



President's Report

Dr. Mordecai Brownlee

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Transform the Student Experience



Student Life Office Hosts Drive-In Movie Night

The Community College of Aurora hosted a drive-in movie night June 11 in the CentreTech parking lot. CCA's Student Life Office organized the event and invited staff, students, and the community to attend an outdoor screening of "Raya and the Last Dragon." Families brought chairs, blankets, and food and watched the movie.



"Six Nights" Receives Tribeca Film Festival Award

CCA's Colorado Film School (CFS) graduate **Robert Brogden** recently won the Tribeca Film Festival Student Visionary Award in New York City for his film "Six Nights."

Brogden wrote and directed the short film, and he produced it with fellow CFS students Kelley Zincone and Izrael Lopez. The Tribeca honor is yet another award the film has received. It was named Best Picture at the CFS Fall 2019 Student Show and won Best Colorado Film and Best Student Film at the Breckenridge Film Festival in September.

"Six Nights" has also played at the Austin, Denver, Marina Del Rey, LA Live, SOHO International, and Sidewalk film festivals.

Center for Adult Education Welcomes Students Back to Campus

CCA's Center for Adult Education (CAE) began a partial return to in-person classes as it launched its 10-week summer term July 12. The center, which includes the Community ESL and High School Equivalency/GED programs, is currently offering a mixture of remote and in-person classes weekdays and several in-person ESL classes on



Saturdays. CAE plans to move more classes on campus during the fall term that begins in October. With the partial return to in-person classes, the center has seen a marked increase in student enrollment. The Community ESL enrollment is 268 with students coming from 58 countries and speaking at least one of 33 languages. There are 95 students enrolled in High School Equivalency with 46 students studying all four subjects (math, science, social studies, and language arts). There are also 25 students enrolled at CAE preparing for the U.S. Citizenship test.

Transform Our Own Work Experience



CCA, Community Celebrate Oudenhoven at Retirement Celebration

More than 150 friends, family, and CCA staff gathered July 22 at the CentreTech campus to celebrate the retirement of President Dr. **Betsy Oudenhoven** after a 42-year career in higher education. Colorado Community College System Chancellor **Joe Garcia**, former CCA President Dr. **Linda Bowman**, and new CCA President Dr. **Mordecai Brownlee** spoke during the event. Former CCA President Dr. **Larry Carter** also wished Oudenhoven well as part of a video presentation. Colleagues presented Oudenhoven gifts and as a special surprise former Green Bay Packers quarterback **Brett Favre** provided well wishes to Oudenhoven, a lifelong Packers fan.

Caption: From left, CCA President Dr. **Betsy Oudenhoven**, new CCA President Dr. **Mordecai Brownlee**, and former CCA President Dr. **Linda Bowman** at the Oudenhoven retirement celebration.





CCA Hosts Pizza with the Presidents

Outgoing President Dr. **Betsy Oudenhoven** and incoming President Dr. **Mordecai Brownlee** hosted two Pizza with the President events July 15 at the Lowry and CentreTech campuses. Staff had the opportunity to both welcome Brownlee and wish Oudenhoven well in retirement. Brownlee began at CCA on July 15, solely assuming the presidency August 1. Oudenhoven's last day at CCA was July 31.



CCA Staff Bring Dogs to Work

CCA held its first Bring Your Dog to Work Day since 2019 on July 16. Staff brought their furry friends to their offices. Bring Your Dog to Work Day was something CCA staff had participated in a handful of times each year but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff were asked to ensure their pets were well behaved and nearby colleagues were comfortable with the animals.

Caption: New CCA President Dr. **Mordecai Brownlee** and his dog, Nylah, participated in Bring Your Dog to Work Day.

CCA to Improve CentreTech Campus Lighting

CCA's Facilities Department is set to replace every light pole on the CentreTech campus. The \$1.4 million project will start in September and be completed by December. The light poles are being replaced to meet lighting standards and will exceed those standards. The improved lighting will also complement new security cameras being installed on the campus, improving the quality of the video they capture.

Redefine Our Value Proposition Through Accessibility, Affordability, Quality, Accountability, Resource Development, and Operational Excellence



Facilities Department Oversees Air Conditioning Unit Repair

On July 1, CCA's Facilities Department oversaw the installation of a compressor to replace one that had failed, causing the air conditioning in the Administration Building at the CentreTech campus to operate at half capacity for more than a week. Supervisors worked with staff to determine the appropriate clothing to wear to stay cool while the unit was repaired.

Early Childhood Education Program Gets a Boost from Career and Technical Education CoLab Grant

CCA has received \$30,000 from the Career and Technical Education CoLab to increase participation among underrepresented students in the college's Early Childhood Education Director Certificate program. Through the grant, CCA will implement strategies and develop resources to make the ECE program more equitable for students of color, particularly those who identify as male, Hispanic, or Latinx, and are English language learners. The grant will also enable the college's Education and World Languages Department to break down student technology barriers, such as inadequate access to internet and equipment, by creating a learning space with new laptops, webcams, headsets, and early childhood teaching supplies. The grant runs through April 2023.

Create Education Without Barriers Through Transformational Partnerships



Diesel Staff Connect with Former Students at Honnen Equipment



Brian Horvath, Interim Department Chair for Skilled Trades, and **Jake Myal**, Diesel Faculty, toured the Honnen Equipment Commerce City branch June 10. Horvath and Myal were invited to see how former CCA diesel students were doing and those former students greeted Horvath and Myal during the tour.

Caption: Former CCA Diesel Power Mechanics student **Bailey Renck** greeted CCA staff during a tour of Honnen Equipment in June.

Xcel Energy Foundation Grant to Support the STEM Pathways to Success Program

The Xcel Energy Foundation has awarded a \$15,000 grant to CCA to continue the college's work in increasing the number of underserved students prepared to earn degrees and certificates in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields. The Xcel Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that awards charitable grants that align with its four focus areas of education, economic sustainability, environmental stewardship, and access to arts and culture. The grant will support the STEM Pathways to Success program, which is intended to expand, strengthen, and diversify the STEM workforce in the Denver metro area.

Consulate General of Mexico in Denver Awards CCA \$9,000 for Scholarships

The Community College of Aurora Foundation recently received a \$9,000 grant through the Institute for Mexicans Abroad (IME) Becas program to support 13 Mexican-national or Mexican-origin students. The Consulate General of Mexico in Denver funded the grant, which will provide a \$750 DREAM Scholarship to 12 students during the 2021-2022 academic year. Through matching dollars, the Foundation will provide an additional \$10,500 in DREAM Scholarships to these 12 students during the spring 2022 semester so that the students receive financial support for the full academic year. The Foundation will also support an additional student with \$750 for the fall 2021 semester and \$750 for the spring 2022 semester. The IME Becas DREAM Scholarship was created for students of Mexican nationality or origin who desire to complete a college certificate or degree at CCA regardless of immigration status. Qualifying students have no access to Federal Aid and limited access to state aid and scholarships.