



## FRCC December 2024 Board Report

Colleen Simpson, Ed.D.

President

### **Transform the student experience.**

#### FRCC Launches BAS in Business Administration

After a year of planning with colleges across CCCS, Front Range has launched the new [Bachelor of Applied Science degree in business administration](#). The offering gives students around the state a flexible new way to elevate their business careers. This degree will open doors for our students to more career opportunities and better paying jobs. With hands-on learning opportunities—taught by faculty who bring industry expertise into the classroom—students will get the in-demand skills they need for a competitive edge in the business world. The new program provides scheduling options that work for students with busy lives; the BAS degree path is offered online and gives students the choice to attend full or part time.

#### Early Alert Update

This fall FRCC piloted the early alert system in our Navigate 360 technology tool. When faculty and instructors review their gradebooks, if they see students who are struggling, they are encouraged to submit an early alert. More than 120 faculty members and instructors submitted alerts this semester and we expect to see that number at least double over the next few semesters. FRCC students are responding positively to the early alert process; when staff have reached out to students, 74% of them respond and say they appreciate the outreach. Staff is meeting students' needs in a timely manner by resolving these alerts, on average, within 5 days. In addition, our Math Department has piloted Navigate's progress reports module, with 99% of their team submitting reports.

#### Democracy Dinner

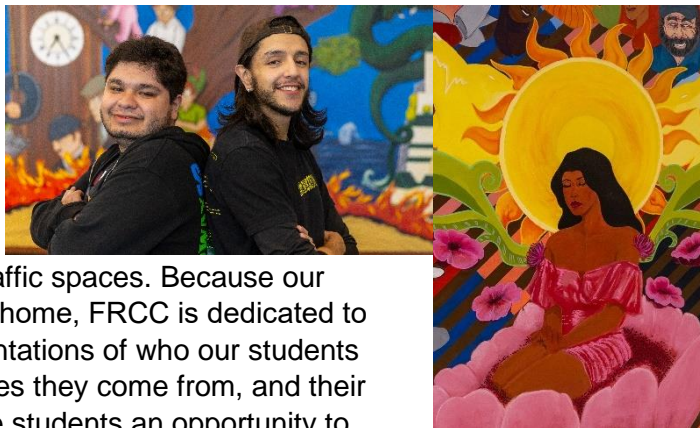
FRCC's student newspaper *The Front Page* hosted a bipartisan panel discussion in late October about democracy and the news media. Our students put on a great event with local elected leaders who spoke about elections and shared voter registration information over a community dinner. It was a wonderful opportunity to promote civic engagement at the college. Governor Jared Polis gave the opening statement, and state senators Barbara Kirkmeyer and Lisa Cutter shared their insights on the importance of voting. Adams County Clerk Josh Zygielbaum also gave a behind-the-scenes look at how elections work.



### Student Murals Brightening Campus

New student artwork is helping enhance the FRCC community's sense of belonging on our campuses. Most recently, two new pieces of student art are brightening the walls at the college's Westminster campus. Both are [murals painted by students](#), designed to

welcome their fellow students into high-traffic spaces. Because our campuses serve as our students' second home, FRCC is dedicated to covering our spaces with colorful representations of who our students are—their vibrant cultures, the many places they come from, and their hopes and dreams. Both art projects gave students an opportunity to learn about ideation, painting techniques, collaboration, the creative process and teamwork.



### **Transform our own workforce experience.**

#### New AI Academy for Instruction

In collaboration with FRCC's Teaching Excellence Center, faculty member Matt Stilwell has created a new Artificial Intelligence Academy for Instruction. It provides faculty and instructors the opportunity to build AI statements, redesign assignments for their courses, discuss equity, and explore AI tools for students and teachers. In alignment with our pillar of teaching excellence, the goal behind this training is to continue evolving our pedagogy and curriculum to meet the literacy and technology needs of students. Participants spend approximately 25 hours of work as part of the academy.

