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## President's Report: Dr. Michele Haney

### August 2021

#### Transform the student experience.

- This past year, as we all stepped up our work to serve students – it became abundantly clear that meeting students' foundational needs to help them succeed was a priority. The team in Student Life went above and beyond to help ensure that no students went hungry by ensuring safe alternatives for food pick-up for those in need. The Foundation hosted its first ever 5K Food Pantry Challenge. The Red Rocks Community College stepped up to, not one, but two \$5,000 matching challenge campaigns. The generosity and support from Foundation donors, including 40 faculty and staff, raised just under \$32,000 for the food pantry. You'll see your gifts hard at work as the pantry is reorganized and restocked for the semester. The pandemic's economic impact hit many of our students very hard over the past year. The needs were varied and substantial. The Foundation expanded its funding to Emergency Scholarships to expand support for students experiencing financial hardships. Thanks to a coordinated effort from the Foundation, Financial Aid, and Business Services, 348 Red Rocks Community College students received \$165,810 in support funds. The average award per student was \$476 to provide a one-time flexible funding bridge for students to continue pursuing their studies.
- Veteran Services:
  - Tracked largest legislative changes to veterans' educational entitlements since Post 9/11 GI Bill was created
  - Worked with Veterans Affairs representatives and other departments within Red Rocks to implement ongoing sweeping benefits changes
  - Redesigning VA certification process to conform to changes in federal statute and CCCS Veteran Services automated certification interface on "the rock"
  - Conducted program approval renewal with State Approving Agency
  - All staff recertified as SCO's



- Participated in ongoing CCCS functional group to create Veteran Services automated certification interface on “the rock”
- Participated in Student veteran recruiting efforts in collaboration with SOAR
- Participated in new student outreach activities
- Stood up new Veteran stabilization grant and awarded \$7,800.00 in grant funding to student veterans
- Processed 359 VA certifications

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

- The IDEA Expo ran remotely through Zoom and utilized breakout rooms where student design teams from EGT 140 at RRCC and EGG 140 at FRCC presented final engineering design solutions to judges from industry as well as alumni.
- The Entrepreneur Center hosted a virtual Resources Panel for Small Businesses to benefit RRCC student.
- Director Liz Cox participated on a panel about entrepreneurship in Jeffco hosted by Jeffco EDC to support a broader vision in Jeffco around creating an entrepreneurship ecosystem.

### **Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.**

- IDEA Lab collaborated with Jeffco 4H STEM to develop and deliver STEM activities to 30 middle school students on July 9.
- IDEA Lab is collaborating with Vertical Skills Academy to develop and deliver robotics and water science modules for K-8 youth with dyslexia during Fall 2021.
- High School Innovation Challenge  
IDEA Institute hosted 3 Jeffco high schools to compete in the High School Innovation Challenge. During the pandemic, IDEA Lab students provided remote mentoring to high school teachers and students. The challenge ran remotely with 21 students participating and presenting design solutions around water, energy, food or environment, and top three teams were awarded scholarships to Red Rocks Community College.
- The IDEA Lab, with English faculty Sara Fall, presented a virtual session on interdisciplinary faculty engagement in makerspaces at the annual NACCE make/SHIFT conference.
- Began building a bridge around innovation and entrepreneurship with Mines through the Future of Work and Innovation Project, funded by the RRCC Foundation Innovation Challenge. Work began in summer by hiring a Mines undergraduate to begin mapping the innovation skills training at Mines.
- Partnerships with Mines  
Mines and RRCC were awarded a DOE grant to create the Rocky Mountain Industrial Assessment Center where teams of RRCC and Mines undergraduates, as well as graduate students, will be trained to provide no-

- cost technical and energy assessments from small to medium size manufacturers across Colorado.
- Mines agreed to co-create the Mines Academy at RRCC, an innovative partnership to create a seamless and affordable path to an engineering degree at Mines through coordinated advising and guaranteed admissions. Progress on the Academy is ongoing.
  - International Student Recruiting and Community College Awareness
    - Participated in 10 international presentations to advisors, high school, university, and education officials regarding the value of community colleges for international students planning to study in the USA. Regions: SE Asia, N. Africa, Central Asia, Central Africa, S. America.
    - Partnered with CSM and CU Denver to market 2+2 to students in Peru, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia.
    - Workshops for students, faculty, staff
  - Weekly workshops throughout the Spring semester on subjects such as:
    - DACA
    - Immigration & Employment
    - Immigration 101: basics of the US immigration system
    - Processes to Permanent Resident Status
    - Legislative Updates
    - Weekly language group meetings for students and staff

