



FRCC December 2021 Board Report

Andrew Dorsey

President

Transform the student experience.

FRCC has won a Colorado **Apprenticeship Award** from the state Department of Higher Education. FRCC is the 2021 Apprenticeship Winner for CDHE's *Champion* category. Under the leadership of Chris Heuston, our director of health care apprenticeships, FRCC's programs have grown significantly over the last two years. Since fall 2019, FRCC has graduated 142 health care apprentices and 18 pre-apprentices from our four health care programs that offer apprenticeships:

- [Medical Assisting](#)
- [Sterile Processing](#)
- [Pharmacy Technician](#)
- [Surgical Technology](#)



FRCC's first sterile processing apprenticeship cohort

Our Online Student Affairs team has launched a **new online orientation** to welcome students to FRCC and help create a sense of belonging. The goal is to help students feel comfortable and confident enough to reach out for help during their time at FRCC. The new online orientation will save the college \$25,000 a year and is hosted internally within our Desire2Learn system.

Our Online Learning team started a partnership to offer **virtual mental health services** to all FRCC students. The partnership with provider BetterMynd allows students to connect with a licensed professional in the state where they live. (FRCC Online has students in all 50 states.) Students are allowed six free sessions with a BetterMynd counselor. The college has also hired a mental health case manager. Their primary role is to connect with online students who have been reported through our student-of-concern process. The mental health case manager will also develop resources and resource lists for online students (in our service areas and beyond).

FRCC is now using a platform called Signal Vine that allows key staff members in certain departments to **communicate with students via text message**. The college expanded its use of text communications this fall with the addition of four campus-specific student-advisor feeds. The goal is to improve student retention by using a more effective mass communication medium. As new students are assigned to an advisor they all get a message to introduce the texting platform. Students can respond and initiate conversations via text with their Pathways Advisor—and many of them do). The advisors are able to answer a lot of quick questions this way. The texting capability has also been helpful in reaching students to reschedule appointments when advisors are out sick—and for other times when reliable, timely communication is important.

After an 18-month hiatus from presenting live, in-person theatre productions, the **FRCC theatre program** made a triumphant return to the stage in October. The Larimer Campus theatre program presented [an evening of 10-minute student-written plays](#)—an eclectic collection of short original works, rivetingly performed by a cast of talented students. The show was co-directed by FRCC theatre professors Dana Formby and John Hill. “FRCC’s theatre program is honored to produce these works because they are written by the students—and ultimately for them,” said Hill. “Members of the community got to be part of the first audiences to ever see these new plays.”

Staff in the brand-new **TRIO Student Support Services** program at FRCC’s Boulder County Campus made their first call for mid-term grade reports this semester. They sent out an email for each class that TRIO scholars are enrolled in—and heard back that the average GPA of the students in the program is 2.88. (In fall 2019, the average GPA of TRIO-eligible students was 1.78, according to the TRIO grant proposal.) TRIO success coaches will share this information with their students to celebrate their success, and also connect them with resources to help them finish the semester strong.



The latest edition of FRCC-Westminster’s **student literary magazine** is now out. *Howl* (Volume 7) includes 14 pieces of creative writing by FRCC students, as well as poems by Westminster High School students who are winners of the campus’ annual high school poetry contest. The student-centered magazine incorporates creative nonfiction, fiction, poetry and drama—as well as student-created photography, painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics and graphic design.

FRCC art alumna Carissa Kaye was recently [profiled in the publication *Voyage Denver*](#), in which she gave a shoutout to an influential FRCC **art faculty** member. Carissa is a Denver-based artist, whose work “explores the relationship between multiculturalism and emotional memories.” As her diverse influences, she cites artists, writers and musicians such as Franz Kafka and Erykah Badu—as well as “my art history college professor Heidi Strang.” Carissa describes her work as using both traditional and modern meanings to “evoke a spiritual connection to self.”

Transform our own workforce experience.

FRCC hosted an interactive virtual expo in November to review and celebrate accomplishments from our [Vision 2020](#) Strategic Plan. The online event provided employees a chance to hear about colleagues’ innovative solutions and success stories. Everyone at FRCC plays a role in our mission to enrich lives through learning. Back in 2015, FRCC faculty, instructors and staff envisioned what we wanted to accomplish over the next five years. The broad areas that the organization identified as our highest priorities were our:

- Singular focus on student success
- Exceptional teaching
- Strong commitment to diverse learners and communities
- Effective business and community partnerships



Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

Our Admissions & Outreach team recently hosted an in-person **FAFSA night** at FRCC's Boulder County Campus—in collaboration with the city of Longmont's [ASPIRE program](#) and our Financial Aid staff. Organizers helped prospective students complete their Free Application for Federal Student Aid and their Colorado Application for State Financial Aid—as well as their application for admission to FRCC. Participants could also take a tour of our campus. Fifty-six prospective students and their family members attended the event, and bilingual staff was available to assist Spanish-speaking guests throughout the evening.