#### HACU Participation

In November, FRCC sent more than 20 of our dedicated employees to the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities' 39th annual conference, which was held in Colorado. The gathering provides a unique forum for the sharing of information and ideas for the best and most promising practices in the education of Hispanics and Latinxs. The focus this year was on "Championing Hispanic Higher Education Success: Forging Transformational Leaders to Uplift Democracy and Prosperity." Many members of FRCC's Hispanic-Serving Institution working group attended the conference to better inform their efforts to build the college's framework as we approach achieving HSI designation. FRCC's Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) team presented on how partnering with institutions in other countries helps develop our students' global competencies. They outlined the adoption of the COIL methodology at FRCC and shared their journey in forming these partnerships around the world.



#### First College to Integrate Ad Astra in Schedule Production

Many of the CCCS colleges are capitalizing on the reporting and data analytic strengths of Ad Astra, our scheduling software tool. FRCC has taken the next step and has implemented the tool to develop and launch the student schedule. In collaboration with the college scheduling team, academic leaders, department chairs and program leads, FRCC's spring 2025 schedule went live on time for students to begin registering in October. Although there can be pain points whenever a new system or technology is implemented, our team is learning collaboratively from the experience and working toward an even smoother process with the upcoming work on our summer and fall 2025 schedules.

## Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

### Ram Transfer Academy With CSU

FRCC has partnered with Colorado State University to launch an innovative program aimed at helping students with fewer financial resources complete their bachelor's degrees. The program is designed to increase college access and success for underserved students. The new [Ram Transfer Academy](#) will help FRCC students prepare for a smooth transfer to Colorado State University, helping break barriers to higher education. Students enrolled in the academy will have immediate access to student services at both Colorado State University and Front Range Community College, as well as a direct path to a

bachelor's degree through transferability between the schools. After students complete 24 credits at any FRCC campus, they are eligible to transfer and complete a bachelor's degree at CSU. The cutting-edge program is funded by a \$500,000 grant from the American Talent Initiative.



### New Endowment for Scholarships

The [FRCC Foundation](#)'s new Ellen Richey Endowment Scholarship Fund supports driven and determined students in achieving their academic goals, with a focus on creating opportunities that will benefit future generations. Established by Ellen Richey, a dedicated nurse and current volunteer at the Harmony Library on FRCC's Larimer Campus, the fund provides scholarships for students pursuing degrees in [nursing](#) or [geographic information systems](#)—or those following a transfer pathway with an undeclared major at the college's Larimer or Westminster campus. This new endowment will also provide \$500 in emergency funding for students identified through the foundation's Emergency High Needs Fund.

### CoCEAL Fall Meeting at FRCC

FRCC hosted the fall membership meeting of the Colorado Coalition for the Educational Advancement of Latinxs (CoCEAL) in November. The group—which is composed of more than 75 faculty and staff from higher education institutions across Colorado who are committed to serving Latinx students—received a warm welcome at our Westminster Campus. President Colleen Simpson, EdD, was honored to welcome the group to discuss our shared commitment to the educational success of Colorado's Latinx population. As FRCC continues its work toward earning designation as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, our aims are closely aligned with CoCEAL's vision, and we look forward to finding additional ways to be involved and connected with the group's important work.



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

### FRCC Receives “First-Gen Serving” Designation

The Colorado Department of Higher Education recently created its new [First Generation-Serving Institution designation](#) for higher education institutions across the state. FRCC is among the first group of colleges to receive this new designation, which will help ensure Colorado continues supporting all learners, connecting students to higher education and helping them build fulfilling careers. This designation is especially meaningful to FRCC as almost 50 percent

of our students are first gen. It’s an honor to have our important work serving them recognized—and we will continue to expand high-impact practices to support first-generation students and create further opportunities for them to thrive, both academically and personally.



### Accreditation Visits

FRCC’s [new dental hygiene program](#) passed its accreditation visit in November with flying colors thanks to the phenomenal work of our dental hygiene team. The surveyors from the Commission on Dental Accreditation were on site for two days meeting with college administrators, faculty and community stakeholders, and touring the college’s newly constructed [dental hygiene clinical space](#) and sterilization lab. The program received “no suggestions, no recommendations” for all six of its criteria. In January the commission will review the site surveyors’ report and recommendations, and FRCC will receive a final determination within 30 days.

This fall, the Nursing Departments at FRCC’s Larimer and Westminster campuses, along with our practical nursing program, hosted their accreditor—the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. This accreditation visit brought the two campus programs together under one accreditation cycle. The site visitors were highly complimentary of the great work of our nursing teams.