



## COLORADO NORTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*“The mission of Colorado Northwestern Community College is to enhance people’s lives by providing accessible, affordable, quality education”*

**SBCCOE Board Meeting  
President’s Report  
Lisa Jones, Ph.D.- President  
December 2024**



*Figure 1-Dual focus picture of Rangely and Craig Campuses*

## I      **November 2024 CNCC Corner Article**

CNCC Corner- November 2024

This Autumn season has been calm and pleasant, allowing us to enjoy the outdoors, color changes in trees and bushes, and the hunting season. As we put away Halloween costumes and Homecoming regalia, November becomes a time of preparation, reflection, and thanksgiving. Along with fostering a sense of unity and togetherness, the Thanksgiving holiday influences acts of charity, reinforces the values of compassion and empathy and serves as a celebration of kindness, support, and gratitude.

As we move into the season of giving thanks, I would like to share with you some of the things we at Colorado Northwestern are thankful for and feel pride:

1. We wish to thank Kirstie McPherson and Jennifer Holloway, two community leaders and economic development professionals who have volunteered time to serve on countless committees and Boards over the years, including the Moffat County Affiliated Junior College District (MCAJCD) Board as President and Treasurer, respectively. Though they recently stepped away from the CNCC connected MCAJCD Board, they will forever be part of the Spartan family and will no doubt continue to lend their expertise and voices to important causes going forward.
2. We are proud of our fantastic students. Their talent, humility, integrity, hard work and perseverance is amazing. In this instance, the Women's Soccer Team deserves our congratulations for making it to the Regional Tournament, a first in the team's history. In addition, our team goalie, Jasmine Hernandez was recognized as National Player of the week this season. Additionally, the CNCC flight team excelled in the Regional National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) Competition and have earned a spot at the National NIFA Competition this coming summer.
3. We are grateful for our faculty and staff and their ongoing service and charitable activities on behalf of CNCC and the community. Faculty led the charge to paint the College's entry signs and internal signage. Staff sponsored coat collections to give to students to wear during the winter season and food collections are making a difference in the lives of students. Students also joined faculty and staff in pulling off a wildly successful homecoming week this Fall.
4. We are grateful for the continued relationship with the Northern Ute Tribe. Along with mutual teaching and learning, we are grateful for their help in supporting our Native American Students and exposing all CNCC students to the richness of the Native American culture. They will be holding a Thanksgiving Pow Wow on November 28, 29, 30 2024- [2024 Thanksgiving Powwow](#)

On Friday, November 8, 2024, at 5:30pm in the Colorado room, we will take stock of the year's achievements, sharing with our community projects that have been completed, lessons learned, and experiences enjoyed by our students. This event, The CNCC State of the College and Wreath Auction, will include a chili, corn bread, and potato bar supper.

We are looking forward to celebrating Thanksgiving with our loved ones. Both campuses will be closed on Thursday and Friday (November 28-29), allowing students and employees to relax, reflect, and retune.

We wish to thank each of our community members for the continued support you show this College, our employees and our students. It is because of you that we remain resolute and focused on our mission, which is rooted in the Colorado experience.

## II CNCC STATE OF THE COLLEGE/WREATH AUCTION EVENT- NOVEMBER 8, 2024- PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Good evening, friends and welcome to our first State of the College and Wreath Auction Event. Before getting started, I want to recognize and thank our internal and external leadership.

Internally, the President's Cabinet includes:

- Lisa Jones, President
- Keith Peterson, Sr. Vice President of Academic Affairs
- James Caldwell, Vice President of Administration
- Brett Caskey, Vice President of Student Services
- Keely Ellis, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement/Foundation
- Angela Miller, Executive Director of Human Resources
- Kelly Scott, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness
- Meghan Davis, Interim Dean of the Craig Campus
- Jennifer Barker, Senior Executive Assistant

Our Faculty Senate President is Professor Jennifer Lamanski, our Staff Senate President is Sara Peterson, and our Extended Cabinet Chairperson is Nic LeFevre.

Our External or Community Leadership, though not a comprehensive list, includes those directly involved in legislative, political, financial, or operational support of CNCC. They include Advisory Council members under the leadership of Sam Tolley; Rangely Junior College District Board, under the leadership of Bart Nielsen; Moffat County Affiliated Junior College District Board under the leadership of Christina Oxley, and; CNCC's Foundation Board, under the leadership of Ronald Granger. Please stand.

