



VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Landon K. Pirius, Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

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Academic Affairs and Workforce Development

The Lumina Foundation approved a budget modification for CCCS to use grant funds for a recruitment database, PLA pathway mapping, and language assessment vouchers. The Grants team is closing out two federal grants and preparing for a fiscal monitoring visit. The Workforce Resilience Program marketing campaign is underway, and applications are due in March. Skill Advance Colorado awarded funding to businesses and colleges for workforce training programs. New mobile learning lab build-out projects are underway, and more funding is anticipated.

CCCOnline / CO @ Online / Academic Affairs

In response to changes in accreditation criteria and growing student demand for online learning, a system-wide task force developed the [Colorado Online Consortial Model](#) in November 2020. Compared to states that have adopted a marketplace approach, Colorado Online's course sharing model is unique in that registration for almost half of the sections is combined ("pooled") across the system to increase access and efficiency. At the same time, this model demands that colleges and central support staff identify new ways to coordinate course offerings and support services – and quickly. We are at the steep end of that learning curve in many respects and are focused on continuous improvement.

This Spring, Colorado Online offered over 400 courses, comprising more than 2000 sections—a threefold increase compared to the previous fall semester – and 46,000 students are continuing their education through Colorado Online. This noteworthy expansion signifies substantial progress towards the goal of transitioning all online courses to Colorado Online by the fall of 2024. Despite these significant achievements, it is essential to acknowledge that the Spring term presented challenges for several students, faculty members, and staff. Although most processes ran smoothly, unforeseen issues, such as the timing of cancellation decisions, incorrect Banner settings, and various other complications, resulted in 250 students not being assigned to teaching sections on the first day of classes. We are dedicated to addressing and rectifying these issues.

To enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations, we are implementing a series of proactive measures, including:

1. Expanding access to the sectionizer to provide a broader audience with enrollment data and section assignments.
2. Implementing enhancements to the sectionizer that streamline the process of closing pooled registration sections to additional enrollment when teaching capacity has been met.



3. Clarifying roles and establishing precise timing protocols for section assignments, book orders, and other functions requiring coordination across the system.
4. Conducting proactive audits to identify and rectify issues with course setup before the sectionizer runs.
5. Continuously improving communication channels and training initiatives to foster a more seamless experience for all stakeholders.

CCCS remains steadfast in our commitment to delivering a high-quality online education experience, and these proactive steps underscore our dedication to addressing challenges head-on and continuously refining our processes.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Colorado CTE is preparing for submission of a new Perkins State Plan to USDOE this spring. As part of the process, a new CTE State Strategic Plan is being drafted as the foundation for the federal plan. The team has conducted four public comment forums in January 2024 to review the draft as well as the metrics that CTE programs across the state will be measured using from 2025-2029. Additionally, the team is working on learner voice and stakeholder engagement through the CTSO (Career Technical Student Organization) conferences to ensure learner voice is incorporated in the state goals and federal plan. For more information on the state conferences and ways to engage with learners or the draft plan, please visit www.coloradostateplan.com.

Student Affairs

Student Affairs is working on wrapping up the Common Standards project with aligned course requirements being set for Academic Year 2024-2025. Additionally, SP 9-71 is being updated so that future course requirement changes are incorporated into the SFCC course management process rather than requiring a standalone project.

Student Affairs is continuing work on the Recruit assessment and will tie this work into a larger SEM pre-assessment across the system with enrollment managers from various colleges.

Additionally, student affairs is working on evaluating university to college collaboration on the Bridge to Bachelor's Degree program and will hire a consultant using grant dollars to help strengthen communications and transfer relationships.

Reisher Scholarship Navigators are establishing protocols to identify future cohorts of Reisher Bridge Scholars. Programs for student engagement will happen for pilot cohorts this spring and planning for next year is well underway. The Navigators are partnering with MSU Denver to provide a presentation on the program and partnership at the Transfer Champion Symposium, 02/15/2024.

Financial Aid



The upcoming 2024-2025 aid year in financial aid is full of change, challenge, and excitement. Changing a system that has not been significantly changed in the past 40 years brings its share of challenges. CCCS is using these challenges to review its existing processes to ensure the goal of simplification of a financial aid process extends from the FAFSA to the student's college process. Reducing student barriers is a key focus for CCCS FA.

It does appear the new ED process is providing most students and their parents with a more streamlined process with direct downloads from the IRS for income information and fewer questions on the FAFSA. We are pleased that the process is making college financing easier and may reduce financial barriers.

CCCS FA is anxiously waiting for releases of information from the Federal Department of ED (ED) for the FAFSA 24-25 electronic records (ISIR). The ISIR files for a new year are normally received in October. This year we expect to receive the first files created using the new FAFSA Simplification Process in late January/early February-a 4-month delay.

Unfortunately, delays in the release of the new FAFSA to the public and the defect resolutions at ED are creating significant delays at all IHEs and all software developers. The software providers, including Ellucian, have not yet received the finalized formatting for the ISIR files or the finalized SAI calculation (The Student Aid Index replaces the EFC and calculates the student's financial aid need).

CCCS is preparing to move forward with new ED guidance and the Ellucian Releases required to import ISIR files for colleges to begin the financial aid processing. IT and FA are closely working to begin the importing of files and the processing of student financial aid for the 2024-2025 aid year as soon as possible.

Many changes in regulatory guidance and compliance are being reviewed by CCCS FA. One major change is with data protection. Beginning with the 2024-2025 aid year, receiving the income tax information directly from the IRS requires our data protection requirements to mirror the strict IRS guidelines. We are also working with IT Data Security to ensure compliance. A new location for storing the ISIR is being created along with changes to our file exchanges with ED.

Veteran Affairs

The Joint Peer Review Group met from November 17-22, 2023, to review each State Approving Agencies performance in Fiscal Year 2023, based on the cooperative agreement between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and each state entity. Our office received the highest rating of "satisfactory" for our performance during Fiscal Year 2023.

We started off Fiscal Year 2024 with a focus on modifying our process on Risk-Based Surveys and understanding the new requirements for supervisory visits. The VA released the new Risk-Based Survey guidance for this year on January 2, 2024; three months after the fiscal year



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commenced. This delay was due to congressional testimony that required the VA to review legislation to ensure risk factors aligned with federal law. Our allotment of 19 Risk-Based Surveys was modified to five Risk-Based Surveys, and 14 Supervisory/Compliance visits for the coming year.

Public Law 117-333, passed on January 5, 2023, mandated the VA and National Association of State Approving Agencies develop a uniformed application that will cover all areas of approval law. This new application has been approved and was released on November 15, 2023. All state approving agencies are utilizing the same applications for approval.