

# COLORADO NORTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

President's Report

Lisa Jones, President

September 2021

Welcome to the Fall 2021-22 Academic Year at CNCC!

The month of August has been a busy one at CNCC. We welcomed the start of the 2021-22 academic year, saw an enrollment increase, made new College friends, welcomed back our faculty and students and received significant HLC and Department of Education approvals. In our sight lines are the achievement of our strategic priorities, finalizing preparation for our HLC visit and reaffirmation, and continuous nurturing of the CNCC experience which includes a community where every student is known by name, colleagues are like family, classrooms are not limited by walls and opportunities are endless.

In late July, CNCC Experience Day was held in Rangely, where students participated in a large group day session and selected two of four afternoon excursions: Scuba Diving (Oceanography program); Aviation-Flight Simulation; Dental Hygiene, National Park Service, and Equine Tours.



In early August, the Craig campus hosted its event which allowed for a full campus tour, a Paleo excursion, and demonstrations from Cybersecurity, Cosmetology, and Nursing. The athletic coaching

staff helped welcome our new potential students and their families and the Campus Life team made sure each participant had a valuable and enjoyable experience.



During the week of August 16, 2021, we welcomed our faculty back to campus. Members of the President's Cabinet held listening sessions focused on the strategic plan. The Craig session was held on August 16<sup>th</sup> and the Rangely session was held on August 18<sup>th</sup>. All faculty and staff were invited to attend. Information gathered will be incorporated within action steps developed from this year's strategic priorities. On Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> Convocation was held on the Rangely campus with all employees. The program included an ice breaker, presentations on the prior year accomplishments, and our strategic priorities for the coming year followed by an employee picnic.



Our strategic priorities, taken from the strategic plan are aligned with the College's core values, and through

the lens of diversity, equity and inclusion with a focus on efficiency, effectiveness, compliance, resource development and fiscal responsibility.

### **Strategic Priorities**

- Enrollment Management and Student Success- specifically targeting untapped markets and underserved populations
- Preserving Our Financial Reserves
- Academic Program Evaluation, Enhancement and Expansion
- Institutional Effectiveness-Branding, program demand analysis, Org analysis, CQI, 2022 Reaffirmation \*
- Fund-raising for Transformative Impact-friends, funding, future-focus
- Recruiting, training and retaining highly qualified employees-through a DEI lens
- Strengthening Communication to Exceed Stakeholder Expectations-Proposed outcomes-increased knowledge, transparency, satisfaction, engagement

\*The college intends to engage a firm to conduct an internal and external analysis, assisting in the identification of – Community/Industry needs based on the shifting economy, academic programs aligned with these needs, effective messaging, and marketing strategies to capitalize on CNCCs unique identity and brand, and recommendations on enrollment targets and program composition by location. This information, with full stake holder input, will provide the College’s leadership with a guide toward effective deployment of resources.

This analysis will assist in further cementing the fact that CNCC is one College that serves multiple distinct communities. Though we have equal responsibility to all, resource allocation must be equitably considered, based on community needs and tempered by resource realities. A recent article by the [Craig Daily Press](#) is evidence that the confusion regarding the purpose of each CNCC location continues.

### **Our Guide: CNCC Value Statement & Core Values**

Innovative teaching, outreach education, and continual assessment will ensure that our students have the skills to further their education, succeed at meaningful careers, and prosper in a complex and increasingly diverse world.

- Achievement: Provide holistic and broadly-based student support to prepare our students to achieve their educational, professional, and personal goals.
- Life-long Learning: Offer educational programs that encourage continued education as well as respond to evolving workforce environments.
- Equity and Inclusion: Promote a culture of equity and foster a safe positive environment of inclusion for all students, employees, and stakeholders
- Innovation: Utilize innovation to provide unique learning, leadership, and recreational experience in the diverse natural environments of Northwest Colorado.
- Community Involvement & Development: Create and nurture meaningful and mutually beneficial partnerships with the Northwest Colorado community and beyond.
- **Add - On: Fiscal Responsibility, Efficiency Identification and Resource Development**

## **Our New Vice President for Student Services**



On August 16, 2021, the College was joined by Mr. Hardman as its new Vice President for Student Services. David brings 15 years' experience supervising, working in or with Admissions/enrollment management, Student Life, Diversity awareness and education, Athletics, Rights and Responsibilities and Residence Life. As a value add and for those of you on the committee may have seen, he holds an MBA which will prepare him well to support the College's goal for fiscal responsibility and growth. He also holds an undergraduate degree in the Arts specifically sculpture and ceramics

In a bio developed at Trinidad State, where Mr. Hardman worked prior to joining CNCC, the following was provided:

David Hardman was born in the greater Houston, Texas area in 1982. After graduating from Willowridge High School in 2002, David decided to go to college at Bethany College. He received Bachelor of Arts Degrees in: Art Studio with Concentration in Sculpture and Visual Art Administration with Concentration in Ceramics, and minor in Business in 2007 from Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas.

The Hardman family found a home in Rangely right away and David, his wife Melissa and two sons have settled in nicely. The sons started classes with their new Rangely classmates on the first day and have reported making great friends. Mr. Hardman has hit the ground running and is working toward efficiencies and enhancements in the student experience, and creation of a data informed strategic enrollment management plan.

