



COMMUNITY
COLLEGE OF
DENVER

Community College of Denver

President's Report Dr. Marielena P. DeSanctis

September 2023

Transform the Student Experience

- This fall, CCD has begun transitioning to a more secure building access model across all CCD campus locations. This means having a Campus ID Badge will be essential for entering most campus buildings during their regular operating hours. This decision, made collaboratively with other Auraria campus institutions, aims to enhance security, and provide a safer environment for everyone at CCD. A month-long phase one launch of the new protocol includes reducing entry points into CCD buildings and directing students to the entry points with card readers. This model is an expansion of CCD's current protocols at the AMC and Lowry campus locations.
- CCD held its second annual Summer Social where more than 100 new students and their families were welcomed to campus by CCD employees and their families for a tour of the campus, receive helpful information to be successful in their academics, and have fun getting to know each other in a relaxed setting.

Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

- **Peter Lindstrom named Provost and VP, Academic Affairs** | For more than 14 years, Lindstrom has supported the college's students and faculty, having previously served as dean of the Arts, Communication, Design and Education pathways. He also was the Director of the Teaching Learning Center and held other adjunct, faculty and administrative leadership positions across various departments and programs.

"Peter Lindstrom has an impressive track record of leading collaborative initiatives that have transformed CCD for our students and helped the college meet the ever-changing demands of our labor market," said CCD President Marielena P. DeSanctis, Ph.D. "He is truly committed to the success of our college. We are thrilled to see him step into this role as we work to end the nonconsumption of education in the Denver metro area."

Lindstrom has been instrumental in increasing minority student participation in STEM programs and increasing online student success by 10 percent over three years. Additionally, he managed the emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic, creating training and standards for remote modalities, and served as project director for the disbursement of the initial \$2.2 million CARES Act fund.

He received his Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and English Literature from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing-Fiction from Naropa University. Lindstrom also completed the Management Development Program at Harvard University in Boston, Ma.

- **Jason Mollendor named as Chief of Police for the Auraria Higher Education Center** | The Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC) has named Jason Mollendor as its new Auraria Campus Police Department (ACPD) Chief of Police. Located in the heart of Downtown Denver, the Auraria Campus is a 150-acre dynamic and vibrant campus shared by three separate and distinct institutions of higher learning: Community College of Denver (CCD), University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver) and Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver). Commander Mollendor has served as Interim Chief since January 2023 and has led the ACPD with a deep sense of integrity and commitment.

Since 2001, Mollendor has held a variety of positions for the Auraria Campus Police Department, including patrol, investigations, and command. In his new role, he will be responsible for overseeing the safety of nearly 38,000 students and 5,000 faculty and staff members who come to the Auraria Campus each year.

In a joint statement, MSU Denver President Janine Davidson, Ph.D., CCD President Marielena DeSanctis, Ph.D., CU Denver Chancellor Michelle Marks, Ph.D., and AHEC Chief Executive Officer Colleen Walker, MBA, shared their enthusiasm for the appointment: "Jason Mollendor is a strong leader in our community, making us confident in his new role as ACPD's Chief of Police. Not only does he bring an extensive knowledge of the Auraria Campus and its surrounding community to the role, as a graduate of the Colorado Community College System, MSU Denver and CU Denver, he exemplifies the profound qualities that students earn within our collective higher education programs."

"I am honored to serve as the next Chief of Police for the Auraria Campus," stated Mollendor. "I consider overseeing the safety and well-being of our Auraria Campus community one of the most impactful and important roles on the campus. I feel very

fortunate to hold such a prestigious position on a campus that I love and consider my home.”

During his 22-year tenure with the ACPD, Mollendor has become highly trained in the safety and protection of campus life. He is well-versed in compliance with the Clery Act, Title IX regulations, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). In recent years, Mollendor has been recognized as an ally by the Auraria Campus LGBTQIA+ Center and the Phoenix Center and was awarded a “Lifesaving Medal” for supporting a student in crisis. He also has participated in the planning and execution of several high-profile campus events, including the Democratic National Convention and two on-site visits from sitting U.S. Presidents.

Mollendor also boasts extensive training beyond his role as Chief of Police. He held secret security clearance from the FBI for his work with the Joint Terrorism Task Force. Additionally, he was deputized as a Special Deputy U.S. Marshal for his work on the Adam Walsh Task Force, where he served as a Defensive Tactics Instructor for 14 years. Mollendor is a Peace Operations Specialized Training (POST) certified firearms instructor, has an advanced certification in dignitary protection, and serves as a member of both the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators. He also served two terms as the vice president of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #28.

A true advocate for growth through education, Mollendor serves as a lecturer at the University of Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs. The Colorado native earned his Associate of Applied Science from Northeastern Junior College, a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Criminology from MSU Denver, and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from CU Denver.

- **Angelica Rueda named Dean, Enrollment Administration and Student Success** | Angelica brings more than 20 years of experience developing programs and working with historically underrepresented student populations to expand college access and create spaces for student success to her new role as interim Dean of Enrollment Administration and Student Success. Before joining CCD, she worked in Denver Public Schools and has dedicated her career to focusing on matters affecting first-generation, low-income, and students of color. As a person who relates to each of these identities, she connects with CCD students and works to remove barriers from their pathways to success. Born in Juarez, Chihuahua, and raised in Denver, Colorado, Angelica holds a Baccalaureate from the University of Southern California in Sociology and Humanities and a Master's in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Colorado State University in 2017.

