

# 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](http://www.ccaurora.edu).*

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## Transform the student experience

- Throughout the entire month of November, the Office of Student Life successfully hosted and partnered on 34 events! To end the semester, the office in conjunction with CCA's Student Government Association will host Destress Fest with a week-long of events to help students destress and be in community from 11/28-12/1.
- The Division of Student Success in partnership with CCA's Student Government Association, piloted free snack stations for students at both campuses for all CCA foxes this Fall 2022 semester. Data on use is below.
  - August 2022: CTC: 31 (3 duplicated)
  - September 2022: CTC: 88 (14 duplicated); Lowry: 39 (10 duplicated)
  - October 2022: CTC: 238 (41 duplicated); Lowry: 81 (23 duplicated)
  - November 2022: CTC: 233 (39 duplicated); Lowry: 73 (11 duplicated)
- CCA's Theatre Department recently performed, "HeLa" The Story of Henrietta Lacks featuring outstanding performances by our own CCA students. The play tells the story of Henrietta Lacks, a black woman whose cells were harvested in 1951, without her knowledge or that of her family. The cells were used for research and have had a profound impact in the field of medicine. It has also been the subject of many discussions surrounding ethics and legalities. Each semester, Visual and Performing Arts Chair Stacey D'Angelo selects a script that speaks to matters concerning social issues and the effects on our humanity while ensuring CCA's missions and vision are apparent.
- CCA has confirmed that 10 student delegates will attend to the National Model United Nations conference in New York to be held in the Spring 2023. This year our team has been assigned the country of Guinea Bissau. This is an exciting opportunity for our delegates, who will join over 3000 students from around the world, to collaborate and address global issues as they build their skills in leadership, diplomacy and compromise. The conference will also provide the students

with a strong understanding of how the United Nations works. Since 2014, CCA has participated in the annual conference under the guidance of Dr. Bobby Pace (CCA's VP of Academic Success) with the team earning top awards in the last 4 years of attendance.

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### **Transform our own work experience**

- CCA's Division of Administration is developing a project dashboard for the numerous projects we have across campus, including the STEM building, ADA upgrade, roof replacement, mock solar roof, and more.
  - Throughout the month of November, more than 50 stay interviews have been conducted with current employees. The process and associated questions (presurvey and in person interview) are designed as a starting point to scale levels of employee engagement and job satisfaction, as well as to identify supports and needs for employees that may be lacking.
  - CCA is implementing a new centralized system for grant applications and academic agreements and management of both. All grant applications and academic agreements will now go through the Grant Development Office from there they will be directed through a workflow for college and leadership approval. This new centralized system has resulted in the updating of guidelines, processes, forms, and tracking.
  - CCA has begun revising college Guidelines in preparation for Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation in 2024. Through the writing of draft 1 HLC Assurance Argument, it was revealed that institutional guidelines were in need of updating. There are 287 existing guidelines across the college used of institutional operation. All these guidelines are being reviewed and updated. Additionally, a three-year process of review is being implemented.
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### **Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships**

- In November the National Science Foundation funded an S-STEM program at CCA. Through coordinated efforts, CCA coordinated STEM-centered transfer visits to Metropolitan State University of Denver, University of Colorado Boulder, and Colorado State University. Students also visited the CU Anschutz School of Dental Medicine, and an information session from Regis University regarding pharmacy and healthcare programs was hosted at the CCA Lowry Campus. These visits are instrumental in giving students a feel for a four-year institution when considering potential transfer.
  - CCA's first cohort of students for STEM Core kicked off at CCA. STEM Core is part of the new grant-funded Denver Metro Engineering Consortium, in which CCA is partnering with the University of Colorado Boulder's College of Engineering and Applied Science to provide academic and professional support for students pursuing careers in engineering.
  - Jack and Jill of America, Inc. Teens Helping Teens program [donated \\$660 to benefit](#) CCA's Foster Success program.
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### **Redefine our value proposition through accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, resource development, and operational excellence**

- CCA's Office of Student Advocacy has successfully piloted a student parent scholarship cohort of 39 students. Projects they are working on include: tabling for Kenzie's Cause's Holiday Toy Drive, development of a CCA student family recipe book, and participation in the Student Parent Advisory Group student-led organization at CCA.
- CCA's SGA held a Foxy's Winter Closet Nov 14th and 15<sup>th</sup> and distributed 69 jackets to CCA students and families.
- The Department of Online and Blended Learning had completed its first all faculty and instructors Web Accessibility training, with over 175 completions (and counting). This is the first step of many to move our online and blended learning to the next level for our students through support, resources, and training for our phenomenal faculty and instructors.
- CCA recently launched an HSI Task Force charged by the President to lead the campus community in examining processes and making recommendations that will continue to improve the success and well-being of our Hispanic/Latinx students, and all of our students, and move CCA towards "Servingness". The work of the Task Force will include reviewing and researching best practices, evaluating current efforts and identifying/understanding needs of students, seeking input from the campus and community partners. The overall purpose of the HSI Task Force is to identify recommendations and produce a report that assists with moving CCA's HSI designation forward. Currently the work has begun with an evaluation and alignment of the HSI Servingness Theoretical Framework and the ATD Institutional Capacity Framework to identify the components needed to guide the work forward.
- The Office of Disability and Equity (ODE) has seen a full recovery in our student service caseload, with more students now receiving accommodations from this office (165), more than pre-pandemic peak, Fall 2019 (155). This recovery is disproportionate to the overall trends in non-Concurrent Enrollment (CE) student enrollment, which has been steadily declining since Fall 2017. For example: In Fall 2017, non-CE headcount stood at 5,027, and students receiving accommodations numbered 99. Whereas: in Fall 2022, overall non-CE headcount is 3,417, but students with accommodations are at their highest for the college (165). Since Fall 2018, ODE has seen a 200% increase in students requesting accommodations related to assignment extensions and attendance modifications, accommodations that require significant resources to navigate.