



VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

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This regular written report presents highlights from the Academic and Student Affairs Division.

Academic Affairs

Yuja Panorama

The budget was approved by the board for a digital accessibility checker in 2023. CCCS went out for a Request for Proposal (RFP) in July of that year. The RFP evaluation team was comprised of college and system office faculty, academic, student affairs and learning technology staff. After reviewing several vendors, the RFP was awarded to Yuja Panorama in Fall 2023. CCCS has standardized on D2L Learning Management System software. Going into the RFP, the evaluation team was looking for a product that scanned D2L documents. Yuja Panorama provides this feature, and it allows staff to upload documents to check their accessibility. Panorama will significantly improve CCCS and the colleges' ability to comply with (House Bill) HB 21-1110. Per CCCS Legal Affairs, the HB requires CCCS to meet accessibility standards using the most recent web content accessibility guidelines for digital content (e.g., MS Word, Excel, webpages, etc.).

Yuja Panorama brings many benefits to faculty and students. Faculty can upload documents and webpages to D2L, and Panorama will provide an accessibility score. Panorama then provides instructions on how to remediate the content. Faculty may also see an overall score per D2L course to track improvement over time. Students have the option to download documents in multiple formats from D2L depending on their preference or accommodation need. Students can download a document from D2L in PDF, Text, EPUB, electronic Braille, Audio files, as well as translate text to different languages.

The implementation started in January 2024. Since then, the software has been installed and configured, the colleges have started testing the product, and the CCCS Learning Designers have used Panorama for the Consortilization project.

The following are upcoming major milestones for the implementation:

- Summer 2024: PCC and TSC go-live.
- Fall 2024: ACC, CCA, CCD, CNCC, FRCC, LCC, MCC, PCC, PPSC, TSC
- Spring 2025: PPSC goes-live.

Simple Syllabus

As a part of the transition to the consortia model for Colorado Online, a student survey was distributed early in the spring of 2021 which identified a student desire for consistency in syllabus formatting and presentation across the CCCS. As a result of this identified student need, the Learning Design Subcommittee researched the benefits of implementing a consistent syllabus management tool. They submitted a formal recommendation which received approval to adopt a consistent syllabus management tool for all courses and all modalities. The intent was to provide a more consistent user experience for students, while also increasing workflow efficiency for instructors/faculty, and administrators.

CCCS and the colleges went out for a RFP in 2023. After a thorough assessment, the RFP evaluation team awarded the contract to Simple Syllabus. The implementation started in January 2024. Each college has one or more implementation leads who represent the faculty and other stakeholders at their colleges. The implementation leads have been working on developing their college's syllabus template. Most of them have completed the first version of the syllabus template.

The following are major milestones for the project:

- **Spring 2024:** Each College Develops Their Syllabus Template
- May 20th: Kick-off meeting to Develop the Colorado Online Syllabus Template.
 - Note: The Colorado Online syllabus template won't be available for the summer. It may be available for the fall semester.
- May 24th: Training for Template Editors
 - Note: Each college will have a Template Editor responsible for maintaining the syllabus template. Rachel Meisner at CCCS is a resource available to help them.
- May 28th: Training for Pilot Faculty
 - Note: A pre-recorded training was provided to the implementation leads in early May to share with faculty who can't attend the May 28th training.
- **Summer Pilot 2024:** TSC, PCC, FRCC, RRCC.
 - Note: Each college will pilot a small number of sections.
- **Fall Pilot 2024:** OC, RRCC, TSC, MCC, PCC, PPSC, FRCC, CCD, CNCC.
 - Note: A more significant number of sections will be piloted.

Spring 2025: Full implementation across the system.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

CTE kicked off the month with a national meeting for Advanced CTE where the nations leaders of CTE came together to collaborate. Advanced CTE hosted breakout sessions



on the important topics facing all of CTE. In addition, industry and federal experts shared out in several panel discussion the future initiatives, legislation, data and trends.

