Transform the student experience.

Warren Munick’s (Economics Department Chair) economics students have organized the Summer 2015 Economics Discussions Series. This classroom project requires students to explore chosen topics through conventional research and through inquiry. Professor Munick then works closely with students to help them connect their topic to the economic perspective and network in the community to invite people to class who are working in fields that match their interests. This summer’s program features a marketing agency, an architecture office, a computer security firm, a veteran’s rehab center, and more.

The one-hour question and answer sessions allow students and attendees to ask what is important to them. Over the course of eight sessions, guest speakers (most of whom are business leaders in the Colorado Springs community) will discuss topics including manufacturing, the local food movement, the environment, and politics.

Transform our own workforce experience.

Discover Goodwill Partnership  A unique partnership between Pikes Peak Community College and Discover Goodwill is helping veterans acquire new skills and job experience and easing the transition into civilian life, while providing needed service to a local nonprofit.

There are 20 students in the 10-week-long Diesel Mechanics Training and Certification program, which is completely free to veterans. PPCC Diesel Department Chair, Justin Carpenter says, “There are a high number of veterans having a hard time transitioning into a civilian atmosphere. That’s why Discover Goodwill and Pikes Peak Community College started this new program, exclusively for veterans.”
The students are learning how to service and maintain diesel trucks, which comprise the fleet of trucks used for picking up Goodwill donations. The first group of veterans will graduate at the end of July. A special graduation ceremony is being planned for them.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

PPCC’s Downtown Studio Art Gallery and Theatre Program collaborated with the Springs Ensemble Theatre (S.E.T.) in developing a shared space experience coupling theatre and art, to share a common theme of powerlessness, empowerment and finding one’s voice. The college art gallery was venue to an exhibit titled: Invitation to Narrate: Voicing the Voiceless. S.E.T. sponsored Circle Mirror Transformation, a production by the Pulitzer Prize winning playwright, Annie Baker. A moveable wall that separates the PPCC Art Gallery from the dance studio was removed, allowing for theatrogoers to be seated directly in the art gallery, surrounded by art exhibits, during the course of the performance happening in the mirrored dance studio.

Program Chairs and instructors from PPCC’s Manufacturing Technology Programs united to sponsor an Advanced Manufacturing Open House, to attract and address the needs of transitioning veterans interested in careers in Computer Aided Design, Electronics and Machining. Participants in the event were afforded the opportunity to see how CHAMP-funded equipment, to include 3D printers, and CNC machining equipment is utilized by the college to prepare students for challenging and rewarding careers in the manufacturing sector.

Redefine our value proposition through accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, resource development, and operational excellence.

An article published in Colorado Wildland Fire & Incident Management Academy’s (CWFIMA) June newsletter prominently featured inputs from Colorado Springs firefighter & PPCC faculty Ty Mather (Co-Chair of PPCC’s Fire Science Technology Department). Entitled, “Thinking of a Career in Firefighting? Consider an Academic Degree,” the article discussed the value of prospective firefighters having a degree as they enter the competitive job market.

CWFIMA’s current partner for college credit is Pikes Peak Community College, but other colleges will give credit for academy certificates if a student is registered with the college. In addition to being featured in the article, Pikes Peak Community College’s Fire Science faculty personally visited the students on-site to discuss careers in Fire Science Technology.