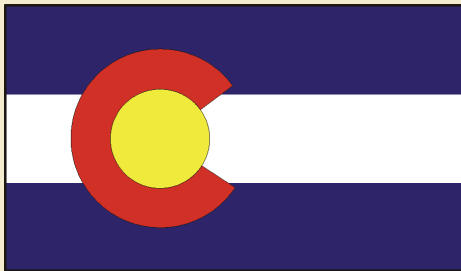




Section A – LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Training Grants Administered by CCCS and Managed by CCCS Colleges are Strengthening Colorado's Economy



In fiscal year 2010, two state-funded job training grant programs have strengthened 58 Colorado companies, while creating **3,610 new jobs** for Coloradans, and increasing the wages of training participants. The programs fund training that is customized to meet the specific needs of companies. These customized training grant programs are jointly administered by the **State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education** (SBCCOE) and the **Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade** (OED). **Colorado's community colleges** manage the grants working closely with the local employers.

The state-funded programs are the **"Colorado First"** and **"Colorado Existing Industry"** customized training programs. "Colorado First" is designed for companies who are acquiring "new hires" by either locating themselves in Colorado or expanding their existing operations. "Colorado First" grants were provided to these companies for the specific purpose of job-specific start-up training designed to give trainees transferable skills necessary to enhance company productivity, increase wages and reduce the need for public assistance. The "Colorado Existing Industry" program provides grants for the re-training of workers at companies in Colorado's primary industries that are facing technology challenges so that their workers may stay employed and the companies can remain competitive and viable to the state's economy. This program provides citizens with transferable job skills while reducing potential unemployment claims.

Colorado First Program Results

In fiscal year 2010, the Colorado First grant program created 2,974 new jobs, an 81 percent increase over the number produced in FY 2009. "These 2,974 new jobs are significant as Colorado endeavors to emerge from the recession," comments CCCS President Dr. Nancy McCallin. "Furthermore," she adds, "each of these new jobs are good jobs in Colorado's primary industries which by virtue of having been strengthened by this program have the strong potential of creating even more jobs for the state." In FY 2010, 34 companies in nine counties benefitted from the program. Companies in Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Pueblo and Weld counties secured \$2.4 million from the program and saw an average annual post-training wage of \$49,454 (5% higher than before their training). An economic model used by the program predicts this investment will be returned to the state via increased tax revenues in just over two years.

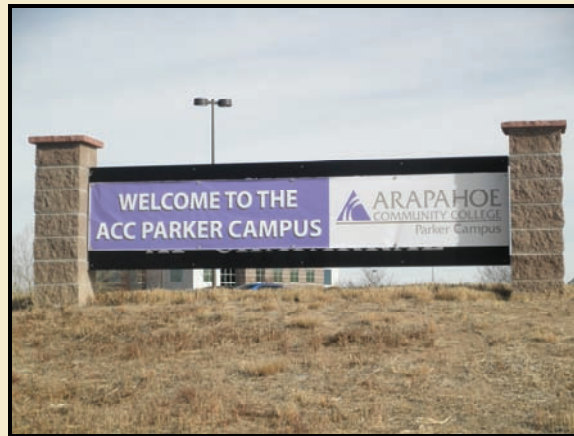
Colorado Existing Industry Program Results

In fiscal year 2010, the "Colorado Existing Industry" grant program resulted in 2,473 Coloradans being retrained and **636 new jobs** being created in Colorado via productivity increases afforded to grant recipients because of the training they were able to make available to their employees. McCallin explains, "This program enhances the economic health of the state by helping companies retrain employees who must acquire new technical competencies for their employers to remain competitive," explains McCallin. "In a nutshell, it keeps Coloradans from losing their jobs while keeping their employers viable." In FY 2010, the program benefitted 24 companies in 11 counties. Companies in Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Fremont, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa, Moffat, Otero and Weld counties secured \$1.5 million for retraining from the program.

Both programs are open to companies across Colorado. Companies who secure the grants for retraining are ones who can, via a competitive process, convincingly demonstrate that the training their employees will receive will significantly strengthen their competitiveness and/or viability.

