

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DECEMBER 2024

1. Academic and Program Highlights



EMS/Fire Career Fair:

A career fair providing students with networking and career exploration opportunities in the fields of emergency medical services and firefighting.



STEM+ Career Fair:

This event aimed to provide students with valuable insights into career paths within Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM). It showcased potential job opportunities and outlined the skills required across these fields. In conjunction with the Professional Development Round Robins held on November 6th and 7th, the event was marketed to all RRCC students and the broader community. It provided valuable connections with industry professionals and resources for career exploration in STEAM fields.



PTK Inductee Ceremony:

Congratulations to all our new inductees! We were delighted to welcome them during this special ceremony, celebrating their achievements and commitment. Thank you to everyone who joined us to mark this memorable occasion.

2. Community Engagement



Halloween Costume Contest:

On October 31st, students gathered in the Rec Center dressed in their Halloween costumes for a chance to impress a panel of judges. Awards were given to five students in the categories of Best Costume, Scariest Costume, Most Original Costume, Funniest Costume, and Coolest Costume. The event was filled with fun, and participants enjoyed the opportunity to showcase their creativity and win prizes.



OUT in the Rec:

We celebrated National Coming Out Day with the SRC, welcoming LGBTQ+ individuals and allies to join in the festivities. The celebration featured a rainbow dance party, games, pride swag, community gathering, and snacks. Attendees enjoyed climbing a rainbow pride route and participated in the Climbing Social from 1-5 pm.



Dia de los Muertos Celebrations:

Red Rocks Community College hosted an Ofrenda Ceremony to honor and remember loved ones who have passed. Attendees enjoyed warm hot chocolate and traditional Pan de Muertos while learning about the symbolism of each element on the altar. The event featured engaging activities, including Lotería, face painting, sugar skull decorating, papel picado crafting, and more.



First Gen Celebrations:

The Annual First-Generation Celebration, is a day dedicated to honoring First Generation students, faculty, and staff. The event included a Meet and Greet Brunch in the Greys and Torreys Room, where attendees enjoyed a complimentary brunch and shared educational and personal experiences. Following the brunch, the celebration continued in the Recreation Center with various activities. Throughout the week, a table at the main entrance provided information and opportunities for engagement, allowing the RRCC community to learn more about the unique journeys of First-Generation students and connect with one another.



AWRSAY “Get It Done” Breakfast:

Hosted in the Community Room, this event brought together the Arvada-Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth (AWRSAY) and local service organizations in partnership with the RRCC Foundation. Since 2001, AWRSAY has recognized youth who have overcome significant challenges. This year, we proudly honored scholarship recipients Chester Monroe from Arvada High School and Itzelth Robles from Jefferson Junior/Senior High School, both current Red Rocks Community College students.

3. Special Events and Achievements



Professional Development Day:

A campus-wide event dedicated to the professional growth of faculty and staff, featuring workshops, team-building activities, and presentations aimed at enhancing institutional excellence and innovation.



Sabbatical: Berndt Savig Exhibition of Stone Carving:

Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) welcomed visitors to the ART Gallery for a fascinating look at the sabbatical work and journey of Berndt Savig. Savig, a full-time faculty member in the Visual Art Department for 20 years, created a unique Stone Carving Sculpture class on the Lakewood campus while maintaining a busy studio practice at home and around the world. The opening reception for this exhibition was held on Friday, October 18.



SCARS (Theater Production):

RRCC Theatre Arts and Dance Department, in collaboration with the College Gateway Program, presented *Scars: Unmasked* on October 17, 18, and 19. Directed by Ammon Underhill, with choreography by Austin Marquez, the production was inspired by the transformative experiences of Gateway Program students. Established in 2006, the program supports individuals re-entering society after time in the criminal justice system, and each show included a talkback to discuss its impact on communities.



