



## VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Sarah Heath, Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

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This regular written report presents highlights from the Academic and Student Affairs Division.

## Academic Affairs

### Artificial Intelligence Summit

The inaugural CCCS AI (Artificial Intelligence) Summit, held on October 17, 2024, brought together over 100 participants from across the Colorado Community College System. Attendees included faculty and administrators from most system colleges (ACC, CCA, CCD, CNCC, FRCC, MCC, NJC, OC, PCC, PPSC, RRCC, and TSC), system office staff, and special guests from the Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Ed Initiative, and Denver Public Schools. The summit's primary goal was to explore the transformative power of AI and gain insights into how AI technology can enhance learning, workforce development, and operational efficiency across the college system.

The event was made possible through the support of key sponsors including D2L, Ellucian, EAB, Zoom, and Boodlebox, who provided insights on how their products and services are informed and enhanced by AI. The summit featured Dr. Van Davis, Chief Strategy Officer of WCET, as the facilitator and keynote speaker, who set the stage for the day's discussions. Throughout the day, sponsors presented their AI roadmaps, and participants engaged in guided table conversations and breakout sessions focused on AI considerations and competencies.

Post-event survey results indicated a positive reception. Notably, Travis Parkhurst, Philosophy Faculty, Pueblo Community College and Chair, State Faculty Advisory Council reflected on the event by stating, *"I thought it was a highly inclusive event that honored the spirit of shared governance and the power of 13. I greatly valued the conversations we had in breakout sessions, and I think PCC left the summit with a much clearer understanding of where we want to go."*

Looking forward, CCCS and college will develop roll-out plans and establish college and functional area AI working groups. Work is underway to create guiding principles for AI for CCCS and colleges. Participant feedback suggested strong support for making the AI Summit an annual event, demonstrating the value and timeliness of this initiative for the Colorado Community College System.

### Awards

#### Project of the Year Award

The Colorado Community College System (CCCS) Online Library and 13 college libraries received the prestigious [Project of the Year Award](#) from the [Colorado Association of Libraries \(CAL\)](#). This award highlights the collaborative effort and innovation behind the creation of the CCCS Central Library, a project



that has transformed access to library services for students, faculty, and staff across Colorado. The Project of the Year Award, presented at the annual CAL Conference in Breckenridge in September, celebrates outstanding projects that support the mission and vision of libraries, particularly those that enhance accessibility, technology, and student support. For CCCS, this award underscores the success of its Central Library initiative, which provides equitable access to essential library resources across all its campuses.

### *Directors' Award for Exceptional Service to Quality Matters*

Amanda Hardman, Senior Learning Designer and the Lead Quality Matters Coordinator, was honored by [Quality Matters](#) with the Directors' Award for Exceptional Service to Quality Matters at their annual conference in November 2024. Amanda is a QM-Certified Peer Reviewer, Master Reviewer, and Facilitator. She has contributed her expertise to 26 independent workshops and actively participated in 21 QM Course Reviews for Certification. Hardman demonstrated dedication and experience in her work on QM's Higher Education Rubric, Seventh Edition Rubric Committee — a group of educators whose collective input informed the latest edition of QM's Standards for Course Design.

## **Student Affairs**

### Student Affairs

Working on some beginning level SEM strategies with VP council. Initial focus is on enrollment and will branch out into retention. Each college will be given an assignment and present on it to VP Council throughout the year.

Working on updating Director of Student Affairs position description and plan to post the position as soon as possible.

### E&I

The Statewide CDHE Equity Day of Action Was held at CSU Ft Collins on October 18, 2024. Chancellor Garcia was awarded the CDHE 2024 Higher Education Equity Champion Legacy Award.

CCCS had several presentations Including: CCCS (Dr. Ayelet Zur-Nayberg): Empowering Pathways: Building Credentials for Indigenous Success, FRCC (Dr. Krishna Pattisapu, Haris Armstrong, Zinia Mendoza): Filling our Cups: The Importance of Employee Affinity Groups in Promoting Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging on our Campuses, and RRCC (Stephanie Schooley, Julio Suarez-Pesquer): Building Cultural Intelligence: A Business Program Redesign to Elevate Students' CQ.

The Presidents / Equity & Inclusion Council Equity Retreat will be held on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the CCCS Conference Center. The Equity Retreat will be facilitated by Dr. Dwinita Mosby Tyler from the Equity Project.

### FA

The Department of Education released the 2025-2026 FAFSA online and pdf forms to the public on November 21, 2024. The launch is 10 days earlier than the scheduled December 1, 2024 date. CCCS FA and IT staff have started the new year set up processes in Banner for the 2025-2026 aid year.

Dean Wilson represented CCCS FA at the initial Colorado Department of Higher Education Student Unit Record Data System (SURDS) Working Group meeting on November 19, 2024. Subsequent meetings



will be held every two weeks into late January. The group is identifying necessary data field updates needed as a result of FAFSA simplification and new state initiatives.