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ACC Rebranding Its Presence in Parker



Signage announcing the new name for ACC's campus in Parker. Permanent signage is expected soon to replace the purple banner above. Photos courtesy of ACC Parker Campus Director Linda Whitehouse.



ACC's Parker Campus

Arapahoe Community College is pleased to announce that its *University Center at Chaparral* campus in Parker has been renamed the **Arapahoe Community College Parker Campus**.

"We are excited to see our Parker campus receive a new name," said ACC President **Diana Doyle**. "This change will better position the College within the community and let residents know that top-notch education is available to them close to home."

The **State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education** approved the name change at its September meeting. The **ACC Parker Campus** is currently home to more than 600 students and business partners each semester. The campus opened in the Spring of 2000 as a consortium between ACC, University of Colorado Denver, University College of the University of Denver, Douglas County School District and the Southeast Business Partnership to provide educational programs and workforce training. ACC owns and manages the facility

and in addition to offering ACC classes, also provides space to university and community tenants.

The new name is intended to give the **ACC Parker Campus** a clearer identity and better reflect the college's vision to be a leader in community college education all across its service area and beyond. **ACC Parker** is located in Parker, 3.5 miles east of I-25 near the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and South Chambers Road.

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Section B – Innovations, Honors and Achievements

Morgan Community College Cuts Ribbon of New Nursing, Health Technology and Science Addition



The new West Entrance at Morgan Community College

On October 20, Morgan Community College held an official ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house for their newly opened **Spruce Hall** nursing, health technology, and science addition and renovation. The occasion also marked the culminating celebration of MCC's 40th anniversary. Festivities were held on the west side of the college near the new entrance.

MCC President **Dr. Kerry Hart** served as the welcoming master of ceremonies for the event and provided acknowledgements and introductions of invited speakers: CCCS President **Dr. Nancy McCallin**; newly elected State Representative **Jon Becker**, MCC alumnus and adjunct faculty member; **Meg Corwin**, Regional Director for US Senator Michael Bennet; **Pam Shaddock**, Regional Director for US Senator Mark Udall; and **Mac McGraw**, Northeast Regional Director for US Congresswoman Betsy Markey. Colorado State Senator **Greg Brophy**, Colorado State Representative **Cory Gardner**, and Colorado State Treasurer **Cary Kennedy** also delivered greetings to those assembled.

Dr. Hart and Dr. McCallin led the ribbon cutting ceremony assisted by groups representing MCC leadership, local government, health and science faculty, the MCC Foundation, MCC Advisory Council, the project architects and engineers, contractors, and students.

The attendees were then invited inside the facility for refreshments and musical entertainment by the **MCC Jazz Ensemble** under the direction of **Ron Pflug**. Guests were allowed to tour the addition and renovation at their own pace. MCC faculty and staff were on standby to explain the use and features of each area.

This facility expansion resulted in three new health skills labs, two new regular classrooms, one new microbiology lab, two new computer labs, a new conference room and a new commons area as well as new offices for nursing faculty and other health instructors and staff.

The renovated part of Spruce Hall now better accommodates MCC's physical therapist assistant, emergency medical services, and other ancillary health programs. A drop-off traffic circle and sixty additional parking spaces and a west entrance to the college were also major improvements.

The MCC Foundation raised nearly **\$600,000** to equip and furnish the new instructional and support space with a lead gift of **\$200,000** from **Cargill Meat Solutions** (a Workplace Education partner of MCC). Additional major gifts from the **A.F. Williams Family Foundation** and the **Bloedorn Foundation** were complemented by contributions from individuals and businesses.

The project earned the **Gold LEED** (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for its "**green**" construction and uses features such as a high efficiency mechanical system that provides up to 25% efficiency gain over standard systems of a similar size. Up to 11% additional electrical usage is generated by a rooftop photovoltaic array. Light colored roof and plaza surfaces reflect sunlight away and reduce cooling demands on the HVAC system; efficient plumbing fixtures reduce water usage up to 35%, and interior finishes are composed of recycled materials, including countertops made partly from recycled metal shavings. During construction, over 75% of construction waste was recycled and diverted from landfills.

After the ribbon cutting and open house, MCC nursing graduates held a reunion dinner to celebrate 20 years for the second-year nursing program.

