

TRANSFORM THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- **ACC LAUDED FOR CIVIC AND POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT**

ACC was named as the winner of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge's 2021 Best Action Plan Award for the Colorado Campus Voting Challenge (Community College category). This award is presented in recognition of ACC's efforts to develop and implement an action plan to improve non-partisan civic and political engagement, and voter participation, amongst students. ACC also received a Gold Seal of Recognition from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge for achieving a student voting rate between 70-79% in the 2020 election.

- **ACC PARAMEDIC STUDENTS EXCEL**

Students in ACC's Paramedic program continue to excel by passing the CoAEMSP Quality Improvement (QI) Outcomes. The 2019 Annual Report show students passing the NREMT/State Written Exam at 95.3%. Retention is at 91.5% and Positive (Job) Placement is at 100%.

- **VAN ARSDALE DELIVERS FRONTLINES PRESENTATION TO ESA STUDENTS**

ACC welcomed Dr. Peter Van Arsdale to the Littleton campus in December 2021 for a practical-model presentation for ACC Emergency Service Administration students entitled *Health, Human Rights and Humanitarian Outreach: Lessons from the Frontlines*. Examples provided by Dr. Van Arsdale were drawn from his on-site work in Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Bosnia over the past 40 years.

- **CRIME, JUSTICE AND SERVICE CAREER PANEL AT PARKER CAMPUS**

Panelists from different areas of criminal justice shared their experiences with current and prospective students in ACC's Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement Academy, concurrent enrollment and prospective criminal justice students. Panelists covered law enforcement, courts, crime scene investigation, corrections and emergency management. Students engaged in conversations with the panelists on how to gain experience, academic paths to follow, and the reality and expectations of entering those fields.

- **OER SAVES ACC STUDENTS OVER \$1M**

Since the fall of 2019, [ACC's Open Educational Resources \(OER\) initiative](#) has saved 7,909 students nearly \$1.1 million in textbook expenses by replacing high-cost print textbooks with OER. ACC's OER committee will be applying for additional grant funds over the next five years.

TRANSFORM OUR OWN WORKFORCE EXPERIENCE

- **ACC RECEIVES \$50K GRANT FROM TELLIGEN COMMUNITY INITIATIVE**

The [ACC Foundation](#) has received a \$50,000 grant from the [Telligen Community Initiative](#) for healthcare workforce development. The grant will allow ACC to build upon the innovative framework and success of its partnership with Centura Health for Medical Assistant and Medical Lab Technician occupations by creating and sponsoring apprenticeships for Certified Nursing Assistants, Registered Nurses, and Electroencephalogram Technicians while continuing to expand the Medical Assistant apprenticeship in Colorado. Funding will be designated to support staffing to expand healthcare apprenticeships. TCI's funding priorities include health innovation, healthcare workforce development and social determinants of health/health equity. [Julie Beggs](#) will serve as the Primary Investigator for the grant.

- **ACC EMPLOYEE AFFINITY GROUPS**

ACC has created opportunities for employees with historically marginalized identities to gather and support each other through shared experiences, professional development and educational programming. As a part of the institution's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, it is important for ACC to foster a sense of belonging for individuals who have historically been discriminated against in the workforce and in education. Groups include: Asian American and Pacific Islander Affinity Group, Black/African American Affinity Group, Employee Disability Affinity Group, Latinx Faculty and Staff Association, LGBTQ+ Affinity Group, and Women's Affinity Group.

- **ACC TO DEVELOP SMART-GRID TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATE**

ACC has been selected as one of four community colleges to receive funding through Colorado [HB21-1149](#) (Energy Sector Career Pathway in Higher Education; signed into law on June 16, 2021) to help Coloradans obtain jobs in the growing renewable energy sector and ensure that employers have a long-term talent pipeline. ACC will utilize the funding to create a regional Smart-Grid Technology certification in partnership with industry associations and their members. ACC will focus on training technicians to help develop, install, optimize, and troubleshoot smart-grid technology. *"ACC is poised to help meet the training needs for the workforce that will help Colorado meet its ambitious and important renewable energy goals," said Dr. Eric Dunker, ACC Associate Vice President and Dean of Business, Technology & Workforce Partnerships. "We are eager to co-create the first Smart-Grid Technology training program in Colorado alongside our industry and public stakeholders."* HB21-1149, which also expands the definition of renewable-energy occupations - specifically mentioning the electric vehicle industry and green jobs - has two provisions: the first requires the creation of an energy sector career pathway by the 2022-23 academic year through a collaboration between the Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC), the departments of Higher Education (CDHE), Education (CDE), Natural Resources (CDNR), and Labor and Employment (CDLE), the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), and the Colorado Community College System (CCCS). The second provision establishes the Strengthening

Photovoltaic and Renewable Careers (SPARC) Workforce Development Program, which will increase training, apprenticeship, and education programs designed to equip Coloradans with the skills they need to obtain gainful long-term employment in the energy sector. ACC intends to launch the Smart-Grid Technology program during the 2022-23 academic year.

