President's Report

Dr. Mordecai Brownlee

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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.

Transform the student experience

- The Teaching and Learning Transformation Hub opened on Monday, August 21st, and it was a remarkable success! Faculty from the English Department toured it and brought their students. Also, colleagues from other divisions stopped by to get acquainted with the place and services. The Hub is an innovative space where students, faculty, and staff come together and collaborate to support the success of our students. The Hub comprises the Academic Learning Center, the Library, and the Pedagogical Innovation and Exploration Lounge (run in collaboration with the Faculty Senate). By integrating these essential resources, the Hub exemplifies our dedication to offering top-notch education and support services, geared towards preparing our diverse student body for both successful transfers and meaningful career paths.

- CCA's Fall FTE and Headcount for on-campus students are up significantly at CCA. Over 400 additional new first-time anywhere students and high school students started classes this fall on our campus.

- The CCA chat bot, Professor Fox, answered over 1800 messages from students during peak registration with an accuracy rate of roughly 90%. According to the bot channel tracker, this saved CCA over 86hrs of staff time and over 80% of the bot chats were started after hours and on weekends.

- CCA's Student Government Association has identified its Initiatives for 23-24 AY:
  i)   Host campus wide and industry specific career fairs in partnership with workforce development and division of student success
  ii)   Increase marketing of transfer requirements and processes to students
  iii) Identify preferred methods of communication for students and develop a heat map to increase student engagement
  iv)   Partner with the Hub to increase awareness of services and promotion of OER's

v) Create a student spotlight in the Fox Times

vi) Partner with IT to increase printing access on campus

- CCA's Title V College Readiness program brought 19 students this summer for two weeks to acclimate students to college, provide some college readiness skills and to connect them to resources. Eighteen of these students successfully matriculated and enrolled in Fall classes (94.7% matriculation rate). Each student will receive a 3-credit scholarship this was made possible due to collaborations with financial aid (securing institutional funds) and the foundation.

Transform our own work experience

- CCA's Division of Strategic Communications launched its online brand central and unveiled its new Brand Style Guide to the college community.

- The HVAC unit replacement project is scheduled for completion over the Labor Day weekend, with the last building getting the HVAC units installed.

- Work continues to happen with the City of Aurora on permitting for our new building. We anticipate feedback from the city on, or around September 19th.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships

- On August 25th, CCA hosted the Senegalese Delegation.

- Beau Green, Director of Student Advocacy, was appointed to CDHE Basic Needs Coalition Steering Committee. Charged with furthering CDHE's social determinants of student success program, which outlines high-impact, institutional strategies for effectively responding to the holistic needs of students.

- On Thursday, August 10th, CCA hosted one of the four education-workforce convenings, "Unlocking Career Success: Regional Summits", nationwide being brought together by the Department of Education Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE) and Jobs for the Future (JFF). CCA's summit was focused on the *Inflation Reduction Act & Clean Energy*. Key stakeholders in attendance included Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona; Colorado Governor, Jared Polis; Colorado Senator, John Hickenlooper; Undersecretary of Energy, Geraldine Richmond; Representative Jason Crow; Senator Rhonda Fields; and individuals from eight states were in attendance (approx.176 people attended).

- The Center for Adult Education (CAE) Department won the Global Leaders Award from the Aurora Immigrant and Refugee Commission. CCA was recognized for the work we do offering classes, resources, and support to the immigrants and refugees in the city, but also specifically recognizing the Healthcare Bridge class we created to help English Language Learners learn about and move into further credentialing and career opportunities in healthcare. The award was presented to Dr. Brownlee at the Global Fest Opening Reception last Friday night, 8/18.

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

- CCA held two Farms to Families Free Food Markets during Welcome Week in partnership with East Denver Food Hub and the Food Assistance Partnership Grant. The purpose of the market was to provide CCA students and employees with access to fresh produce from local Colorado farms. In alignment with our CCA values, the team also intentionally chose farmers to participate in the market that identify as women, people with disabilities, or as members of the BIPOC community. The markets served 296 students/employees- which represented a household size impact of 1,061 people who received fresh produce.

- CCA will begin to offer Mental Health First Aid and QPR (Question, Persuade, Respond) trainings to the campus starting this fall 2023 semester.

- The new Cultural Center space is being created and the official Grand Opening is scheduled for October 16, 2023. This space is the first of its kind for CCA. The overall purpose of the CCA Cultural Center will:
    I. Create safe, validating, gathering space for students of diverse identities,
    II. Build community among students, faculty, and staff,
    III. Provide translation services, and
    IV. Deliver programs and services designed to increase student engagement and support academic achievement. Through a strong focus on fostering diversity, equity and inclusion, the Cultural Center will provide educational opportunities, community forums, training and development, advocacy, and supportive services for students and the CCA Community.