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NJC Honors Student Organizes Great Strides Walk



During an honors program seminar session held on campus this September, Heather Spaur gave a presentation on the *Cystic Fibrosis Great Strides* fundraising walk she had organized for September 25. She spent time after the meeting recruiting some of her fellow honors students and NJC President Dr. Lance Bolton to sign up for the walk.

When disease affects your family directly, it's easy to become passionate about working for a cure. For **Northeastern Junior College** student **Heather Spaur**, a sophomore from Johnstown, the disease she knows best is **Cystic Fibrosis**. Her father lost two siblings to **Cystic Fibrosis** and she currently has a cousin who lives with it. That's why she made the decision to promote a Great Strides walk in Sterling as her college honors program project.

Great Strides community walks are designed to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as it works to find a cure for the disease. Such walks are held all over the country each year.

"Some of them are held in the spring and some are held in the fall," explains Spaur, an **agribusiness major** who hopes to minor in accounting. Her family has participated in Great Strides walks for a number of years now. "I didn't realize that they didn't have these happening in Sterling or northeastern Colorado," Spaur says. "Then last spring when we were previewing our honors projects for this year, **Brenda Zink** asked if anyone was interested in helping with a **Cystic Fibrosis** fundraiser walk and since I was familiar with the event and the disease, I thought it would be a good project to spearhead." Zink is chairman of the college's health, science and math division.

On Saturday, September 25, she recruited fellow students and community members to show up at Sterling's Columbine Park to take a few laps around it for Cystic Fibrosis. She asked participants to pay a flat fee to register and walk that morning and all proceeds were sent into the Foundation. Participants paid \$15 to walk and they got a commemorative t-shirt for their participation.

In addition, Heather put some donation jars out at area businesses. She also approached some local businesses to help with this effort and asked the local media to help create an awareness of the event.

Students at NJC who qualify for and are part of the honors program are provided opportunities for extended academic and personal growth through special courses or events that emphasize critical thinking, verbal expression and creative problem-solving. They are required to choose a project which challenges them to learn more about a topic or subject and explore it more extensively and in the process, be able to share what they know and what

they learn, with their peers and the public.

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FRCC Boulder County Campus Meeting Astronomy Demand with New Observatory



Last summer, Richard M. Hackett of the Longmont Times-Call captured this image of Longmont's Liz Gibbons checking out the new observatory at Front Range Community College's Boulder County Campus.

John Minors is thanking his lucky stars.

During this past Fall semester, his astronomy students at **Front Range Community College's Boulder County Campus** were able to peer at constellations and planets at the campus' new observatory.

FRCC opened the observatory in time for the start of classes in August. By October, Minors had started community stargazing events at the observatory.

"Our astronomy classes have been filling and overflowing over the years," said Minors, an astronomy professor and head of the science department.

The number of astronomy students has skyrocketed over the past five years from a single class with 24 students to 112 students in four classes — three entry-level sections and one advanced class — in a recently completed semester.

Minors attributes the growth to an influx of amateur astronomers.

"We get a lot of people who get a telescope at a garage sale or for a Christmas present and have no idea how to use it," he said. "So they will come to this school to get a better idea of what to do with the equipment they have."

The campus' new observatory sits in the college's courtyard, just outside of the classroom building. Stargazers can slide open a center section of its white fiberglass dome to see the heavens. Four motors allow it to spin and rotate the open slot to different sections of the sky.

With a 15-foot diameter and navy blue sloping walls that measure about 12 feet at their highest point, the dome can fit an entire class, Minors said.

Perched in the middle of the dome on a tripod is a 14-inch Celestron telescope. This particular model is an optical telescope, meaning it uses light to increase the size and details of celestial objects.

Telescopic images from the observatory also are accessible to students inside the classroom via an online feed, Minors said.

The entire project cost about \$40,000 — \$30,000 for the dome and \$10,000 for the telescope. **FRCC Boulder County Campus Vice President Linda Curran** said the school used vacancy savings — money left over last school year from not filling administrative positions — to fund the observatory.

