



President's Report: Dr. Michele Haney

April 2022

Transform the student experience.

- **The Lightning Thief**
The Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) Theatre Arts and Dance Department presented *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* in April at the Red Rocks Community College Theatre, Lakewood campus. The *Lightning Thief* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals, www.concordtheatricals.com (link is external). The show is directed by Kevin Snyder, with music direction by Rob Lowe and choreography by Marla Schulz.
- **HAPPENING NOW:** About every week RRCC will be receiving an email announcing events happening on our campuses and virtually. We also have a [Community Calendar](#) where most everything is posted as well.
- **March 1st - May 8th, 2022** - Apply for Trefny Honors!
Applications for Fall 2022 cohort open March 1st!
- Early Decision Applications: March 1st - May 8th, 2022
Regular Applications: June 1st - September 1st, 2022
In the Trefny Honors Program, students will:
 - Integrate real-world issues.
 - Explore solving wicked local & global problems.
 - Have opportunities to partake in internships & community engaged learning.
 - Cultivate creative problem-solving skills.
 - Participate in retreats, field trips, and workshops.
 - Receive scholarships - \$2400 over 2 years.
 - Create a community of scholars.Apply at rrcc.edu/honors
- **Advising numbers from July 1, 2021 – April 21, 2022**
Appointments Created 8,975 = 80% increase from 2020-2021 (4,995)
Individual student Students 4,701 = 49% increase (3,145)
First Generation Students: 2,438 individual students
- Further developed a Pathway Model for Academic Advising
 - Increasing student rapport with advisors
 - Decreasing no-show/cancellation rate of appts

- **RRCC Art Exhibition Continues until May 2**

March 1, 2022 to May 2, 2022 - 8:00pm

The Visual, Audio, and Media Arts (VAMA) department at Red Rocks Community College is pleased to present the VAMA Foothills Art Exhibition in collaboration with Foothills Art Center. This exhibit will bring a multimedia experience to the community, and will feature a collection of dynamic new work created by our photography and videography students.

Transform our own workforce experience.

- **Red Rocks Community College Secures Federal Funding To Close Equity Gaps In Stem**

- Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) secured \$300,000 in federal funding for a workforce development program that aims to diversify science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. Led by Congressman Ed Perlmutter, the investment is part of a \$7.6 million package benefitting Jefferson and Arapahoe Counties that recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives.
- The funds will go towards RRCC's Reach, Reason, Connect and Create initiative that aims to recruit and retain more Coloradans of color in high tech industries, especially Latinx and Hispanic students who make up a growing share of the college's service area. With campuses in Lakewood and Arvada, RRCC partners with several top companies in aerospace, energy, cybersecurity, and other advanced fields that have significant demand for skilled workers
- "We are grateful to Congressman Perlmutter for supporting this innovative program," said Dr. Michele Haney, president of RRCC. "With this funding, RRCC can positively increase the number of Coloradans of color who obtain a college degree and ultimately start their career in one of the many high-tech industries in our service area."
- **Investor Spotlight:** Red Rocks Community College is working hard to build the workforce for Jeffco's future. In this investor spotlight – we want to highlight two key initiatives.
- In conjunction with the School of Mines, the Rocky Mountain Industrial Assessment Center is now operational and ready for your business. This free assessment helps companies find ways to save money in their operational costs through building efficiencies, while providing students a hands-on learning opportunity.
- With the emphasis on a prepared workforce through educational opportunities, RRCC is seeking a Dean of Workforce Services. This critical position will be charged with partnering on non credent training, developing stackable certifications / credentials, and engaging the businesses for these opportunities. The EDC is often asked on how to better engage companies for apprenticeships and internships – and this role will be a key partner for our business community.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

