



FRCC February 2023 Board Report

Colleen Simpson, Ed.D.

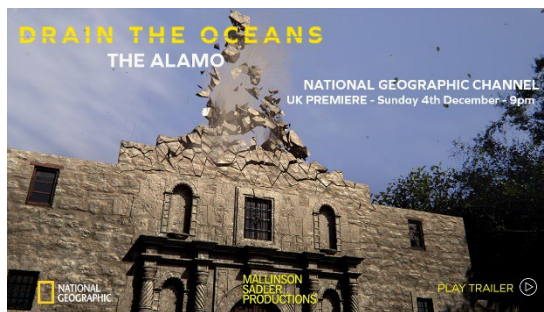
President

Transform the student experience.

A play written by an FRCC student has been selected as a semi-finalist in the **Kennedy Center American College Theatre (KCACT) Festival**. This fall, FRCC theatre students performed a group of six eclectic [10-minute plays](#) that touched on a wide range of subject matter—from transgender identity to mortality. The production at the Larimer Campus showcased original works written by student playwrights from all three FRCC campuses. One of the plays, “This Haunting Red” by student author Mitch Hartcroft tells the story of a transgender man who is haunted by his past. It was [featured on KUNC](#) public radio in October. Mitchell has since done a rewrite of the script and is going to the Region 7 KCACT festival in Spokane, Washington, in February. There he’ll work with a new director and new actors on the play, with hopes of being chosen to go to the national festival in April in Washington, DC.



Work by an FRCC professor and his students was recently featured on National Geographic’s *Drain the Oceans* special (Season 5, Episode 5: The Alamo—now streaming on Disney+). The episode covers the Texas independence conflict from the Alamo to the Battle of San Jacinto. The project that is featured involved FRCC students from the beginning. The terrain of the battlefield is as critical to the understanding the archaeology of the site as it was to the generals fighting the

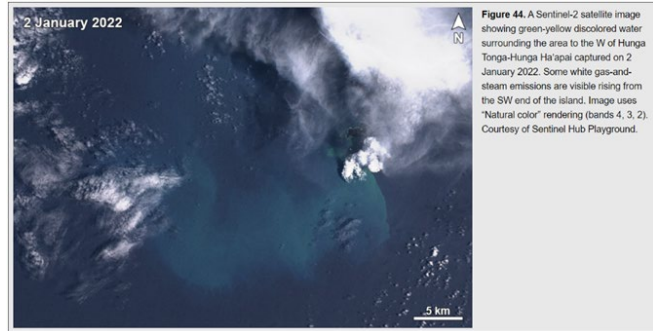


battle. An FRCC student developed the latest topographic surface, which was featured in the episode, as a special project/internship for **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** Instructor Peter Price. Project-based learning is the foundation of many of FRCC’s GIS classes and this ongoing project will yield new insights on the history of the Texas conflict and introduce new technologies into these types of investigations.

FRCC’s **Hispanic-Serving Institution** taskforce has begun work to ensure FRCC meets the [program-specific requirements](#) in order to be defined as a federally designated HSI. Members of the taskforce are working on five committees that are focused on: enrollment & outcomes; student advisory; institutional practices; professional development; and communications. They are exploring ways to best support our Latinx students, their families and the community. The college’s [plans to become an HSI](#) have recently gotten news coverage in the:

- [Daily Camera](#)
- [Longmont Leader](#)

FRCC's **Geo-Launchpad** grant has received supplemental funding from the National Science Foundation to take an additional six students to the Geological Society Conference in October. These students will get to attend in addition to up to six students from the [Geo-Launchpad internship program](#). In December two former Geo-Launchpad students who have transferred and/or gone on to graduate school presented at the American Geophysical Union Conference in Chicago. One is now a doctoral candidate at the University of Washington and presented on atmospheric disturbances from the tsunamis associated with the 2022 Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai eruption— submarine volcano in the Tongan archipelago in the southern Pacific Ocean.



FRCC's **Transfer Fair** in November welcomed admissions and advising staff from fourteen 4-year universities to campus, so they could share important transfer information with our students. Nineteen TRIO students attended the event, along with approximately 50 other students throughout the day. FRCC students had the opportunity to ask questions and gain information to inform their transfer plans.

Transform our own workforce experience.

In November and December, FRCC's Office of **Equity & Inclusion** (OEI) hosted a series of working groups for students and staff at each campus and online. These sessions provided opportunities for FRCC community members to share their reflections about the kinds of equity and inclusion-focused work that they have been involved in at the college in the past, as well as what kinds of programming and initiatives they would like to see moving forward. This input will support the OEI director and coordinator as they refine the college's vision and work to embed equity and inclusion within the college's reimagined, unified structure. The next step will be to host similar sessions for instructors—those are taking place in February.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

In collaboration with The Family Center/La Familia in Fort Collins, FRCC is working to offer one of our **Early Childhood Education certificates** entirely in Spanish. La Familia is a non-profit that provides quality early care, education and family strengthening services in Larimer County. Our new ECE initiative is being funded by the Colorado Health Foundation.