Veterans Day Ceremony:

This ceremony was truly inspiring, with powerful bagpipe music and a heartfelt tribute from our student veterans. The event served as a beautiful reminder of the courage and sacrifices of those who have served. Thank you to everyone who came together to honor our veterans at both the Lakewood and Arvada campuses.



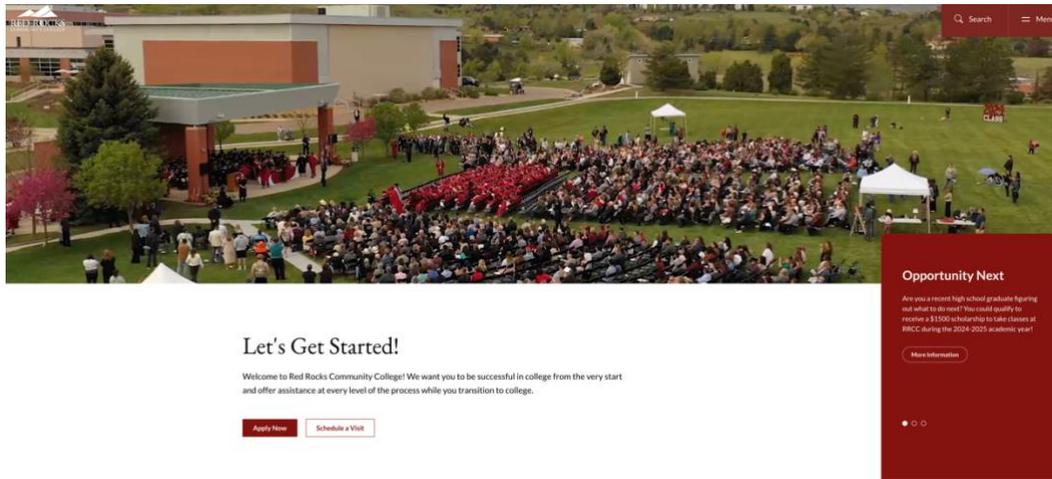
Advising Success Network Student Choice Award for Holistic Advising:

The Advising, Transfer, and Special Programs team at Red Rocks Community College has received the prestigious Advising Success Network (ASN) Student Choice Award for Holistic Advising from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA). This recognition highlights the team's exceptional dedication to inclusive, student-centered advising practices and their impactful work in student success coaching, transfer planning, and special programs. Accompanied by a \$5,000 grant to support student voice and engagement initiatives, this award is a testament to their hard work, collaboration, and commitment to empowering students to reach their full potential. Congratulations to our outstanding team for this well-deserved honor!



2024 First Generation Serving Campus Designation:

Red Rocks Community College is honored to receive the 2024 First Generation Serving Campus Designation from the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE). This recognition celebrates our commitment to first-generation student enrollment, access, and success. It reflects our dedication to creating pathways for these exceptional students to thrive academically and personally. We look forward to continuing to expand high-impact practices that support first-generation students, fostering their retention, success, and future career opportunities. Thank you to our entire community for championing this vital work!



New RRCC Website launched:

We launched the new Red Rocks Community College website! Designed with our students, faculty, and community in mind, the updated site offers a streamlined, user-friendly experience to help everyone access information and resources quickly and efficiently. With improved navigation, a fresh design, and enhanced features, the website reflects our commitment to innovation and excellence. Whether exploring programs, applying for admission, or staying connected with campus events, the new website serves as a gateway to all things Red Rocks.



Adult Learners - In Depth:

Red Rocks Community College hosted *Adult Learners In-Depth*, a special event featuring renowned author and expert Dr. Matt Bergman. Held at the Lakewood campus, the free presentation explored the unique challenges adult learners face when pursuing higher education, whether starting for the first time or completing unfinished degrees. Dr. Bergman shared insights from his book, *Unfinished Business: Compelling Stories of Adult Student Persistence*, and moderated a panel of RRCC adult learners who shared their personal experiences. The event actively engaged attendees and offered the first 60 registered students a complimentary copy of Dr. Bergman's book.