

COLORADO NORTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

President's Report
Lisa Jones, President
July 2021

State of Colorado Air Quality Control Commission visit to campus

The college's role in a Just Transition was the theme of the visit and conversations between the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission and CNCC's Craig team. The AQCC visited Craig in late June for their annual retreat – the first in-person meet they'd held since March 2020. As part of the retreat, they toured the hall of Dinosaurs and the Northwestern Field Museum – a federal and state designated fossil repository on the Craig Campus – to learn about the efforts the college is taking to create a “bump” on the tourist map. Encouraging visitors to meet the scientists, see the fossils and spend a night in Craig. The next day Arts and Sciences Dean Jesse LaRose and Executive Director of Workforce Education & Economic Development Sasha Nelson provided a 30-minute presentation on the theme, shared information about new programs like Cybersecurity (accredited by HLC May 2021) and those in development. AQCC members spent time asking questions and offering suggestions to connect the college to additional resources in aid of growing awareness and enrollment.



Chevron Donation

Chevron donated \$18,000 to “support scholarships for students in STEM-related subject areas, as well as subjects or projects that support economic development in the region.”

Cybersecurity Bootcamp – Wednesday, June 16, 2021

CNCC conducted its first Annual Cybersecurity Bootcamp which was attended by eight Northwestern Colorado Area teenagers. The bootcamp opened with statements from the Craig Mayor. The students continued with an ice-breaker exercise followed by network fundamentals and binary math competitions. After a healthy lunch and a campus tour, the teenagers worked with their hands to learn copper and fiber optic cabling as well as working with circuit boards. Finally, the participants conducted a Q & A session with IT industry professionals followed up with competition and door prizes presented to the teenagers by the then CNCC President Ron Granger.



Firefighters

For the first few weeks of July, the CNCC Rangely campus was hopping. Not with students, but with firefighters who were using our campus as the staging area for the Oil Springs fire. These men and women put everything on the line to control that fire and, even though it took a little time, were able to contain it and keep all of us safe.

Over the last five years, our campus has served as a staging area for the firefighters three different times. We have welcomed them with open arms and were happy we could provide

them a great place to deploy firefighters to the different fires in our area. These men and women worked night and day and were diligent in not only keeping the fires under control, but also worked hard to ensure our work at the college was not interrupt.

Colorado Northwestern Community College is a lot of things to a lot of people. This summer CNCC showed that again by serving as an educational institution and by providing facilities for our firefighters. This is where the “Community” in community college comes from.



Seaplane Splash-In – Saturday July 17, 2021

Several representatives from CNCC, including employees and aviation students attended the annual Kenney Reservoir Splash-In held on Saturday July 17, 2021 at Kenney Reservoir in Rangely, CO. This is an annual event coordinated by Ray Hawkins, Director of the Colorado Seaplane Initiative. Participants were invited to take rides in Seaplanes, allowing aviation students to experience water landings and to learn differing safety protocols present in these planes. Dr. Lisa Jones, President of CNCC enjoyed engaging with students, members of the community, event organizers and CNCC donors. She took a ride with CNCC alum, pilot, seaplane enthusiast, and philanthropist, Carl Mattson.

Mr. Mattson joined faculty and other CNCC employees at the annual EAA AirVenture Oshkosh air show during the week of July 26th where the College will be recruiting new students for its flight and maintenance programs and prospective employees for AVT program positions. CNCC's AVT program is nationally recognized with the following characteristics attributed to its flight program, setting it apart from others:

- Great location in Northwestern Colorado - wide open airspace - where you learn "Mountain Flying" on every flight

- Small ratio of instructors to students so you have more individual attention
- Costs are among the lowest in the nation for degree flight programs
- Membership in the National Intercollegiate Flying Association



Incoming President (July 15, 2021) Dr. Lisa Jones' relationship building and outreach activities.

April – June 14, 2021 – Dr. Jones met virtually with 68 members of Rio Blanco and Moffat County school, taxing, and other county, city, and economic development leadership: College advisory, foundation, shared leadership groups and state and local elected officials.

June 15 – July 15, 2022 – Dr. Jones met with numerous Rangely and Craig residents and attended events including the following:

Dr. Jones visited with each business owner in Rangely, starting with those on Main Street to hear their vision for their business, hopes for the town and recommendations for the College.

Visit to the 2021 Paleo site on June 17, 2021: The college celebrated a return of digging for dinosaurs with summer paleontology field program by holding an end of season trip for college leaders, donors, and program supporters. Associate Dean of CTE/Science Faculty and Curator of the Colorado Northwestern Field Museum Elizabeth (Liz) Johnson, Field Crew Chief Eric Przybyszewski and their team provided geology talks and quarry talks at one of the most exciting fossil finds in Northwest Colorado. The college's paleontology program offers multiple learning opportunities including an area of emphasis for students seeking an Associate of Science and field and lab courses to provide hands on experience. The field and lab programs are also open to non-credit, community members who are interested in contributing their time and talent to the scientific work.



Surf and Turf Dinner sponsored by the Rangely Area Chamber of Commerce- July 2, 2021. This is an annual Chamber event favorite and was well attended this year. It includes food, fun, music, and an opportunity to come together again as a community.

Whittle the Wood in Craig, CO June 23-26. This annual event is supported by the Craig Chamber of Commerce. As always, it brought out much of the town and boasted amazing food prepared by local restaurants, local and out of state vendors and incredibly talented wood carvers, some of whom created art from wood harvested from Moffat County.



Craig Parks and Recreation director Dave Pike stands next to "Angels and Ladder," created by carver Minda Bugas in the first Whittle the Wood Rendezvous. (Kenneth D. Lyons, The Denver Post)

Freedom March – June 24, 2021 is an annual event held to honor the military, past and present, all first responders, all law enforcement, and all patrol. The event was well-planned, enjoyable and an overall great success. The event started at Veteran's Park with a speech from Ron Grainger, Outgoing President of CNCC. Ron spoke of the need to be proud of our military, first responders, law enforcement and patrol. He also stated we need to remember where our freedoms came from and at what cost. The group then marched under the U.S. Flag, down Stanolind to Elks Park where a free BBQ was provided. The ark was full of residents enjoying each other's company, good food and a great cause.



July 14, 2021 to present

Dr. Jones participated in a July 14, 2021 podcast with the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The focus was on the shift in economy, away from coal and the role CNCC will play in supporting business and industry, other economic leaders, and elected leadership in work to educate and prepare a workforce for these new economies.

Dr. Jones began meeting with each member of the CNCC community on July 15th and this will continue through the Fall 2021 semester once faculty members return on contract. This is a valuable opportunity to get to know team members personally and to hear their thoughts regarding the direction of the College.

Planning is underway to welcome new students back to campus. This includes roofing and siding repair to buildings, refining student on boarding, and updating COVID related protocols and communicating these to students.

Dr. Jones hosted a group of CNCC and community women leaders at her home on July 28, 2021, for dinner. The purpose of the gathering was to allow these women to network and generate ideas to support leadership and civic engagement of girls and women in the community.

Women leaders in Rio Blanco County hosted a welcome party in honor of Dr. Jones on Thursday, July 29, 2021, at 6:30pm at the ranch of Deirdre Macnab.

Meet and welcome Dr. Lisa Jones, new president of CNCC