- **ACC TO PILOT MICRO-PATHWAYS**

ACC to pilot micro-pathways ACC is one of seven CCCS institutions selected to pilot micro-pathways programs in energy and healthcare. Announced by the CCCS on Jan. 18, the micro-pathways programs are being built in partnership with the Education Design Lab (The Lab), a national non-profit that designs, implements and scales new learning models for higher education. Designed with input from learners and employers, micro-pathway programs combine two-or-more stackable credentials in high-growth, high-paying fields that can be completed in a year or less. The Lab awarded the Foundation for Colorado Community Colleges a \$262,500 grant to build the program and will advise colleges on best practices. EDL will also provide an additional \$1 million in technical support to CCCS for a total investment of more than \$1.25 million. According to The Lab's research, micro-pathway programs often offer more flexibility and a clearer return on investment for adult learners. Collaborating on micro-pathways can also strengthen relationships between employers and community colleges. Additional CCCS institutions selected to pilot the micro-pathways include Colorado Northwestern Community College, Community College of Aurora, Community College of Denver, Lamar Community College, Northeastern Community College and Pueblo Community College.

CREATE EDUCATION WITHOUT BARRIERS THROUGH TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- **COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS CONNECT WITH INDUSTRY**

The ACC Career and Transfer Services and Computer Network Technology departments collaborated to host a virtual Cybersecurity career discussion in collaboration with Lockheed Martin. Senior professionals from Lockheed Martin talked about their work on the frontlines of cybersecurity and fielded questions from ACC students. The session included broad discussions across the cybersecurity and computer science fields. Due to the success of the event, Lockheed Martin would like to make this event an annual event.

- **ALLEN, DUNKER AND HASTINGS HONORED AT APPRENTICESHIP AWARDS**

The 2021 Colorado Apprenticeship Awards were announced during a virtual ceremony on Nov. 16. [Dr. Eric Dunker](#), ACC Associate Vice President and Dean of Business, Technology and Workforce Partnerships, was selected as a winner in the Apprentice Champion category. Casey Hastings, the lab and clinical instructor for ACC's Medical Assistant Apprenticeship Program, and Anne Allen, the Medical Assistant Training Coordinator for ACC apprentices at Centura Health, both won Outstanding Apprentice Mentor awards. The Colorado Apprenticeship Awards, which are bestowed in partnership with the Business Experiential Learning (BEL) Commission, honor Colorado apprentices, mentors, preceptors, employers,

programs, and the partners and champions who unite them. Category winners are recognized for exemplifying a remarkable commitment to increasing apprenticeships and expanding access to apprenticeship programs. [FULL STORY](#)



Anna Allen

Casey Hastings

Eric Dunker

- **SHARED VISIONS TACTILE ART SHOW**

The Shared Visions tactile art show, featuring collaborative works by art students from ACC and the Colorado Center for the Blind, returned (in-person) to the Colorado Gallery of the Arts at ACC in November. This annual, multi-sensory exhibition includes sight, sounds and touch displays.

- **ART: THE WAY IT PAYS**

ACC Career & Transfer Services, Academic Advising and the Studio Art Department hosted a virtual panel event for students who have considered a career in art but had concerns about making a living and instead were considering an alternate career. Art faculty and community artists were on hand to discuss how they had been able to make a living as artists, photographers, and graphic designers.

- **A/D WORKS! OPENS LOCATION AT STURM COLLABORATION CAMPUS**

[Arapahoe/Douglas Works!](#) has opened a new location inside the ACC Sturm Collaboration Campus at Castle Rock. *Arapahoe/Douglas Works!* provides a variety of no-cost employment assistance services customized to meet individuals' needs.

- **PALAMARA, DeMOULIN HOST SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS EVENT**

[Michael Palamara](#) (Art & Design Center Director) and [Tom DeMoulin](#) (MGDI Program Chair/Faculty) will host a virtual presentation on unleashing creative potential and fueling passion for art and design as part of the Apple Spotlight on Success / Community College Virtual Event Series on Feb. 8.