Our office is also working to build recruitment and marketing materials for our districts and schools. Piloting work in the DPS district we are planning to roll out a state toolkit for both secondary and postsecondary use. In addition, we are finishing up work on the new CTE strategic plan, the plan should be out for our state CTE educator conference (CACTE) in July.

As the school year is winding down for all, our team collaborated with stakeholders to host our last work-based learning community of practice for the year. This is a new project that has seen much interest within the field and with all stakeholders alike. We have approximately 200 people involved in the community and average 30-50 participants at our webinars. We are looking to continue this community in the coming years.

Our team continues to be highly involved in large scale initiatives such as the Rise grant, Aerospace Frontiers Education, CDHE's Stackable Credential pathways work, in construction, cybersecurity, behavioral health, and education. In addition, our team has collaborated this year with CDE on academic alignment work and communications around the understanding of CTE, we will be attending and presenting at the CoLabs conference held in Sterling, Colorado next week.

Student Affairs

Student Launched a new Micro Grant to help supplemental behavioral/mental health for students at the rural colleges. Each college is eligible for up to \$8,000 to fill in any gaps they have in their existing services for FY 2025. Funding for this grant was made possible by The Colorado Trust.

SA staff worked with legislative affairs to review both HB24-1340 - Incentives for Post Secondary Education and SB 24-164 - Institution of Higher Education Transparency Requirements, including proposing an amendment to SB 24-164 and helping interpret proposed amendments.

Dr. Schulman was a speaker at the CU and CC connections event along with the CU Provost and VP of Enrollment Management. Speech focused on CCs and Universities being better together though open communication and relationship building so that students have a better tomorrow.

Reisher Scholarship Navigators have visited nine of the thirteen community colleges conducting trainings on the Reisher Transfer Scholarship, Reisher Bridge Scholarship, and Bridge to Bachelor's program. The remaining four colleges are scheduled for June and July.



Financial Aid

With the IT upgrades over the weekend of 5/19/2024, the Financial Aid Directors met on 5/23/2024 to review 2024-2025 FAFSAs that were imported into Banner. The current focus is on requesting documents from the students to review eligibility for both federal and state financial aid.

The CCCS Financial Aid Team along with the IT Project Manager attended the annual state financial aid conference in Colorado Springs. Along with many great information sessions and sharing of information across the state IHEs, we are happy to announce that the elected President for the FY25 year is Mike Pearce from our office. In addition, Karla Nash was awarded the President's Award for significant contributions to the State Financial Aid Offices along with the Post-Secondary Staff Member of the Year for assistance to colleges across the state with the Title IV Program Approvals.

Equity and Inclusion

E&I is currently Reviewing 2023 Annual Equity Report and developing metrics and templates for the 2024 Annual Equity Report and working on programming for Annual Equity & Inclusion Retreat.

The Global MindEd Annual Conference will be held June 18 and 19 at the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center. Programing is currently under development.

Work will soon begin for the Fall 2024 HBCU B2BD cohort with Coppin State University.

Colorado State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training

Public Law 117-328 updated Title 38 U.S. Code §3691A – Withdrawal or leave of absence from certain education institutions.

This law provides guidance to academic institutions when a service member is deployed and must take a leave of absence. Many concerns from institutions across the United States as well as Pikes Peak State College have arisen since VA sent out notification to schools on November 17, 2023. Our office is engaged with VA Central Office policy and legal division and has requested a Policy Advisory be developed to address the many concerns on how to correctly implement this change. VA Central Office granted me permission to share the draft policy advisory with Pikes Peak State College on May 20, 2024.



COLORADO

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Our office is currently working with Dr. Michael Schulman, and CCCS IT Department in purchasing and installing a web-based system to manage the approval function for our office. This robust platform will allow us to transition from Microsoft Access to a more automated system which directly supports 240 academic institutions in Colorado.

For Fiscal Year 2024, we have conducted four out of five Risk-Based Surveys, and eleven out of fourteen supervisory visits. All surveys and visits will be complete in July 2024 well ahead of the completion of the federal fiscal year in September 2024.