



President's Report

Dr. Mordecai Brownlee

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The Community College of Aurora (CCA) provides high-quality instruction and student support services to Aurora and Denver, Colorado. With a vision to aspire to be a college where every student succeeds, CCA is the most diverse college in the State of Colorado. Focused on creating social and economic mobility for its students, the college offers courses on two (2) campuses, online, and through its high school concurrent enrollment programs. For more information, visit www.ccaurora.edu.

Transform the student experience

CCA Celebrates Its 40th Commencement Ceremony!

On Saturday, May 4, 2024, the Community College of Aurora hosted its 40th Commencement at the Aurora Municipal Building. Over 400 graduates participated in the ceremony making it CCA's largest graduation participation to date. The graduating class of 2024 was also one of the largest with 971 total programs awarded which consisted of 537 Associate Degrees and 434 certificates. At the ceremony, Noel Bernal, County Manager for Adams County Government served as the keynote speaker alongside special presentations from Mayor Mike Coffman, City of Aurora Mayor, recognizing CCA's 40th Anniversary, Dr. Mordecai Brownlee, CCA President, honoring Dr. Nai-Kwang Chang and Dr. Larry Carter with CCA President Emeritus Status, and CCA graduate Danielle Jurinsky, At-Large Member of Aurora City Council, sharing her journey at CCA. We also celebrated our largest concurrent enrollment (CE) class of 156 graduates, a 36% increase from 2023. To recognize this accomplishment, we invited CE student Ben Gardberg to serve as the 2024 student speaker. Ben was named Valedictorian at Vista Peak High School and will attend Cornell University in Fall 2024.

Our robust Strategic Communications and Alumni Engagement team of both in-house and freelance videographers and photographers captured and recap the event, celebrating our graduating foxes and telling the story of their success and exciting futures. Click [HERE](#) to view the recap page/photos/videos from that day.

The Division of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion hosted the annual Cultural Graduation on Saturday, April 27th at the Beck Recreation Center. Over 280 guests attended and were provided over 50 stoles representing their cultural, sexual orientation, or first-generation identities. We also provided cords at graduation for the individuals who did not participate in the Cultural Graduation. Click [HERE](#) to read more about CCA's cultural graduation and what makes the event so special.

This year 80 TRIO students graduated (8 certificates with plans for continuing to degree completion and 72 Associates degrees). This represents 26% of all TRIO SSS students for the year (80 out of 300). **At least** 30 of the 80 walked in commencement ceremony on May 4th.

The Office of Institutional Research (IR) worked on NSF S-Stem grant data for the annual review. IR followed six cohorts from Fall 2022 to Spring 2024, and the data will be used for a comparison study between S-Stem Grant recipients and non-recipients in STEM majors at Community College of Aurora (CCA). Many factors such as demographics, credits, Grade Point Average (GPA), retention, graduation, and transfer are being examined. After data analysis, it will give CCA meaningful findings on how NSF funding impacts the success of the grant recipients in a STEM field, and more importantly, the findings with positive impact in a report will help CCA apply for a similar STEM related grants in the future.

The [Opportunity Next Colorado scholarship](#) recipients have been identified. The division is seeking to award \$1500 to 800 unique students.

CCA Chatbot (Gecko) still continues to perform well. The chatbot has handled over 800 unique chats in the last four weeks.

Over a year ago, the Strategic Communications and Alumni Engagement division created a video series titled Alumni in Action, and continues to highlight the success and community impact of our CCA alumni, with our newest video highlighting CCA graduate Lupita Zuniga-Solis, who will be pursuing her degree in social work at MSU Denver in the Fall. Click [HERE](#) to read and watch her story.

The TRIO SSS and TRIO ESL Programs provided virtual and in-person mock-interview workshops to students applying to the Integrated Nursing Pathway program (total of 19 student attendees). Students who were invited to interview for the INP program were encouraged to attend to receive interviewing tips, practice time and instant feedback from professional staff and peers.

The Title V Summer Bridge planning is on-going and anticipating a cohort of about 40-45 individuals participating this summer which will be a significant increase from previous years with 2023 Summer Bridge having 18 participants. The purpose of the Summer Bridge program is to combat the "summer melt" and increase matriculation to fall semester coursework.