FRCC also has a radio telescope — a device that measures radio frequency from the sky — mounted on the roof of a campus building. Students in the past relied on it, a herd of smaller telescopes, and their naked eyes to track lunar and planetary details, Minors said. One night each semester, they also traveled to the *Little Thompson Observatory in Berthoud*.

Minors said the astronomy curriculum has been reconfigured to include lab time in the observatory. Students are now performing exercises, such as locating certain planets and constellations.

Most stargazing is taking place at night, but the telescope does have a solar filter that blocks out ambient light for observing the sun in the daytime.

Sophomore Anna Suppe, 19, took Astronomy 101 from Minors for her science requisite but said she came to enjoy the class.

"This is totally the coolest thing I've ever seen," Suppe said when she inspected the telescope when it was first constructed.

Although she was not enrolled in astronomy classes for the upcoming semester, Suppe said at the time that she hoped to drop by the observatory on community stargazing evenings.

"It's the difference of learning things in the classroom and trying them in the real world," she said. *Story courtesy of the Longmont Times-Call and reporter Magdalena Wegrzyn.*

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RRCC's Gateway Program Helps Previously Incarcerated Start New Lives



Jeffrey and Cora have both benefited greatly from the Gateway program. To see how the program helped Jeff click http://www.rrcc.edu/gateway/success_stories.html
To see how it helped Cora click http://www.rrcc.edu/gateway/success_stories2.html

Ex-offenders often turn to open-enrollment colleges for a fresh start. In 2006, **Red Rocks Community College** launched its *Gateway Program* to reduce recidivism and provide positive outcomes for learners who had been involved with the criminal justice system. The program was specifically designed to assist these ex-offenders in reconnecting with their career, community, and family. To do so the college ensured the program would address professional, educational, and social goals in an innovative and structured academic environment.

In the past four years, the enrollment of the program has grown from 12 to over 600 students and the four-year recidivism rate of those who have participated in the program is an amazing 3% (nationally this rate is 67%). The program boasts many success stories in which participants have become high-performing achievers in both college and in the workforce.

Prospective students are referred to Red Rocks Community College by their probation office, parole office, GED instructor, or case manager. Students are required to attend an orientation designed to introduce them to their academic environment, assist them in applying for financial aid, and familiarize them with the expectations required of college students.

An Education Coordinator works with highly qualified instructors and tutors to provide academic advising, technical assistance, supportive services, and career planning in both classroom and individual settings.

The program's website invites participants with the following:

"Here is your chance to walk down the right road. By attending the Gateway program you are showing the initiative to change. We are also here for support so don't hesitate to come on in! We know all of you will be successful and were also happy to expand our Gateway family. Good luck, you're on your way to being a better you."

RRCC President **Michele Haney** was recently interviewed about the program. To listen to this interview click:

<http://www.rrcc.edu/gateway/assets/HANEY-MICHELE%206.10.mp3>

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Going Virtual: Seeing Classrooms in a Whole New Way

*By the Colorado Northwestern Community College Spartan Times
and Student Reporter Meagen Lish*



Web cam, chatroom, students in homes, dozens of labs, and a professor. Any of this sound familiar? Well, for some **Colorado Northwestern** students, it sounds like a **virtual classroom**, which is run through **Elluminate Live!**, a virtual environment with all of those features. It is an educational opportunity for students to enroll in classes from anywhere that the Internet is available.

Around a dozen classes are currently being offered via virtual classrooms this fall, and about as many will be available in the spring. Courses range from English composition to psychology and math.

The college chose to use this program, Elluminate, because administrators felt it provided an optimum learning environment. A virtual classroom is similar to an online class, only it involves a combination of texting, chatting, and skypeing. There is a certain time and day when all of the students log in for the online class. The group meets in a chatroom, their professor teaches them over the computer, and the chatroom also allows the students to interact with one another.

There are no special requirements for students to get into a virtual classroom, except having a computer, web cam, and headset if they want to speak. The cost for a virtual classroom is the same as a regular class. Some of the professors are actually from different states, and they just communicate through the web cam to their classes.

Currently, virtual classes are open for up to 20 students, but in the future, CNCC instructors and administrators would like to open the classrooms up to about 30 students. Instructors are hired based on basic CNCC qualifications to teach at a community college.

