provide for 265 additional student awards in allied health fields. The remaining \$2.7 million will be used for equipment and facility maintenance. Fifteen new full- and part-time teaching positions will bring \$900,000 annually in wages into the area economy. In total, the TLC project will have a \$29.7 million economic impact in the first year, including construction.

In Pueblo, quality health care is determined by access, affordability and outcomes. Parkview Medical Center and St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center provide access to life-saving care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – possible only when the hospitals have access to a qualified staff equipped with the appropriate skills to provide service to the city's 167,000 citizens and thousands of others from southern Colorado who travel to Pueblo for care.

Health care provided outside of the hospital setting also is on the rise. The community is facing daunting workforce shortages of nursing and allied health care professionals wherever health services are provided – not just hospitals but within hospice, home health care, nursing homes, extended care facilities, community

health centers, physician's offices, and schools. In fact, more than 1,200 healthcare positions are vacant in the Pueblo service area alone and 21,390 additional jobs are unfilled in Colorado.

"When you live in a community and see a need, you need to support it," said Mary Jane Voelker, who stepped forward as the first major donor for the project, pledging \$1 million. "With a senior community, there is a need for quality health care."

Fremont County resident Walt Schepp has supported numerous PCC projects, including Fremont Campus classroom and laboratory upgrades and scholarships. He, too, has pledged \$1 million to the TLC project because of its far-reaching impact.

"Seldom has an opportunity come along with so much benefit to so many," said Schepp. "The students with a better profession; hospitals and nursing homes with better trained staff; businesses with more customers with higher disposable income, and the community with better health care. The scope of this project will help to better all of southern Colorado."

The expansion will provide additional student slots in nursing, surgical technology, radiologic technology, medical assisting, respiratory therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and pharmacy technician with the resulting economic benefits.

Program	Increased # of PCC Graduates Entering Workforce	Annual Economic Impact
Nursing	113	\$ 9,552,313
Surgical Technology	24	\$ 1,419,000
Radiologic Technology	62	\$ 4,315,200
Medical Assisting	20	\$ 840,000
Respiratory Therapy	16	\$ 1,148,720
Occupational Therapy Assistant	10	\$ 592,237
Physical Therapy Assistant	10	\$ 585,225
Pharmacy Technician	10	\$ 403,450
Totals	265	\$18,856,145

PCC will be responsible for all facility operating costs and other mutually agreed upon changes. The college currently occupies approximately 10 percent of the east tower with its simulation lab, human anatomy learning center, and surgical technician program.

Erjavec added that funding for the project will come from public and private partnerships. Architectural planning is underway and will determine the renovation timeline.

FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT HONORS ROGENE ARMSTRONG



Pueblo Community College Foundation
Friday, June 7, 2019 | Pueblo Country Club

More than 130 golfers had a great day on the links of the Pueblo Country Club June 7 competing in the 30th annual Fore! Education Golf Tournament, raising nearly \$40,000 for PCC through the support of sponsors, donors, and player participants.

This year's tournament was dedicated to the memory of Rogene Armstrong, a former PCCF board member charged with initiating the Fore! Education Golf Tournament. During her time with the Foundation, Rogene took the lead in coordinating the annual golf tournament while holding a variety of other leadership roles within the organization. Upon retiring from the PCCF Board of Directors, Rogene was awarded Emeritus status. In 2017, Rogene was inducted into the PCC President's Circle in recognition of her many years of service.

Even after her retirement from the Board of Directors, Rogene continued to support the Foundation and was often seen sitting on her deck – overlooking the Pueblo Country Club golf course, waving to annual golf tournament participants. After her passing in December 2018, Rogene's family endowed a scholarship in her name. The Rogene Armstrong Memorial Scholarship will pay tribute to her legacy with PCCF, and her scholarship will lend financial assistance to PCC students in perpetuity.

Make plans now to join with us at the 2020 tournament on Friday, June 5.