Transform our own work experience

Human Resources and Personal Success

Human Resources has identified and offered positions to candidates to fill all vacancies to prepare for upcoming retirements on the team which will allow for the current team members to

support the new team members in training so that the division is optimized for the Fall semester. Year-end evaluations for APT and Faculty have been completed and the division is working on calculating salary adjustments and letters for FY25. We received a letter of determination regarding an EEO claim which was in favor of CCA. The individual has appealed the decision as is within their rights and we are working with CCCS Legal to navigate.

CCA hosted another wonderfully fun and well attended employee Spring Fling. It is our way to let off some of the steam and the pressure that comes with the end of year wrap up and say thank you to our employees for their hard work and send our faculty off for summer break. Our folks appreciate the opportunity for community building and we discovered we have competitive folks in corn hole, musical chairs and some aspiring stars via karaoke!

This month we said Thank you for their service in Human Resources at CCA to the following retirees: Cindy Hesse, Vice President of Human Resources & Personnel Success for 15.75 years with CCA and 30 years within CCCS; Sharon Connelly, Program Assistant for 14.5 years with CCA; and Bob Callaway, Director of Talent Acquisition for 7 years with CCA.

CCA is moving through the first full assessment phase of Planning, Budgeting, Assessment, and Innovation Cycle. SPOL's (strategic planning tool) Planning Module holds the goals and objectives of tier 1 and 2 leadership offices set during the planning phase last fall. Tier 1 and 2 leadership offices are receiving a SPOL report with those objectives, and each unit is being asked to state whether the objectives were completed, deferred, or discontinued. The responses are being entered into SPOL and printed in the end-of-year Operational Unit Reports.

CCA has hired its first CRM Manager to create and implement strategies for Navigate and Recruit. This individual will help plan and create cohesive and integrated communication campaigns to drive enrollment, implement retention campaigns across the campus, train faculty and staff on how to effectively use EAB Navigate to support student success and retention, and produce reports on software utilization/effectiveness.

Title V Asegurando program continues to provide training for instructors on topics of Culturally Responsive Pedagogy, High Impact Practices and Inclusive Teaching Techniques through EIDS (Effective Instructor Development Series) courses they created in D2L. Currently they enrolled 10 instructors into the Summer EIDS courses which began on May 20th. Additionally, there were 6 instructors who completed the Spring 2024 EIDS courses and 1 instructor who submitted evidence of implementation for summer 2024 and were eligible to receive an additional \$500 stipend for implementation.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships

CCA has partnered up with Justice Necessary to support an end to period poverty in Aurora and the greater Colorado community. Staff from the Office of Student Advocacy supported the Aurora Period Packing Party on Friday, April 26th that served as a way to provide free menstruation supplies to our community and also promote Bill HB24-1164, which would provide free menstrual products to CO students in K-12 schools. The Bill has passed the Senate and is now headed to the Governor's desk. CCA also is piloting free monthly period packs. Justice Necessary donated 2,000 period packs (each containing 20 tampons or pads) to CCA and in the Fall we will provide monthly packs to support our students. This initiative will also run alongside a Period Equity Survey, which will assess student impact and experience as it relates to school and menstruating.

CCA became a partner college as part of the Mines Academy at CCA with Colorado School of Mines. The MOU signing event is scheduled for Thursday, May 30th.

In partnership with Colorado School of Mines, CCA applied to be an Intelligence Community Center of Academic Excellence with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

CCA received final approval from the Colorado Department of Education for the launch of our first PTech known as ConstrucTech in partnership with Aurora Public Schools.

Formally started the application process for the launch of our Nursing Program (ADN) with the State Board of Nursing.

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

A new LED exterior sign has been installed on Chambers, a major street in the Aurora community. This display will be visible 24/7 to promote enrollment opportunities and community engagement.

To increase the accessibility of our campus, construction began on our ADA Accessibility Project May 7th on the CentreTech campus. Sidewalks, handrails, and bathroom remodels will be completed by the end of the calendar year.

The division continues to work with JLL on finding a 3rd location for our nursing program. A location has been identified, but we are still working terms and conditions with the landlord. Our intent is to have this as an agenda item at the June Board meeting for approval.

The STEM building is making great progress, and is now vertical. (picture provided below). We are currently awaiting permits from the City of Aurora so utilities can begin to go in. Steel is scheduled for mid-July.

