



FRCC June 2021 Board Report

Andrew Dorsey

President

Transform the student experience.

FRCC's **open educational resources** (OER) committee just announced that 19 additional high-enrollment classes at the college have converted to using OER instead of textbooks. The courses include English composition, introduction to biology, college algebra and several history courses. All together, these courses enroll several thousand students per year, so the conversion to OER is saving students hundreds of thousands of dollars.



Front Range Community College has been awarded designation as a **Military Friendly® School**, ranked No. 2 in the country in the large community college category, according to the website militaryfriendly.com. The designation recognizes the school's "commitment, effort, and success in creating sustainable and meaningful benefit for the military community"—including active duty, guard, veterans and military spouses. FRCC has also received the organization's **Military Spouse Friendly®** designation for 2021-2022. The college exceeds the standards set by Military Friendly® in each of the criteria it reviews. "FRCC Veteran Services provides numerous specialized services and support to veterans, eligible dependents, active duty service members, members of the Selected Reserve, and Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) recipients, tailored to meet students' experience and challenges," Military Friendly® reports. "Each campus has a dedicated Veteran Service Advisor to assist veterans with their transition to college—both academically and socially—along with a dedicated School Certifying Official to ensure that veterans benefits are properly awarded in a timely manner." This is the fourth consecutive year that FRCC has earned the **Military Friendly® School** designation, earning the either highest or second highest spot in the national ranking.



FRCC's [highway maintenance management program](#) helps students to earn college credit for the knowledge they have acquired in the workplace—through our **prior learning assessment** (PLA) process. Students in [this new program](#) are looking for the fastest and most affordable path to completion—and they find it by using our PLA structure to assess the training they have received on the job in industry-related topics such as: traffic control, commercial driving skills, asset management, safety practices and more. FRCC currently has a number of PLA “[crosswalks](#)” in place that compare and align competencies attained outside the traditional classroom to the learning outcomes for specific courses in this program. In addition to transcription agreements and crosswalks, we are awarding credits for prior learning through internal challenge exams and portfolios. The [highway program's first graduate](#) received 12 PLA credits for creating portfolios demonstrating his past experience, and 12 more for Commercial Driver's License and Federal Emergency Management Agency transcriptions. The PLA process works for many other programs and courses at FRCC, and can save students time and money on the way to reaching their educational and career goals.



Donald Strange, the first graduate of FRCC's highway maintenance management program, addresses the audience from the podium at the Larimer Campus commencement ceremony.

FRCC graduate Aaron Sanders completed his [optics technology](#) certificate in May, and he has now been offered full-time employment with Excelitas Technologies, an industry leader in photonics. These technologies are used in defense, aerospace, industrial, safety, automotive and scientific applications. If he accepts the position, Aaron will become the first industry hire from our new optics program, which is housed in [Center for Integrated Manufacturing](#) at FRCC's Boulder County Campus.



FRCC's student life teams at each campus continue to create great **virtual programming for students**, since many of them are still taking online classes this summer. Student life staff collaborated collegewide to host a series of Netflix parties in June to celebrate Pride Month. (Students who signed up received a package that included popcorn, candy and a Pride flag.) Our Boulder County Campus team recognized [Juneteenth](#), [Pride month](#) and [Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage month](#) with a series of informative posts on social media. They also celebrated our Boulder County students with a virtual awards ceremony. Faculty and staff nominators created [videos for each student winner](#), describing why they chosen for their award. Despite learning in a mostly remote involvement, campus staff recognized more than 20 of our most dedicated students for their hard work and excellence during the 2020-2021 school year.



Transform our own workforce experience.

A diverse team of FRCC leaders attended the Aspen Institute's **Pathways Symposium** in early June. The event focused on "equitable pathways to good jobs." As one of 21 participating community colleges from across the country, the FRCC team learned from national and regional speakers on topics such as: aligning pathways to labor market data, exploring livable wage thresholds, and how to best support and retain students during the pandemic recovery. The team took advantage of time together to discuss how to implement best practices from the symposium, evaluate [FRCC's strengths](#) and areas for improvement, and determine next steps.

