

COLORADO NORTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

“The mission of Colorado Northwestern Community College is to enhance people’s lives by providing accessible, affordable, quality education”

SBCCOE Board Meeting
President’s Report
Lisa Jones, Ph.D.- President
February 9, 2021

Transforming the Student Experience

The Start of Spring 2022 and CNCC’s 60th Anniversary

At CNCC, we were pleased to welcome faculty and staff back to campus. There is nothing like the wonderful hustle and bustle of an active college environment. Though it seems like winter break is never quite long enough, the CNCC team was energized to be back at work and in service to our students. Even with added COVID protocols in place given the unpredictable nature of the Delta and Omicron variants, enrollment was not adversely impacted. In comparison to the same point in time a year ago, spring enrollment is up 10.9% in FTE and 12.5% in headcount which includes a non-concurrent enrollment FTE increase by 2.6%. **Student retention, completion and persistence goals** have been evaluated and set-based on national and comparison group benchmark data rather than just CNCC’s trend. CNCC’s completion and persistence rates are above average, but our fall-to-fall retention rates have room for improvement. Benchmarking of high performing institutions is underway along with implementation of strategies designed for in class and athletic student success.

Soccer View Day - Our Soccer Teams were sponsored in Rangely for a campus view day on Saturday, January 22nd which included a tour of the resident’s hall, a campus tour and they attended basketball games that day. Their luncheon was hosted by our Foundation Board and included local businesses and the community, as well as staff and faculty.



Student Activities Campus Ice Tower has been popular this Spring Semester . . . Yes, even with CNCC President Lisa Jones

Last semester, we closed out 59 years in our institution's history. In January, we kicked off our 60th anniversary celebration with sporting, history focused, arts and other events, starting with our library displays at both campuses that will take you down memory lane and our Ranching for Profit Workshop. Keep posted on other events through our website at www.cncc.edu and our Facebook page. We also unveiled our new 60th anniversary logo.



As we embark on the next 60 years, our focus will be on institutional growth, strength, innovation, community engagement, industry, and student ready programming and services. Although I have just one semester as President under my belt, I am understanding what makes this institution and the communities we serve so special. What it is about our history that makes our stakeholders defend our traditions and values and commit themselves to our on-going success. To aid in our planning, CNCC intends to collaborate with a vendor to identify opportunities for strategic growth and help visually and otherwise define the CNCC experience. A selection team met with vendor finalists for the

Academic Program Demand and Brand Identify Analysis project during the week of January 3rd. Final negotiations are underway with the successful vendor beginning its work in mid-February. The report and other collateral material will provide CNCC with the necessary information to craft its updated strategic, enrollment, academic, financial and foundation plans.

Programs Expansion:

CNCC Programs in The News

Aviation- CNCC is proud of its signature programs but are aware that with time, change is required to stay ahead of industry needs. Our new Aviation (Flight) Program Director Nathan Hardin understands this. Mr. Hardin is a CNCC flight program graduate. He also holds a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics and Master of Education in Higher Education Leadership. He is also a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy. You may have seen an article on our [Revitalization of our Aviation \(Flight\) Program](#) and if not, it's a must read.

Ag Business and Rodeo-Thanks to the ingenuity of Carry Olson, CNCC's Agricultural Business, Animal Science and Equine Program faculty member, CNCC will be growing its [AG Business program at the Craig campus and moving rodeo](#) as well in the Fall of 2022. Given the number of ranches in Moffat and Routt counties, this move just makes sense. Though discussions with local elected officials, the Craig Daily Press, and K12 and other community leadership has been taking place, the College will be announcing this addition to the Craig campus and the Moffat community, officially at the [Ranching For Profit Workshop](#) that it will be hosting and sponsoring at the Moffat County Fairgrounds on Friday, January 28, 2022 from 9am-3pm. This workshop, entitled "Economic Leverage of Grazing" With Dallas Mount will include snacks and lunch with a value of \$100.00 was offered free to our community members. It was co-sponsored by CNCC and the Moffat County Affiliated Junior College District (MCAJCD) Board with dedicated support by Moffat County. It provided local ranchers and appropriate others with practical tools to improve profits in the business of ranching.



Cybersecurity- In its first semester, CNCC exceeded its enrollment goal by 50%. Additionally, one third of its first semester class passed the two, industry recognized CompTIA Security+ and Network+ exams. This article published by the Craig Daily Press supports CNCC's Cybersecurity Program's [Fruitful First Semester](https://www.craigdailypress.com/news/education/cnccs-new-cybersecurity-program-celebrates-fruitful-first-semester/)
[C:\Users\s02851467\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\9PLST12Z\ https\www.craigdailypress.com\news\education\cnccs-new-cybersecurity-program-celebrates-fruitful-first-semester\.](https://www.craigdailypress.com/news/education/cnccs-new-cybersecurity-program-celebrates-fruitful-first-semester/)

Sports Medicine degree preliminary planning has begun for Rangely to begin instructional delivery AY 22-23.

