



COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER



DR. MARIELENA DESANCTIS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

September 2024

CCD Kicks Off Fall 2024 with Focus on Equity and Innovation

Community College of Denver (CCD) launched the fall 2024 term with an inspiring Welcome Back event on August 12, where faculty, staff, and instructors gathered to set the stage for an impactful academic year. The day was highlighted by a powerful welcome message from the President, who energized the crowd with her vision for Academic Year 2025.

In her address, the President expressed deep gratitude to the CityHawks who worked diligently over the summer to prepare for this

pivotal year. She emphasized the importance of this fall as CCD's last chance to influence the goals of the current strategic plan—Access, Acceptance, Ascend, and Achieve—and urged everyone to make every moment count. She also discussed the continued collaboration with the Moon Shot for Equity initiative, which aims to close equity gaps and foster a sense of belonging among students.

A significant new opportunity for the CCD community was also highlighted: the recent legislative changes allowing the college to award high school diplomas.

(story continues on page 4)

The Growing Gap Between College Grads And Available Jobs



We're thrilled to share that Katrina Wert, Vice President of Workforce and Community Partnerships at Community College of Denver, was featured in a recent Forbes article discussing the growing gap between college graduates and available jobs. Check out her insights on the critical role community colleges play in bridging this gap and preparing students for success!

Read the full article: <https://tinyurl.com/4j77rdur>

Transform the Student Experience

'Back to the Nest' Event

Community College of Denver Foundation is set to welcome the new academic year in style with its annual 'Back to the Nest' celebration. This exciting event is designed to bring together alumni, staff, faculty, and supporters for an evening of camaraderie and connection.

Taking place on September 18, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., the event will be at the Denver Housing Authority's Kaleidoscope Collaborative Center, just a short walk from the CCD campus. The evening promises to be a lively gathering, complete with delicious food, drinks, and music, creating the perfect atmosphere for networking and rekindling connections.

'Back to the Nest' is more than just a social gathering; it's an opportunity for the entire CCD community to come together, celebrate the beginning of a new academic year, and strengthen the bonds that make CCD a special place to learn and grow.



Calling All Creative Minds: CCD's 'Ourglass' Magazine Seeks Student Submissions for 2023-2024 Edition

CCD is excited to announce that its esteemed student literary and art magazine, Ourglass, is now accepting submissions for the 2023-2024 edition. This is a unique opportunity for CCD students to showcase their talents in poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and one-act plays. Not only will selected pieces be featured in the publication, but all submissions will also be considered for the prestigious Leonard Winograd Award, adding an extra incentive for students to put their best creative work forward.

Submissions are open throughout the academic year, from summer to spring, with the deadline set for May 31, 2025.

Learn more at <https://www.ccd.edu/ourglass>

Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

CCD Leadership Shines: Chairs and Deans Participate in Transformative Training

In an exciting step towards enhancing leadership and management at Community College of Denver, our Chairs and Deans participated in a dynamic two-day training session on August 5th and 6th.

This training, facilitated by the renowned organization Academic Impressions, marks a significant milestone in the implementation of our new chair model.

The training was designed to empower our academic leaders by helping them discover and hone their leadership strengths. Participants engaged in a series of interactive workshops and discussions that not only highlighted their unique leadership qualities but also explored how to adapt these strengths to meet the diverse needs of their departments and pathways.

One of the key takeaways from the training was the practical application of these leadership skills in real-world scenarios, such as conducting effective meetings. By focusing on how to tailor their approach to different situations and individuals, our Chairs and Deans are now better equipped to lead with



confidence, fostering an environment of collaboration and innovation within their teams. Don't believe us? Just check out that group of smiling faces!

This training underscores CCD's commitment to investing in the professional growth of our CityHawks, ensuring that we continue to provide an exceptional educational experience for our students. As we move forward with the new chair model, the insights and skills gained during these two days will undoubtedly play a crucial role in driving the success of our departments and pathways.

Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

CCD Kicks Off Fall 2024 with Focus on Equity and Innovation

(continued from front-page)

This initiative will enable students to earn a high school diploma while progressing in their academic programs, making them eligible for Federal Financial Aid—an important step for many students who faced challenges in the traditional high school format.