FRCC's Cabinet, deans and directors participated in a book read to discuss Gina Ann Garcia's ***Becoming Hispanic-Serving Institutions: Opportunities for Colleges & Universities***. As FRCC pursues federal HSI status, the conversations around topics in the book support many of the needed initiatives and provide an opportunity for open dialog on the process.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

FRCC works with nine local employers to offer **apprenticeships** in four health care occupations: medical assisting, pharmacy technician, sterile processing and surgical technology. Since the fall of 2019, 106 FRCC students have participated in our apprenticeship programs, with a 96% completion rate. Most of these students have already completed an FRCC degree or certificate, and 94 of them have taken their national exams—with a 99% pass rate. The college started two new pre-apprenticeship programs this summer in eye care and health care. We are working with several additional employers to begin new apprenticeships:

- Kaiser Permanente—pharmacy technician (starting this fall)
- Boulder Community Health (already a partner in our medical assisting apprenticeship program)—sterile processing (starting this fall)
- UC Health—sterile processing (starting in January 2022)

FRCC is also exploring adding new apprenticeship (or pre-apprenticeship) programs for licensed practical nursing, massage therapy, medical coding, health information technology, medical assisting (front desk) and phlebotomy.



The first cohort of FRCC's sterile processing apprenticeship program at Centura Health's Avista Adventist Hospital.

In collaboration with the [TRIO Student Support Services](#) team, our Boulder County Campus [Admissions & Outreach](#) (A&O) team invited new incoming students for fall 2021 and their parents to an on-campus program called *Pathway to the Pack – Front Range Community College Wolves Summer Bridge*. The program was designed to help students connect to on-campus student success resources *before* their enrollment, enabling them to begin preparing for the upcoming semester. Staff from A&O, TRIO, pathways advising and financial aid presented to the students—and our bilingual representatives from A&O and TRIO hosted an interactive parent session in Spanish. The event concluded with a panel discussion of bilingual current students. Students from the following community partner programs were invited to attend:

- The City of Longmont's Aspire Post-Secondary Planning Program
- Boulder County Latina League
- The Hispanic Education Foundation

In June, the **tax help site** at our Westminster Campus was recognized by [Tax Help Colorado](#) for 10 years of service helping people with limited income file their taxes, make sure they get the tax credits they are eligible for and maximize their refunds. Accounting faculty members, instructors and students contribute to this initiative each spring by volunteering many hours of their time and sharing their expertise. Over the years, they have served more than 8,500 people—at no cost—helping hard-working families become more financially secure and helping return more than \$17 million in refunds to the community.

File
Your
Taxes.
Claim
Your
Refund!



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

FRCC's request for additional **CO-HELPS grant** funding to boost apprenticeship programs was recently approved, bringing the college's CO-HELPS funds for 2021 to approximately \$450,000. Grants funds have been used in three areas: apprenticeship development, student support and small employer wage support (for businesses with less than 50 employees). We also continue to engage with CCCS via the Apprenticeship Community of Practice (ACOP) group, and are supporting our sister colleges in developing apprenticeships. FRCC has also created new promotional videos to help prospective students better understand the occupations of [medical assisting](#), [pharmacy tech](#) and [sterile processing](#).

Pharmacy Technician Certification

Offered at: Westminster



External program accreditations are one of many ways that FRCC demonstrates a commitment to quality, accountability and operational excellence. Our new [Bachelor of Science in nursing \(BSN\)](#) program recently received accreditation from the [Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education](#). The college's [early childhood education](#) program has received official notification that the conditions for its accreditation have been met through the [National Association for the Education of Young Children](#). And the [automobile technician training program](#) at FRCC's Larimer Campus met requirements for continued accreditation for Master Automobile Service Technology by [National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence](#). The program also received integrated academics recognition in mathematics, science and language arts.