FRCC currently partners with more than 30 local employers to offer [apprenticeships](#) in high-demand [health care occupations](#), as well as [manufacturing](#) and [tree care](#). As the college actively [seeks new business partners](#) to expand its offerings, FRCC has onboarded more than 60 health care apprentices for a January start—with four new employers added to the mix:

- Children's Hospital
- Banner Health
- SummitStone Behavioral Health
- HealthONE-Skyridge Medical Center

In addition, the college onboarded our very first automotive apprentice—and we are working with area businesses to launch new apprenticeships for information technology and manufacturing technicians.



A new [Larimer Small Business Development Center](#) (SBDC) initiative aims to boost **underserved communities' access to technology**, devices and training. The SBDC is [giving out free Chromebooks](#) through a partnership with [Human-I-T](#)—a nonprofit that creates equitable access to economic opportunity for communities that have been left on the wrong side of the digital divide. The SBDC, which is housed at [FRCC's Larimer Campus](#), is distributing the computers to its small business clients and local entrepreneurs—with a

focus on underserved groups and clients in rural areas of the county. The Chromebooks were donated by businesses that want to keep their electronics out of landfills, and then refurbished by Human-I-T.

FRCC's Admissions & Outreach team collaborated with Financial Aid staff to host **FAFSA/CAFSA and FRCC application nights** throughout early November. One of these events was planned in partnership with ASPIRE, a city of Longmont program for underserved youth, which has a predominantly Spanish-speaking cohort. These events were held to highlight the opportunities offered at FRCC and to showcase our campus through a tour while students and families received assistance from Financial Aid professionals to complete their FAFSA, CAFSA and FRCC admission application.

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



Over the course of her first six months as FRCC's president, Dr. Colleen Simpson has been meeting with faculty, staff and students to listen, learn and reflect on a shared vision for the future of the college. The result is an evolving plan to **reimagine FRCC's organizational structure** and innovate together to ensure that the college is successful, sustainable and future ready. Working with staff and faculty in their respective areas, the college's VPs, deans and directors have identified ways to improve administrative efficiencies, and to create a more streamlined and equitable experience for our students—regardless of where or how they take classes at FRCC. With a focus on student success, together we have identified, and are working to eliminate, any structural barriers that negatively impact our students' experience at the college. Over the course of the spring and summer semesters, FRCC will implement a new collegewide framework for academic and students affairs that builds on our existing [Career and Academic Communities](#). We expect the transition to be substantially complete by the start of fall semester—and leadership is creating a plan to assess how the changes are working, tweak any structures or processes that aren't quite right and build on the ones that are successful.

FRCC was recently recognized as one of **best online learning colleges** in the country for 2023. We're among the top 30 community colleges from around the country to make *Newsweek's* "America's Top Online Colleges" ranking—and one of just two community colleges in Colorado on the list. (See [our news release](#) for more details.) FRCC offers dedicated online advisors and support staff who are specifically designated to work with our online students, and all of our faculty receive significant training on how to make their teaching most effective for the online learning environment. More than 11,000 of our students take at least one online class in an average year—that's more than 40 percent of FRCC's student body. While the COVID-19 pandemic certainly increased that number, online learning is nothing new to the college. FRCC has been focused on offering excellent online learning experiences for more than 25 years.

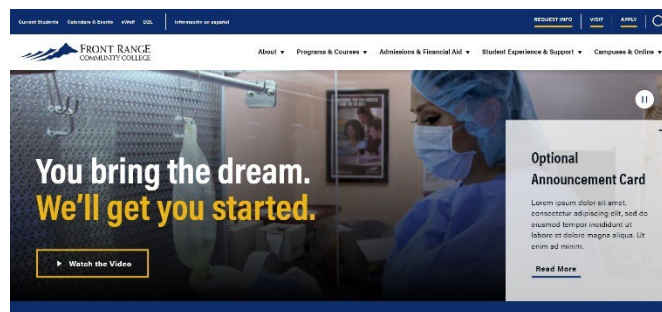


FRCC is partnering with CSU on a new **women in computer science** grant sponsored by the University of California-San Diego. The grant will fund a project manager to work with faculty leads at both institutions and build relationships with our respective admissions and math departments. The goal is to recruit female FRCC students into the computing transfer pathway. The funding will also help advance our existing [Wolves2Rams transfer program](#) by working with advisors and faculty in the transfer process for computing. The plan also includes creating new transfer guides for students and developing a new Calculus for Computer Science course.

FRCC's **welding program** has received a grant from the American Welding Society (AWS) Foundation. It's one of just seven awards nationally. The funding will support additional welding equipment, facility improvements, and lab materials for students at our Larimer Campus.



A little more than two years ago, FRCC began planning a major **website redesign**. We've streamlined both the look of the site and the categories of our top navigation. The new structure will be more user friendly and the design will include more visual elements and inclusive imagery. There will also be significant improvements to our site's accessibility. The college web and IT teams are currently prepare to begin a complex migration of the site—and we hope to be able to go live in April. We can't wait to show you the results!



In closing, FRCC's enrollment for this semester is currently up about 3% over spring 2022. Our full-time equivalent numbers in online courses are up 14% and enrollment in our **Bachelor of Science in Nursing** program saw an 80% increase this spring semester (compared to fall of 2022).