The event wasn't just about looking forward; it was also about celebrating excellence within the CCD community. Melissa Randall was honored with the Excellence in Online Course Design Award, and we recognized our NISOD award recipients.

Participants connected over an expo, lunch, and an ice cream social. The sense of community was palpable, reinforcing the collective drive to make this academic year one of equity, innovation, and success.

As CCD embarks on Academic Year 2025, the college remains committed to supporting every student and staff member in reaching new heights. The President's message, combined with the day's activities, has set a strong foundation for a year filled with promise and progress.

Community College of Denver Announces Three Promotions to President's Cabinet

CCD has announced three promotions to its executive leadership. Tina Garcia, M.A., will now serve as vice president of Student Services; Shana Stovall, M.Sc., has been promoted to vice president of Human Resources; and Katrina Wert, M.A., will oversee Workforce and Community Partnerships as its vice president. The women assume their new roles on the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) immediately.

Garcia, Stovall and Wert were promoted following a thorough search and selection process. However, their continued passion for removing barriers to academic entry for Denver's marginalized and disadvantaged populations made them the right candidates for three of the college's most vital departments.

In their new roles, Garcia, Stovall and Wert will work collaboratively with CCD President Marielena P. DeSanctis, Ph.D., to close the equity gap in education, provide high-quality academic programs to local residents and produce a highly-trained workforce to Denver's community.

(story continues on page 5)

Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

(continued from page 4)

“Through their work, Tina, Shana, and Katrina exemplify our college’s mission to serve Denver’s diverse communities through their outstanding leadership,” remarked President DeSanctis. “Each brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to their respective roles, enriching the college’s leadership team and reinforcing our commitment to educational excellence and community service.”



Pictured: Tina Garcia

In her new role as vice president of Student Services, Tina Garcia, M.A., will be responsible for overseeing student support programs and initiatives, ensuring students have access to the resources they need for academic and personal success. After joining CCD in 2002 as an educational case manager at the Center for Health, Math, and Science, she later became its director in 2013. Garcia also has served as dean

of Student Development and Retention, as well as dean of Enrollment and Administration and Student Success. She received her Bachelor of Science in Human Services from Metropolitan State University of Denver and her Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology and Counselor Education from the University of Colorado Denver. She is currently pursuing her Doctor of Education in Leadership for Educational Equity from the University of Colorado Denver.



Pictured: Shana Stovall

In 2021, Shana Stovall, M.Sc., joined CCD with over 20 years of human resources experience from the United States Army Reserve. As the vice president of Human Resources, Stovall will lead the development and implementation of strategies that support the institution's goals. Since joining the college, her leadership has been integral to fostering a supportive and inclusive college culture, recruiting and

(story continues on page 6)

Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

Community College of Denver Announces Three Promotions to President's Cabinet

(continued from page 5)

retaining dedicated staff, and building a supportive environment for student success. Stovall received her bachelor's degree from American Military University. She later received two Masters of Science, one in Project Leadership and Management, and the other in Human Resources Management and Personnel Administration, from Denver's Regis University.



Pictured: Katrina Wert

With a varied experience in the academic and economic sectors, Katrina Wert, M.A., will continue developing pathways into the job market through her role as vice president of Workforce and Community Partnerships. A CCD faculty member since 2010, Wert shifted her focus to workforce readiness where she has dedicated her days to increasing economic opportunity and resource

connections for working families across the Metro Area. As vice president, she will focus on strengthening collaborations with local businesses and organizations, create job training and placement opportunities for students, and provide the insight needed to ensure the college's programs remain aligned with industry needs. Wert received her bachelor's degree from Eastern Mennonite University and her Master of Arts in Adult Learning and Higher Education from the University of Denver. She actively contributes to regional boards such as the Denver Workforce Development Board, Hispanic Contractor's Contractor Academy, and A Little Something, a refugee crafts collaborative.

New Leaders Step Up in CCD's Adjunct, Chair, and Faculty Councils

CCD is pleased to share recent changes in leadership across its Adjunct, Chair, and Faculty Councils, ushering in new perspectives and expertise to guide these important bodies.