CCCS FA staff will be attending the Federal Student Aid Training Conference, which will be held virtually December 3-6, 2024.

### Colorado State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training

On October 15, 2024, our office hosted a one-day workshop for non-college degree programs to give them updates on the VA approval process, risk-based surveys, Title 38 U.S. 3679(f) requirements as well as management of the GI Bill®. It was attended by 30 schools from the Front Range. We will look to explore more dates from January to May and host a similar workshop in different areas of the state.

1. Outreach Activities: Met with Colorado State Apprenticeship Office (Department of Labor), Salute Valor Non-Profit, Police Departments, Sheriff Departments, and Fire Departments throughout FY 2024 to conduct GI Bill® information sessions.
2. Liaison Activities: Met with Ms. Melisa Renfrow and Mr. Leroy Chavez six times this year to review reports and to discuss VA policies and how they impact veterans, eligible family members and our approved programs across the state. Also participated in the Community College Veterans Functional Working Group – provided briefing on the role of the SAA approval process; as well as upcoming Risk Based Surveys for FY 2024. Attended and presented at the Colorado School of Mines SCO workshop on the role of the state approving agency.
3. Technical Assistance: Provided technical assistance on risk-based surveys, supervisory visits, approval process for universities, colleges, non-accredited schools, flight schools, On-The-Job Training, and apprenticeship programs.
4. Staff Development: The Colorado SAA was represented at the following conferences this year:
  - NASAA mid-winter conference, two staff member
  - Summer NASAA conference, two staff members
  - Various VA and NASAA Webinars relating to approvals, risk-based surveys, 85/15 reporting, SCO updates, Digital GI Bill® software (Enrollment Manager)

**The Colorado State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training met all agreement requirements for Fiscal Year 2024 as outlined in this assessment.**

Biannual spreadsheet submitted to ELR corporate inbox on the following dates:

- First Biannual Report – April 9, 2024
- Second Evaluation with CELO – July 30, 2024
- Second Biannual Report – October 9, 2024
- Self-evaluation - October 9, 2024

Risk Based Surveys/Supervisory Visits



Conducted 5 Risk-Based surveys, and 14 Supervisory Visits this year. Our office exceeded all reporting requirements for Fiscal Year 2024.

Reviewed 126 student records during FY 2024 at 19 programs/schools. Upon conclusion of Fiscal Year 2024, we had a 42 percent financial error/finding rate across the board. This error rate was a decrease from Fiscal Year 2023. Reviewed \$1,499,352.00 in tuition and fees during these surveys; this was a 48 percent decrease in dollar amounts from Fiscal Year 2023. The reduction was based on conducting newly required Supervisory Visits which only require review of three records at each visit.

**Our Risk-Based survey and Supervisory Visits completion rate was 100 percent for this fiscal year.**

The Risk-Based process continues to improve each year as well as our partnership between NASAA and VA Central Office. The newly introduced Supervisory Visits were a welcome addition as we can build a positive relationship with our programs across that state.

### Program Approvals

Our office met all program approval requirements for Fiscal Year 2024. Completed 58 reapprovals, 130 modified, 8 withdrawals, and 4 suspensions for this year. The Colorado ELR returned four approvals during Fiscal Year 2024.

The VA National Training Team has taken over training all School Certifying Officials. It would be a major step, to have ELR's working with schools more directly to have issues resolved rather than relying solely on the VA National Training Team.

Our office met with the Colorado ELR six times this year using the TEAM virtual platform. During these meetings, we discussed approval issues; risk-based surveys; VA education policies and changes in federal law that will affect performance standards and increase workload for our office. We also considered areas that we may be able to support Veterans and family members in a joint capacity in the State of Colorado.

In conclusion, our relationship with Mr. Leroy Chavez, and the leadership at the Regional Processing Office Muskogee continues to be productive in overseeing a myriad of education performance measures throughout the year. I would like to point out that Ms. Melisa Renfrow, Mr. Leroy Chavez, Ms. Teres Chapman, and Ms. Tina Keeter, have done an exceptional job in working with our office to reduce the approval workload as well as assisting in providing answers to operational aspects of the State Approving Agency.

We continue to have valuable working relationships with all key stakeholders who serve Veterans in the State of Colorado and with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Our partnership and cooperation with these entities will continue to strengthen and the Colorado SAA will be in a stronger position to serve our Veterans, eligible family members and schools in the state of Colorado.

### Transfer

Reisher Navigators are presenting virtual Reisher Information Sessions in an effort to recruit students for the 2025-26 cohort. Navigators also continue to provide workshops and one on one appointments for current scholars navigating that transfer process. They have made changes to their website and compiled necessary data reports for the Denver Foundation regarding fall enrollment for the pilot cohort.