



President's Report

Marielena DeSanctis, President Community College of Denver

August 11, 2021

Transform the Student Experience

Talon Award for the Best Journalism Article!

We have a winner! The Journalism board picked the winner of the Talon Award for the Best Journalism Article: "Bring a Good Camera and Wear the Right Shoes: Lessons from a Protest" by Molly Thomas. Read the Talon [here](#) and see the article on page 24 in the Spring Issue of the magazine.

CCD Advanced Manufacturing Center Student Successes!

Joe Seiler is a CNC Manufacturing student. He was working at a hotel in hospitality and lost his job due to COVID. He's taking classes while employed in CNC machining, and is the winner of a National Tool Machining Association scholarship! A huge thank you Scott White, President of Denver Machine Shop/Kendo Inc. for nominating Joe, who has gone from hospitality to CNC manufacturing work in one years' time!

Anthony Gallegos, (AJ), is a CNC manufacturing student who won a Lockheed Martin Vocational Scholarship for CNC Manufacturing AAS. He is a barber who was hit hard during COVID, and has excelled in the Intro to CNC Machining course in his first semester.



Chris Mora is a CCD Machining student and artist who creates robots out of metal. This summer one of his robot sculptures was put outside a Douglas County Sheriffs substation in Highlands Ranch as part of Art Encounters, Douglas County's Scientific and Cultural Facilities District-funded public-art program! View the article [here](#)! He also has a cool [website](#) that features his creations like the one in the picture!

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

Gene Haas Foundation making a difference for Machine Technologies students!



Our sincere thanks to the Gene Haas Foundation for their \$7,500 donation for Machine Technologies student scholarships. This spring, four students were each awarded a \$1,150 scholarship. We are proud to report that these students are now employed in high-demand CNC

manufacturing jobs. Janet Colvin, CCD's Manufacturing Programs Navigator, explained the impact of this contribution, "These students were working in low paying positions before starting the CNC machining program, and all were facing very tough economic challenges. One student faced another barrier - he was learning English-language skills - while taking our CNC machining programming classes. Bottom line, Haas Foundation scholarships helped support our college's goal of equity, access, and success."

SEMA Construction's generous donation to WORKNOW!

SEMA Construction recently donated \$50,000 to Denver's WORKNOW program, co-convened in CCD's Center for Workforce Initiatives, to support the broader construction industry that it relies on for talent. "This is what philanthropy and good faith looks like – a strategic civic investment that celebrates community, helps sustain the firm's legacy, and also prepares a skilled talent pool for future work," said Marcus Johnson, who manages a construction careers program within the Denver Economic Development & Opportunity (DEDO). This gift exemplifies SEMA's commitment and genuine support of Denver's efforts toward impactful and enhanced workforce development and workforce readiness. Read the full press release [here!](#) (Colorado-based SEMA Construction is a nationally-ranked contractor specializing in heavy civil construction. Denver Economic Development & Opportunity (DEDO) is among the founding partners and funders of WORKNOW.)

Community College of Denver Announces Practical Nursing Registered Apprenticeship Program, the First in the State of Colorado

Community College of Denver (CCD) is proud to announce our new Practical Nursing (PN) U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL) Registered Apprenticeship Program, the first program of its kind in Colorado. Through this innovative program, students will have the opportunity to earn wages and gain valuable hands-on experience while they earn a Practical Nursing certificate.

CCD is partnering with [Inspiration Home Health Care](#) for this program. Apprentices will earn a CCD Certificate in Practical Nursing, a certificate of completion from the US DOL, and be eligible to sit for their NCLEX-PN exam in order to be eligible for PN licensure.

“CCD is excited to build innovative programming with our health care industry partners to educate the next generation of practical nurses and build a strong pipeline for our region that faces a shortage of nurses,” said Dr. Fida Obeidi, Dean for the Center for Health and Natural Sciences. “With this innovative programming and partnership, not only are we increasing access to higher education, but we also are decreasing equity gaps.”

“Healthcare apprenticeships are a strong model for the future to help people break into the healthcare industry, supply employers with the talent they need, and provide better care to our Colorado patients. Apprenticeship programs are valuable recruitment and retention tools for employers to use to build their talent pipelines”, said Jennifer Vander Meer, Director of Practical Nursing at CCD.

Transform our own workforce experience.

Welcome Kristina Retana!



Kristina Retana joins the Community College of Denver as the new Executive Director of Strategy. Kristina found her calling to serve others through community colleges ten years ago after seven years in the private sector. Having been a part-time college student while being a wife, mother of three small children, and balancing a full-time career, she understands the obstacles today's students must overcome to achieve their education goals. Kristina began her higher education career at Broward College as the first paralegal for the General Counsel and Vice President of

Public Policy and Government Affairs and Board Clerk to the District Board of Trustees. In 2019, she transitioned to the Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Services to lead communications and provide analytical and strategic support for the Provost and the Provost's teams including the Vice-Provost

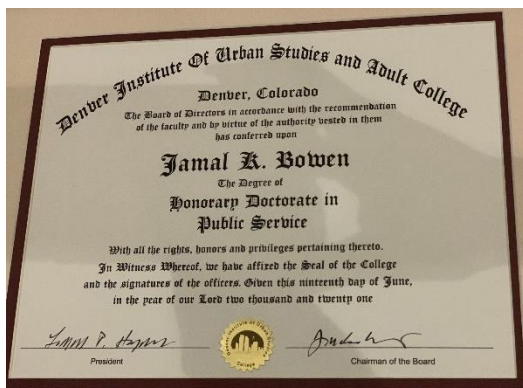
of Academic Affairs, the Vice-Provost of Student Services, the campus Presidents, the Executive Director of International Education, and a Senior Dean.

Throughout her years of service, Kristina has co-led a variety of committees, including the Policy and Rulemaking FAST team, the Web Governance Committee, and the Instructional Calendar Committee. She has also championed several signature events such as Fall Welcome Back, the annual employee recognition event, the 2021 Aspen Prize application, and subsequent site visit preparation, resulting in a top ten recognition for the fourth consecutive award cycle and earning the Finalist with Distinction award for a second time.

Kristina has an associate degree from Broward College and a bachelor's in Organizational Communication from Florida International University. Considering herself a lifelong learner, she is currently working on a master's in Communication from Arizona State University.

Kristina and her husband, Edgar, who immigrated to the United States as a child, were raised in Broward County, Florida. They are proud parents of three children, Ethan (5), Emma (3), and Eleanor (1). As a family, they enjoy playing board games, watching and singing along to musicals, traveling, and exploring new parks, zoos, and aquariums.

CCD's Jamal Bowen Receives Honorary Doctorate!



Jamal Bowen, CCD's First-Year Experience Coordinator, just received an Honorary Doctorate in Public Service from the Denver Institute of Urban Studies and Adult College. Congratulations Jamal, thank you for all you do for CCD and our Denver community!