

## **TRANSFORM THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE**

- **WRITERS STUDIO HOSTS ACC ALUMNA AHJA FOX**

ACC Writers Studio hosted a poetry reading with ACC alumna & Aurora Poet Laureate Ahja Fox on Oct. 19. Ahja shared her story about how she blossomed from a first-year student with a GED to becoming a highly successful writer in the Denver literary community.

- **ACC HONORED FOR STUDENT VOTING**

ACC has earned recognition on the 2022 ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge list of [Most Engaged Campuses for College Student Voting](#) for continued efforts to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement & student voting.

## **TRANSFORM OUR OWN WORKFORCE EXPERIENCE**

- **DR. FUJII PROMOTES CARE FORWARD COLORADO ON *DENVER7***

ACC President [Stephanie J. Fujii, Ph.D.](#), was on-site at *Denver7* on Sept. 27 to talk about the [Care Forward Colorado](#) program with Gina Belich on *Mile High Living*. Care Forward Colorado provides zero-cost, short-term training for some of the fastest growing healthcare jobs in Colorado. [VIDEO](#)

- **SKILL ADVANCE COLORADO MLL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

ACC's grant application for the Skill Advance Colorado Mobile Learning Lab Assistance Program has been approved by CCCS and the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade in the amount of \$883,443.66 for the development of a Healthcare Training Mobile Learning Lab. An additional \$300,000 from Douglas County has also been designated for this project, bringing the total grant funding for ACC's mobile health lab to nearly \$1.2 million.

- **HEALTH INNOVATION CENTER WILL ADDRESS WORKFORCE NEEDS**

ACC President [Stephanie J. Fujii, Ph.D.](#), ACC Provost & Vice President for Instruction [Cheryl Calhoun, Ph.D.](#), and ACC Interim Director of Nursing [Kari Hyland, DNP](#), talk about how the ACC Health Innovation Center will expand critical programming to address healthcare industry workforce needs in [this article](#) (published October 28, 2022) by Rob Tann in the *Littleton Independent*.

- **DUNKER SPEAKS TO IMPORTANCE OF STEM CAREERS IN COLORADO**

ACC Vice President for Workforce & Economic Development [Dr. Eric Dunker](#) talks about the importance of STEM careers in Colorado – and ACC's role in working

with industry and workforce partners to develop and facilitate entry-level technician positions – in [this article](#) by Amber Fisher in the *Broomfield Leader*.

## CREATE EDUCATION WITHOUT BARRIERS THROUGH TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- **PRESIDENT FUJII SPEAKS AT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SHOWCASE**

ACC President [Stephanie J. Fujii, Ph.D.](#), served as a panelist for the “Connections to Higher Education” discussion at the [2022 Workforce Development Showcase](#) (sponsored by the South Metro Denver Chamber) on Sept. 28 at the Centennial Airport. Dozens of K-12 educators, college and university administrators, and business executives examined critical topics impacting employment and the future of the south metro Denver workforce.

- **ACC TO JOIN DENVER-METRO ENGINEERING CONSORTIUM**

A \$10.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense (Office of Naval Research) is being used to develop a multi-year, year-round pathway for underrepresented students in the Denver metro area to go from high school to community college to a four-year university with the goal of earning an engineering bachelor’s degree and entering the STEM workforce (science, technology, engineering and math). Grant funding will pave the way for the development of the Denver-Metro Engineering Consortium (DMEC), which will be comprised of five Denver-area community colleges and two universities in an initiative to increase the number of community college students who pursue engineering careers. The initial DMEC includes CU Boulder (project lead), CU Denver, Community College of Aurora and Community College of Denver, as well as Lockheed Martin. In three years, ACC, Front Range Community College and Red Rocks Community College will join, expanding the consortium to include all five Denver-metro community colleges. [FULL STORY](#)

- **PRESIDENT FUJII SPEAKS AT ACEL AND WICHE EVENTS**

ACC President [Stephanie J. Fujii, Ph.D.](#), was an invited speaker at the [Asian Corporate & Entrepreneur Leaders \(ACEL; Denver Chapter\)](#) meeting on Oct. 27 in Lakewood. Dr. Fujii also served as a co-panelist for a presentation entitled, “Finding, Attracting & Keeping the Best Faculty” at the [Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education \(WICHE\)](#) 2022 Alliance Meeting on Oct. 27 in Broomfield.

- **DOUGLAS COUNTY INVESTS \$2.2M IN ACC**

The Board of Douglas County Commissioners has invested over \$2.2 million of the [County’s American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\) funds](#) in ACC’s talent development training, programming and services expansion at the Douglas County School District’s Legacy Innovation Campus in Lone Tree. Through the one-time ARPA funding, Douglas County will partner with ACC in support of **1)** Acquisition of equipment for ACC’s new Advanced Robotics and Automation Lab scheduled to open in the fall of 2023 (\$1,249,790), **2)** Construction of a Mobile Health and Medical Skills Lab and EMT Simulation Classroom scheduled to open in summer or fall of 2023 (\$607,850), and **3)** Expansion of internships, scholarships and student

support for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and those with traumatic brain injury in Douglas County through ACC's Elevate and RISE programs beginning in the fall of 2023 (\$350,000).

## **REDEFINE OUR VALUE PROPOSITION THROUGH ACCESSIBILITY, AFFORDABILITY, QUALITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

- **ACC HONORED AT CCCC EDUCATION EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE**

[Tanya Brown](#) (Director of Strategy & Analytics / AAA Instructor), [Ariel Mendez](#) (Director of Financial Aid), [Cynthia Villegas](#) (Composition, Creative Writing, and Journalism Faculty) and the ACC Financial Aid Department all garnered recognition at the 2022 Colorado Community College System (CCCS) Education Excellence Conference awards luncheon on Oct. 7 at the Arvada Center for the Arts & Humanities. Villegas received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching Equity, while Brown received a Teaching Equity Champion Award. These awards recognize individuals who have demonstrated excellence in fostering inclusive classroom environments, implemented strategies that reduce/eliminate equity gaps in student success, and displayed continuous improvement in their teaching practice to meet individual students' needs. Mendez was the recipient of the Excellence & Innovation in Student Affairs Award, and the ACC Financial Aid Department earned the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Equity in Student Affairs. These awards recognize exceptional innovative excellence in Student Affairs programming. Innovative programs are those that use new ideas, methods, or techniques that yield improved educational or developmental activities, services, or management for a college community.

## **OTHER NEWS**

- **PRESIDENT FUJII INVITED TO SERVE ON CHAMBER BOARD**

ACC President [Stephanie J. Fujii, Ph.D.](#), has been selected to serve on the Board of Directors for the [South Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce](#).

- **MORTUARY SCIENCE FEATURED BY *DENVER7***

The [ACC Mortuary Science program](#) was featured by *Denver7* on Oct. 31. [VIDEO](#)

- **CUPEC WINS AFRICAN DIASPORIC LIBRARIES STUDENT PAPER PRIZE**

ACC music instructor and ethnomusicologist Zane Cupec won the inaugural African Diasporic Libraries Student Paper Prize while completing his doctoral degree at CU Boulder. Cupec presented his research at the [2022 National Society for Ethnomusicology conference](#) in November.

- **PROGENITOR HONORED BY COLLEGE MEDIA ASSOCIATION**

ACC's annual art & literary journal, *Progenitor*, has received honorable mention recognition in the Best Literary Magazine Design category in the [2021-22 College Media Association's](#) Pinnacle Awards.