



COMMUNITY
COLLEGE OF
DENVER



DR. MARIELENA DESANCTIS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

December 2023

Driving Change Through Community with Dr. Marielena DeSanctis

EP 203

Driving Change
Through Community with
Dr. Marielena DeSanctis



In episode #203 of Women Changing Leadership, hosted by Stacy Mayer, Dr. Marielena DeSanctis shares invaluable insights on driving significant change through community engagement. Targeted at corporate individuals aspiring to make a transformative impact, the episode emphasizes the importance of having a clear career vision and a supportive network.

Dr. D. discusses her journey, highlighting the role of mentors in career development, strategies to avoid tokenism, and the powerful use of networks for attracting substantial career opportunities. The episode also showcases real-life examples of Dr. D's impactful contributions to the Hispanic community in Colorado and her advocacy for survivors of domestic violence. This inspiring conversation serves as a masterclass for those seeking to create meaningful change upon attaining positions of power and influence.

<https://tinyurl.com/496e37dx>

The Future of Higher Education

Dr. Marielena DeSanctis spoke on Radio Bilingüe's Línea Abierta to discuss her career, rising through the ranks of higher education as a Latina, and some of the challenges ahead for higher education in Colorado.

Línea Abierta is the first—and only—daily dialogue and commentary program that connects Spanish-speaking audiences throughout the United States and Mexico.

<https://tinyurl.com/49afv47h>

Transform the Student Experience

Women in Science Lunch & Learn, a Celebration

In commemoration of the renowned scientist and two-time Nobel Prize laureate, Marie Curie, CCD hosted a Lunch & Learn event to highlight women actively contributing to the scientific fields.

Attendees had the opportunity to hear inspiring stories from these women, sharing their experiences of initiating their careers. Valuable insights were provided on navigating the fields of science, offering a guide for those eager to pursue similar paths. The event was open to CCD students and community members, with complimentary pizza served for all attendees.

First Generation Student Celebration Day at CCD

CCD's First Generation Student Celebration Day unfolded on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, attracting a remarkable turnout of over 150 enthusiastic participants. The Confluence building buzzed with activity as 115 students engaged in various events, while others dropped by the Celebration Station in the Cherry Creek building.

Spanning from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the event offered a dynamic platform for students to play games, attend the keynote speaker luncheon, and partake in a range of activities. The atmosphere was vibrant, with students enjoying snacks, winning prizes, and mingling with their peers. Many students dedicated several hours to the festivities, seamlessly blending the celebration into their busy class schedules.

The success of the event was evident in the positive feedback received from attendees. Students expressed their satisfaction, emphasizing the enjoyment they experienced throughout the day. The informal setting allowed for meaningful interactions between students and faculty/staff, fostering a sense of community, belonging, and a welcoming environment.

CCD celebrates the success of First Generation Student Celebration Day, recognizing the importance of creating inclusive spaces and memorable experiences for all students.

Transform the Student Experience

Mesmerizing Performances: CCD's Unforgettable Production of Lorca's Blood Wedding

CCD proudly presented a captivating rendition of Lorca's Blood Wedding, skillfully adapted and directed by CCD Instructor Landin Melendez, accompanied by original music composed by CCD Instructor Molly Zackary. The highly anticipated production unfolded between November 8 through November 18, 2023, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.

Set in a village where tradition, blood ties, and the land are held sacred, the narrative revolves around the gripping tale of an unnamed bride who elopes from her wedding reception with her married former suitor, Leonardo. The tragic culmination sees the bridegroom and Leonardo meeting their fates in a fatal encounter, leaving the bereaved women—Leonardo's wife, the groom's mother, and the bride—to mourn their profound losses.


Adding an intriguing twist, the play featured three possible endings, with the audience actively participating in choosing the conclusion each night.



This interactive element added a unique and dynamic dimension to the theatrical experience.

To delve deeper into the creative process and the musical backdrop of the production, audiences had the opportunity to hear Molly Zackary discuss the intricacies on K4CO Radio. The original music played a pivotal role in enhancing the emotional resonance of the performance.

For those who missed the live production or wish to relive its magic, Molly Zackary's insightful interview and excerpts of the enchanting music can be enjoyed on Molly's interview with K4CO Radio. CCD celebrates the success of Lorca's Blood Wedding and looks forward to bringing more enthralling performances to our community in the future.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIQDFrwx98s>

Transform the Student Experience

Spreading Holiday Cheer: CCD and CU Denver Collaborate for Veterans Gift Donation Drive

Community College of Denver (CCD) and the University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver) are joining forces this holiday season to bring joy to military veterans through a collaborative gift donation drive.

To participate, kindly drop off your wrapped and tagged gift(s) at CU Denver's Office of Veteran & Military Student Services, conveniently located in the Tivoli Student Union at 900 Auraria Parkway, RM 124, Denver, CO, 80204. Please note that this drop-off location serves for both CCD and CU Denver donations.

