



# THE IMPACT

## DIVISION OF EXTENDED STUDIES

September 2020



### MASTER OF EDUCATION GRADUATE ENROLLMENT

Extended Studies partnered with the Department of Teacher Education to grow student enrollment in the Master of Education degree by offering the core courses for the M.Ed. online. In Fall 2019, CSU Pueblo Online launched the program with 15 new M.Ed. online students, and 22 in Spring 2020. Graduating 11 in Summer 2020. This fall, the program has doubled in size with over 40 new online degree-seeking students in the M.Ed. online program.

### GEN ED ONLINE: SUMMER 2020

Extended Studies, in collaboration with faculty, provided more online offerings for general education this past summer than ever before. Building 22 new online courses, in addition to existing courses, helped to result in over 275 enrolled students—a record-setting enrollment term. This is especially important because these courses were planned as a means to capture new and existing enrollment even before the pandemic. We intend to continue to grow this program and are looking forward to summer 2021. In fact, we are already making plans!

### EXPANDING PLA FOR ADULT LEARNERS #VISION2028

The Division of Extended Studies understands the importance of adult learners to the higher education landscape. As a component of CSU Pueblo's Vision 2028, the university has prioritized Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) as a means to capture the adult learner population, which overwhelmingly is characterized by those who possess some credits, but no credentials. PLA allows students to demonstrate how their experience in work, other trainings, and the like can fulfill the learning objectives of classes on our campus. Over the past year, Extended Studies, with the support from the faculty and campus community, have accomplished several benchmarks to assist this student population and build its PLA program.

Extended Studies staff has worked with Dr. Helen Caprioglio to update CSU Pueblo policies to align with the new Colorado Department of Higher Education PLA policy, helping students further earn PLA credit on our campus. In order to help adult learners earn that PLA credit, the faculty have approved a new course: Introduction to Portfolio Assessment (ES 101). This course allows students to demonstrate how their experience can fulfill the learning objectives from courses in the catalog. The class will be offered in Fall 2021.

Moving forward, Extended Studies plans to create campus working groups, including faculty and campus leaders. This will help develop the PLA program at CSU Pueblo with the goals of creating a campus policy with procedures, centralizing the program for accessibility for students, creating a model to compensate faculty for their work in reviewing PLA credit, standardizing forms and processes, providing professional development for campus stakeholders, and seeking further industry partnerships. These goals will allow CSU Pueblo to continue to focus on the adult learner population to help students achieve credentials to better their lives.

If you want more information, or to assist with this process, please contact Kathryn Starkey, the Adult Learning/PLA Lead Specialist, at [kathryn.starkey@csupueblo.edu](mailto:kathryn.starkey@csupueblo.edu).

This communication is a bi-monthly newsletter informing campus and the community of updates, announcements and highlights happening within the CSU Pueblo Division of Extended Studies.