2019 FORE! EDUCATION TOURNAMENT WINNERS:

Flight One team results:

- **1st place:**
Vic Solano, Chuck Trujillo, Isaiah Trujillo and Bo Arguello
- **2nd place:**
Ken Berry, John Zimmerman, Jeff Dunn and Bryan Fultz
- **3rd place: H.W. Houston Construction**
Scott Robb, Ron Robb, Mike Ingo and Mark Taravella

Flight Two team results:

- **1st place: Legacy Bank**
Scott Sherman, Chad Pfeif, Mitch Brown and Mark Dunsmoor
- **2nd place: KR Swerdfeger Construction**
Deryl Stephens, Bob Neumeister, Clink Eaks and Jason Kendall
- **3rd place: Security Service Investments**
Michael Salardino, John Mendoza, David Carducci and Carl DeSalvo

Individual results:

- Women's closest to the pin: **Sheila Pantaleo**
- Men's closest to the pin: **Bill Arnot**
- Women's straightest drive: **Sheila Pantaleo**
- Men's straightest drive: **Brian Fultz**

GREASING THE AUTOMOTIVE DEPARTMENT WHEELS THROUGH GOOD360 DONATIONS

PCC's Automotive Department has had its wheels greased and shelves filled by nearly \$100,000 in product thanks to Good360, a global leader in product philanthropy, which partners with socially responsible companies to source highly needed goods and distribute them through a network of diverse nonprofit organizations.

Jennifer Withers, manager of program operations for Good360, visited the Pueblo Campus in December and met with representatives of the automotive department, which recently obtained 19 pallets of product from Advanced Auto Parts Denver Distribution Center, valued at more than \$50,000.

Based in Alexandria, Va., Withers said her company helps nonprofits get the goods they need so they can spend more of every dollar on programs and services. In 2019 alone, Good360 distributed more than \$300 million in product. They partner with 80,000+ nonprofit members and 400+ corporate donors. For the past six months, Withers has been with the Advanced Auto Parts (AAP) account and just recently became the primary program manager. The Denver Distribution Center is one of 42 distribution sites for AAP, servicing 23 unique nonprofit organizations.



PCC AUTOMOTIVE DEPARTMENT CHAIR JAMES CORDOVA, GOOD360'S JENNIFER WITHERS AND PCC BUSINESS & ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEAN JENNY SHERMAN

PCC has partnered with Good360 since June of 2018.

"We find schools in general to be better partners as they use the products for training purposes, which is in line with AAP's mission to help train the next generation of automobile mechanics,"

Withers said. "It's the best way for us to help them fulfill their mission."

The company's blog includes impact stories from participating non-profits, illustrating the great things they have been able to do with the products they receive. Withers said she doesn't get many opportunities to see the impact in person, so reading the stories of how people benefit is quite satisfying.

"I hadn't had much time with PCC before my trip, so I was excited to see how much had been received and to learn how the products were being used to actually do more in the classroom," she said.

PCC Dean of Business and Advanced Technology Jennifer Sherman showed Withers how the donations offset costs and allowed the department to funnel the funds elsewhere to improve the student experience.

"The Good360 donations have provided valuable supplies and consumables to the automotive program which allows our program to operate as affordably for students as possible," said Sherman. "The entire PCC team has been overwhelmed by the value of the donations and the student excitement about the new inventory."

Sherman explained that because they no longer have to buy oil and batteries, for example, they save that money in their budgets which is redirected to provide additional resources for their classrooms.

Automotive Department Chair James Cordova said while Good360 estimated the fair market value of the most recent distribution of 19 pallets at \$50,000, the pallets the department has received since 2018 have a range of \$3000-8000 per pallet, easily worth more than \$100,000.

"The generosity and impact of the donations allow our program and students to grow and have the vital material and tools to ensure student success," Cordova said.

Was Your Education Memorable?



To the delight of all your former teachers your answers should be yes. Yes to reliable, dependable curriculums, delightful and inspiring teachers, and yes to innovation. But was financing your education a highlight? In most cases it was likely lackluster, besides the piles of paperwork you probably don't remember much except the final investment.

Surprised? Probably not, but for some students their education did come as a surprise even to them. And their most memorable part of their experience is likely tied to finance.

Twelve months ago 151 students currently enrolled in the Return to Earn (RTE) program at PCC never thought they would be a Pueblo Community College student again, much less a graduate. Life circumstances had turned them cold to education and the real-world had taken their ability to be enrolled away from them. Until one day they received a phone call.