Last month, on October 13, 2024, CNCC celebrated its 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Each year at this time, we fondly remember our roots and how we, as a Community College came to be. With your indulgence, I would like to share this with those among us who are new to CNCC or this community. Years before its founding, a search took place to locate a site for a new community college in Northwestern Colorado. Many communities in this region were approached with all passing on the opportunity, until they reached Rangely. By a vote of 298 to 9, a bond for 2.8 million was approved to open Rangely College. It was said that this was the largest show of support in voice and funds among the fewest people that these legislators and dignitaries had ever seen. As a reminder of our community member bond, you will see our signature flagstones that adorn our campus. These stones were hauled to this location by residents of this community some paid, some unpaid but all with immense pride. In 1974, the College expanded its reach by naming Dr. Bob Houska as Dean of Instruction and Supervisor of the Craig Service Center, prompting a name change to Colorado Northwestern Community College. In 1990, The Bell Tower was purchased and opened in Craig, further expanding

our offerings there and in 2011, the College held a ribbon cutting event opening the Craig location as it exists today.

With pride, we continue to operate under the principles and ideals that began with the development of our Motto, Mission, Vision, and Spartan Philosophy.

Our Motto: We finish, to begin.

Our Mission is to enhance people's lives by providing an accessible, affordable, quality education.

Our Vision is that Colorado Northwestern Community College will be the College of Choice for students seeking a unique education grounded in the Colorado experience.

Finally, the Spartan philosophy emphasizes silence over empty words, simplicity over decoration, and precision over expansiveness<sup>1</sup>. The Spartans valued liberty, equality, and fraternity, setting them apart from other ancient Greek democracies<sup>1</sup>. They believed that wisdom should be displayed through actions and how one lives their life.

These philosophies, steeped in the Colorado tradition and etched in the history of Sparta are shared with our students in their studies and are deeply embed in the way many of our community members live each day, as well as how they rear their children.

To keep us on the path of continued improvement in student success, scholarship, and sustainability, CNCC sets action steps in alignment with the budgeting process for the purpose of achieving our Strategic Plan. Our 2023-2028 plan incorporates five priorities which include:

- Focus on the Student,
- Communication,
- Partnership,
- Sustainability, and
- Focus on the Team.

Over the past year, the college has moved the needle closer to meeting our plan goals (which you can find on our website, and we have copies on the table in the back) in many ways for which we, and you as are our partners can be proud. As you entered, you may have seen the rolling video which shows pictures celebrating the CNCC student experience as well as before and after pictures of infrastructure projects.

Points of Pride:

- We are a comprehensive higher educational institution that can rival many four-year institutions in terms of overall offerings and cost of attendance: We provide affordable housing; we also offer study abroad experiences which included in the past Scotland and this summer to Egypt; We offered our first bachelor's degree program this year; we offer scuba diving, and outdoor recreation experiences
- We have a dinosaur field museum, housing our herbivore, Walter, are only one in two community colleges in the country that is allowed to excavate and store dinosaur bones

- Last year, the department of education informed us that CNCC ranked first in the state among community college for the successful transfer of financial aid students.
- This year and since 2021, CNCC is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the country, according to Payscale, among all public community colleges in terms of graduates who earn the most money.
- We are only one in six community colleges in the country that offers a National Park, Law Enforcement Academy
- Our Dental Hygiene Bachelor's degree program includes a service abroad, humanitarian mission component
- In Fly Magazine last week, CNCC was identified as the best program in the state for producing work force ready pilots. As further evidence of this, our student flight team attended the Regional National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) this fall, with competitors from 2- and four-year programs. CNCC's team emerged in the top two among two-year programs and surpassed one of the four-year programs.

The following are additional achievements over the past 18 months:

- We launched our first every bachelor's degree program in Dental Hygiene, enrolling more than double the students originally projected.
- We hired behavioral health professionals in both Rangely and Craig, in response to the growing developmental, adjustment, and mental health needs of students.
- We completed 2.8 million dollars in IT upgrades to provide students and employees a vastly improved teaching and learning experience.
- To improve communications, we onboarded a new Assistant Director of Marketing and launched the College's new and improved website.
- We are on the cusp of starting a new Radiologic Technology program, slated for a Fall 2025 launch, with a faculty member hired and completing approval through our accrediting agency.
- Though cash is not burning a hole in our pockets, based on our accreditation standards, CNCC is considered stable and financially viable. We are committed to saving and strengthening our reserves and being conservative in how we spend and to what we invest. We are committed to investing in our employees, for example, and displayed that during COVID, when we decided not to lay off any of our employees even though there was a pause in instruction and reduced enrollment. To make this happen, we had to dip into our reserves. I am pleased to say that we have effectively rebounded with these dollars put back in place, as well as adding more for healthy financial reserves.
- We have been visited by regional and national accrediting agencies for CNCC's ten-year overall reaccreditation, and program accreditation for dental hygiene and nursing. We completed these reviews with strong, positive feedback from our accrediting bodies.
- Approved for Fiscal Year 2025 is the implementation of \$5.9 million dollars to improve the external appearance, and energy efficiency of key buildings here in Rangely, including the building we are now in. These funds will also support the repair of sidewalks on this campus keeping in mind safety, ADA compliance, and aesthetics. Work for these two projects will begin in May.

