



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. We are thankful to all the board members and system level leaders who have supported the transition from Dr. Landon Pirius' leadership to Dr. Sarah Heath. The Academic and Student Affairs Division is thankful to Diane Duffy for her support as interim and for her mentorship.

Academic Affairs

Library Resources

Beginning in the summer of 2023, the system online library offers a new, greatly improved research experience to the students, faculty, and staff of CCCS colleges across the state. The new collection was selected by CCCS college librarians, with input from teaching faculty, State Discipline Chairs, and administration. Composed of 132 databases providing access to academic literature, technical data, non-academic periodicals and news sources, e-books, and streaming video, the collection is searchable by a modern discovery service which relieves users of the necessity of searching each database individually and greatly increases the efficiency of library research.

Criteria for selection included support for all aspects of the curriculum, with the inclusion of both general and subject-specific databases and e-book collections to support each program of study offered within the system. Other criteria included meeting and maintaining accreditation standards, support for diverse perspectives and experiences, accessibility, and the selection of platforms and databases which offer baseline standards expected from a modern research collection.

Beginning in the fall of 2024, the existing collection will be subject to a rigorous, systematic review each academic year, with adjustments made to the collection on the basis faculty recommendations, usage data, evaluation of the collection's support for the curriculum, and new or emerging needs (e.g., to support newly instituted degrees or programs). The online library will continue to meet the needs of all students, regardless of program of study, course modality, or geographic location.

Library Services

In addition to the online collection, new services and resources have been introduced to allow librarians to better support students and faculty. These include: a system-wide virtual chat reference service, available 24/7; the LibGuides platform, which allows librarians and faculty to

produce and publish research guides for specific subjects or courses; and a scheduling platform, which allows students and faculty to schedule research consultations, classroom or library information instruction, and study room reservation at all colleges. Future services planned but not yet introduced include online information instruction (both live and prerecorded), increased availability of OER material, and the deployment of a single library catalog and circulation system to increase student access to the existing print collections at CCCS libraries.

	July to December 2023	January to April 2024
Databases in online collection	132	132
E-books consulted	31,950	35,382
Database searches	1,178,374	287,710
Database items retrieved	694,894	115,169
LibChat interactions (since July 2023)		2,835

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

The CCCS CTE team remains at the forefront of leading and facilitating the state's stackable credentials pathways, particularly in Behavioral Health, Construction, Aerospace, Cyber, and other vital sectors. CCCS CTE staff reviewed over 165 new, revised, or renewed CTE programs this month.

In tandem, our Career and Technical Education (CTE) team is enhancing support structures for middle school programs. This involves refining scope and sequence documents to facilitate seamless alignment across schools. By developing and enhancing programming within career cluster areas, we aim to better empower students on their career journeys.

Three state leadership conferences for CTE student organizations were held in early April – FBLA (Business), FCCLA (Family and Consumer Sciences), and Skills USA (Skilled Trades). The SC2 leadership conference for students in Alternative Cooperative Education programs is scheduled for early May.

Perkins

The CTE Team has continued training and support in preparation for planning activities related to the upcoming fiscal year implementation of the new state Perkins plan.

Targeted technical assistance was provided to districts that recently received CCCS audit or monitoring reviews related to the Perkins grant to support compliance with federal grant requirements.

The state's estimated Perkins grant award for the 2025 fiscal year was announced at \$21.38M, which is approximately a \$5,000 increase over the current year. The federal formula for Perkins is calculated based on state population and the state's per capita income and the overall federal award only increased slightly for next year. CCCS started calculating 2025 subrecipient awards.

Student Affairs

Equity and Inclusion

The Statewide Equity Day of Action is scheduled for October 18th, 2024, at CSU Fort Collins. FRCC held their Annual Equity & Inclusion Summit, March 28, 24, 2024.

In collaboration with The White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans and Discovery Education, Community College of Aurora is hosting "Power Up! Aurora Colorado at the Community College of Aurora!" on April 29, 2024 (5:30pm – 7:30pm) and April 30, 2024 (9:00 am -5:00 pm) at Community College of Aurora, CentreTech Campus. Register at: <https://cvent.me/n5rbyR>

Bridge to Bachelors HBCU Progress:

E&I are actively working with HBCU Coppin State University (CSU) in Baltimore, MD to enroll students this fall. Dr. Tina Moore is meeting monthly with Dr. Nicole Lee, Associate Director of Transfer Admissions, and the Coppin State University team to develop processes & communication plans.

Financial Aid

The Department of Education (ED), in a recently revised notice, announced it will allow incarcerated individuals who are not currently students to consolidate their student loans.

Federal Student Aid noted that it has successfully processed 100,000 corrections as of April 16, and will begin to follow up with students if they need to make corrections to successfully submit their FAFSA.

CCCS Financial Aid is currently testing Dataload processing for a few colleges in anticipation of the Department of Education's updated ISIR re-processing.

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. Numerous concerns from institutions across the United State 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 to date has not released policy advisory.

The Colorado State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training will present at the School Certifying Official workshop at the Colorado School of Mines on April 19, 2024. We will cover the role of our office, program approvals, new uniform application, and an overview of risk-based survey, and supervisory visits.

Student Affairs

On behalf of Student Affairs, a consultant has interviewed all 13 community colleges transfer directors/coordinators on what is needed to make the Bridge to Bachelor's Degree program more successful and has begun interviewing transfer admissions directors/coordinators at the university partners.

Student Affairs is partnering with IT to explore additional ways to support colleges in their use of CRM Recruit. Student Affairs and IT are working to host ongoing, monthly meetings with individual colleges to support their unique needs and local efforts with an anticipated start term of Fall 2024.

The Reisher Bridge Scholarship navigators are set to visit all 13 colleges across the state by the end of May to conduct staff training on the Reisher Bridge Scholarship. They are currently attending Transfer Fairs, New Student Orientations for high school seniors and providing individual training upon request by TRIO programs across the state. The team is working on selecting the 2024-25 Bridge Scholar Cohort and plan to conduct orientations for new scholars across the state before the fall semester begins.