On the line was Richie Ince, the vibrant new leader of an exciting new program pioneered at Pueblo Community College called Return to Earn. He had one simple question. "Would you like to complete your degree?"

Think about it for a minute. Most of these students had been swept away by a life changing event that kept them from their goal of completing their degree. Of course they wanted their degree. After all, most were merely months from graduating. The more important question was how? They knew the drill, and they knew that money, not ambition, was the obstacle.

"PCC is pioneering a program that would resolve the financial barrier if you are willing to put the work into finishing your degree and reenroll," said Ince. "Are you interested?"

Since Ince started having those conversations nearly three years ago, more than 420 students have re-enrolled in school and are on their way to increased earning power that can help their families and community. All because a community worked together to find an answer to the real world dilemma of life interfering with education.

"When we asked ourselves how can we help, we realized it would take a community to come alongside these students to make their graduation happen," replied Ince. "We needed partnerships and open-mindedness to successfully tackle such a large uncontrollable problem."

Enter Legacy Bank. A bank known for region-wide activism that promotes community. Legacy Bank became a crucial financial partner helping students who had run out of financial aid finish the final hours of their degree required to graduate.

"The element of positive change is crucial to thriving communities. That type of change comes from getting involved one-on-one to make a difference is someone else's life," said Legacy Bank Regional President Andrew Trainor. "When we heard of the Return to Earn concept, we were encouraged that we could affect that kind of change in our own community."

That change indeed became real life change for Francisco Valdez who recently spoke on his Return to Earn experience. "Richie told me I would have to average a C or better, which motivated me to do my best in some of my toughest classes at PCC. I was also able to refer

several of my fellow nursing classmates to Richie, and the students I referred have since graduated and are working as Registered Nurses in Pueblo," commented Valdez

Through 2019, the Return to Earn Program sponsored by Legacy Bank has graduated 256 students from Pueblo Community College. More than 97% of RTE students are successful, earning Cs or better in their first semester back in school, meaning they retained their RTE Scholarship.



Andrew Trainor
Regional President
Legacy Bank

“The Return to Earn program is one of the finest examples of student support in Colorado,” added Shelly Banker who manages the COSI for Colorado Department of Education and contributes matching funds to the Legacy Bank RTE donation.

Legacy Bank's lead gift of \$30,000, the COSI match, and a variety of other PCC Foundation contributions secured another \$106,000 in scholarships for Ince to award in 2020 this past October. "The Return to Earn program is the kind of life changing contribution we should strive for in our community. When people think of Pueblo it should be positive and it should be memorable."



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PCC FOUNDATION EVENT SPONSORS & VOLUNTEERS — JULY 2018-JUNE 2019

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FORE! EDUCATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

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GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION. VISIT **PUEBLOCCFOUNDATION.ORG**

PANTHER GRANTS SERVE STUDENTS WHILE ADDRESSING RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION GAPS

Over the past two years, the PCC Office of Recruitment has been able to help hundreds of prospective and current students stay on their educational path thanks to the Panther Grant program funded by the PCC Foundation.

Established in the fall of 2018 with \$25,000 from the PCC Foundation, the Panther Grant program models the financial aid leveraging trend at larger institutions around the country, which involves using grant awards in smaller increments in order to keep students enrolled and persisting.

Candidates for the Panther Grants are identified through advisor referrals as well as researching the prospective and the current student pools, then vetting them to determine actual student need through the Office of Financial Aid.

The grants provide assistance to students who may be short on financial aid and so in jeopardy of dropping their courses or not enrolling.

"The Panther Grant has shown great success helping students to engage or stay engaged in their educational journey," said Chase Watts, director of PCC recruitment. "For many of the students we have assisted, a balance of a couple hundred dollars can prove to be too large of a barrier to overcome."



Watts uses the grant money as both a recruitment and retention tool. Since Fall of 2018, he has funded 25-30 students a semester, representing the full PCC student spectrum – all ages, majors, and campus locations. This academic year, Watts has spent \$14,000 of the \$25,000 on 21 people with an average award of \$673 with awards ranging from \$200 to \$1,500 to students not just from the PCC Pueblo campus, but the Fremont Campus and the PCC Southwest sites in Mancos, Durango, and Bayfield. Most recipients are full-time students with an average grade point average of 3.0.