Donations are accepted from now through December 14. On December 15, dedicated staff and volunteers will ensure the thoughtful gifts reach their recipients, spreading holiday warmth to those who have served our country.

For your convenience, gifts can be dropped off on Fridays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



If you require an alternative day or time for gift drop-off, please reach out to Leona Lopez at leona.lopez@ucdenver.edu or call 303-315-7303 to schedule a more suitable arrangement.

Let's come together as a community to make this holiday season special for our military veterans. Your generosity will undoubtedly make a difference in brightening their celebrations.

Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

CCD Hosts First AY23 Town Hall

On November 3, 2023, CCD hosted its highly anticipated Fall Town Hall, providing a comprehensive update on the institution's achievements throughout the year.

CCD employees gathered virtually to hear about the remarkable work accomplished in various departments, celebrating the collective efforts that contributed to the institution's success. The event featured significant announcements, including the launch of CCD Workplace Wellness, an initiative aimed at fostering a healthy and supportive work environment.

Attendees were briefed on the impactful developments within Academic Affairs and Student Services, gaining insights into the ongoing efforts to enhance the educational experience at CCD. The CCD Foundation extended a special thank-you message, acknowledging the invaluable contributions and support from the CCD community.

The event concluded with a message from the President, encapsulating the spirit of collaboration and dedication that defines CCD.

As the Fall Town Hall came to a close, CCD employees left with a sense of pride in their collective accomplishments and a shared vision for the institution's future.



Dr. Ann McCalley Selected as Dean of Instruction

We are delighted to share the exciting news of Dr. Ann McCalley's appointment as the new Dean of Instruction for Public Safety & Legal Services and Social & Behavioral Sciences pathways.

Dr. McCalley has been a valuable member of our community, serving as the interim Dean since March. Her dedication and contributions have been evident throughout her time with us. Prior to stepping into the interim role, she held the position of Director of Student Learning Support & Testing Center since 2018.

Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

With extensive experience in higher education, Dr. McCalley is well-equipped to lead and guide these important pathways. Her wealth of knowledge and commitment to student success make her an excellent fit for the position. We are thrilled to see her transition into this role in a more permanent capacity.

Join us in congratulating Dr. Ann McCalley on this well-deserved appointment. We look forward to the positive impact she will continue to make in shaping the future of our institution.

Create Education Without Barriers Through Transformational Partners

SPARC Partners to Nominate Families for Harvest Boxes

In the true spirit of giving back during the holiday season, the Epworth Foundation, Daddy Bruce Legacy Foundation, and CCD SPARC Office united forces to successfully launch the Harvest Box Nominations initiative.

This collaborative effort was dedicated to providing nourishing Thanksgiving baskets to families in need, ensuring that no one went without during the festive period. The initiative called upon individuals to participate by nominating families they believed would benefit from receiving a Harvest Box.

The carefully curated boxes, filled with a variety of essential and festive food items, aimed to uplift and bring joy to those facing challenges during the holiday season. As the initiative comes to a close, we reflect on the positive impact it had in spreading warmth and support within our community.

Practicing Mindfulness on Auraria

The Health Center at Auraria, in collaboration with the Auraria Recovery Community (ARC), recently hosted

a transformative event centered around mindfulness. The aim was to assist individuals in overcoming personal triggers through self-reflection, trauma-informed yoga, and coping strategies.

The event, held on Saturday, Nov. 11, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Emmanuel Art Gallery, provided a valuable opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to explore mindfulness techniques at no additional charge. Attendees immersed themselves in various activities, accessed helpful resources, and enjoyed nourishing food, all contributing to the theme of "Slay Your Day With Mindfulness."

The collaboration between The Health Center at Auraria and ARC successfully created a supportive and engaging environment for participants to enhance their well-being. For those who couldn't attend or wish to revisit the event's details, more information can be found [here](#). Stay tuned for more empowering events from The Health Center at Auraria and ARC in the future!

Redefine Our Value Proposition

Reflecting on a Successful Annual Safety Walk Hosted by ACPD

The Auraria Campus Police Department (ACPD) recently concluded its well-received annual tri-institutional event dedicated to promoting and supporting community safety.

Held on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at St. Cajetan's on Auraria Campus, the event featured informative presentations followed by group activities. Attendees actively participated in walking the campus to identify safety issues, including areas in need of better lighting or repair. The collaborative effort of these groups aimed to enhance community safety on campus.

After the safety walk, participants reconvened to discuss the identified issues and compile a comprehensive list of concerns. This list will be submitted for consideration to the Auraria Higher Education Center's Executive Office, reflecting the commitment to addressing and improving campus safety.

To add a touch of camaraderie, pizza, and Tivoli Starbucks beverages were provided, creating a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for all participants. ACPD expresses gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this event and looks forward to continued efforts in fostering a secure and thriving campus environment.