One of the main advantages of the virtual classroom is that there is more motivation to get assignments in on time because students are still in a classroom setting with other students. It is also more convenient because the student can have class right at home.

Mindy Shue, the registration technician at the CNCC-Craig Campus, took the Art Appreciation summer course this year as a virtual class.

"I liked it, it was very convenient and we had a very good group," Shue states. "Everybody participated well. It made it feel like we were still part of a real class."

Kellie Dippel is the director over the virtual classrooms. Even though the virtual class is new, convenient, and continually growing, Dippel does not predict that the virtual class will replace the regular classroom.

"I think this will be a major way in which students choose to take classes," Dippel says. "It makes education more accessible to those for whom, for whatever reason, either in life or location...it is difficult for them to physically travel to a class. It is the way a lot of institutions are going, but I don't think it will replace the actual classroom. It just provides more opportunities to our students."

To sign up for a virtual class, the student must go to the CNCC website. Go to the academic section, then click on the virtual classrooms. The virtual classroom section gives the list of classes and where classes are offered.

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Section E – PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As Collaborative Partner - TSJC Cuts Ribbon on New San Luis Valley Center for Clinical Excellence



TSJC nursing student Christian McDowell; Louise Sowards, TSJC; Dennis Bertin, VWHS; Dr. Dave Svaldi, ASC president; Russ Johnson, SLVRMC CEO; and Adams State nursing student Casey Amos, officially commemorate the opening of the San Luis Valley Center for Clinical Excellence on November 13, in the Adams State Luther Bean Museum.

As the large red ribbon was ceremoniously cut for the grand opening of the **San Luis Valley Center for Clinical Excellence**, *San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center Chief Executive Officer Russ Johnson* said, "This is another milestone for the San Luis Valley."

Adams State College President Dave Svaldi added, "This project has come to fruition through the hard work of **Bill Mansheim**, the **ASC Nursing Department**, the **TSJC Nursing Department** and with help and support from **San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center** and **Valley Wide Health**.

The Center, located on the second floor of Adams State's **Richardson Hall**, is a collaborative effort by **Adams State**, the **San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center (SLVRC)**, **Trinidad State Junior College** and **Valley Wide Health Systems**. *TSJC nursing program director Louise Sowards* says the lab is a wonderful opportunity for students and appreciates the hard work and dedication shown by **Angela Medina**, **TSJC**, and **Allison Bennett**, **Adams State**, for "becoming experts" on simulation technology.

The lab equipment includes computer programmed mannequins which simulate a full range of disease processes, medical-surgical events, mental health issues, and obstetric and pediatric situations. At the grand opening, **SLVRMC staff**, **Adams State** and **TSJC faculty and students** conducted tours of the facility and demonstrated many of the lab's special features. Adams State nursing students **Erin Joelze** and **Trish Curran** helped with the tours. Joelze said the new lab is a "great advantage" for the program. Curran agreed, "It is a really

unbelievable resource." Curran encourages volunteers from the community. "There are three ways to volunteer, as standardized patients, help with the simulation technology, and creating moulage (simulated injuries)."

At the open house, the **GFWC Women's Citizenship Club** of Alamosa provided the refreshments. The GFWC Women's Citizenship Club of Alamosa supports the Adams State and TSJC Nursing Programs with two separate nursing scholarships.

The **San Luis Valley Center for Clinical Excellence** is grateful for the following donors, **Caring for Colorado, Magnolia Society, GFWC Women's Citizenship Club, Health Resources and Services Administration, El Pomar Foundation, Janet Mangum, Michael Hudson, Monte Vista Machine Tool, and Wall Smith Bateman and Associates.**

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LCC, UCCS Form 2+2 Partnership



Lamar Community College President John Marrin discusses the partnership during halftime during a special basketball scrimmage between his institution and UCCS.

Lamar Community College and the **University of Colorado at Colorado Springs** announced the beginning of a significant partnership between the two colleges during halftime of an October 27 scrimmage between the LCC and UCCS basketball teams.

In the announcement, *UCCS Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance* **Brian Burnett** and *LCC President* **John Marrin** revealed plans to create **"2+2" degree options that will be available on the LCC campus.**

The program will allow students to complete four-year bachelor's degrees without leaving Lamar.