He emphasized that he applies the grants directly to the students' accounts so the money cannot become cash in their pockets. He works closely with Financial Aid to ensure that if a student doesn't enroll, the grant money comes back for use with other students.

Watts said he uses the Panther Grants solely for campus bills, unlike other foundation grant programs, which can be applied to financial commitments outside of campus such as lapsed utility bills, overdue rent, or health and human welfare needs.

"I try to be thoughtful in how I use the grants," he said. "I try to work with the students to level out the opportunity gaps."

Watts estimates that he has saved the college 298 credit hours since the Fall of 2019 in addition to nearly \$8,000 in student loan debt.



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GRADES 4-6	July 20-24
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VOLUNTEER CORNER

ALL IN THE FAMILY: LORI TAPIA



LORI TAPIA

Born and raised in Pueblo, Lori Tapia is a walking commercial for Pueblo Community College. Family is the word she used to describe PCC and the reason she and her family established the Gail Stout Tapia Scholarship in 2017.

Lori's mom, Gail, was a high school dropout who worked in the kitchen at St. Mary-Corwin Hospital, where the nuns convinced her to complete her GED and ultimately pursue a nursing certificate. Her mom worked the full spectrum of nursing job locations from hospitals and doctor's offices to nursing homes and specialty areas from orthopedics and pediatrics to geriatrics.

"Mom brought her job home with her," Lori said. "She knew the families and loved her patients."

Lori explained that even through her mother's many ailments in her later years (including spinal meningitis and carotid artery issues), she would always talk about the nursing care she was receiving and, more than once, Lori would notice her teaching nursing students from her bed as a patient.

When the time came to honor their mother and father, Eugene "Tap" Tapia, a bricklayer who spent many years at the steel mill, the family didn't want to do a scholarship for "normal" students, but for non-traditional students like their mom.

"We wanted to help those who were not attending full-time and who were pursuing their

education a little at a time as they could afford it," Lori said.

She is proud and satisfied that so many people have contributed to the scholarship, including her siblings, co-workers, and family friends as far back as her dad's high school days. Lori does the selection herself and enjoys reading the stories that emerge from the scholarship applications.

2019 Gail Stout Scholar Chris Serracino said Lori takes pleasure in caring for people and investing in their futures.

"I am so thankful she offered me the scholarship for the second year and was flattered that she asked if I had applied," Serracino said. "My hours at work (state hospital) were cut due to my lack of flexibility with my class schedule, and I didn't have the time to work more hours to make money."

Tapia is a true ambassador for Pueblo Community College, donating to Thanksgiving and Christmas projects, supporting the PCC Foundation through event attendance, and encouraging young adults to apply to PCC and to use the resources available to them.

"When I visit campus for events or to contribute to one of the many support programs for students, it's a comfortable feeling, like coming home. I truly believe that what we give, we get back," Lori said. "PCC helps students through the whole education experience – not just school issues, but their families, their jobs. By giving to PCC, I'm giving back to my community."



LET THE MUSIC PLAY

**STANLEY BIBER'S LEGACY LIVES
ON THROUGH PIANO DONATION**

By **Joe T. Ulibarri**

PCC Foundation Board Emeritus

No one would mistake the squat, non-descript, bespectacled figure walking down Commercial Street in Trinidad in a Stetson hat, cowboy boots and blue jeans as a western hero. Then again, Stanley Biber never fit any stereotypical mold.

Before Stanley Biber, M.D., passed away from pneumonia in 2006, he had attained international renown as a pioneering transgender surgeon, political leader in Las Animas County, exceptionally skilled pianist, amateur weightlifter, successful cattle rancher and entrepreneur. He will be remembered by thousands of satisfied transgendered patients he served, by the citizens of Trinidad he treated for everything from minor cuts to brain surgery, but also for his community service as Las Animas County Commissioner and substitute rabbi at his synagogue.

His legacy also will live on through his beloved baby grand piano, which now proudly sits in the music hall at Pueblo Community College for use by music students, thanks to a donation by Biber's widow, MaryLee Biber.

