



## FRCC June 2024 Board Report

Colleen Simpson, Ed.D.

President

### Transform the student experience.

FRCC hosted a [record-breaking event](#) on May 9 by uniting graduates from all three campuses for a **collective commencement celebration**, the first in the school's 56-year history. This year, the college elevated the ceremony to give every graduate a remarkable and significant celebration on their special day. The college awarded more than 5,000 degrees and certificates to almost 4,000 graduates for the 2023-2024 academic year. This graduating class is as diverse as the subjects they have studied at FRCC:

- Youngest graduate: 17
- Oldest graduate: 77
- 37% students of color
- Graduates from 13 countries (including the US)
- 89 students who are military veterans
- 24% eligible for federal Pell grants (students who display exceptional financial need)

Meet some of this year's outstanding FRCC graduates:

- Read commencement speaker [Melissa Chavez's moving story of overcoming](#).
- Four members of the [Salazar family](#) graduated together in May.
- Get to know our "rockstar" student [Hector Vargas](#).
- Graduate [Nick Shepherd](#) on becoming a scientist.



Commencement Student Speaker Melissa Chavez



FRCC's **P-TECH** graduating class at Northglenn High School was the largest it's ever been this year, granting 15 students no-cost associate degrees as they finished high school in May. Our partnership with Adams 12 Schools and Lumen has seen 43 graduates since its inception in 2021. Eighty-one percent of the grads are first-generation college students. In just four years, students in the program have earned 5,748 college credits, saving close to \$2 million for Northglenn P-TECH families.



And speaking of our graduates... Brian Tan knew he wanted to go into a STEM-related field ever since he was a kid growing up in Indonesia. What he most certainly could not have known was that he would go on to become the **youngest graduate ever from CU's computer science program**. This driven young man came to FRCC in 2021, where he received the support he needed to achieve his dream of transferring to the University of Colorado Boulder to study computer science. He graduated with his bachelor's degree at age 17 and is now a PhD student and research assistant at Colorado State University. Read more of [Brian's story here](#).

FRCC engineering student Vatey Ouy is one of 60 high-achieving community college students from around the country—and the only one in Colorado—selected to receive the **Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship**. She was chosen from a nationwide pool of nearly 1,700 applicants who were evaluated on their academic prowess, financial need, persistence, community service and leadership qualities. Vatey's ultimate goal is to become one of the first female aerospace engineers from Cambodia. "This field is almost non-existent in my country," she says. "I am passionate about breaking new ground and serving as an inspiration for other young women in STEM. I aspire to contribute to advancements in aerospace technology and bring new perspectives to the industry." While at FRCC, Vatey has served as a vice president for the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society on campus. In that role, she has helped connect other students with our community of dedicated scholars. She has made the FRCC Dean's List and was an active member of the campus Math Club. Outside of school, Vatey is particularly proud of her participation in [NASA's LSPACE Mission Concept Academy](#). The program allowed her to engage with real-world aerospace challenges and collaborate with peers and professionals in the field. "It was a valuable experience that fueled my passion even more for aerospace engineering." [Read more about Vatey in our news release](#).



## Transform our own workforce experience.

FRCC's new **Teaching Excellence Center** has had an incredibly productive and successful first year designing opportunities for our faculty and instructors that inspire, empower and support them on their teaching journeys. A few of the TEC's noteworthy accomplishments:

- Reimagined a collegewide first-year experience for new faculty.
- Drafted a refresh of the college's Teaching Excellence Statement.
- Redesigned an all-college New Instructor Orientation.
- Was awarded a \$100,000 Teaching Excellence grant.
- Established a Teaching Excellence library.
- Eliminated unnecessary forms for facilitators and participants in professional learning.
- Planned and hosted a new Equity Through Teaching Excellence event.
- Identified and established consistent processes for all professional learning.

This spring, FRCC officially launched peer-facilitated **employee affinity groups**. Groups are available at each campus and include:

- Allies & Advocates (which is open to anyone who would like to connect about issues of equity and inclusion)
- Employees of Color
- LGBTQIA+ Employees
- Employees with Disabilities

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



FRCC has partnered with Broadcom, Inc., to offer college classes on site at the company's semiconductor manufacturing facility in Fort Collins. This gives Broadcom employees an opportunity to earn professional certificates or associate degrees through FRCC—right at their place of employment. Broadcom requires at least a two-year degree for employees to advance to an equipment or facility technician role, but nearly half of their 1,000 fabrication employees do not currently meet this degree minimum. To provide the opportunity for employees to advance in their careers and to make these programs more accessible, FRCC decided to take our classes to them. Broadcom's VP of Fabrication Operations Carrie Pelton says this win-win scenario helps the company get the highly-trained employees it needs. Broadcom provides tuition assistance and encourages employees to enroll in FRCC's [Automation Engineering Technology](#) and [Electronics Engineering Technology](#) programs, which are offered at FRCC's state-of-the-art [Center for Integrated Manufacturing](#) in Longmont. **In May, the first cohort of Broadcom employees graduated from FRCC with their certificate in electronics assembly. 100% of their courses were offered on site at their place of work.** These students now have the opportunity to build on their certificate with additional coursework to earn an associate degree. Read more about how [FRCC and Broadcom's innovative partnership](#) is, literally, meetings these students where they are.

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

Both of FRCC's **nursing programs** have made the [top three in a new ranking](#) of all nursing schools in the state. The [nursing program](#) at our Larimer Campus has been selected as the best nursing school in Colorado, according to a [new list compiled by RegisteredNursing.org](#). FRCC's Westminster Campus nursing program came in at number three on the list of 28 programs in the state. Founded in 1968, FRCC's nursing programs have been well respected for training highly skilled nurses for more than 50 years. The college's programs consistently earn some of the highest pass rates in Colorado on the national nursing licensure exam. Last year, FRCC's pass rates were higher than:

- **98%** (Larimer)
- **97%** (Westminster)
- Compared to **88%** (national average, according to the [National Council of State Boards of Nursing](#))







The Rotary Club of Northglenn-Thornton has announced the establishment of a [\\$25,000 endowment](#) at FRCC. This fund will support students from the Northglenn and Thornton areas who are pursuing certificates or degrees at the college and enhance the area's future workforce. The scholarship, administered by the [FRCC Foundation](#), is designed to assist students who demonstrate significant financial need and meet up to 250% of Pell Grant eligibility. Preference will be given to residents of Northglenn or Thornton. However, the Rotary Club has committed to considering applicants from outside these areas on a case-by-case basis to ensure all deserving students have the opportunity to benefit from this initiative.

FRCC's third annual **Equity & Inclusion Summit** drew more than 250 participants, including students, faculty and staff. The event offered eight breakout sessions featuring contributions from employees and student organizations, as well as a keynote speech from Dr. Kathy Obear from the Center for Transformation and Change.



Year one of FRCC's collegewide **Equity & Inclusion Council** was an overwhelming success, with eight council meetings that featured professional development for members, as well as opportunities to collaborate on broader equity and inclusion goals across divisions. The group currently has nearly 70 active members who have just completed their first year of a two-year term.