



# President's Report

**Dr. Mordecai Brownlee**

January 2024 • Issue Number 01

*The Community College of Aurora (CCA) provides high-quality instruction and student support services to Aurora and Denver, Colorado. With a vision to aspire to be a college where every student succeeds, CCA is the most diverse college in the State of Colorado. Focused on creating social and economic mobility for its students, the college offers courses on two (2) campuses, online, and through its high school concurrent-enrollment programs. For more information, visit [www.ccaurora.edu](http://www.ccaurora.edu).*

## **Transform the student experience**

- The Office of Institutional Research conducts winter data collection for the federal IPEDS reports. One of the reports tracks 3-year outcomes for a cohort. For the fall 2020 cohort, there is a significant increase in 3-year graduation and transfer rates. The graduation rate is 29%, up from 25% for the 2019 cohort. The transfer-out rate is 24%, which is also an increase from 19% for the 2019 cohort. The graduation rate for the fall 2020 cohort is not yet at pre-pandemic levels, but outcomes data appear to be recovering.
- CCA's Division of Strategic Communications is heading into Phase 2 of the CCCS system lead Ellucian Migration project.
- The **Teaching and Learning Transformation Hub Ribbon Cutting** was on Thursday, January 25th, and marked the Official Grand Opening of The Hub! Dr. Brownlee, Student Government Association representative, Jada Gray, tutors, staff, librarians, coordinators, student experience staff, and Hub directors were in attendance (picture attached)! Dr. Angela Marquez, Dr. Bobby Pace, and the Achieving the Dream team, were credited for envisioning the space, and Dean Ana Martin-Mejia has provided unending support and guidance of The Hub. All involved are making a difference for CCA students!
- The Hub has served over 1000 students and over 100 educators since doors opened in August of 2023. In the fall, The Hub created a Student Experience Advisory Committee to help with continuous improvement of CCA's services to students. Jada Gray of the Student Government Association (SGA) has led the way for The Hub to hear directly from students. With SGA, The Hub held two tabling events and received feedback from over 54 students. These comments,

along with staff observations and Hub student surveys, have helped create a more welcoming and useful space for students.

**Among the comments, students stated the following:**

- “Taught me things I never heard of that made conversations easier.”
- Thank you for having the hub! It is a great place to complete homework and understand better the classes or assignments.”
- “I feel very happy having the tutoring center because it helps me a lot with math. [This tutor] is a great teacher and always she is ready to help.”
- “Thank you for providing the tutors! Really helped me this semester.”
- “I really appreciate the librarians offering in-person research appointments at Lowry.”
- In regard to tutoring: “It’s so wonderful to have this program, everyone is always helpful and nice”
- “[The tutor] helped me out a lot!”

---

**Transform our own work experience**

- Community College of Aurora (CCA) prepares for the 2024 Spring Strategic Summit scheduled for Friday, February 2, 2024, at the CCCS Lowry Conference Center. Dr. Brownlee will begin the summit with a State of the College Presentation. This strategic summit will focus on engaging the College attendees in HLC preparation, Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Criteria deep dive, and discussing the Achieving the Dream (ATD) priorities one, two, and three. Record attendance is expected.

---

**Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships**

- As part of the City of Aurora's 38th annual commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Aurora TV hosts "[Capturing the Dream Through Film](#)" to showcase student films from the Cinematic Arts Department at the Community College of Aurora. The filmmakers discuss their films and talk about what it means to capture the dream.
- Student Artists also showcased their work for the City of Aurora’s MLK “Capturing the Dream” week Kickoff event at the Aurora municipal building January 8, 2024!

---

**Redefine our value proposition through accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, resource development, and operational excellence**

- CCA’s Center for Adult Education (CAE) started their Winter ’24 quarter with strong enrollment numbers. The Community ESL program has 518 students enrolled in ESL classes and an additional 107 students enrolled in conversation and computer classes. The Citizenship program has exceeded its quarterly goals with 33 enrollments, and the HSE/GED program has its strongest enrollment to date with 150 students. The Community ESL program is fully off-book

this term and the instructors are developing OER to reduce costs for students. Going forward, all CAE programs have transitioned to digital registration processes. Beginning with the summer semester, the Community ESL program's schedule will follow the CCA semester schedule.

- CCA's Division of Enrollment Management is reporting headcount and FTE at 124% of goal for Spring 2024! **This puts our combined campus goal at 112.75%!!!!** To put that in perspective, this means that CCA broke 2,000 FTE again in spring of 2024. This is an incredible achievement for this institution. We've hit 2013.54 FTE as of this morning
- Visual and Performing Arts Department First Generation Theatre Students performed short monologues they'd authored about being first generation college students, in an original performance entitled "Letters to Myself" for the City of Aurora's MLK "Capturing the Dream" week Kickoff event at the Aurora municipal building January 8, 2024. In addition, they presented this performance at the CCA MLK Luncheon on January 23, 2024. "Letters to Myself" is a brief performance written by three CCA student performers (**Michelle Gutierrez Quintanilla, Martin Fletes Mendrez, and Kasondra Baum**). Each individual wrote a letter, either to their former self, their current self, or their future self. These letters grapple with the challenges of being a first-generation college student, as well as the hopes and aspirations. They perform their own words, cheering themselves on and setting their sights on their future
- Led by CCA's Division of Strategic Communications, later this month the Community College of Aurora Foundation will roll out its new and improved website. The website will allow site visitors the ability to more easily engage with content and make gifts to the institution.
- Community College of Aurora (CCA) prepares to submit the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Assurance Argument and Federal Compliance on Monday, February 12, 2024. The College Cabinet is reviewing the final rough draft. Dr. Brownlee, Dr. Pace, and Dr. Skulley met with the HLC Peer Review Team Chair in January to discuss movement forward.
- Kristina Ciarlo, our Chair of Behavioral Health, Jenn Dale Dean of Online and Blended Learning, and Maria Olivas, Assistant Director of Recruitment and Retention spent Saturday, Jan 27, 2024 at the African Chamber enrolling students for our new Behavioral Health program. CCA started a partnership with the African Chamber last year focusing on short term credentialing sponsored by the Chamber. It was incredible to see the demand for our behavioral health programming as well as forging ties with community organizations not sufficiently fostered in the past.