Biber's parents, David and Rose Biber, Eastern European Jews, landed at Ellis Island in New York in 1917 to escape the horrors of WWI, and ultimately settled in Des Moines, Iowa to start a home. David was to become a well-known woodworker and furniture maker in the region and began acquiring investment real estate properties to rent to other Jewish immigrants. Stanley adopted the piano as his instrument of choice, and his father traded his skilled labor in return for a magnificent Kimball, baby-grand piano for his 13-year-old prodigy son, an instrument he treasured for the next 60+ years.

While Stanley's teenage ambitions ranged from piano virtuoso to Jewish rabbi to cowboy, he was drafted into World War II, working for the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency. After war's end, he lost interest

in rabbinical studies and earned a medical degree at the University of Iowa. With the onset of the Korean War, he was drafted in the U.S. Army as a surgeon, assigned to the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea where he received a combat citation for his bravery after "borrowing" a helicopter to rescue wounded soldiers in the northern zone.

Seeking civilian work as a doctor after the conclusion of the war, Stanley accepted what he thought was a short-term stint as a surgeon in a miner's union clinic in Trinidad. As the only surgeon in the small community, he performed every type of surgery from gunshot wounds to delivering babies.



DR. STANLEY BIBER AND WIFE MARYLEE

He practiced medicine in Trinidad for the next 54 years while becoming the cattle baron and rancher he had always dreamed -- acquiring over the next two decades more than 5,000 head of cattle, two ranches, a farm and grazing land and real estate comprising more than 15,000 acres.

His beloved baby grand followed him from Iowa to Trinidad, where he perfected his avocation playing everything from Broadway tunes to opera favorites. As if his medical practice, piano playing and ranching were not enough, Stanley embarked on another adventure, which ultimately brought him international renown.

A frustrated social worker in Trinidad approached Stanley seeking an experimental surgical procedure relatively unknown in the U.S. that would change his gender from male to female. At the time, no textbooks existed nor were medical schools teaching the procedure. He took on the challenge as a humanitarian gesture. The first successful operation brought untold notoriety across the world, and Biber was inundated with requests for the procedure.

He eventually performed more than 5,000 male-to-female operations and more than 800 female-to-male operations, bringing Trinidad the nickname "Sex Change Capital of the World."



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STORIES OF SUCCESS FROM PCC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Elizabeth Canda

PCC Physical Therapist Assistant student from Cañon City; Recipient of the Kane Family Foundation Scholarship

With a bachelor's degree in animal science, Canda now is seeking a degree in physical therapy at PCC in order to pursue a career in Hippotherapy, which uses horses as a therapy tool to help rehabilitate individuals with neurological disorders.

"My physical therapy degree will allow me to serve a greater good for those with disabilities in my community, providing these individuals with an experience of calmness, enjoyment, and normal function," Canda said.

"Helping someone, especially children, who are suffering from a neurological disease, could bring profound joy to both the patient and all working in the therapeutic process."



Markieah O'Rand

PCC Nursing student from Durango; Recipient of the Barbara S. Lynch Endowment Scholarship

O'Rand sees nurses as the people who help you both into and out of this world. It brings her much joy and satisfaction being the first in her family to complete a degree in higher education and the only family member working in the health care field.

She hopes to obtain work in an intensive care unit where the patient care and relationships are more one on one, then branch out into flight for life nursing.

"Being able to help my community is going to be the best gift I can give once I am a nurse," O'Rand said.



Deanna Molina Nevarez

PCC Nursing student from Pueblo; Recipient of the Jennie and Albert Gersick Foundation Scholarship

When Deanna's father, a native of Mexico, was widowed, she stepped into the role as mother to her younger siblings at the age of 10. As a first-generation student, she hopes to continue to set a good example for her siblings. She joined the Health Academy while in high school to complete many of her nursing pre-requisites.

Upon graduating with her degree as a registered nurse, she aspires to become either a neonatal nurse or traveling nurse while continuing to care for her younger siblings.

PARTNERSHIP WITH BAYFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

PCC and the Bayfield School District began a partnership in March 2019 to offer college courses to Bayfield High School students and community members. PCC offers general education courses for high school students and the community at the former location of Bayfield Primary School. Classes are offered face-to-face on site and at Bayfield High School, as well as through virtual classrooms and online instruction.

Guarantee-transfer general education classes lead to pathways in education, psychology and social sciences. Courses include math, English, psychology, science and humanities.