- **“COLLABORATING WITH THE LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE”**

The ACC Sturm Collaboration Campus at Castle Rock will host "Collaborating with the local Chamber of Commerce" on Feb. 9. Board members from the Castle Rock Chamber of Commerce will discuss their mission, purpose, and how to network. Learn about internships, apprenticeships, employment opportunities and

other career information. Live streams will be available at Littleton and Parker, and free pizza will be served at all campuses. All students are welcome, and business pathway students are highly encouraged.

REDEFINE OUR VALUE PROPOSITION THROUGH ACCESSIBILITY, AFFORDABILITY, QUALITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- **NURSING EDUCATION IN VIDEO DATABASE**

The ACC Library & Learning Commons has a new resource for Nursing students and faculty. The Nursing Education in Video database provides an up-to-date collection of demonstration and training videos designed to help students improve their clinical skills. With over 300 videos, ACC Nursing students and faculty will benefit from a visual guide while learning and teaching critical nursing skills. The content is reviewed regularly, and new resources will be added throughout the next several years.

- **PRIDE OF DIVERSITY MURAL AT CGA**

The ACC Art Student Invitational Exhibition was on display this fall at the Colorado Gallery of the Arts at ACC. The exhibit included a mural entitled "Pride of Diversity", which displayed portraits of Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, Malala Yousafzai, Kiyoshi Kuromiya, Marsha P. Johnson, Oren Lyons and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Below each portrait was a description of each person's contribution to humanity. The mural, which was a collaboration between the gallery and ACC fine art students Taylor Bowland, Izzy Del Valle and Noah Infusino, was developed to embrace cultural and historical perspectives, sustain an inclusive campus culture, and celebrate the diversity of ACC students, employees and the communities we serve.



- **EQUITY MINDED TEACHING ACADEMY**

ACC has been awarded a \$250,000 CCCS Teaching Excellence Grant which will support faculty and instructors engaging in the Equity Minded Teaching Academy. The Diversity in the Curriculum sub-committee of ACC's Inclusive Excellence Council has developed this structured academy to engage faculty and instructors in learning about equity-minded and culturally-responsive pedagogy. The Academy will be offered in the fall, spring, and summer semesters. Outside of the pilot year of 2021-22, there will be two cohorts offered for the fall and spring semesters, and one cohort during the summer semester. ACC will contract a facilitator from Community College of Aurora, along with a current ACC faculty member with prior knowledge and experience in equity-minded teaching, to conduct the pilot group. Upon completion of the pilot cohort, participants who have demonstrated proficiency as facilitators, an increased knowledge of equity-minded teaching, and a willingness to make significant changes in their practice will be asked to serve as co-facilitators during the 2022-23 academic year.

OTHER NEWS

- **BLANCHARD ACCEPTED TO LEAD PROGRAM**

ACC Director of Nursing [Dr. Jennifer Blanchard](#) has been accepted to the National League for Nursing's LEAD program. LEAD is a highly competitive program in the NLN Leadership Institute under the Center for Transformational Leadership. LEAD focuses on leadership development for nurses in education/practice who have recently been challenged with rapid transition into leadership positions, those in leadership positions who desire a formal leadership program, and those emerging and aspiring to lead. The cohort of selected peers examines organizational systems and leadership processes, strategic planning, building high performing teams, budgeting, and developing personal career plans to advance organizational leadership.

- **LOEBACH EARNS CEM® DESIGNATION FROM BE ADDED**

ACC Emergency Service Administration Faculty [Dr. Peter Loebach](#) has earned the designation of Certified Emergency Manager® (CEM®) from the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). This is the highest honor of professional achievement available from the IAEM. Dr. Loebach qualified for this designation through the submission of an extensive credentials package and a management essay, as well as the successful completion of a written exam. To maintain certification, CEM® applicants must continue a program of professional development over successive five-year periods in the future. The CEM® designation is currently held by only 2,004 individuals in the emergency management profession.

- **ACC ALUMNA PUBLISHES FIRST NOVEL**

Former ACC creative writing student Ruth Sharp recently self-published her first novel, *The Lake Effect*. Sharp, whose book is described as a coming-of-age crime thriller, was featured as a panelist during the ACC Writers Studio novel-writing panel on Nov. 10.

