



FRCC December 2023 Board Report

Colleen Simpson, Ed.D.

President

Transform the student experience.

Front Range Community College is now offering its third **bachelor's degree** completion program. The Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree in [business for creative industries](#) will prepare students for success in fields like art, graphic and interior design, music or creative writing. Because many employers in creative fields are looking to hire employees with bachelor's degrees, earning this BAS can help turn a passion into a great career. With a bachelor's degree, not only are creative professionals more likely to get hired, they also qualify for higher-paying creative and management positions. FRCC is the only college in Colorado to offer this degree. Students with associate degrees in creatives fields from other CCCS colleges can now complete their bachelor's at FRCC in less time—and for less money—than at a university. This new program provides students the business skills they need to start their own company in a creative field or to advance within a company or industry. The BAS degree also gives job candidates the right qualifications for creative roles in business and organizational leadership. Students in the program will learn critical skills such as:

- Marketing
- Managing teams
- Creative strategy and planning
- Project management
- Organizational leadership
- Sustainable creative practices

FRCC's [Quilts of Valor event](#) provided comforting and healing quilts to 15 veteran students and employees who have been touched by war. These beautiful quilts take an average of 60 hours to complete—they were made and donated by Columbine Quilt Guild in Arvada. The students who were chosen to receive quilts this year not only served their country, but continue to serve their community and the college in meaningful ways. They serve—or have served—as officers in FRCC's student veterans organizations, as tutors and peer mentors, and as exemplary student employees. FRCC's Military & Veteran Services Department planned the event in partnership with the [Quilts of Valor Foundation](#), whose mission is to “cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing quilts.”

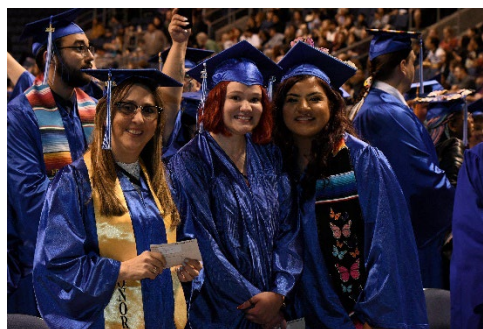


FRCC is in the process of reinstating a **First-Year Experience** course for students in our general Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degree programs. This one-credit course (AAA 1001) will provide students the tools they need to successfully navigate college life and succeed in their courses—while also giving them a chance to explore career pathways. The program will launch in the fall of 2024 with approximately 25 sections. Both academic and student affairs professionals will collaborate on teaching the course.

FRCC's **Transitional Commencement Committee** has met several times this fall with the goal of enhancing our students' experience at FRCC's graduation celebrations. The committee aims to ensure that all students—from every campus—get to participate in a cohesive, high-quality celebration of their achievements that is accessible and equitable to our students and their guests. The committee is composed of approximately 20 FRCC students, faculty and staff members. The group has now made recommendations to college leadership that blend successful elements from our three existing campus-based ceremonies, while providing guidance for future event logistics and the overall graduation celebration experience. The committee based their recommendations on an extensive review of existing data that included:

• graduation participation statistics
• average student proximity to campus
• student commute times
• survey data from current students and alumni
• faculty, staff and student input

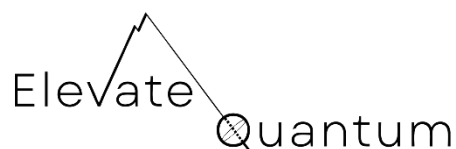
Now that the Transitional Commencement Committee's work is complete, President Simpson has charged the college's Commencement Planning Team with bringing these recommendations to life. Some of the recommendations will be implemented for spring 2024, with full implementation expected in spring 2025.



Transform our own workforce experience.

FRCC's brand new **Teaching Excellence Center (TEC)** was awarded a \$100,000 Teaching Excellence Grant from CCCS. The TEC will use the funding to “support the inception of FRCC's TEC, solidify its longevity, and reshape professional learning opportunities through an equity lens.” This direction will ensure that equity components are a part of all professional development offerings the center supports. Specific examples include redeveloping the college's training for new faculty, as well as our orientation for new instructors. The aim is to reframe these training programs through an equity lens. The TEC will also use grant funds to integrate improved processes and technology to better manage enrollment, badging and compensation.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.



With Colorado's new designation as a **Quantum Technology Hub**, Front Range Community College has been tapped by state and industry leaders to help build the state's quantum workforce. FRCC is the only community college in the state with an [optics and](#)

[photonics program](#) that directly supports the quantum labor force. As a member of the [Elevate Quantum consortium](#), FRCC supported the state’s bid for [Tech Hub designation](#), and the college will play a [critical role in this statewide initiative](#) moving forward. FRCC will support the effort to help 30,000 workers develop new skills for quantum jobs. Almost half of these jobs don’t require advanced degrees, which means the industry offers a vast array of employment opportunities across different educational backgrounds. (The average quantum job pays more than \$125,000 per year.) Critical jobs in this field will also include machinists, soldering technicians, welders and other technical roles—and FRCC already offers high-quality programs in related fields such as [automation](#), [electronics engineering](#), [precision machining](#) and [welding](#). The coalition’s equity commitment is significant—Elevate Quantum aims to have 40% inclusion of traditionally underrepresented groups in quantum jobs and leadership roles within a decade. With a student body that is 48% first generation and 34% students of color, FRCC is proud to help meet the goal of including historically underserved populations in Colorado’s quantum revolution.

The FRCC Corporate Solutions team has secured more than \$600,000 in [Skill Advance training grants](#) from the state so far this fiscal year. The funding will enable eight partner organizations to engage in upskilling and re-skilling their incumbent workers. Company grantees will spend the grant funds—which range from \$5,000 to \$127,000 per organization—on training for their employees (mostly through FRCC). Our eight partner companies are: Martin/Martin, Homeward Alliance, Merit Electric, Metal Container Corporation, UC Health Hospital, Whip Mix, Woodward and YMCA of the Rockies. FRCC will deliver customized, on-site training on topics including:

- Six Sigma
- Geometric dimension and tolerancing
- Project management
- Blue print reading
- Electrical skills
- Change management
- Finance for non-financial managers
- And a variety of other management and leadership skills courses

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

FRCC’s Directors of Advising—Rose Vasquez and Laura Roecker—were both selected as members of **BizWest’s 40 Under Forty** for the Boulder Valley and Northern Colorado. This distinction recognizes emerging leaders under 40 years of age in the region who are making a mark on their communities through professional success and volunteer activities.

