



FRCC April 2022 Board Report

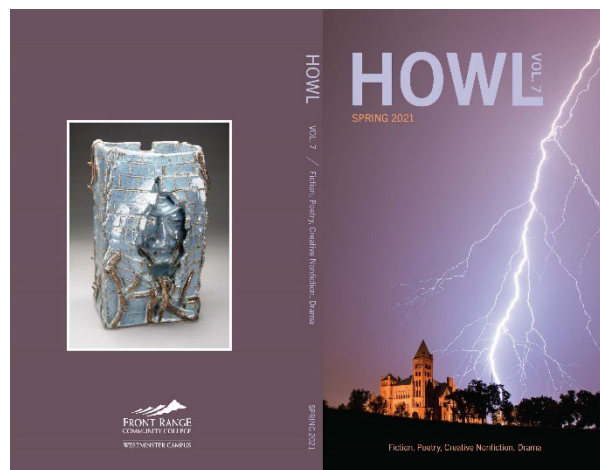
Andrew Dorsey

President

Transform the student experience.

The latest edition of the Westminster Campus's **literary magazine**, *HOWL* (Vol. 7, 2021), has received three **national awards**. *HOWL* is an annual, student-centered publication that features creative writing and artwork by FRCC students. *HOWL* 7 recently received word of the following national awards:

- First Place with Special Merit from the American Scholastic Association—in the category of junior/community colleges with enrollment of 2,501+. This top award is designated for school publications that are regarded as an outstanding overall example of a scholastic publication in format, content and presentation.
- Superior (Top Rank) from the National Council of Teachers of English. The Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines program acknowledges excellent literary magazines produced by students with the support of their teachers. *HOWL* 7 received the top rank of “Superior” according to the following criteria: literary content, purposeful and editorial identity, and unity of design.
- Third Place, Best Photography from the Community College Humanities Association—for the Southwest region (which includes eight states). Specifically awarded is “Lightning Storm,” the cover photograph by FRCC student Ezra Ekman.



Two FRCC students have been awarded the prestigious national **New Century Scholarship**—they are the only scholars selected from the state of Colorado. They were chosen from a pool of more than 2,200 applicants from more than 1,200 college campuses across the US. Jill Shuss is a first-generation adult college student—she has two kids and is studying business at FRCC. She received the highest application score in the state in the career-technical track, earning her the New Century Workforce Pathway award. Kevin Ortiz has worked as a diesel mechanic and is now changing careers—he plans to transfer to UNC to complete a bachelor’s degree in business and marketing. He received the highest application score in the state in the transfer track, earning him the New Century Transfer Pathway award.

FRCC's TRIO staff hosted a number informational and student support events for [TRIO week](#) in March. The college has three [TRIO programs](#) to serve students who come from limited-income families, are first generation college students, or have a documented disability. The events ranged from providing students assistance navigating the transfer process to an inspirational keynote talk by local community leader and advocate Chris Garcia (who is a first-generation student himself).

TRIO

FRCC student Ashley Valdez-Ibarra has been selected as one of just eight students nationwide—and the only Gateway to College student in the country—to be a [2022 DREAM Scholar](#). [Achieving the Dream](#) is a national nonprofit leader in championing evidence-based institutional improvement—with the goal of increasing student success and decreasing equity gaps. Ashley is a first-generation Mexican American student who is charting her path to success. Following experiences with addiction and abuse in high school, she decided to make a change and enrolled in the Gateway to College program. She's passionate about human rights, women's rights, immigrant rights and LGBTQ+ rights. She believes strongly in equality and fair treatment and volunteers at political rallies, helping with workshops and organizing. Ashley was nominated by FRCC and [chosen through a competitive national application process](#), DREAM Scholars get to engage in a learning experience that culminated in attending and presenting at the virtual DREAM 2022 conference.



FRCC student Astrid Villalobos Chavez has been named to the Boulder Valley “**40 and Under Forty**” list by *BizWest*. The program recognizes emerging leaders in the region—as the young people who are shaping the future of the Boulder Valley. On campus, Astrid is heavily involved as a member of the Student Government Association, the Everybody's Business Club, and the



Latinx Excellence Achievement and Development program. When she's not at FRCC's Boulder County Campus, she works as the sustainability program assistant for the city of Longmont, serves as co-chair of the Chamber Student Network, volunteers for the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Boulder County and the Longmont Multicultural Action Committee. Astrid's short-term goal is to graduate from FRCC with an associate degree in political science. After that, she plans to transfer to MSU-Denver to earn a bachelor's degree. As Astrid advances her study of government and politics, she will prepare for law school. Her ultimate aim is to become an immigration attorney and to help people in her community achieve their goals. Last year, FRCC selected Astrid for a [CCCS Rising Star award](#).

