Transform the student experience

Cyber defense accreditation – The National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security have designated PCC a Center of Academic Excellence for its cyber defense program. This process, led by program director Tim Gama, took more than a year and establishes PCC as the only accredited two-year program in southern Colorado. Cyber security program graduates will have the NSA/DHS designation noted on their diplomas.

Hispanic Heritage Month events – The Diversity Activities Committee sponsored events for Hispanic Heritage Month. On Oct. 2, award-winning author Tim Hernandez brought his Colorado Humanities presentation to campus, speaking about his book “All They Will Call You: Finding Woody Guthrie’s Deportees.” It details a 1948 California plane crash that took the lives of 28 Mexican citizens. Aaron Abeyta discussed his novel “Rise, Do Not be Afraid” on Oct. 4. Abeyta is an English professor at Adams State University. “Rise” was a finalist for the 2007 Colorado Book Award and the Premio Aztlan Literary Prize. Abeyta also received a 2017 Governor’s Creative Leadership Award.

Fall Fest fun – Students and staff filled Hoag Plaza for the annual Fall Fest on Sept. 20. Campus clubs an opportunity to promote themselves; students got to check out transfer opportunities with four-year schools; and everyone was treated to an outdoor lunch. It was a great way to spend part of a perfect late-summer day.

Constitution Day – In honor of Constitution Day, Pueblo District Attorney Jeff Chostner hosted a discussion about how current events relate to the Constitution. His appearance was sponsored by the Diversity Activities Committee.
Welding lab renovation approved – The state Capital Development Committee approved $1,349,041 for the renovation of PCC’s welding shop. The funding resulted from $6.1 million left over from money that was authorized in SB17-267 for other controlled maintenance projects.

Author’s powerful presentation – Dr. Johnnetta McSwain, author of “Rising Above the Scars,” visited on Oct. 9 to share her incredible story of triumph over a childhood of neglect and abuse. There were tears, laughs and most of all an inspiring, get-moving message: You are the one who writes your life’s story – no one else. Her presentation had a profound effect on students and staff and was a perfect complement to PCC’s Year of No Excuses.

Alternative energy presentation – Solar Roast Coffee owner Mike Hartkop spoke to students for a Tech Tuesday presentation in PCC’s STEM Center. Hartkop and his brother, David, created the world’s only commercial solar-powered coffee roaster. Their business, based in Pueblo, now sells its coffee worldwide.

9/11 remembrance – PCC Fire Science students on the Pueblo campus gathered for their fifth annual memorial stair climb on the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The event is a solemn remembrance of the first responders who were lost. In Canon City, representatives from PCC’s Fremont campus took part in the city’s annual 9/11 remembrance ceremony.
Transform our own workforce experience

**PCC recognized by CUPA-HR** – PCC was recognized by the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources in its recent report, “The Representation and Pay of Women and Minorities in Higher Education Administration: Institutions That Are Getting It Right.” PCC was identified as one of 11 U.S. institutions that have been top performers in diversity and pay equity for women and minority administrators over the past 16 years.

**Corporate Cup honors** – Members of PCC’s 2017 YMCA Corporate Cup team brought home numerous individual and team honors in this year’s competition. The event is a great way for colleagues to get to know each other, have some fun and represent PCC in the community.

**President McCallin visit** – Colorado Community College System President Nancy McCallin came to campus in September for an hour-long Q&A with faculty, staff and student leaders. They were able to discuss a variety of topics related to CCCS and the college.
**New tradition with CSU-Pueblo** – Members of PCC’s Corporate Cup softball team initiated a friendly bet on the outcome of this year’s game with their colleagues from Colorado State University-Pueblo. CSU was the victor so the PCC players had to visit the university campus and take a photo wearing CSU-P shirts. (CSU-P President Dr. Timothy Mottet graciously wore a PCC shirt for the photo op.) In addition, PCC machining students created the Golden Mortarboard traveling trophy, which resides temporarily at CSU-P. Both schools are eager to make the softball game an annual event outside of the Corporate Cup, creating a new tradition between the schools.

![Image of PCC softball team](image)

**Best of Pueblo** – PCC was named one of the top three places to work in the 2017 Best of Pueblo reader poll. The college was recognized at a public awards presentation on Oct. 11. This is the fifth time Puebloans have rated PCC one of the city’s best employers.

**Women of Influence award** – PCC President Dr. Patty Erjavec has been selected by the Colorado Springs Business Journal as a recipient of the 2017 Women of Influence award. She will be recognized at a Nov. 9 luncheon at The Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs.

**Create education without barriers through partnerships**

**AMR continues support** – American Medical Response continued its support of PCC’s EMS education programs by donating $7,400 from the AMR Foundation’s annual golf tournament. The money will be used for scholarships and professional development.
Subaru partnership continues to benefit students – The automotive students on all PCC campuses have some amazing new learning tools – more late-model cars from Subaru. PCC is part of Subaru University, a program which enables our AST students to earn at least the first two levels of Subaru certification by the time they graduate. This qualifies them to work in any Subaru service department. This is the second set of cars the department has received from the company in less than a year and it’s due to the great efforts of Department Chair James Cordova and his instructors.

Rural Jump-Start zones designated – Thanks to the collaborative efforts among PCC, the region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado and local governments, four southwest Colorado counties have been approved as Rural Jump-Start zones. Archuleta, Dolores, Montezuma and San Juan counties received approval from the Colorado Economic Development Commission on Sept. 21. Businesses that relocate to those counties now will be eligible for multiple tax incentives. PCC, through its Southwest branch in Mancos, is the designated institution of higher education for the counties. PCC’s Corporate College was responsible for submitting the Jump-Start applications and is available to provide resources and referrals to interested businesses. Businesses that apply to locate in one of the Jump-Start zones must do so through, and be endorsed by, PCC.

Raise value standards through excellence & accessibility

HLC visit – PCC hosted members of the HLC Sept. 25 and 26 for the school’s reaffirmation visit. It was a valuable opportunity for all employee groups to share their knowledge of the college and provide feedback for the HLC team. Their commitment paid off: PCC was deemed to have fulfilled the core components of all criteria of the Comprehensive Quality Review.

PCC wins EDIE Award – PCC and its Corporate College were recognized with the Economic Development Partnership Award from the Economic Development Council of Colorado. The statewide honor highlighted PCC’s work with Vestas Wind Systems, which opened a wind tower manufacturing plant in Pueblo in 2009. Pueblo Corporate College uses its Mobile Learning Labs to provide customized training for Vestas workers.