



**PIKES PEAK STATE COLLEGE:  
Update for Colorado Springs City Council**

Dr. Lance Bolton, President  
Donna Nelson, Chief Advancement Officer



# Why the Name Change Mattered

It is ALL in the name.



# Transition from Community College to State College

## Strategic Name Change

The name change reflected a strategic shift to offer four-year bachelor's degrees beyond community college scope.

## Enhanced Recognition and Credibility

'State College' designation carries stronger recognition among students, employers, and transfer institutions.

## Support for Growth and Partnerships

The transition supports enrollment growth, employer partnerships, and student confidence in education quality.



# Expansion of Bachelor's Degrees

- We currently have 7 bachelor's programs at PPSC.
  - BSN – Bachelor of Science in Nursing
  - BAS in:
    - Behavioral Health
    - Cybersecurity
    - Emergency Service Administration
    - Education
    - Advanced Paramedic Practitioner
    - Business & Business Administration



# Current Bachelor's Programs

## Program Variety

Pikes Peak State College offers seven bachelor's programs addressing diverse high-demand fields in the region.

## Workforce Alignment

Programs are developed based on employer input, labor market data, and community needs to meet local workforce demands.

## Accessibility and Impact

Offering local bachelor's degrees reduces geographic and financial barriers, while strengthening the regional talent pipeline.



# Student and Community Impact



PIKES PEAK STATE COLLEGE

# Keeping Talent in Colorado Springs

## Local Degree Accessibility

Earning bachelor's degrees locally reduces student debt and improves graduation rates for diverse learners.

## Support for Diverse Students

Local higher education benefits working adults, military-affiliated learners, and first-generation students by improving access.

## Community and Economic Benefits

Retaining graduates strengthens the local workforce, supports employers, and promotes economic stability.

## Graduate Community Engagement

Graduates tend to live and serve locally, reinforcing public education investment and aligning with city priorities.



PIKES PEAK STATE COLLEGE

# National Recognition and Awards



PIKES PEAK STATE COLLEGE

# Bellwether and HEED Awards

## **Bellwether Award Recognition**

The Bellwether Award honors PPSC's innovative Promise Program and measurable workforce development outcomes.

## **HEED Award Achievement**

The HEED Award acknowledges PPSC's commitment to equity, inclusion, and student success in higher education.

## **Commitment to Quality Education**

These are only the latest awards to confirm PPSC's dedication to innovative, inclusive, and high-quality education meeting national standards.



# PPSC Law Enforcement Academy



PIKES PEAK STATE COLLEGE

# A Pipeline for Public Safety

## Rigorous Hands-On Training

Students complete over 700 hours of practical training designed to prepare them for real-world law enforcement duties.

## Career Readiness and Certification

Graduates are eligible for the Colorado POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) exam, enabling immediate entry into public safety careers.

## Community-Based Recruitment

The academy helps address police staffing challenges by recruiting candidates with strong local ties.



## Looking Ahead and Partnership



PIKES PEAK STATE COLLEGE

# Future Collaboration Opportunities

## Workforce Development Alignment

Pikes Peak State College consistently works to align closely with the city's workforce needs to support economic growth and job preparedness.

## Law Enforcement Coordination

Strengthening the partnership between the Law Enforcement Academy and the Colorado Springs Police Department will help to address the city's manpower issue and aid in meeting public safety demands.

## Expanding Education Pathways

We continue to expand bachelor's degree pathways in high-demand fields to enhance educational opportunities and career readiness.

## Strategic City-College Partnership

We view the City of Colorado Springs as a strategic partner. We want to work collaboratively to address regional challenges through education and workforce initiatives.



# Thank you & Questions