Our **Student Life** team has hosted a whirlwind of activities for students to participate in this semester. For Black History Month, they hosted virtual events with Sybrina Fulton—Trayvon Martin's mother and co-founder of the Trayvon Martin Foundation—and with Nicole Lynn Lewis who is the founder of Generation Hope, a nonprofit that champions higher education for teen parents. Staff also partnered with our colleagues in FRCC's six [Career and Academic Communities](#) to host mid-term study sessions. Faculty members and tutors were available to answer questions while staff provided snacks to help students push through their last mid-terms before spring break. In collaboration with our [Liberal Arts, Communication & Design](#) community, Student Life hosted a choral concert in which students performed selected music entirely in

French at our new Gray's Peak building in Fort Collins. The team also recently worked with Disability Support Services staff to host a Disability Expo in the student center. Participants had the chance to learn about various aspects of the disabled community, while debunking some common myths about being disabled. Student Life also hosted five students at the virtual Latinx Leadership Conference, which was a chance for them to connect with other student leaders and learn about current topics in the Latinx community.

Transform our own workforce experience.

This summer the Nursing Department at FRCC-Westminster will begin offering a **Licensed Practical Nurse-to-Associate Degree in Nursing** (LPN-to-ADN) bridge course. Licensed LPNs who have worked full time for at least six months can apply. After successfully completing the bridge course this summer, students will transfer into the third semester of the associate degree in [nursing program](#). The bridge course is a way to support LPNs in our community by providing them an opportunity to become registered nurses.

The Larimer Campus Diversity Committee hosted [Safe Zone training](#) for students and employees. Safe Zone trainings are opportunities to learn about LGBTQIA+ identities, gender and sexuality—and examine prejudice, assumptions and privilege. A trainer from the University of Northern Colorado provided a great opportunity for the FRCC community to learn about and create more inclusive spaces for our LGBTQIA+ community members.



Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

Our [multimedia graphic design \(MGD\) program](#)'s point-of-purchase packaging class, taught by faculty member Blake Welch, is working with the design team from Danone (formerly Dannon) world food company. The company's designers are giving students real-world experience in designing a carton and campaign for their "Left Field Farms" milk line. Students take into consideration industry standards such as demographics, market share/competition, printing criteria and display strategies. Danone has plans to continue the partnership and work with students in our MGD program on projects every semester.

Local business development expert Hope Hartman has been named the new executive director of the [Larimer Small Business Development Center](#) (SBDC). Her diverse business background includes software, startups, technology transfer and commercialization, education and nonprofits. The SBDC, which is housed at our Larimer Campus, provides an array of technical assistance and training to small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs in northern Colorado. "By making positive contributions at the SBDC, we can build a strong foundation to help our companies thrive within the community," Hartman says. The Larimer SBDC works in collaboration with several strategic partners and dedicated sponsors to provide Larimer County entrepreneurs with street-smart business education and connections to useful resources.



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

Three FRCC students have been selected as **semi-finalists for the Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship**. Rebekah Jacoby, Kevin Ortiz and Caleb Sanderson are all in the final running for this very competitive national scholarship—which provides up to \$55,000 per year to attend a four-year accredited undergraduate school. Rebekah is working on her Associate of Science degree in biology. Kevin is getting ready to graduate in May with his Associate of Arts degree in business. Caleb is working on his Associate of Science degree. Both he and Kevin are first-gen students in the TRIO program. This highly competitive scholarship includes personal advising about selecting a college and navigating financial aid, as well as multifaceted advising about how to transition to a four-year college and maximize the student experience once there.

The [Mathematics Association of America](#) (MAA) has published a **primary source project (PSP)** by math faculty member Kenneth Monks, PhD. Titled "[Fourier's Heat Equation and the Birth of Modern Climate Science: A Mini-Primary Source Project for Differential Equations and Multivariable Calculus Students](#)," it was published in the February 2022 issue of the MAA publication *Convergence*. PSPs are student works that use primary historical sources. The development of this project was partially supported by [Transforming Instruction in Undergraduate Mathematics via Primary Historical Sources](#)—an initiative that Dr. Monks has been involved with for several years.



FRCC faculty member Ken Monks sketching math concepts on the white board in his classroom.