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

- Accessibility Services:  
Accessibility Services has developed knowledge and skills to support students with disabilities remotely. Some examples are remote sign language interpreting and technology trainings, proctored accommodated testing by WebEx and Zoom and appointments done by phone or Zoom. There are some students whose disability makes mask-wearing challenging or impossible. We worked with them to determine alternate ways to be 'present' in class without being mask-less on campus.
- Admissions/Call Center:
  - Admissions and Call Center Departments have been combined and staff have been cross-trained to serve as many students as possible.
  - Staff answered 16,066 calls from January through July, 2021.
  - All incoming emails are now being filtered through [admissions@rrcc.edu](mailto:admissions@rrcc.edu).
- Advising/Transfer Services:
  - Advising Appointment in Spring: 5143 (remote and in-person)
  - Advising Appointments Summer-8/16: 2891(remote and in-person)
  - Orientation holds removed in Spring: 1965
  - Orientation holds removed in summer: 817
  - Academic Alerts/Cases for Spring and Summer (proactive student interventions): 273

- New Student Orientation

Red Rocks Community College offers a self-paced online new student orientation (NSO) for students applying at any time of the year. With that said, the past few Summers, RRCC has provided an additional new student orientation option for those seeking a more personalized approach to onboarding. In being receptive to



their needs, RRCC offered a hybrid model with an on-campus experience and Zoom presentation. Gina Jimenez (Manager Student Success – Arvada Campus) and Dana Kobold (First Year Experience Coordinator) co-chaired this Summer’s programming with intentional efforts to offer these interactive orientations on both Arvada and Lakewood campuses. The on-campus experience connected the new students to the physical space of classes and resources, and it included campus tours, swag bag/t-shirt distribution, and conversations with student success staff. The Zoom session provided students with DEI, advising, financial aid and campus resources information. New this year was the added bonus of Pathways sessions to get participants excited about their educational plans. Academic Affairs and Student Affairs partnered for this integral opportunity for students. Those still exploring their options met virtually with the Career Success Center Team. If interested in RRCC’s Summer NSO models, contact [gina.jimenez@rrcc.edu](mailto:gina.jimenez@rrcc.edu) and [dana.kobold@rrcc.edu](mailto:dana.kobold@rrcc.edu).

- Assessment Center:

- Evaluated 3,474 self-guided placements
- Given 195 Accuplacer exams
- Administered 278 outside test company exams on the Lakewood campus
- Administered 778 outside test company exams on the Arvada campus.

- Career Success Center:

Center has set up training and referral systems with a number of community organizations and school systems, including:

- Beyond Home, an organization that assists individuals to transition out of homelessness.
- Denver Public Schools, Jeffco Public Schools, and Goal High School.
- Electronic Job Board connected 412 students with employers in the spring semester.

- Financial Aid Department – Navigate

Since January 2021, Financial Aid has logged 3,667 Navigate appointments and responded to 15,223 email inquiries.

- Funds Disbursed

Since January 2021 (Spring and Summer 2021 terms), Financial Aid has disbursed \$11,463,718. \$9,038,751 was disbursed in Spring 2021. Emergency aid (CARES & CRRSAA) disbursed since January 2021: \$1,040,343.

- Work-Study

RRCC employed 136 work-study student employees during the 2020-2021 aid year.

- Outreach  
RRCC held FAFSA events  
Dream Team
  - I&D has been coordinating this team which helps to support Undocumented, DACA and ASSET students.
- E&I Council
  - I&D has been leading the reignition of the council and has been able elect new council member leadership. They have continued to meet with administration to impact the vision of the campus as a whole.
- Conferences
  - Janet Stomberg presented in two conferences alongside Barbra Sobhani (Honors, Space Grant) this Summer focusing on STEM Education Research and Inclusion and Diversity; EER (Earth Educators Rendezvous) and NCUR (National Council of Undergraduate Research).
  - Janet also presented with the Metro Denver STEM Alliance at the Colorado-Wyoming Alliance for Minoritized Participation Conference in Summer 2021.
  - The Dream Team presented at the CCCS Student Affairs Conference on the work that has been done by the Dream Team to support our students to ensure their success.
- Training
  - Conducted training on pronoun usage to SALT and other community members.
  - Conducted training for Dream Team where we brought in community members, MSU and IRC.
- NISOD Conference
  - LSAMP sponsored Metro Denver community college faculty to attend this professional development opportunity focusing
- Processing
  - Documents received from students to date: 2,568  
FAFSAs received January-July, 2021: 13,629 FAFSAs  
Aid offers packaged January-July, 2021: 7,638
- Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
  - Over Spring and Summer 2021, Financial Aid reviewed 224 SAP appeals. 88% of appeals were approved.
- First Year Experience:  
Communication, collaboration, and outreach with students and employees to coordinate acclimation and engagement experiences for students seeking support. Accomplished by:
  - Class, cohort, club, campus, and community outreach efforts (Jan-May)
  - Spring FYI Success Series (Jan-May)
  - FYE Embedded Pathways Pilot (January -current)
  - New Student Orientations (March-July)
  - Extensive professional development via webinars and conferences (free)
- The Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) Council was re-organized in spring 21 to better meet the needs and operations of the college; the SEM Council will write the new SEM plan for the college in 21-22.
- A team from RRCC completed the Gardner Institute Equity in Retention Academy in summer 2021.

