

The Pueblo Chieftain

NEWS

CSU-Pueblo students venture to campus from all over the world

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It's a long way from India to ThunderWolves country.

For many Colorado State University-Pueblo students who were moving into dorms or apartments in Pueblo this week, home is around the bend or up the hill to the Front Range. Some have traveled from out-of-state and some are international.

But Somil Nishar has lugged his backpack the furthest.

Nishar took a flight from India to Amsterdam on Wednesday. Then from Amsterdam to Salt Lake City, where he went through U.S. Customs. From Salt Lake, the 22-year-old jumped on another airplane and flew to Colorado Springs.

And after a short drive to Pueblo, he landed in the Home of Heroes.

"What a long trip. It's a quiet city and very pleasant. It's very, very good. I like the quietness and the peacefulness," Nishar said with a thick Indian accent.

"The campus is very good," he added during a walk on the campus of the college where he will study for the next two years.

Nishar, who comes from Mumbai, is on the verge of realizing his dream of pursuing a master's degree in robotics and mechatronics in the U.S. Classes begin Monday.

"I was looking for various universities on the website," he said. "I came across Pueblo. They were very fast and very interactive. It was a perfect match."

Nishar, who has a degree in mechanical engineering from Pune University in India, said CSU-Pueblo offers all the courses he wants.

Nishar, who has never been to the United States before, said he had to apply for a visa to enter the country twice.

"Visa is the worst thing. Even if you get into the college, it doesn't mean nothing. You have to get the visa. It is very difficult," he said.

He said his first attempt failed because he was nervous in answering questions. His father forced him to do it again.

His visa was approved Aug. 8.

"I am definitely excited. This will be very beneficial. The world is growing toward robotics, especially in a country like the U.S.," Nishar said.

Nishar will stay with a host Indian family in Pueblo, where he already had an Indian meal Wednesday night.

"I am looking forward to trying the Mexican food," he said with a laugh.

Closer to home, Alexandra Purcell and David Bruski gained traction with their suitcase wheels rolling from the sidewalk to the long hallways in the Culebra dorms on the Belmont Campus.

Purcell, a senior mass communications major with a minor in automotive industry management, said this was her second year at CSU-Pueblo. She's from Evergreen in Northern Colorado.

"I like to write. I am a fanatic about car magazines. So I figured if I came here, I could marry my automotive with the journalism and hopefully work for an auto magazine someday," Purcell said.

"The anticipation of moving sucks because a week beforehand you know that you're like, 'Crap, I need to get all my stuff together.' But once you get here and you start getting everything put together and start getting posters on the wall to make it feel like home, it all falls into place."

Purcell, 21, and Bruski, 18, attended WarrenTech automotive school at Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood together. They were happy to see each other Thursday.

"I saw her car and I walked over and said, 'Hey friend.' "

Bruski, 18, from Green Mountain, was helping his friend move in.

The freshman is majoring in automotive industry management.

"I am excited to come to this school. I heard there are a lot of break-ins to cars, but I should be fine and protected, because people look at my Subaru and they say, 'I won't touch that,' " he said with a laugh.

"The automotive industry management program here is one of the best in the country."

The two students said they will be interacting with others and becoming more acclimated.

"From my experience this year and last year, this is one of the more organized campuses in terms of moving in. I feel very welcome and it's a very chill campus and I like that about it," Purcell said.

"I can't wait to get back to my local coffee shops and the library here," Purcell said.

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