

Student Services Newsletter

April 2022

Enrollment Progress

Summer 2022

Headcount is **up** by a count of **90**; equivalent to a **4.7% increase** from previous Summer

FTE is **down** by a count of **17.1**; equivalent to a **3.8% decrease** from previous Summer

Fall 2022

Headcount is **up** by a count of **138**; equivalent to a 8.3% increase from previous Fall

FTE is **up** by a count of **45.8**; equivalent to a **9.1% increase** from previous Fall

Peak Experience

We will be hosting Peak Experience again this year! During Peak Experience, we invite 2022 high school graduates who plan on attending PPCC to the Centennial Campus to learn what it's like to be a student, get to know other new students, meet with an academic advisor, register for fall classes, and celebrate their decision to continue their education at PPCC. Peak Experience will be held each Friday for 4 weeks from April 8 - 29. Thank you to everyone involved in making this a great event!

Covid Dashboard

Spring Semester Totals as of 3/26/22:

Total number of outbreaks: 0

Confirmed-positive COVID cases: 234

184 students, 32 staff, 17 faculty/instructors

Confirmed -positive COVID cases for the week of 3/20-3/26: 0

(NOT A TYPO – ZERO REPORTED CASES THIS WEEK! GOOD WORK, EVERYONE!)

Rampart Child Development Center

We have made the difficult choice to close the RR-CDC at the end of our current Spring Semester. Our CDC staff have done a tremendous job serving both kids and students there since we opened 18 years ago.

Sadly, COVID has thrown the child-care industry from near-crisis into total crisis throughout the nation especially in Colorado with our high cost of living and workforce shortages.

You can find more information about this decision on the last page.

Student Employee Appreciation Week is coming up (April 11-15); Career Services and Financial Aid are teaming up to recognize PPCC's awesome student staff with the 2nd Annual National Student Employment Appreciation Week. This event will be virtual and will include professional development opportunities for student staff, contests, drawings, and SWAG bags. We are also giving out awards for the Student Employee of the semester. There will be one award for the Fall semester and one for the Spring semester. If you have a phenomenal student employee that goes above and beyond and you would like to recognize them, please do so by nominating them for this award! This is a wonderful opportunity to show our appreciation for the incredible job that our student employees perform on

As most know by now, Lincoln Wulf, Director of Advising and Testing, has accepted the position of Associate Vice President for Academic Resources. We congratulate Lincoln on this appointment and look forward to partnering with him in his new position. His first day in this new role is scheduled for April 18 and we will provide additional information about our transition plans in the near future.

Effective April 1, Alberto Teixeira will serve as Interim VPAS until a permanent appointment has been determined for that position.

Student Services Newsletter

Financial Literacy Week events during the week of April 11-15; links to webinars and videos are below.

Webinars: <https://www.moneysmartweek.org/>

April 11th at 1 PM (Central Time) Spend Smart. Eat Smart.

April 12th at 1 PM (Central Time) Credit: Build and Improve It!

These links below are from StudentAid.gov

Budgeting video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lb-bdko5cE>

Responsible Borrowing video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTHtn0FRMWw>

Money Management Checklist for College Students:

<https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/money-management-checklist.pdf>

Student Loan Repayment - What to expect video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJHySMdXjxE>

Student Loan Repayment Options video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqsOCvY-PmI>

This is a link to the “Money Matters” video presentation which discusses the importance of budgeting.

Join PPCC's Military and Veterans Programs “Warrior Dog” Week - April 19-21 to honor military working dogs.

Events include a resource fair, military working dog demonstrations, war dog memorial re-dedication ceremony and more.

Nine years ago, a War Dog memorial was dedicated in the space between the F-Building, the C-Building, and the Atrium on our Centennial Camps. This memorial is the work of a former PPCC veteran student and two of the dogs depicted were modeled after real dogs who worked with some of our PPCC veterans. This memorial saw wear and tear over the last 9 years, so through a collaboration between students, staff and faculty, PPCC was able to refurbish this memorial this past fall 2021.