- The college hired a new Student Engagement & Retention Advisor, Maria Gonzalez-Torrones, to support our marginalized student populations.
- The college is part of a grant with Rand Corporation and Single Stop to support students experiencing food, housing, and financial insecurity.
- The IDEA Lab continued to provide remote workshops in Spring 2021, using a HyFlex model. The Lab also utilized Discord, a social gaming app, to continue remote engagement.
- IDEA Lab students supported STEAM projects by creating innovative props for Theatre's summer play Rocky Horror Picture Show.
- The Math Lab, Comm Lab, Writing Center, VAMA Lab, and EGT labs all continued to offer excellent, specialized, academic support to students, through virtual tutoring sessions.
- The College Prep Zone and The Learning Collaborative continue to have great success in helping students learn the foundational academic skills needed to succeed in college. Without them, college would be out of reach for many students.
- The Learning Commons also offered a "Spanish Meet-Up" group, which has allowed RRCC staff to grow their language skills and increase their comfort level when working with students whose first language is Spanish, not English.
- Learning Commons & Tutoring:  
Throughout the Spring and Summer semesters, the Learning Commons and Tutoring department have continued to offer an array of high-quality tutoring and academic support services to students, in a variety of formats and modalities to ensure equitable access to all RRCC students.
- Tutoring Modalities
  - In-person & Virtual tutoring by Navigate appointment
  - 24/7 Online tutoring (TutorMe)
  - Virtual weekly drop-in study groups for certain high-need courses
- Classes
  - Intensive ESL classes- four levels during the Spring 2021 semester
- CCCS International Admissions and Advising
  - Led the CCCS monthly meetings, prepared educational topics for each meeting
- CCCS P/DSO Guidance and Advising
  - Answered questions across the system on SEVP best practices, how to, explanation of processes, general education of DHS, SEVP, ICE and their roles with these systems
  - Assistance with recertification
  - Emails to all CCCS colleges on changes in regulations, potential changes, interpretation of upcoming legal challenges
  - Provided advocacy for CCs with national immigration regulatory groups
- SEVP Recertification
  - Completed and had approved biannual SEVP certification
- Passports
  - Retook all federal exams and certification material necessary to reopen passport acceptance facility. Reopening August 23, 2021

- International Enrollment
  - Worked with potential students/sponsors/parents to understand the current COVID climate and how it impacts their travel plans and ability to access visa appointments
  - Worked with students to begin their studies with RRCC online when they could not travel
  - Deferred I-20s
- Undocumented/ DACA/ Immigrant student populations
  - Worked with inclusion and diversity and DREAM TEAM to establish processes and for working with non-US citizens and Permanent Resident applicants.
  - Worked with Foundation to advocate for scholarship and other funding opportunities for these student populations
  - Worked with external advocacy groups to provide training to RRCC on working with this student population.
- International Student Advising and compliance
  - Weekly zoom workshops designed to keep students up to date with immigration status compliance, timetables, and questions answered.
  - Individual appointments with students
  - Health insurance enrollment
  - Advising of potential students
- **Support to the College**

<b>Foundation Program</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>
Scholarship Program	\$729,205
Endowed Teaching Chair	\$18,578
Mini-grants Program	\$753
Dr. Agneta Albinsson Grants	\$949
Board Innovation Grants	\$3,745
Adjunct Tuition Assistance	\$6,026
Staff Book Fund	\$233
Internship Grant Program	\$6,000
Children's Center Grant	\$2,000
Emergency Grant Program	\$165,810
Food Bank	\$8,004
Program Designated Support	\$692,453
<b>Total support to the College</b>	<b>\$1,633,756</b>