- **CCCS Wins State Grant To Expand Open Educational Resources**

- The Colorado Community College System (CCCS) won a \$130,907 grant from the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) to design

business management courses using open educational resources (OER), free or low-cost textbooks and course materials that have saved CCCS students more than \$13 million since 2018. In addition to the CCCS system office's award, RRCC was one of several CCCS colleges that won a CDHE grant to fund OER-related projects. Red Rocks Community College, \$42,879

[Read more here: https://www.cccs.edu/press-releases/red-rocks-community-college-secures-federal-funding-to-close-equity-gaps-in-stem/](https://www.cccs.edu/press-releases/red-rocks-community-college-secures-federal-funding-to-close-equity-gaps-in-stem/)

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

- The Marketing and Communications department has launched multiple social media campaigns for scholarships, recruitment, online opportunities and Pathways. These campaigns ran through the month of April. **Scholarships Videos:** Student testimonials about the funding they've received from the RRCC Foundation to continue their education; **Your Next Steps Matter:** Branching off our Your Next Steps Matter campaign, these ads are supporting recruitment and targeted to specific populations; **Online Classes:** Bringing awareness to the multiple online options RRCC has for continuing education; **Pathways:** Showcasing the benefits of our Pathways future and current students.
- *EDU Feature Article: A Look at VAMA Department Chair, Paul Weinrauch, The Visual Arts, Media Arts Program at Colorado's Red Rocks Community College. The Visual Arts, Media Arts Program at Colorado's Red Rocks Community College shifts to stay relevant -- Here's how it happened: More than two decades ago, Paul Weinrauch sold all his material goods, packed his bags, and traveled the US with his camera, capturing the beauty of America along the way. That marked his full-fledged entry into photography, which eventually led to a career in wedding and architectural photography, then advertising and corporate work. But Paul always knew he wanted to move into teaching, and he first dipped his feet in those educational waters as an adjunct instructor at Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood, Colorado. "Then, almost three years ago, I decided to make the leap and go full time" at Red Rocks, where he now heads up the Visual Arts Media Department, overseeing students who study videography and film, journalism, graphic design, UI UX, and simulation and game design, photography, among other subjects.*



- One of my biggest goals when I took over the department was to create the equipment “cage.” When students first get here, they don’t have the gear they need or even know what they need to buy. We decided to build this unit that would house all kinds of equipment—from cameras and lenses to lighting and grip gear so that students could start their program without having to drop thousands of dollars right off the bat.
- When they do decide to put money down on equipment, it’s based from their experience using what we have in-house already. I’ve also concentrated a lot on rebuilding programs at Red Rocks. For instance, I rewrote the entire professional photography degree to make sure we were offering courses that were relevant. Students could walk away after graduating and be able to immediately jump into a career or contract or start their own business.
- There was also no portfolio class when I arrived, so one of the first things I did when I got here was start to set that up. Things can move slowly in academia, so this semester is the first time we have been able to offer it. It focuses on such things as creating your own website, setting up a profile on LinkedIn, printed portfolio, and other avenues to promote yourself and your work. Another priority is to reach out to professionals in the community and involve students in outside work. Work-based learning is important. We have an industry experience class where the students get to do real work with real clients. I’m still a working professional in the field myself, and in the past two months, I’ve hired two students to come on jobs with me.

Other News:



Martha Stevens
FACULTY

Jen Broadwater
ADMIN/TECH PRO

Jason Larez
CLASSIFIED

Red Rocks Community College 2021-22 Employees Of The Year

- Congratulations to **Martha Stevens**, **Jen Broadwater**, and **Jason Larez** on being named 2021-22 Employees of the Year at RRCC. They will each be recognized at the upcoming Employee Excellence Awards. We are proud of their accomplishments, their inspiring dedication to the college, and for the outstanding work they do each day.
- Adjunct Instructor of the Year is **Jeremy Savage, (PSY)**; Full time Instructor of the Year is **Toni Nicholas (HIS)** and Arvada’s Instructor of the Year is **Lynne Albert (BIO)**. RRCC’s 2021-22 Outstanding Graduate of the Year is **Kayley Smith**.