Career and technical education programs include courses to support students who are interested in obtaining a degree or certificate in construction trades, culinary arts, emergency medical services, health professions, business and accounting.



XCEL ENERGY INVESTS IN PCC

A \$50,000 grant from the Xcel Energy Foundation will provide a significant boost for PCC's renewable energy program. Ben Fowke, chairman, president and CEO of Xcel Energy, announced the award during a May 2019 visit to PCC. The money will be used to retain experts in the solar industry as instructors for the school's new program.

"As we lead the clean energy transition and pursue our vision to deliver 100 percent carbon-free energy by 2050, it is vital we have the best and brightest learning about and developing the new clean energy technologies needed to achieve that goal," said Fowke. "I am pleased to support Pueblo Community College's work to give students the knowledge and skills necessary to join the clean energy industry."

PCC has been a longtime leader in working with business partners to develop a local workforce with customizable skills that industries desire.

Xcel's Colorado Energy Plan calls for significant investment in solar and energy storage in Pueblo County.



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GRANT EXPANDS OPPORTUNITIES

PCC received a five-year, \$2.4 million Title V grant from the U.S. Department of Education in October 2018 to fund the Providing Opportunity for Diverse Educational Roles (PODER) program. Funds will be used at all PCC locations (Pueblo, Canon City, Mancos, Durango and Bayfield) to provide counseling and enhanced student support services for all students, with a focus on first-year Hispanic and high-needs students.

Through PCC's comprehensive network, students will be directed to tutoring and any other necessary support services before major issues arise that could create barriers to completing their education.

Another part of the program will be to introduce new students to the idea of teaching as a profession. A 2014 report from the Colorado Department of Education stressed the need to recruit more minority teachers in grades K-12, particularly in STEM courses (science, technology, engineering and math) and career and technical education.

PCC is one of two Hispanic-Serving Institutions in Colorado that has had at least 25 percent Hispanic enrollment for more than three decades.

FREMONT CAMPUS LAB RENOVATIONS

The PCC Fremont campus celebrated the renovation of its nursing and biology labs in February 2019.

Two classrooms were turned into one large nursing lab, allowing all nursing students to attend at the same time. The renovation also included new lighting, storage rooms and equipment such as hospital beds, simulation mannequins and biology lab materials.

In all, the project cost \$1.2 million and includes the salaries for a full-time biology instructor and full-time simulation lab coordinator for two years. The renovations were made possible through the generosity of longtime PCC supporter Walter Schepp (pictured above).



\$249,000 AWARD FOR STEM EDUCATION

A major research award from the National Science Foundation is being used to expand STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education offerings for Hispanic and low-income students. PCC – the only Colorado school to receive the award – will receive \$249,445 over a three-year period for its project, Los Futuros de STEM (STEM Futures): Building Student Success in STEM.

The NSF funded 31 projects at Hispanic-Serving Institutions throughout the United States and Puerto Rico with the goal of building capacity and increasing retention and graduation rates for STEM students at those institutions.

PCC ADDS NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS

PCC received approval in March 2019 to add a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN) and a Paramedic-to-ADN (Associate Degree in Nursing) program. PCC's BSN program was developed to help address Colorado's shortage of bachelor's-level nurses.

The three-semester Paramedic-to-nurse degree is open to current paramedics with an associate degree who want to change careers. It also aims to help address the nursing shortage. PCC is the only community college in Colorado, and the only one within 400 miles, to offer the program.

To accommodate working professionals, both programs are completed primarily online.

PCC, NEXTERA ENERGY PARTNER FOR NEW PROGRAM

In August 2018, representatives of PCC and NextEra Energy Resources announced an academic partnership that will create a living laboratory for renewable energy at PCC.



NEER delivered and installed 52 photovoltaic solar panels to create a 20-kilowatt solar energy system on PCC's Pueblo campus. The company also will provide training and curriculum to help the college create a pipeline of skilled workers for the rapidly evolving industry.

PCC students will be able to use the solar energy system as a learning lab as they study how to operate and maintain the system, as well as analyze its data and build predictive analysis systems to optimize its operations.

NEER is the world's largest generator of wind and solar energy and has nine operational wind and solar projects in Colorado, with seven more in development.



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