

Explore College Solutions

Pueblo Community College, Colorado

Community College in Pueblo, CO, serving a student body of 8,000



For over 75 years, Pueblo Community College (PCC) has provided education and training that gives students the skills to transfer to a four-year college or university, or qualify for good jobs. PCC offers Associate degrees, general education courses, career certifications, and a wide range of accredited programs to approximately 8,000 students system-wide. The average student is 29 years old and about one-third are first-generation college students. According to Ross Barnhart, Director of the PCC Learning Center, a large number of students need some level of developmental education to be prepared for college level courses.

Challenges Faced

COMPUTER ACCESS AND LITERACY

PCC has four separate campuses, spread across 325 miles. This far-flung setup, along with the wide variety of subjects offered and large student body, required an online learning resource that would be easily accessible. “We needed something that had remote access,” said Ross Barnhart, Director of the PCC Learning Center, citing the limitations of a prior learning solution that was limited to on-campus use. In addition, computer literacy is a challenge in the community. Some students have never before accessed a computer and need extra help to get up-to-speed.

IMPROVE ACCREDITATION EXAM SCORES

Students are encouraged to conduct career exploration before selecting a career path. Many of the careers PCC students pursue require certification exams. Therefore, the goal of many of the courses offered at PCC is preparing students to pass state accreditation exams. Departments like Cosmetology needed a learning resource that would support the curriculum and successfully help students improve their scores on state accreditation exams. Higher scores means better placement in competitive job opportunities.

LearningExpress Solutions

LEARNINGEXPRESS LIBRARY™

The PCC campus has access to LearningExpress Library, Popular Software Tutorials, and Job & Career Accelerator. The previously contracted learning resources were limited to on-campus use. Now, with the implementation of LearningExpress Library online resources, students have unlimited remote access 24/7. “It provides resources that otherwise might not be available for our branch campuses,” says Mr. Barnhart. The LearningExpress platform complements a variety of PCC services provided in the PCC Learning Center, such as tutoring students with a wide range of basic skills competency levels, GED completion, testing for academic placements, computer training and licensure, and certification testing for a variety of career-oriented programs. LearningExpress Library has been a valuable tool for PCC students. Prospective students use it to prepare for their admission placement exams and thus begin their studies at the highest level appropriate for them.

Bottom Line

» EASE-OF-ACCESS TO ACADEMIC RESOURCES

The 24/7 remote access, along with the easy-to-use web interface, has made LearningExpress Library the definitive solution for PCC's on-and off-campus needs. "We get people in who don't know how to use computers," says Mr. Barnhart. "LearningExpress is easy to navigate and get around. We don't have to do a lot of work to get students set up on the system." LearningExpress Library is accessible to all students. The PCC Learning Center is not a controlled environment (students use the center independent of instructors), so having an accessible learning platform is critical to student success.

"The majority of my students are hands-on learners, so LearningExpress Library has been a great supplement to the Cosmetology program"

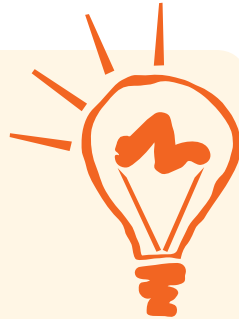
– Beth Nips, Cosmetology Department Chair

» HIGHER SCORES ON ACCREDITATION EXAMS

Students can use LearningExpress as a resource for career exploration. For those selecting the Cosmetology program, the success is especially evident to Beth Nips, Department Chair, who witnessed a 50% increase in student scores after using LearningExpress Library. "We offer it as another tool for our students... it has especially beneficial for those with testing anxiety, because they can either do it here or at home... Since we've been using it so often, it's brought up their scores. All of our students are passing at 90 or above. We started at the 60s. When your test scores go from the 60s to the 90s, that's really helpful." Additionally, such a dramatic increase in test scores demonstrates that the LearningExpress Library is engaging students and making them self-advocates in the learning and testing process.

COLLEGES

EXPLORE SOLUTIONS
THAT WILL HELP YOUR
STUDENTS ACHIEVE MORE –
CALL **LEARNINGEXPRESS**
800 295 9556



» COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION

Implementation of the LearningExpress Library Platform has been a significant savings for PCC's operating budget, while out-performing the previous resources. According to Ross Barnhart, "LearningExpress costs much less than our previous resource. The others had limited access, both in terms of number of possible concurrent users as well as being network based, not Internet based. The cost of LearningExpress Library fit us well! The ease-of-use saves us staffing, time and money."



Learning Center at the Pueblo Campus

About LearningExpress:

With today's global economy and emphasis on 21st century skills, LearningExpress online resources, including LearningExpress Library, Job & Career Accelerator, Popular Software Tutorials, and Computer & Internet Basics, help patrons of all ages succeed by meeting a broad range of education and career needs. For your school or college solution, visit www.learningexpressllc.com or call LearningExpress today, **800.295.9556**.