Adjunct Council

Landin Melendez from the Theater department and Logan Goolsby from the Cannabis program have stepped into the roles of co-chairs for the Adjunct Council.

(story continues on page 7)

Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

(continued from page 6)

They succeed Andrea Troncoso (English) and Joy Wagner (Architectural Engineering/Construction Management), who have served with dedication and commitment.

Chair Council

The Chair Council also sees a change in leadership, with Tina Zhao from the Chemistry department taking over as co-chair, replacing Annie Fulton (Education). Tina will collaborate with the existing co-chair, Nicole Servino (English), to continue advancing the council's initiatives.

Faculty Council

In the Faculty Council, Fleur Ferro from the Biology department has been appointed as the new co-chair, succeeding Karey James (Paralegal). Fleur will work alongside current co-chair Kelly Zepp (English) to steer the council's efforts in supporting faculty development and advocacy.

These leadership transitions mark an exciting new chapter for CCD's councils, as they continue to play a crucial role in representing the interests of adjuncts, department chairs, and faculty members across the college. The contributions of the outgoing leaders are deeply appreciated, and the CCD community looks forward to the fresh

ideas and energy that the new leaders will bring.

CCD Hosts Inaugural Summer Staff Social: A Day of Fun, Food, and Fellowship

On June 25, 2024, the Community College of Denver came together for its first annual Summer Staff Social, marking a new tradition filled with camaraderie and celebration. The event, hosted by the HR department, brought together CityHawks from across the campus for an afternoon of food, games, and plenty of fun.

The Summer Staff Social provided an opportunity for CCD staff to unwind, connect with colleagues, and enjoy a range of activities in a relaxed and festive atmosphere. From friendly competitions to delicious bites, the day was a hit among all who attended.

A special thank you goes out to the HR department for organizing such a memorable event. Their efforts ensured that everyone had a fantastic time, reinforcing the strong sense of community that makes CCD a special place to work.

Be sure to check out the photos from the photobooth station!

(story continues on page 8)

Transform Our Own Workforce Experience



Create Education Without Barriers Through Transformational Partners

AurariaNet 2.0: CCD Introduces a Unified Campus WiFi Network

Community College of Denver is excited to announce the rollout of AurariaNet 2.0, a centralized WiFi network that will serve the entire Auraria campus. This initiative, in collaboration with CU Denver, MSU Denver, and the Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC), marks a significant upgrade in connectivity for students, faculty, and staff across all institutions.

Previously, each building and institution on campus had its own separate WiFi network, requiring users to log in and out as they moved between locations. With AurariaNet 2.0, this will no longer be necessary. AurariaNet and AurariaNet Guest will provide seamless connectivity across the entire campus, streamlining the user experience and ensuring continuous access as you move between buildings.

The transition began in April 2024 with the Arts Building, and as of July 1, all CCD buildings will be equipped with AurariaNet, replacing the old CCD Net. Over the summer, additional buildings will be upgraded, with some requiring physical enhancements. The project is expected to be fully completed by 2025.

AurariaNet 2.0 offers faster bandwidth

by consolidating nine channels into one, and it provides secure connections tailored to each institution. Students will be able to log in using their email addresses, ensuring both convenience and security. Importantly, the new system will not impact the network range, so users can expect the same reliable coverage across campus.

This upgrade is part of a broader effort to enhance the technological infrastructure at CCD and across the Auraria campus, supporting the academic and operational needs of our diverse community. Stay tuned as we continue to improve and expand our digital resources!

Redefine Our Value Proposition

CCD Foundation Achieves Milestones in Student Support and Scholarships

The Community College of Denver (CCD) Foundation is proud to announce the significant impact of its efforts in supporting students through scholarships and program funding during the past year. Through the generosity of partners, employees, and donors, the Foundation has been able to make a profound difference in the lives of many students.