### **Our students and enrollment**

New and returning residence hall students moved in beginning August 18<sup>th</sup>. Parent orientation was held on August 18<sup>th</sup> and new student orientation occurred Thursday evening, August 19<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Along with learning academic and life success skills, new Spartans participated in team activities, the vision ropes course, scavenger hunts, hiking, rafting, and tie dye bump and jump.



With many institutions experiencing enrollment declines, we are pleased to report an increase in enrollment this year. At the end of regular registration (August 25, 2021), **CNCC held a 4.0% head count increase and a 3.2% FTE increase.**

### **Enrollment Growth by Program**

- **Cosmetology-** This program experienced a 64% increase in enrollment from this time last year
- **Cybersecurity-** In its first year, the inaugural student class was 57% higher than expected and required for solvency. These students enrolled as a full cohort, in the four-course semester sequence.
- **National Park Services Program, Dental Hygiene and Automotive Technology-** All full
- **GED and ESL Classes.** The College has been placing heightened emphases on non-credit and short-term programs which provide College access to greater numbers of our neighbors. The Craig Press highlighted our [ESL and GED courses](#), offered free of charge to residents. Since its origin a few years ago, this program has grown five-fold in enrollment.

## Achievements (2020-21 academic year) and Reasons to Celebrate (August 2021)

- **The Cybersecurity and Network & Systems** certificate have been approved by the Department of Education as of August 26, 2021
- **Coal to Product** and other Public Outreach projects in coal transition communities funded by a **sub-grant from the University of Wyoming**. Word was received on August 26, 2021, that this grant funded initiative has final approval and will start on September 1, 2021.
- **Online Education Resource (OER) Saved CNCC Students \$66,000**
  - **Student/Faculty OER Survey Summary Statements**
    - 76% of Students said the zero-cost (OER) textbook is the Same or Better quality to the not zero-cost (OER) textbooks
    - 72% of Students use their zero-cost (OER) textbooks the Same amount or More than not zero-cost (OER) textbooks
    - 8% of Students who reported a disability said that zero-cost (OER) textbooks met their needs
    - 56% of Students said their zero-cost (OER) textbooks made a positive difference in their studies
    - 89% of Faculty said their students spend between \$61-more than \$140 on the non-OER version of your textbook(s)?
    - 89% of Faculty said that when they taught these courses(s) in the past, 30%-More of students purchased the required non-OER textbooks?
    - 83% Of Faculty have used their non-OER textbooks for 5 or more semesters 72% of Faculty said that spent about Somewhat More or Much More time preparing to teach their OER course(s) each week compared to previous semesters when not using OER textbooks.
    - 39% of Faculty said that they Maybe Would or Would switch back to a non-OER textbook, 11% Would like to switch to a Different OER textbook, and 50% Would Not switch if given the opportunity.
    - 78% of Faculty said that they were Very Likely to use OER in future courses.
  - ▶ **Pass Rates for OER**
    - 16/26 courses show an increase in pass rates of 12.47% from AY19-20 to AY20-21
    - 9/26 courses show a decrease in pass rates of -10.97% from AY19-20 to AY20-21
    - 1/26 courses were transitioned to OER but there isn't data yet to evaluate
  - ▶ **Courses Moved to OER**
    - As of AY20-21 53% of all Arts& Sciences are OER
    - Goal of AY21-22
      - ▶ Approx. 70% of A&S will be OER
- **Financial Aid** – In April US Dept of Ed recertification approved with no provisions so good to offer financial aid for the next 6 years.
- Doubled overall **advancement income** from FY20 to FY21 and grew over 4x the amount we brought in during our baseline year of 2015.

- Awarded \$131,485 in **Foundation scholarships** during FY21
- **Implemented planned giving program** and received first known bequest gift (**value \$400,000**) and welcomed our first member of the CNCC Heritage Society: Carl Mattson.
- Closed first endowed scholarship over \$100,000 in CNCC history: **\$113,238**.
- Invested in and implemented new Foundation scholarship application software that went live on August 1. Will remove barriers to application for students and streamline the awarding process.
- **FY21 & FY22 Budget:**
  - Did not layoff or furlough any CNCC employee
  - Managed Institutional Reserves and kept CNCC whole during COVID
  - Delivered FY22 Budget to budget managers on July 1, 2021. First on-time budget at CNCC in many years
  
- **Business (Accounting, IT, Facilities):**  
**In FY21, the Business Department plays key role in acquiring and implementing over \$4 million in Grants and Funds.**

○ Cybersecurity Grant	\$	500,000
○ RISE Grant	\$	743,000
○ IT Infrastructure Capital Project	\$	1,746,000
○ Controlled Access/Security	\$	511,000
○ Blakeslee/Allesbrook Window/Roof	\$	717,000
  
- **COVID Leadership**
  - ▶ Acquired supplies, sanitizing guns, etc. early in pandemic and kept CNCC safe
    - Worked with all departments to identify and contain instances of positive COVID
    - Established COVID testing protocols, isolation, quarantine routines that:
      - ▶ Kept our student, staff, and faculty safe.
      - ▶ Helped our DH and Athletics students to study and play athletics despite COVID climate.
      - ▶ Worked with RDH to have steady supply of COVID test kits