President’s Report
Dr. Lance Bolton
President
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Student Success Goal: Colorado students shall have the opportunity to succeed through high quality, cutting-edge instruction and educational services.

• PPCC’s Association of Nursing Students and the Philosophy Department co-sponsored a presentation on Near-Death Experience research for PPCC students and the public on November 8, 2012. Presenters offered a brief history of Near-Death Experience research and the latest scientific findings, including cross-cultural studies. They shared actual stories that reveal common features of NDE’s and their profound impact on the dying and their families. Following the presentation, faculty from Nursing, Philosophy, and Psychology explained their discipline’s interest and perspective on NDEs.

  Mitch Liester, M.D and Pikes Peak Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplain Steve Alsum, M. Div. have presented at numerous colleges, universities, and professional medical conferences. Dr. Liester became interested in Near Death Experiences while in medical school after his grandfather had an NDE during a farm machinery accident. Chaplain Alsum, who also holds a BA in Philosophy, has been at bedside with countless hospice patients. Our presenters are also conducting their own cutting-edge research on NDE’s, working with a local physicist.

• An exciting program is being planned for January’s Professional Development Week for PPCC faculty and staff. Dr. Kay McClenny, Director of the Center for Community College Student Engagement and a faculty member in the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas at Austin, will keynote the Student Success and Retention Summit, a two day event scheduled for January 7 and 8. Dr. McClenny will share valuable information for both faculty and staff on the unique challenges that our students experience from entering the front doors of PPCC to completion of their degree or certificate.

  Dr. McClenny’s book, Students Speak: Are We Listening, is being made available prior to the workshop. The Student Success and Retention Summit is sponsored by the PPCC Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL).

Student Success Goal: The demands of Colorado businesses and communities shall be met through the development of a high skilled work force.

• Welding students and faculty worked jointly utilizing computer aided drafting software (MasterCam) and CNC water-jet technology to design and produce “Fallen Soldier Plaques” for the annual Veterans Day Ceremony at Pikes Peak Community College. The ceremony featured LTC Joe Ruffini, US Army (Retired) as keynote speaker, performances by the Pikes Peak Highlanders and the PPCC Singers, as well as a precision Color Guard from Fort Carson’s 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. PPCC’s office of Military Programs and Veteran Affairs coordinates this ceremony each year. More than 20% of the students attending PPCC are veterans, active duty or dependents of military personnel.