- As you entered, you might have seen the new Bud Striegel Family Soccer Field, parking lot in front of this building, and Sparty's Brewed Awakening coffeeshop on the first floor. These projects cost approximately \$1.5 million. We are working now toward signage in honor of the Striegel family, a score board, press box, bleachers, and a student and family playground all as part of phase II of the soccer field build. To make this happen for our students and our community, we will be seeking donor support but also will save and invest institutional dollars.
- This summer, the roof on this building was repaired and the gym floor completely replaced. Thanks to state grants and support from the Rangely Junior College District Board, we were able to pull off these two projects which also cost \$1.5 million dollars.
- Our students give us purpose and they all make us proud. I want to share a few highlights pertaining to our students' achievements-
  - The CNCC flight team excelled this fall in the Regional National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) Competition and have earned a spot at the National NIFA Competition this coming summer. **Important note: CNCC emerged as the top two-year flight school in the region, even surpassing one of the four-year programs!** We are incredibly proud of the team's dedication and hard work.
  - Our Women's Soccer Program experienced its first national ranking this year and the first national ranking among any CNCC athletic programs. Additionally, this team was the first every to qualify for post season games.
  - Keeping the good news about soccer going, goalkeeper and freshman Jasmine Hernandez was honored as the NJCAA National player of the week. Though we have had many outstanding state players of the week, Jasmine is our first nationally recognized player.
- To round out news about athletics
  - CNCC approved and hired a coach to launch our new Cross-Country Program in 2025. The coach is hard at work coordinating this program and recruiting a team, and,
  - Recently approved by Cabinet was the resurrection of the CNCC wrestling program. Our new coach has been hired with plans to field a team in time for Fall 2025. We are starting with men's wrestling in hopes that a women's team will not be far behind.
- On the horizon, CNCC has been applying for funding to support the renovation of program and community and student engagement buildings in Rangely and multi-use housing in our Craig location. Though not secured, we are hopeful and committed to the ongoing pursuit of resources to continuously improve teaching and learning, student engagement and support, and institutional sustainability.

### **CNCC's Immediate Future: So where do we go from here?**

Looking toward 2025-2026 and beyond, and in alignment with our strategic plan, we will focus on six items:

1. **Enrollment Growth** - This includes expanded recruitment of full time, degree seeking students and intentional work on student retention and completion.

2. **Expansion of Student Success, Engagement, and Satisfaction** - This means that we will be focusing on being student ready, improving the student experience while they are here, and listening to their concerns and responding to them in a timely and effective manner.
3. **Continued Infrastructure Improvement** - In alignment with our facilities masterplan, we will continue efforts to improving the longevity and aesthetics of our grounds and facilities, inside and out.
4. **Increased Focus on Outcomes and Accountability** - Like any major organization, we must show evidence that our students are learning and are prepared for transfer and the workforce. We must also comply with state and national standards in our operations and meet a variety of financial and safety thresholds. We have consistently experienced clean audits but know that continuous improvement is always important.
5. **Greater Understanding and Immersion in New Business Models Through Innovative and Sustainable Strategies** - This involves innovations on how and what we teach and program and service models that meet the needs of the workforce and our students. Examples include programs that contribute to a diverse economy in our community and implementation of tools such as A.I.
6. **Talent Management and Succession Planning** - We will continue our focus on employee retention, professional development, and guidance toward growth within the college.

It has sincerely been my honor to serve in this role, at this college, and for these communities. We at the college count ourselves fortunate to serve our students and work with each other.

Again, thank you for your ongoing support of our work and our students.

### III Campus Activities

#### A. Craig Homecoming-CNCC's Float- October 4, 2024





B. Craig Veteran's Day, Nov 11, 2024 and Spartan Showdown 9/2024



C. CNCC's 2024-25 W/Soccer team became CNCC's first nationally ranked team. Jasmine Hernandez, freshman was national player of the week this Fall.



D. The Colorado Experience- Student team building on the Challenge Course



E. CNCC's Community and Campus Christmas Party -Dec 13, 2024

