



President's Report: Dr. Michele Haney

December 2021/January 2022

Transform the student experience.

- **GRAND OPENINGS OF THE NEW STUDENT PANTRY AT RRCC**



The Student Life department at Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) held an opening ceremony for the college's new Student Pantry. The pantry is located on the Lakewood campus, near the Student Life information desk (formerly the Game Room). "The new RRCC Student Pantry is a key part to a bigger goal of reducing the food insecurities within our RRCC community," says Dr. Steven Zeeh, the Director of Campus Life. "Of course, our vision for a more inclusive and accessible pantry

would not have been possible without the continued support from the RRCC Foundation, RRCC staff and faculty, the Food Bank of the Rockies, as well as other non-profit community partners. We still have a lot of work to do but we hope that the new RRCC Student Pantry is a symbol to the Lakewood community that we, as a college, are committed to holistically meeting the needs of our students and community." Donations of non-perishable food and reusable shopping bags will be accepted at the event. For those interested in making a monetary donation to support the Student Pantry, donations can be made online at <https://www.coloradogives.org/rrccfoundation>(link is external). RRCC to Produce

- Mandy Trolinger brings real-life experience and built-in empathy to her Denver-area job as a PA at Rocky Mountain Kidney Care. Very real life, as in: having undergone two kidney transplants. While on a dietetic rotation during her master's-degree studies, Trolinger first learned of the PA profession. By the time her transplanted kidney began failing, Trolinger was working as a renal dietician. Twelve years after her first transplant, she underwent a second transplant, this time from a deceased donor. Three years later, she began studies at Colorado's Red Rocks Community College PA Program and has worked in nephrology ever since. Read the full story here: <https://www.aapa.org/news-central/2021/12/on-the-job-stimulation-and-work-life-balance-draw-pas-to-nephrology/>



GATEWAY HOSTS TOY DRIVE FOR THE INDIAN CENTER INC. The College Gateway program would like to thank the RRCC community for participating in the success of the toy drive for The Indian Center Inc. We are proud to say that the toy drive was a huge success. With the help from faculty, staff, and students coming together as a community, College Gateway was able to drop off two loads of toys, bring joy to children and helping families make the holiday a little more special. We would like to thank Dorothy

Welty and the various departments contributing to our toy drive this holiday. College Gateway is appreciative and thankful for you all.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.



RRCC CHILDREN'S CENTER RECEIVES BUELL FOUNDATION GRANT

Children's Center Serves 70 Families a Year

A recent generous grant of \$40,000.00 from the Buell Foundation will support the operations of the

Children's Center at Red Rocks Community College (RRCC). Established in 1998, the Children's Center mission is to support children as they learn about and discover their own uniqueness in a rich, caring, loving, and safe environment. "The Children's Center staff and families are thrilled and grateful to be recipients of and be partnering with the Buell Foundation to provide the best possible early care and education to the diverse families

that we serve," says Susan Padgett, Director of the Children's Center. "The Buell Foundation clearly understands the important role that quality childcare plays in the success of students and in supporting area working families. Quality early childhood education has a life-long positive impact on our children. The Foundation is incredibly grateful for their on-going support of operations to keep quality childcare accessible for area families," says Angela King, the Executive Director of Institutional Advancement at RRCC.



This year's **RRCC/ACC RockSat-X** team was just notified that their payload will go on the rocket for this year's launch in August. They are working on an improved 360 VR video capture of space, based on the successful project last year. Also, Nasa released our RRCC/ACC student RockSat video of space from last year - see the article here and it has our 360-video link. [https://www.nasa.gov/feature/wallops/2021/view-earth-from-98-miles-on-a-nasa-sounding-rocket-](https://www.nasa.gov/feature/wallops/2021/view-earth-from-98-miles-on-a-nasa-sounding-rocket-flight)

[flight](https://www.nasa.gov/feature/wallops/2021/view-earth-from-98-miles-on-a-nasa-sounding-rocket-flight) RRCC was one of eight community college and university teams that saw their years' worth of effort take flight into space with the launch of Terrier-Improved Malamute sounding rocket from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia. This project developed by community college students provides the public with the opportunity to see the Earth from the perspective of a small rocket in flight. More than 50 community college students participated in the project," said Chris Koehler, director of the Colorado Space Grant Consortium. "The project, which was developed over two years, provided students with many challenges, including how to move the camera away from the rocket and protect it from re-entry and sea impact."

[Check out the view- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQGmEVEjYq4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQGmEVEjYq4)

- **Monitors and Busses and Trains, Oh My:** We launched an RTD advertising campaign on January 17th, that will be wrapped on trains on the G Line and the W Line and 50 buses on routes throughout the Denver area. Ads will also be on digital monitors on the trains, and in stations scheduled to run through July. The Veterans Art Initiative from 2021 is on display in the Great Hall. The American Society of Media Photographers, Sony and RRCC Veterans Services Department partnered for the Annual Veteran's Art Initiative. The unique opportunity for RRCC Veteran students teaches the basics of photography and printing over the course of two workshops and allows veterans an outlet to create and display their art.

See their work here:

<https://www.facebook.com/rrccedu/photos/a.10156872018543187/10159668709848187>



FOX IN THE WILD: CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON SUCCESS STORY While Chris was at RRCC he studied English, History, and Anthropology. He is now a graduate student in cultural anthropology at The New School for Social Research, in New York City. In the spring of 2021, Chris graduated summa cum laude with a BA in sociocultural anthropology from Columbia University, where he was awarded Departmental Honors, inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, and named the

Valedictorian of the Class of 2021. He is working on his MA with a PhD to follow. [Read more about Chris here: https://www.rccc.edu/career-services](https://www.rccc.edu/career-services)

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



On the-job Stimulation and Work-life Balance Draw PAs to Nephrology: Work wasn't kind to Ms. Davis's social calendar. The Washington, D.C., resident is blunt about why she shifted eight years ago from working as a hospitalist PA to nephrology.

"I switched because of quality of life," she said. Davis had to work every other weekend for six years, and often worked from 2:00 p.m. to midnight. She missed class reunions and friends' Saturday-afternoon barbecues. "It made dating difficult," she said. "If you tried to plan things with friends and family, you have to give some of that up. It was cutting into my social life." Working in suburban Washington for a nephrology practice means lower pay but a more agreeable, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. schedule that enables attending events like baseball games of her favorite team, the Washington Nationals. She has most national holidays off and does not take call. "For me, it was worth it," Davis said of the change. She got the job thanks to knowing her current colleagues while working as a hospitalist. Davis wasn't as passionate about nephrology then compared to now. Mostly, she said, the attraction is "the people" – the patients she's gotten to know from caring for them weekly on dialysis. It's their diversity of conditions, too. Some have diabetes and hypertension, along with autoimmune diseases, like lupus and rheumatoid arthritis. Many of her CKD patients have cardio-renal syndrome, with the kidneys suffering due to poor heart function. The day before speaking with AAPA, Davis received a call from an oncologist of a patient with multiple myeloma. Because the patient is on chemotherapy, his white-blood-cell count was low. "We're trying to prevent his getting an infection by giving him prophylactic antibiotics, but it has to be dosed appropriately for his level of kidney function," she said. "[The physician] asked me what I recommended for the dosing. That happens a lot."

Other News:

- **Jen Broadwater** was selected by her peers as Outstanding Admin/Tech/Pro of the Year.
- **Jason Larez** was selected by his peers as Outstanding Classified of the Year.
- **Martha Stevens** was selected by her peers as the Outstanding Faculty of the Year.