- **Tina Garcia named Associate Vice President, Enrollment Administration and Student Success** | A member of CCD's faculty/staff since 2002, Garcia brings more than 26 years of counseling experience and academic knowledge to the students at CCD. She has served in a multitude of roles since joining the college, from educational case manager to dean of Student Services. The first-generation college graduate received her bachelor's degree in Human Services and her Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology and Counselor Education from Metropolitan State University of Denver and the University of Colorado Denver.
- **CCD launches Emerging Leadership Academy** | Introducing the Community College of Denver's Emerging Leadership Academy - Growing from Within, President's Leadership Program. Participants will embark on a transformative journey with our distinguished leadership development initiative, designed exclusively for the Emerging Leaders of Community College of Denver. Our program is a dynamic 10-month experience that propels individuals who have an aptitude for leadership at CCD. Kicking off with a captivating one-day opening retreat in September, this immersive journey unveils a series of monthly full-day sessions. These sessions serve as a gateway to the rich tapestry of challenges and resources inherent to our college community. Throughout the program, participants will immerse themselves in a comprehensive exploration of CCD and our community, fostering invaluable connections while uncovering their unique leadership style. Guided by expert facilitators, individuals will deepen their self-awareness, hone their leadership proficiency, and seize the opportunity to effect positive change through a collaborative community project. The culmination of this enriching expedition arrives at a grand graduation event, where class members proudly showcase their community project. This momentous occasion not only celebrates individual growth but also our collective impact. Upon completion of the program, graduates are heartily encouraged to continue their engagement as esteemed members of the Emerging Leaders Alumni Network. A myriad of benefits awaits, including thought-provoking educational forums, community-driven initiatives, and a platform for fostering meaningful connections through social and networking events. Applicants will learn of their selection into the program on September 11, 2023.

Create Education Without Barriers Through Transformational Partnerships

- CCD and our incredible CityHawks will soon be streaming on a screen near you on Amazon Prime in The College Tour's English series and Spanish series. Behind the scenes footage is already available on CCD's social media and you can watch the show's host, Alex Boylan, interview CCD's very own President DeSanctis on their series "Coffee with the President." Both episodes of The College Tour showcase CCD's commitment to our students and community directly from current students and recent alumni. All of the footage will be made available to CCD for use in our marketing and recruiting materials, including our website and social media channels.
 - Check out some of our behind-the-scenes teasers:
 - Coffee with the President: <https://www.ccd.edu/blog/cityhawk-talk/coffee-president>
 - [Spanish Episode Instagram Reel](#)
 - [English Episode Instagram Reel](#)
- CCD is back on RTD with the launch of our Innovate campaign. This campaign includes a station takeover at the Auraria West station which serves the E and W lines, as well as full wrap inside and outside two trains, and on the back of 20 buses.

Redefine Our Value Proposition Through Accessibility, Affordability, Quality, Accountability, Resource Development, and Operational Excellence

- During the summer, CCD hired BTree Solutions to support the design of our business intelligence environment, which serves as the foundation for our goal to become a data-informed institution, leading to improved accountability, quality, and operational excellence for our students and the CCD community. CCD engaged in multiple information sessions with BTree and progress is already underway with CCD faculty and staff now able to access existing Power BI dashboards with ease and flexibility in a secure environment.
- Overall enrollment has increased by 4% from AY 2021-22 to AY 2022-23, and it should be emphasized that degree-seeking enrollment is up for the year, along with increases in concurrent enrollment.
- Overall fall-to-fall retention has increased by 7% in AY 2022-23 as compared to AY 2021-22.
- Overall fall-to-spring retention has increased by 4% in AY 2022-23 as compared to AY 2021-22.

- Concurrent enrollment from Title 1 DPS High Schools has increased by 69% since AY 2020-21, including a 52% increase in participation from AY 2022-23 as compared to AY 2021-22.
- Overall course success rates increased by 2.20% from AY 2020-21 to AY 2021-22.
- Conferred credentials increased by 20% from AY 2020-21 to AY 2022-23, including an 11% increase in conferred credentials as compared to AY 2021-22, with about 95 graduation applications still pending review.
- CCD has been awarded a total of \$2,664,406.10 in new grant awards in AY 2022-23.
- Wana Brands Foundation donated \$600,000, over three years, to support CCD's Moon Shot for Equity initiative and scholarships for students.

What We Are Talking About and Who Is Talking About Us

- In June, Dr. DeSanctis spoke on the "The Future of Higher Ed via the Next Generation of Latino Leaders" panel at the GlobalMindEd conference.



- President DeSanctis was selected to serve on the Board for the Downtown Denver Partnership, continues to serve on the DDP Economic Development Council, and has been recently appointed to a small Strategy Task Force for the Groundfloor Activation of Downtown Denver.

- Drive Enrollment Growth with First-Gen Pathways to Success | Dr. DeSantis sat down with Changing Higher Education podcast host, Dr. Drumm McNaughton, to discuss the enrollment challenges facing higher education and how to foster diverse pathways for first-generation students to create new opportunities for driving enrollment growth.

<https://changinghighered.com/drive-enrollment-growth-with-first-gen-pathways/>



- On July 20, Dr. DeSanctis returned to Univision's ColoradoYa to talk about the Career Advance Colorado initiative. <https://fb.watch/mTsEURtYS3/>
- On August 22, Dr. DeSanctis appeared live on Fox 31's Great Day Colorado to talk about the Career Advance Colorado initiative with the show's host Spencer Thomas. <https://kdvr.com/great-day-colorado/sponsored-gdc/looking-for-a-career-change-colorado-community-college-system-has-your-back/>



- **The Case for Corequisite Support in Dual Enrollment** | Some dual enrollment programs already deliver courses using a corequisite model. When the Community College of Denver transitioned several years ago from a traditional developmental education approach to corequisite support for underprepared matriculated students, the college likewise made gateway courses with corequisite support available to dually enrolled students. <https://www.insidehighered.com/opinion/views/2023/08/31/case-corequisite-support-dual-enrollment-opinion>