

PPCC Students Compete to be Design Stars and Raise \$36,000 for CASA

Interior Design students from Pikes Peak Community College (PPCC); in Colorado Springs, Colorado; went head-to-head in a competition to create the most innovative room design while focusing on sustainability through the use of environmentally friendly finishes & furnishings.

The "Design for Hope" project, inspired by HGTV's popular "Design Star" show, was conceived by Tara Gray, Director of the Interior Design Program at Pikes Peak Community College (PPCC). Gray partnered with Matt Locke from the third season of "Design Star" to bring this unique project to the Colorado Springs community.

Design students were divided into ten teams; each team was given identical rooms (similar to Design Star's "White Wall Challenge") consisting of 3 walls and a floor platform, which served as blank canvases. Donations of furniture, lighting, finishes, accent pieces, and artwork (all with a focus on sustainability, energy efficiency and environmental friendly content) were featured. The students worked on their designs for two months and the projected concluded on June 19 with a gala event at the Promenade Shops.

Nearly 400 people attended the gala which included entertainment and libations, touring each team's room, green vendors show casing their products and a silent auction featuring design items, spa and dining packages, and a two hour design consultation with Matt Locke. More than 200 more visitors toured the venue the following weekend at the public tours.

In an effort to involve the larger community in the project and teach the class about giving back, Gray donated all proceeds from ticket sales and the silent *auction--totaling an impressive \$36,000--to* CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of the Pikes Peak Region, a local advocacy group for abused and neglected children. "Our goal is to foster innovative interior design, as well as environmental conservation and philanthropy," said Gray.

Winning Teams:

Top Left: People's Choice & Judge's innovation Awards, Team 3 Residential spa

Bottom Left: Judges Award Team 6 Tibetan Lounge

Bottom Right: Judges Environmental Award Team 7 Kid's Creative Center