Para-Professional Educator's certificate preliminary planning has begun with non-credit and credit pathways to begin instructional delivery AY 22-23.

Create Education Without Barriers Through Transformation Partnerships

1. The President and other members of leadership met with the following community and elected officials in December 2021 and January 2022:
 - **Senator Hickenlooper, Listening Tour**
 - **Regional Project Manager for NW Colorado Development Council meeting regarding Economic Development** (Christina Wong-Rambo)
 - **Colorado Mountain College Steamboat Springs Campus Leadership**
 - **Colorado Mesa University, Colorado Mountain College, Colorado Northwestern C.C. -Western Slope Consortium discussions**
 - **Moffat County Regional Housing Needs Assessment Study and Action Plan Development-Steering Committee Member**
 - **Coal to Products Playbook:** The AGNC has partnered with EDA, DOLA, and Grow Economy to complete a study and develop a playbook for the 3 counties in NW Colorado that will be impacted most by the impending closures of coal mines and coal-fired power plants. This project

began in October 2019 and is set to be complete by March 31, 2022. A small group of leaders have been selected for the first presentation of the draft playbook.

- **Memorial Hospital CEO Jennifer Riley**-Discussions to expand workforce programs to meet staffing needs of the hospital. Work is underway.

2. Responding to Economic Shifts in Moffat County

Tri-State Plant-Craig, CO

The Board has been apprised of CNCC's efforts to craft and implement tailored outreach and education efforts to meet the needs of residents who may be impacted by energy and coal plants and mines over the next 3-7 years. CNCC began its efforts with Tri-State, a major player in the region, a plant featured in this article pertaining to [Coal Impacted Communities](#) along with CNCC, and one of CNCC's most active partners. Skills mapping and focus group sessions were held with employees in December 2021. After initial follow up revealed concern by Tri State leadership that too many employees might resign too soon, potentially halting progress made by CNCC, the following PR response to the Craig Daily Press, and email that I and our Workforce Director received, our efforts are having impact:

"All ... good morning and we hope this note finds you well. We contacted many of you earlier in the week regarding a media inquiry from the Craig Daily Press, regarding retraining for employees at our Craig Station, as we advance toward the retirement of the facility by 2030 (see below). While we believe there is not a great deal to share with the editor/reporter at this time in terms of a story, we did want to provide updates as we could on our ongoing activities and what might happen moving forward to address this transition. Special thanks for assistance from our Colorado Northwestern Community College colleagues, included here on this review, who have not been contacted yet by the newspaper but helped us in crafting the response below.

Eliza ... good morning and hope this note finds you well. While we understand your interest in a story concerning efforts to retrain our employees as the Craig Station is retired by 2030, there is not a great deal of detail at this point to share with you. There certainly have been efforts made since we made our announcement in January 2020, and these efforts are ongoing as we essentially are still at the beginning of a process to engage with our fellow plant owners, and local, state and federal partners, to support the transition.

To date, our joint efforts with CNCC have included site visits, interviews between Tri-State and CNCC officials, and focus groups to share information about existing programs at CNCC, including those that might have high potential for future success for those employees who are transitioning.

As we have through the years, Tri-State has and will work together with CNCC to support energy workers through this latest transition. Tri-State representatives have participated in the past, and continues to do so today, in new program development through service on several of the college's advisory boards, which has aided in both strategic and

programmatic development, testing and sustainability to help meet other educational needs of the community.

We know that CNCC is dedicated to supporting northwest Colorado's coal industry, and will be a strong partner in developing future educational and training programs as we address the work of this transition.

Please let us know your thoughts.”

Mark Stutz
Public Relations Specialist
Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.
1100 W. 116th Avenue
Westminster, CO 80234

Office [303-254-3183](tel:303-254-3183)
Cell [303-501-3526](tel:303-501-3526)
MStutz@tristategt.org

“Hello Dr. Jones and Sasha,

I'm writing to share a major achievement in Tri-State's Electric Resource Plan (ERP) process. Since filing our ERP with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in December 2020, Tri-State has been working hard on behalf of our members to ensure a reliable, affordable and responsible resource plan for the future. We have also been responsive to the PUC and the dozens of stakeholder groups who intervened in our filing, representing Colorado state agencies, labor and industry groups, environmental organizations, and member and non-member cooperatives. After over a year of dedicated hard work, I am pleased to share that yesterday Tri-State and the settling parties filed an unopposed comprehensive settlement agreement with the PUC regarding our Phase I ERP.

