



**ACC President's Report**  
**Stephanie J. Fujii, Ph.D.**  
December 11, 2024

## **TRANSFORM THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE**

- **ACC EARNS FirstGen SERVING DESIGNATION**

ACC has been awarded the 2024 [First Generation Serving Campus Designation](#) on behalf of the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) in recognition of ACC's institutional membership in the [FirstGen FORWARD Network](#) with the Center for First Generation Student Success. This designation is given annually based on enrollment and FirstGen FORWARD membership, and is a reflection of commitment to ensuring retention, success, and career path opportunities for students. CDHE's First Generation-Serving Institution Designation was developed to work with existing resources on college campuses to offer a variety of options to ensure that each student's needs are being met. Established in 2017 as the Center for First-generation Student Success - an initiative of NASPA and The Suder Foundation - FirstGen FORWARD has grown to become a collaborative effort across the entire higher education system, working directly with hundreds of institutions that serve millions of first-generation students. FirstGen FORWARD is transforming higher education to drive first-generation student success effectively and equitably across education, career, and life.

## **TRANSFORM OUR OWN WORKFORCE EXPERIENCE**

- **BATTERY WORKFORCE CHALLENGE FEATURED BY AVTC**

The [Battery Workforce Challenge](#) collaboration between ACC and Colorado School of Mines was recently [featured by Advanced Vehicle Technology Competitions \(AVTC\)](#) for the completion of high voltage vehicle battery service training to educate about proper workflow and equipment usage critical for the safety of technicians and engineers. The three-year collegiate competition, which launched in the fall of 2023 and will continue through the spring of 2026, charges 12 university / technical school teams to design, build, test, and integrate an advanced electric vehicle battery pack into a Stellantis vehicle. The program is an immersive hands-on learning experience for students to gain critical battery design and integration experience while developing engineering and technical skills beyond traditional engineering curriculum. The ACC/Mines team was [named as the Battery Workforce Challenge Year One champion](#) last spring.

## CREATE EDUCATION WITHOUT BARRIERS THROUGH TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- **ACC NURSING STUDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY**

ACC Nursing students provided screenings and education for over 1,500 individuals at the [Colorado Mission of Mercy \(COMOM\)](#) oral health education event on Sept. 27-28 at Riverdale Ridge High School in Thornton. COMOM provides quality dental services - at no cost - for children and adults who cannot afford and/or access dental care.

- **ACC GARNERS ACCOLADES FROM DSF**

ACC has been selected as the [Denver Scholarship Foundation's \(DSF\)](#) 2024 College Partner of the Year. ACC was recognized at the DSF's 2024 Homecoming Gala on Nov. 1 in downtown Denver.

- **ACC NAMED APPRENTICE AWARD WINNER**

Arapahoe Community College, ACC [Medical Assistant](#) student Helda McCauley, and [Doctors Care](#) were named as Apprentice Award Winners at the seventh annual [Colorado Apprenticeship Awards](#) on Nov. 14. Colorado Apprenticeship Award winners include apprentices, mentors, programs, employers, champions, and partnerships that have demonstrated a remarkable commitment to increasing apprenticeships and expanding access to apprenticeship programs. [VIDEO](#)

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

- **SHARED VISIONS FEATURED BY CPR**

ACC Art Faculty [Nathan Abels](#) spoke with Eden Lane from *Colorado Public Radio* about the 10th anniversary of the Shared Visions tactile art exhibit, which was on display from Nov. 7 - Dec. 4 at the Colorado Gallery of the Arts at ACC. The exhibition is a collaboration between art students from ACC and the Colorado Center for the Blind. [FULL STORY](#)

## OTHER NEWS

- **FUJII FACILITATES WEBINAR TO HELP NAVIGATE DEI LEGISLATION**

ACC President [Stephanie J. Fujii, Ph.D.](#), conveys the importance of the support and resources provided by *Education for All*, a networking group that provides a space for dialogue about community colleges' efforts to promote diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging while navigating the landscape of anti-DEI legislation, in this [Community College Daily article](#) (by Ed Finkel). Dr. Fujii presented on *Education for All* with [Dr. Michael Gavin](#), President of Delta College, at the 2024 American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Annual Conference last April in Louisville, Ky. Dr. Fujii and Dr. Gavin also participated in an [AACC webinar](#) on Oct. 30 to discuss CEOs' roles in navigating DEI challenges.

- **FUJII SERVES AS PANELIST AT HACU CONFERENCE**

ACC President [Stephanie J. Fujii, Ph.D.](#), participated on a panel titled “*Conexión: Relationships, Mentorships, and Networking*” as a part of the second Women’s Leadership Symposium held at the annual Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) conference in early November. The half-day event encourages women to explore, dialogue, and learn from other women in executive leadership positions on topics related to successfully navigating the higher education work environment, building a strategic network, and becoming better prepared to assume executive roles in education or other career fields.

- **ACC GARNERS RECOGNITION FROM NCMPR**

ACC Marketing Project Manager [Erin Geideman's](#) Diversity and Global Learning Achievement Certificate Brochure won [Silver \(print brochure category\)](#) in the 2024 NCMPR Medallion Awards. Former ACC Photography / Videography Coordinator Tim Meyer earned [Gold in the Television / Video Paid Advertising category](#). NCMPR is an affiliate council of the American Association of Community Colleges.