Key Outcomes and Impacts:

- **Scholarships Provided: \$895,000**
The CCD Foundation awarded nearly \$900,000 in scholarships, directly benefiting students and helping to ease the financial burden of higher education.
- **Students Served: 424**
A total of 424 students received financial support through these scholarships, enabling them to focus on their studies and pursue their academic goals.
- **Partner Giving: \$2.3 Million**
The Foundation secured an impressive \$2.3 million in partner contributions, underscoring the strong community support and commitment to CCD's mission.

- **Employee Giving: \$20,000**
CCD's own employees demonstrated their dedication to student success by contributing \$20,000, showing that the spirit of giving is strong within the college community.

These outcomes highlight the CCD Foundation's unwavering commitment to student success and the power of collective effort. The funds raised and distributed have not only provided financial relief but have also empowered students to stay on course and achieve their educational dreams.

As the CCD Foundation continues its work, it remains focused on expanding these opportunities and ensuring that more students can benefit from scholarships and program support in the coming years.

Redefine Our Value Proposition

CCD Reports Mixed Results in Key Performance Goals for Academic Year 2023-24

Community College of Denver (CCD) has released its latest performance outcomes, reflecting both successes and challenges in achieving its strategic objectives for the 2023-24 academic year. The results highlight the college's ongoing efforts to improve student outcomes, foster an inclusive environment, and innovate in teaching and learning.

Matriculation of Concurrent Enrollment Students

One of CCD's key goals was to increase the matriculation of students who had taken concurrent enrollment courses within the past three years, completed a high school equivalent diploma, and not enrolled anywhere within one year. Despite these efforts, the college saw a decrease in matriculation rates, with a 2.5 percentage point drop from the 2022-23 academic year and a 3.5 percentage point decline since 2021-22. For the 2023-24 academic year, only 5.68% of eligible graduates enrolled at CCD, down from 8.23% the previous year.

Diverse Hiring Practices

In a positive development, CCD successfully met its goal of ensuring that 25% of adjunct hires reflect the diversity of its student and community de-

mographics. This achievement aligns with CCD's commitment to creating a culture of belonging and acceptance, further strengthening the inclusive environment on campus.

Professional Development Participation

CCD exceeded its target for staff participation in professional development training, with approximately 91% of staff members engaging in such opportunities during the fiscal year. This outcome surpasses the college's goal of 85% and demonstrates CCD's dedication to improving campus climate and supporting employee growth.

Conferred Credentials

CCD achieved success in increasing the number of conferred credentials among Black and Hispanic/Latinx students. The number of credentials conferred to Black students rose by 1.10 percentage points, from 8.86% to 9.96%, and for Hispanic/Latinx students, the increase was 1.33 percentage points, from 33.52% to 34.85%.

Retention Rates

Efforts to increase fall-to-fall retention rates among Black and Hispanic/Latinx students fell short of the 5% target.

(story continues on page 12)

Redefine Our Value Proposition

(continued from page 11)

While retention for Black students increased slightly by 0.36 percentage points, Hispanic/Latinx student retention saw a more significant rise of 2.06 percentage points. However, the fall-to-spring retention goal was met for Black students, with a 5.20 percentage point increase, while Hispanic/Latinx students experienced a more modest gain of 1.70 percentage points.

Retention of Full-Time, First-Time Students

Challenges remain in retaining full-time, first-time (FTFT) students. The goal to increase fall-to-fall retention was not met, as retention decreased by 1.7 percentage points, from 35.9% to 34.2%. The goal to increase fall-to-spring retention remained relatively flat with only a 0.7 percentage point increase, from 48.7% to 49.4%.

Innovative Learning Opportunities

CCD met its goal of implementing accelerated, competency-based, or work-based learning opportunities within at least two pathways. This initiative is part of the college's broader strategy to innovate in teaching and learning, providing students with more flexible and relevant educational experiences.

Online Course Success Rates

CCD exceeded its goal to achieve equivalent course success rates for CCD-only online courses compared to pooled online courses. For the 2023-24 academic year, CCD's CO Online course success rates were 6 percentage points higher than those of the CO Online Consortium.

These mixed results underscore the challenges and progress CCD faces as it continues to work towards its strategic objectives. The college remains committed to addressing areas of concern while building on its successes to enhance student outcomes and overall institutional effectiveness.