The program will begin immediately with a **registered nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Science in Health Care Science allied health completion.** The bachelor's

degrees will coordinate with LCC's **Associate Degree in Nursing** and **Associate of Science Course of Study in Sports & Fitness Management.**

"Our partnership with UCCS will enhance our continued vision of offering the highest quality education in an environment of service excellence," explained Marrin. "Students will be able to complete their bachelors' degrees without leaving our campus and while still having complete academic and student support services available to them."

Different from other articulation or transfer agreements, UCCS will have a visible presence on the LCC campus with **shared academic support services** including **tutoring, labs,** and

clinicals. Other shared student support services are possible as is the opportunity to share faculty to enhance student learning.

“We are excited to partner with Lamar Community College to make high-quality, affordable bachelor’s degrees available,” Burnett said. “The citizens of southeastern Colorado benefit when our two schools join together in pursuit of our common goal of increasing participation in higher education.”

Plans call for the schools to collaborate on the development of additional four-year programs in key areas such as **business, criminal justice, education, and historic preservation.** The two schools hope to have some of these additional programs available by the fall 2011 term. The partnership opens the door for area students to earn selected advanced degrees as well.

The colleges have collaborated on a variety of projects in recent years, beginning with a close association between **LCC’s Nursing Department** and **UCCS’s Beth El College of Nursing and Health Sciences.**

UCCS is one of the fastest growing universities in the nation. The university offers 36 bachelor’s degrees, 19 master’s and five doctoral degrees. The campus enrolls about 9,000 students. Established in 1937, LCC is a comprehensive community college that serves both Southeast Colorado and students from Colorado and the world with its combination of transfer, career and technical education, competitive teams, and destination programs. It offers 24 associate degrees and 34 certificates of study to a student body of approximately 1,100 students.

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Section F – Technology News

CCCOOnline Bestows its 2010 Gold Medal Faculty Award on Southwest Colorado Community College Computer Information Science Faculty Member



A full-time faculty member at **Southwest Colorado Community College’s** West Campus in Mancos has received notable recognition from the Colorado Community College System’s online consortium, **CCCOonline.**

Melinda Green has been awarded their **2010 Gold Medal Faculty Award in Computer Information Science.**

Green was honored for her exemplary work teaching and developing online computer technology classes for the last two and a half years. She teaches **web design, desktop publishing, and Photoshop** for **CCCOonline**, which is delivered to students throughout Colorado, the country and even some in foreign countries.

CCCOnline comprises the 13 CCCS colleges and offers online classes for students who find it difficult to take classes in a regular classroom setting.

"This is such a wonderful recognition of Melinda's talents and a testimony to her dedication to higher education," said **Shannon South**, *Dean of the SCCC's West Campus*. SCCC is a division of Pueblo Community College.

Green is also a full-time faculty member at the West Campus, where she teaches a variety of courses in *computer graphics, business, office and computers*. The instructional courses she teaches include: **web design, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, desktop publishing, Microsoft Office, 3D animation, Flash**, and **beginning computer**.

"The classes Melinda is currently teaching here at SCCC are called '*hybrid courses*', which are a combination of both classroom instruction and online work," said **Dennis Seibel**, *SCCC Coordinator of Academic Services*. More hybrid classes are being added every year at SCCC.

"In her more than two years she has been teaching for us, I cannot recall a single instance where I had a complaint from a student or had an issue with her *Quality Assurance*," said **Ralph Newby**, *Computer Information Science program chair for CCCOnline*, who nominated her for the award in the CIS division.

"She makes certain she is in the class on a regular basis and helps students through issues they have with the software," he added. "I have received comments from students commending the job she has done in the class,"

Green has been a **Montezuma County** resident since 1980. In 2000, she began teaching at San Juan Basin Technical College (SJCBTC), which merged with Pueblo Community College in 2009.

During that time, she has taught a variety of courses such as **English** and **Business Communications**, as well as **computers, graphics** and **web design**. She was named the *SJBTC's 2006 Faculty Member of the Year*.