The student **Sociology Club** at our Westminster Campus sponsored its “Lend-a-Hand Donation Drive” in November. The goal was to collect food and toiletries to benefit [The Gathering Place](#)—the only daytime drop-in center in metropolitan Denver that serves women, transgender individuals and their children who are experiencing poverty. Many of these individuals are also experiencing homelessness. The Gathering Place has seen a rapid increase in community need due to COVID-19, as well as the lack of affordable housing and overall economic shifts.

National Transfer Week celebrates the accomplishments of transfer students at colleges around the country. Colorado State University's *Source* magazine published an [article featuring three Wolves-to-Rams students](#) who have successfully transferred from FRCC to CSU.



FRCC [Corporate Solutions](#) is helping New Belgium Brewing Company with a large project to provide an eight-month **comprehensive leadership training program** to 780 managers. Although the company is located in Fort Collins, this endeavor will add a new twist: Trainers will also be working with teams at New Belgium's sister brewery in North Carolina. The engaging and interactive leadership series—called the “Leadership Empowerment 8 Pack”—will equip the company's people managers with a broad range of competencies. The training aims to help them achieve excellence in their role using a balance of deep content, real-life application, participant reflection and discussion. This unique collaboration aligns with New Belgium's desires to be a human-powered business, to meet the needs of all managers at all locations and to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Five local manufacturing companies gave presentations to students at FRCC's [Center for Integrated Manufacturing](#) (CIM) in October. Students heard from employees at Excelitas, Woodward, Tolmar, Particle Measuring and Nexus Controls. CIM faculty and staff have built strong partnerships with these manufacturers who routinely contribute to discussions about curriculum and talent pipeline needs. The presentations helped students learn more about the different types of manufacturing in the region, and the job opportunities available at each company. Our manufacturing partners view these visits as an important way to build their talent pipeline as they continue to recruit employees from among the students at the CIM.

FRCC alumna Ruby Black (who spoke at commencement in 2019) helped found the **Chamber Student Network**—a partnership between the Longmont Chamber of Commerce, FRCC and St. Vrain Valley Schools. The goal of the network is to bring education and businesses together. The group provides high school and community college students a chance to:

- connect with businesses in the community,
- be mentored by Longmont business leaders,
- build professional networks and
- participate in community problem-solving with the chamber.



In November FRCC students from the Chamber Student Network set up a table at a chamber event to raise money for veterans—and managed to bring in nearly \$9,000 in one evening. The funds will become part of the Jerome Lewis Memorial Scholarship to support veterans at FRCC’s Boulder County Campus. Ruby graduated from FRCC with an A.A.S. degree in business, along with a certificate in leadership and management. She transferred to the University of Northern Colorado where she is currently pursuing her bachelor’s degree in business management. She is also working for the Longmont Chamber as its new event and program coordinator.

This semester, students in the Criminal Justice Society at our Westminster Campus sponsored a discussion on **Community Safety—What Can We Do?**. A panel of experts from the Adams County Community Safety & Well-Being Committee came to talk about ways individuals can help make our communities safer. More than 40 students from sociology and criminal justice courses attended the event.

This fall FRCC hosted **Get Into the Guts**—an interactive event that exposes eighth-grade students to health care careers—at our new [Health Care Careers Center](#). Students and teachers explored interactive tables featuring careers in our health-related programs. They also got to experience some of the ways that FRCC students learn about anatomy, like using Anatomage tables—3D hardware and software that allow users to visualize human anatomy—and sculpting organs out of clay. In addition participants got to feel what it is like to have dementia through an immersive experience with Columbine Healthcare. The goal is to raise students’ interest in health care professions and introduce them to these occupations at all education levels so that, as they enter high school and choose a pathway, they consider health care. Admissions & Outreach staff took students on tours of the building and of the Larimer Campus. For many of them, this was their first official college campus tour. *Get into the Guts* is sponsored by the Northern Colorado Health Sector Partnership in collaboration with Poudre School District.



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

The librarians at our Westminster Campus' College Hill Library presented three days of events for faculty to learn more about **Open Educational Resources (OER)**. Starting with the “why,” organizers provided library resources to help faculty get started with their own OER projects, and explained the differences between Creative Common Licenses and Open Access. The event included a panel of faculty who have successfully made the move to OER who shared their experience and tips for success.

FRCC has been [awarded more than \\$4 million](#) to help people in our service area go back to school and get back to work. The school will receive two grants from the [Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative](#) that will make it easier and less expensive for local people go back to school and finish their education. Participants in these two programs will receive scholarships to assist them in paying for school—with *no out-of-pocket cost* for the remaining part of their education. Students will also get to work directly with a student success coach who will help them plan for their future—including assisting with financial planning, academic planning, career planning and more.