- **VIGIL COACHING STUDENTS TO VICTORY ON AND OFF THE FIELD**

ACC Admissions Counselor [Courtney Vigil](#) was presented with a championship ring in late October for her contributions as an assistant coach for the Trinidad State College (TSC) softball team that won the 2021 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 9 title. For Vigil, a first-generation student who also competed as a catcher on the Trojans softball team during her college career, the championship was a culmination of four years she spent guiding and developing student-athletes at TSC. Her college coaching days now behind her, she has found yet another love for coaching...this time with ACC Admissions. *“It is so rewarding to provide valuable information to prospective students about the resources and financial opportunities available as they embark upon their academic journeys,” says Vigil, who was hired at ACC in April 2021. “I am always encouraging students; telling them how ACC can help them Move Mountains and that they can succeed.”* A graduate of Bear Creek High School in Lakewood, Vigil had several offers to play college softball, and accepted an athletic scholarship at Trinidad State. Upon earning her Associate of Arts degree in Business at TSC, she transferred into Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) - earning both academic and athletic scholarships – to continue her playing career with the Greyhounds. Vigil completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in University Studies from ENMU in 2018 before returning to Trinidad as an assistant coach. Ironically, Vigil began working at ACC the very next day after the Trojans won the Region 9 crown. *“My parents have always inspired me and encouraged me in my academics,” she explains. “I’ve also been fortunate to have some support systems in place that helped me navigate my way through college and achieve my educational goals. I’ve always enjoyed coaching softball, and now I’m able to take that passion and experience as a mentor and apply it to incoming ACC students.”*

- **ANDERSSSEN ELECTED TO LPS BOARD**

ACC Economics Faculty [Joan Anderssen](#) has been elected to serve on the Littleton Public Schools Board of Education (2021–25 term).

- **CORBETTA, CARPENTER SERVE ON PALS SUBCOMMITTEES**

In February 2020, the Colorado Supreme Court issued an Order to explore the possible creation of a regulatory regime for licensing qualified paraprofessionals to engage in the practice of law in defined contexts. The Supreme Court has since created the Paraprofessionals and Legal Services Subcommittee (PALS) from its Advisory Committee to study whether licensed paralegals could provide limited legal services to the 75% of family law litigants who now appear in court without lawyers. PALS includes family law lawyers, ethics lawyers, judges, family court facilitators, court personnel, paralegals, community colleges, and law school representatives. ACC Paralegal Program Chair [Richard Corbetta](#) was asked to be on the Licensure and Qualification Committee, and Celeste Carpenter, ACC’s Paralegal Program Coordinator, was asked to be on the Outreach and Communications Committee. Of the three ABA-approved paralegal programs in Colorado, ACC was the only program asked to serve on these committees. At this time, 12 states have adopted Licensed Legal Paraprofessionals (LLP) and now Colorado is exploring the possibility of becoming a part of this licensure program in the near future. Those who wish to become Licensed Legal Paraprofessionals

(LLP) must meet education and experience requirements, pass a professional abilities exam, and pass a character and fitness process. Those who are successful would become “affiliate members” of the state bar and be subject to the same ethical rules and discipline processes as attorneys. If Colorado adopts this licensure program, it will give ACC’s paralegal students more options and career paths from which to choose.

- **ACC FACULTY PRESENT AT EMS CONFERENCE**

EMS professionals, EMS instructors, agency managers and administrators, medical directors and allied professionals gathered at the 49th Annual Colorado State EMS Conference in Keystone last fall to learn about trends and techniques that enhance patient care and agency operations. ACC Faculty presenting at the conference included [Dennis Edgerly](#) (EMS Academy Director), [Don Stroup](#) (EMS Faculty), [Dr. Michael Hunt](#) (EMS Medical Director) and [Joshua Wolfe](#) (EMS Faculty). The Colorado State EMS Conference is the region’s largest and workshop and exhibition for EMS professionals.

- **ACC NAMES EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR**

ACC has selected its Employees of the Year for 2021-22. Honorees include: [Javon Brame](#) – Administrator of the Year (Dean of Students), Matthew Christ – MAS Instructor of the Year (Economics), [Richard Corbetta](#) – Faculty of the Year (Paralegal Department Chair/Faculty), Jackson Culpepper – CHAD Instructor of the Year / Adjunct of the Year (Composition, Creative Writing & Journalism), Leslie Jones – HPS Instructor of the Year (Nursing), and [Tia Le](#) – Classified of the Year (I.T. Technician).

- **ACC RECEIVES CEEI FEDERAL GRANT**

ACC has received \$86,000 through the Colorado Department of Education’s Concurrent Enrollment Expansion and Innovation (CEEI) Grant Program. This Federal funding will be designated for concurrent enrollment high school instructor professional development and a video series.