Green has a bachelor's dual degree in journalism, English and secondary education from Kansas State University. From 1980 to 1996, she and her husband, **Sam Green**, owned the *Dolores Star*, which in 1985 became one of the first newspapers in the nation to adopt desktop publishing and layout using computers. When not teaching, Melinda enjoys outdoor sports and running.

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Section G – Grants and Gifts News from Around the System

PPCC Awarded \$2.6 Million for Increased Student Services



The **U.S. Department of Education** has awarded **Pikes Peak Community College** three grants that will provide their institution with \$2.63 million in increased student services over the course of the next five years.

The amount includes more than a half million dollars to be used in the current school year. The three grants, ***TRiO Student Support Services***, ***TRiO Disabled Student Support Services*** and ***Child Care Access Means Parents in School***, aim to increase overall **academic achievement, retention, and graduation rates**.

“We have always provided outstanding student support and because we aggressively pursued these new grants, we are now able to support a larger population of students,” says **Dr.**

Edwin Ray, interim president, Pikes Peak Community College. “Especially,” he adds, “those who face specific hardships that are acting as barriers to their success in college.”

TRiO Student Support Services

The TRiO Student Support Services grant, a continuation of a previous grant, increases services for **first generation** and **low-income students**. The total amount of the award is \$1,192,480 over five years and provides individualized academic and personal support services to eligible students. Out of the total amount, \$238,496 is to be used in the current school year. The support for this grant may include:

- **Financial aid and grant services for students**
- **Academic tutoring and help with study skills and time management**
- **Course selection and advising**
- **Life coaching**
- **Transition and transfer assistance to four-year colleges**

TRiO Disabled Student Support Services

PPCC, the only college in Colorado to receive a ***TRiO Disabled Student Support Services grant***, will receive nearly \$220,000 for the current academic year. The total amount of the grant is \$1.099 million over five years.

“PPCC now has more resources than ever to help our disabled students,” says Dr. Linda Rains, director of Retention Services. She adds, “For instance, our disabled veterans will benefit as it

will help us help them achieve their full academic potential and transition to four-year institutions.”

In addition to the services included in the *Trio Student Support Services grant*, the *Disabled Student Support Services grant* provides:

- **Support systems including academic advising, counseling and learning communities;**
- **Help completing developmental courses such as basic English and math that often present barriers for students with disabilities;**
- **Additional training for veterans transitioning to civilian and student life;**
- **Tutoring and assistive technology specialist; and,**
- **Licensed mental health/disability specialist.**

Child Care Access Means Parents in School

The Child Care Access Means Parents in School grant (CCAMPIS), a four-year award totaling \$333,104, helps parents who are full-time, low-income students have the greatest chance of success in college while improving their child-care experiences.

“This grant brings high-quality child care within the reach of our lowest-income students, says **Cynthia Neale-Downing, director of PPCC’s Child Care Services.** “This allows them to attend school full-time, participate in tutoring, advising, study groups, and many of the other activities that help students succeed in college.”

Specifically, the CCAMPIS grant will:

- **Subsidize full-day/full-week child care for students’ infants and toddlers at one of PPCC’s two licensed Childcare Development Centers;**
- **Provide an integrated approach that includes access to learning communities and also connects students with academic and family support; and,**
- **Provide mandatory academic, career planning, financial and parenting education and activities.**

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OJC Awarded HUD Grant to Build Economic Development Facility in Crowley County



Ordway, Colo., pop. 1,200, will be the location of a new Microenterprise Center, funded by a HUD grant recently awarded to OJC. Ordway is the county seat of Crowley County, pop. 6,500, the poorest county in Colorado.

Otero Junior College was notified in late September that the **Department of Housing and Urban Development** (HUD) has awarded the college close to **\$600,000** in grant funds to create a **Microenterprise Development Center** in **Crowley County**. The grant award was made on behalf of *HUD's Hispanic-Serving Institutions Assisting Communities* program (HSIAC). OJC was one of 11 colleges in the nation to be awarded a HUD HSIAC grant. OJC is recognized by the **U.S. Department of Education** as meeting the statutory definition of a *Hispanic-Serving Institution*.