This settlement will serve as a kick off for the City of Craig, Moffat County and Tri-State to begin work together to plan for a successful transition as Craig Station is retired. We are proud of our Craig and Moffat County heritage and look forward to working with community leaders and other stakeholders to lead the way in this transition. You will hear from us soon about kick off meetings to compile your thoughts, concerns and suggestions. Further, we are pleased to welcome back Rich Thompson, former Craig Station plant manager, to our team to work on these efforts. We are thrilled to have Rich's long standing community knowledge for this endeavor. I've copied Rich here if you would like to reach him.

We are also excited about the potential development of the Craig Energy Center. We are exploring the opportunity to create a federal/state/private partnership to advance

hydrogen and other emerging technologies and create a just transition for the Craig community. Northwest Colorado could be an excellent site for a hydrogen project and a large scale energy storage system. Craig includes the necessary infrastructure, a high-skilled workforce and the community spirit to see the project succeed.

Attached you will find our press release for the ERP settlement agreement. Let me know if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Sarah Carlisle
Senior External Affairs Advisor
Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association Inc.
303-263-7056
scarlisle@tristategt.org

3. Responding to the Need to Increase the Percentage of Moffat County Residents Who Earn Post-Secondary Credentials

Collaboration between CNCC and Moffat County High School- Increase credentials earned by concurrent enrollment students prior to high school graduation and university transfer; Increase credentials and industry recognized certification and licensure prior to or soon after high school completion and ; Map out courses leading to 1 and 2 and across as many CNCC credit and non-credit offerings as possible.

Presently, most concurrent enrollment students take college courses that only count toward his school completion and not toward transfer or career goals. An average of 18 credits are earned per concurrent enrollment student by high school completion when 60 credits or more can be transferred which would save Moffat County families tens of thousands of dollars. At the point of high school graduation, some students are within only 2-3 courses of earning a marketable credential or competencies prepping them to sit for licensure or certification.

Goals outlined for a working group comprised of high school and CNCC employees:

1. Increase Moffat County High School students' participation in college courses while in high school, completion of earned licensure or certification and certificates and degrees by concurrent enrollment students
2. Conduct mapping/audit and advise sessions with high school junior and parents to show pathways to earning certifications, licensures, certificates and/or degrees prior to and soon after high school completion.
3. Conduct orientation sessions for all new concurrent enrollment students and their parents.
4. Conduct SWOT analysis in consideration of a PTECH program

Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

1. **Committee Chartering:** In an effort to summarize and clarify the purpose of all CNCC committees and groups, each has submitted either bylaws or a charter. Almost all are compiled for review and in preparation for our HLC visit next fall
2. **HLC college-wide trainings** have kicked off and are offered virtual as well as we involve all staff and faculty in this process.
3. **FY23 Budget** work has begun with the FY23 Revenue Forecast due 1st week of February.
4. **Reimagining institutional roles** along all employment lines to achieve equity, satisfaction and efficiency
5. **Strengthening and Expanding Shared Leadership-** Elevated and strengthened the roles of faculty and staff senate leadership within institutional “governance” and decision making. Turned over leadership of Extended Cabinet meetings and operations to Operational College leaders from Cabinet.

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

1. Implementation of Major Capital and Grant Projects:

- STEM Bus (RISE Grant Pt 2) – RFP submitted. We have at least four providers who have expressed interest. Final Questions were answered on Friday, January 7th. Proposals are due to CNCC by January 20th. Project is due to be complete by September 1, 2022.
 - Applied for state workforce funds to buy new equipment for nursing simulation lab (will hear about possible award any time...high degree of confidence)
 - Applied for CCCS funds for a Teaching Excellence Grant designed to promote classroom equity and inclusion (will hear about possible award in November ...high degree of confidence)
 - Update- CNCC received the award for BOTH the nursing simulation grant and the Teaching Excellence grant (above). Total value for both is approx. \$750,000 (give or take)
2. **IT Infrastructure Project** – Pending CNCC’s response to several questions, we will have the final project plans from the IT consultant before the end of January. RFPs are in process. Good News is that we have identified products from state-approved vendors which speeds the ordering process up considerably.

- 3. Allsebrook/Blakeslee Building Roof & Windows Repair** – We have received final plans and are ready to build the Request for Proposal (RFP).