



## FRCC February 2024 Board Report

Colleen Simpson, Ed.D.

President

### Transform the student experience.

FRCC is using funding from our [Metallica Scholars Initiative](#) to provide additional **math support and tutoring** for students in our four [advanced manufacturing programs](#). This effort is already yielding noteworthy results. Throughout the fall 2023 semester, faculty provided instructor-led math tutoring and open-lab math support, both in person and remotely. This additional 23 hours of math support reached roughly 75% of the students from these programs who were enrolled in Technical Math (MAT 1150) last semester. Data already shows the impact this investment is making on our students' success:

- Success-rate increased from 52% (fall 2022) to 67% (fall 2023)
- Grade of A increased from 12% (fall 2022) to 27% (fall 2023)
- Grade of A/B increased from 24% (fall 2022) to 42% (fall 2023)



In December FRCC hosted a free Community Dental Hygiene Day in the college's newly expanded dental clinic at our Larimer Campus in Fort Collins. Students in the [dental assisting program](#) got to help prep the equipment and dental treatment spaces, while shadowing dental hygienists who provided free dental cleanings and oral cancer screening exams to 20 community members. FRCC recently completed an **expansion of its Larimer Campus dental clinic**—construction wrapped up in November—thanks in part to a \$600,000 grant from the Colorado Health Foundation. The project added 10 new dental operating units, as well as a sterilization room, dentist office and storage bays. The grant funding also allowed for the addition of new state-of-the-art handheld dental equipment, ensuring that students get the hands-on training they need to be successful in the dental field.

The Financial Aid Office hosted our **FAFSA Day** at each campus on Feb 3. With the release of the federal government's newly revised Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), this event is an opportunity for students and families to get free help filling out the forms. The FAFSA is the first step and a federal requirement for all college students who plan to pay for college with the help of Federal Student Aid like grants, work study and federal student loans.



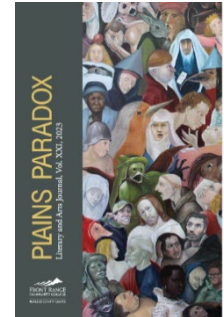
FRCC students have won several impressive regional and national awards for their professional-level work on the college's two **creative journals**. You can check out the student writing and art in the 2023 digital edition of [Plains Paradox](#) and in [HOWL, volume 8](#) in their digital formats.

*HOWL*—The Westminster Campus Writing Club journal won:

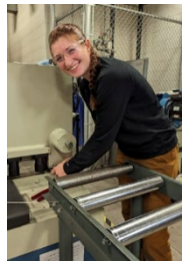
- Superior award from the National Council of Teachers of English Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines (REALM)
- First Place with Special Merit and Most Outstanding College Literary-Art Magazine for 2023 from the American Scholastic Press Association

*Plains Paradox*—Boulder County Campus Student Literary & Art journal won:

- First Class award from the National Council of Teachers of English Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines (REALM)
- First Place from the American Scholastic Press Association
- Student Ellaina Powers' "How to Translate the Word: Worth" won first place for best poem in the Southwestern Division
- Morgan Salerno's "Dream Logic" won second place for best photography in the Southwestern Division



FRCC welding student and lab tech Greer Skelton recently received her acceptance letter to the Colorado School of Mines where she intends to major in petroleum engineering (with a minor in explosives engineering). Greer came to FRCC in 11<sup>th</sup> grade as a Poudre School District **concurrent enrollment student** in our [welding program](#). She continued



working toward her Associate of Applied Science degree through her senior year of high school and is now an [ASCENT](#) student. While a full-time student at FRCC this year, she has also worked in our welding shop, assisting with general maintenance, prepping for classes and keeping the shop running. This past summer Greer was one of FRCC's star mentors for a group of young women in the college's Girls Welding Camp. She is also a member of our cohort of students assisting with a School of Mines research project on 3D printing with metals. Greer has a 4.0 GPA—and we know she is going to do great things at Mines.

## Transform our own workforce experience.

The college's office of Organizational Development & Human Resources is launching a new **professional development** series called "Leading with Excellence" (LWE) this spring semester. The series highlights leadership skills within the context of higher education. Designed for experienced supervisors who have already gained practical experience in leading teams and overseeing day-to-day operations, LWE will provide leadership development grounded in research. The series will provide opportunities for self-reflection, as well as tactical strategies that supervisors can begin to implement immediately. This pilot cohort includes 15 individuals, combining classroom facilitation and group and personal coaching.

## Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

FRCC's brand-new **Mines Academy**, which the college launched in collaboration with Colorado School of Mines in the fall, now has 17 students participating. This [new partnership](#) offers FRCC engineering students a direct



pathway to earning a bachelor's degree at Mines. Throughout their time at FRCC, our new Mines Academy students get to meet regularly with advisors from both colleges and have opportunities to attend co-curricular events held at both schools. We're thrilled to have the program up and running to give more students access to the professional pipeline for careers in STEM fields.

FRCC's newest **bachelor's degree—in [business for creative industries](#)**—now has 55 students enrolled in the program since it launched in the fall. Earning this degree will help students in creative programs—like graphic design, studio art and music—turn their passions into great careers. With a bachelor's degree, not only are creative professionals more likely to get hired, they also qualify for higher-paying creative and management positions. We're excited to give these students a way to continue their education by providing the business skills they need to start their own company or to advance within their industry.

FRCC faculty and students are participating in the **Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) program**, through which they'll receive support from the [SUNY COIL Network](#) and colleges around the world. FRCC has partnered with more than five international institutions to connect our courses with theirs. After receiving training, FRCC faculty collaborate with a faculty member at an international institution to design a joint unit of study for all of their students. Faculty have already experienced a renewed enthusiasm for sharing diverse cultures with their students and recognize the importance of this collaboration and the positive outcomes on student success.

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

The **FRCC Foundation**, the college's fundraising arm, has distributed more than \$800,000 in scholarships to students so far this academic year. It will distribute an additional \$600,000 (or more) in scholarship funding this spring semester. Our foundation scholars' completion rate has increased to 92%. This year, the foundation has also provided more than \$300,000 in program and capital support to the college. To top it off, our foundation team has secured an additional allocated match of \$210,499 from the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) Matching Student Scholarship grant in partnership with Larimer County for fiscal years 2024-2027. Larimer County has collaborated with the FRCC Foundation to distribute these funds for many years. With matching funds from foundation donors, this will provide \$421,118 to COSI-eligible scholarship recipients over the next three years.

The Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) has awarded FRCC a \$703,000 **Forestry and Wildfire Mitigation Expansion** grant. Thanks to the passage of Senate Bill 23-005, FRCC will be able to use this funding to expand our high-enrolled [Forestry, Wildlife & Natural Resources program](#). Students in the program have the opportunity to complete certificates that prepare them to enter the workforce or an associate's degree that transfers to multiple four-year institutions. Of particular focus is a transfer guide for students to move into CSU's natural resources bachelor's degree. Expansion of FRCC's program will include an additional faculty member and program coordinator to oversee work-based learning opportunities for students. FRCC will also use the funding to purchase new technology tools, such as a simulator system, to enhance the student experience.



CDHE has awarded FRCC its **Healthy Minds Designation**. This [designation](#) acknowledges that the college is making a comprehensive and collegewide effort to address mental health by creating inclusive programs that enhance existing campus resources and benefit both students and our institution. We know that poor mental health can impact a student's GPA, physical health, social life and professional prosperity. That's why FRCC focuses on serving our students with much more than just academic support. The college is also a CDHE-designated [hunger-free campus](#).