According to **Teri Erickson**, director of resource development at OJC, a total of \$599,987 in grant funding has been committed by HUD. Those funds will be matched with other funding and in-kind support to bring the total project cost to an estimated **\$1,136,727**. Erickson, the grant writer on this project, said that the **Microenterprise Development Center** will be a one-stop facility designed to increase business and housing opportunities in Crowley County.

"The specifics of the project will include renovating a building in **Ordway, Colo.** to house the facility as well as implementing services designed to increase business and housing opportunities in the county," said Erickson. "The center will help residents of this underserved area of southeastern Colorado achieve success in business start-up, continuation and expansion through a series of services including *one-on-one counseling, group workshops, and shared work space*. There will also be a *housing component* to educate residents about fair housing and provide opportunities to build new housing or rehabilitate existing homes," said Erickson.

On behalf of Crowley County, *Commissioner Tobe Allumbaugh* expressed his appreciation to OJC for securing the funding to help improve the economy of Crowley County.

"The commissioners are thrilled to have received the HUD grant to establish a **Microenterprise Development Center** in **Crowley County**. We have all wrestled with a very cloudy economic environment the past few years. This news provides a glimmer of hope for a positive change. We sincerely thank OJC, and specifically Teri Erickson, for their efforts in seeking this grant, and look forward to working with them as this project evolves," said Allumbaugh.

In addition to the Crowley County commissioners, other partners with OJC on the grant include the **Small Business Development Center**, **Tri-County Housing and Community Development Corporation** and the **Crowley County Chamber of Commerce**. The partners will primarily provide in-kind support for the project. The full scope of the project is expected to be completed over a three year time period. It is anticipated that the building will be completed by Fall 2011 with services being offered at that time.

Crowley County has a population of about 6,500 residents and is located within OJC's service area. According to Department of Commerce statistics, Crowley County is the **poorest county in Colorado** and the **23rd poorest county in the nation**. In addition, the county has higher-than-average unemployment rates and, according to a county report published in the fall of 2009, the county's population is declining, businesses are closing and few primary jobs are available for residents, who largely travel outside of their community to work.

Jim Rizzuto, *president of Otero Junior College* said that the project will allow OJC to assist the county in reviving its business community by renovating a vacant, highly-visible downtown building and providing a variety of support services to existing and potential new businesses.

"We sincerely appreciate receiving this HUD grant in that it will assist OJC in its commitment to partner with communities and counties in our service area to promote regional and community economic development. We at OJC are looking forward to working with Crowley County in the implementation of this grant to meet their needs," said Rizzuto.

Otero Junior College has been previously funded for HUD HSIAC projects twice: in 2004 and 2007. The 2004 project, the **Southeast Colorado Resource Enterprise Center** (SCORE), has been completed. The 2007 project, the **Rocky Ford Business Innovation Center**, is in its third year, with a one-year no-cost extension planned.

To read more about the 11 grants awarded by HUD HSIAC, visit:

http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2010/HUDNo.10-202

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Disaster Management Institute of Colorado at the Community College of Aurora Unveiled



Pony Anderson, simulation coordinator at the Community College of Aurora's Center for Simulation, gives an overview of the new Disaster Management Institute to gathered guests

Following remarks from the *director of the Colorado Office of Homeland Security, Larry Trujillo*, and **U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter (CO-07)**, the **Disaster Management Institute of Colorado** was unveiled to the public Sept. 20. With its high-technology capabilities and capacity for interagency training on state-of-the-art emergency simulation equipment, the Institute is a program within the **Center for Simulation at the Community College of Aurora**.

The facility features a fully functional **Emergency Operations Center** that allows students and working professionals to experience and train in management of simulated disasters of all types and sizes. Event attendees experienced the enactment of a disaster scenario—a tornado and its aftermath—and had a chance to experience, firsthand, the power of the technology that first responders and disaster management professionals use to mitigate and recover from such emergencies.

The Institute was established with Congressional appropriations of more than **\$567,000**. Classes at the Institute are taught by emergency management and homeland security professionals, and the facility employs some of the most advanced technology available, including an **Advanced Disaster Management Simulator**. This technology bridges the gap between classroom and live exercises and enables students to gain insight and skills to handle any type of emergency, from traffic accidents to large-scale disasters.

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