Apr 19:

Students can destress and interact with Go Team therapy dogs 11 am–1 pm | Rampart, Atrium

Accessibility Service Presentation: How to interact with service dogs

10:30am | Rampart, Atrium & Virtual

Apr 20:

Students can destress and interact with Go Team therapy dogs 2–4 pm | Centennial, Atrium

Accessibility Service Presentation: How to interact with service dogs

2pm | Centennial, Atrium

Peterson Space Force Base military working dog demonstration

10:30–11 am | Rampart, Atrium

Apr 21:

Military Working Dog Re-Dedication Ceremony

11 am | Centennial Campus War Memorial (between A and C building)

Fort Carson military working dog demonstration

11:15am | Centennial, Atrium

Local Animal Rescue & Service Dog Training Resource Fair

11:30 am – 1 pm | Centennial, Atrium

Click [here](#) for more information or contact mvp@ppcc.edu

Student Services Newsletter

Dear PPCC,

I'm writing to provide an update on our Rampart Range Child Development Center (RR-CDC).

We have made the difficult choice to close the RR-CDC at the end of our current Spring Semester. Our CDC staff have done a tremendous job serving both kids and students there since we opened 18 years ago.

Sadly, COVID has thrown the child care industry from near-crisis into total crisis throughout the nation especially in Colorado with our high cost of living and workforce shortages.

COVID drove economic changes nationwide that have been especially acute in our area, such as increasing salaries for service workers, food prep, Amazon employees, and similar industries. This made it increasingly difficult to fully staff our CDCs at a time when CDC staffing models required higher teacher to child ratios. The RR-CDC is currently providing care for 16 children in their 12,000 square foot facility. This is through no fault of our outstanding CDC Team, but rather relates to the difficulty of hiring trained staff at the facility. The affluence of the north side of Colorado Springs negatively impacts our ability to hire staff in that region.

Further, while changes in our bookstore model may not at first seem an intuitive influence on our CDC operations, the impact has been enormous. Both our bookstore and our CDC are auxiliary operations. For many years PPCC was able to cover losses associated with running our CDCs with profits from our bookstore. The bookstore annually produced a profit of about \$1M and our CDC ran annual operating losses of about \$1M. Again, this was no one's fault and ultimately a result of us trying to provide a living wage to our CDC teachers while also providing affordable childcare for our students.

Today, big changes in bookstore sales have taken away the opportunity to support one auxiliary operation with the profits from another. OER, digital books, and online sales competition, while providing many benefits to our students, have reduced our bookstore profits from \$1M per year to projected less than \$100K this year. In other words, we have lost about 90% of our bookstore profits and that forced our recent change to partnering with Barnes and Noble to run our bookstore. It also means that we no longer have an easy source of funds to tap for closing the operating loss gap of our child development centers.

While I always felt comfortable and 100% supportive of using auxiliary profits from one enterprise to subsidize another, using student tuition dollars or taxpayer dollars from the state is an altogether different matter. Those dollars have designated purpose in directly supporting the education of our students.

This has been a painful decision because we know many of our students need childcare support while they attend classes. We are currently studying a model to use federal HEERF resources to help offset the impact for student kids currently enrolled in the CDC. Rampart CDC teachers and administrative staff will transition to the Centennial Campus at the end of the semester.

Although no final decisions are complete, we are currently studying a plan to transition the Rampart Campus CDC space to serve as a Dental Center. We envision the center housing our current Dental Assisting Program, a new Dental Hygiene Program, and a practical clinic that serves low-income residents of our region while providing training for our students. Incredibly, there is no Dental Hygienist program in the Colorado Springs region. Many folks from our region travel to Denver or Pueblo for training in that field while dentists in our area experience chronic workforce challenges with finding and hiring the hygienists they need. We believe there would be tremendous demand for a program.

Again, this has been a difficult decision driven by factors beyond the control of our excellent CDC staff. Although we know that we have students who need childcare, we were able to accommodate only very few. As PPCC's leader, one of my duties is to continuously seek the highest and best use of all our institution's resources. I am saddened by the loss of the Rampart CDC, but excited for the possibility of providing more opportunities for people of our community to access high paying jobs in the dental health field.

Sincerely,

Lance