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## President's Report: Dr. Michele Haney

### April 2023

#### Transform the student experience.

- **RRCC IDEA Lab:** The RRCC IDEA Lab is a makerspace on the Lakewood campus where students and faculty explore, innovate, and create. Through real-world projects, students develop skills in innovation, teamwork, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Students from all disciplines are welcome to use the IDEA Lab for class projects, club activities, or personal projects with prototyping equipment that includes 3D printers, a CNC mill, a laser cutter, soldering stations, microcontrollers, podcasting, VR, and more. This Spring, students in the IDEA Lab have been working on developing LED Microcontroller Lamps, collaborating with the Theater and English Department to create props and supplies for future productions and programs, and working with the Accessibilities Services Department to develop accessibility hand tools for students in need. In addition to working with the campus community, the IDEA Lab students have been developing a k-12 workshop for students that focuses on predator vs. prey concepts through a gamified activity where IDEA Lab students developed buzzing microcontrollers to create an interactive activity for the k-12 students. Through these high-impact practices, students are able to develop professional, technical, and soft skills.
- The Concurrent Enrollment Office is sending out a newsletter to all current Concurrent Enrollment students this month.  
Here are a few examples of what we currently have to share with students:
  - RRCC Open House
  - Creative Writing Workshops
  - PTK Student Event
  - STEM Leadership Academy
  - RRCC Program showcases (VAMA Graduate Showcase)This coordinated communication plan to Concurrent Enrollment students will be used to streamline the way the college promotes RRCC programs and events. We will be sending out newsletters periodically throughout the academic year.
- **Red Rocks Community College Students Named Semi-finalists for JKCF Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship**  
LAKEWOOD, CO – (March 15, 2023) – Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) students **Shaydie Boyd** and **Mark Irby-Gill**, have been announced as semifinalists for the highly competitive Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.

- Boyd and Irby-Gill are two of this year's 459 semi-finalists who were chosen from a pool of more than 1,700 applicants, from 215 community colleges in 38 states. The Scholarship is designed to create a clear path to a four-year degree by offering generous financial support, advising, as well as the opportunity to connect with a community of fellow Cooke Transfer Scholars and Alumni. In addition, the selected Cooke Scholars will have access to internship and study abroad opportunities, and graduate school funding. "By lifting the financial burden of pursuing a four-year degree off their shoulders, our goal is to help students take full advantage of a four-year college experience without taking on student debt," said Seppy Basili, Executive Director of the Cooke Foundation. "This year's selected semi-finalists reflect the deep bench of talent across our community colleges today, and we're looking forward to getting to know them better in our final application review process." The Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship recipients will be announced in April.
- **Red Rocks Community College Student Named a 2023 New Century Transfer Scholar - Titus Smith**, a student at Red Rocks Community College, has been named a 2023 New Century Transfer Scholar and will receive a \$2,250 scholarship. New Century Transfer Scholars are selected based on their academic accomplishments, activities, leadership, and how they extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom. Over 2,400 students were nominated from more than 1,300 college campuses across the country. Only one New Century Transfer Scholar is selected from each state. The program is sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, Phi Theta Kappa, and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). "We congratulate Titus for receiving this prestigious scholarship," said Phi Theta Kappa's President and CEO Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner. "Scholarship programs like this are integral for creating opportunities for two-year college students to succeed and for putting college completion within reach."
- **RRCC hosted Jefferson County Elementary Art Show** which began April 3rd running through April 24<sup>th</sup>. A reception was held April 14th at 8:00 p.m. inside the Library
- **Obscura Open Mic:** May 4<sup>th</sup> 1-2:30 pm. This was a Student event in collaboration with Kevin Kelley in English
- 1. **DEI WEBSITE** - Do you wish you knew where we are regarding our DEI goals? Check out the [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) website for resources and information such as our [annual report](#), college land acknowledgment statements, and upcoming development opportunities.
- 2. **Moon-Shot for Equity**  
Moon Shot has officially launched! Our best practice teams are deep into the data collection and analysis phase of their work, and guiding teams will be meeting based on needs at various times throughout the project. For instance, the Equity-Mindedness team is currently working on a calendar of cultural celebrations for the college to recognize. A calendar invitation for the Moon-Shot Convening went out for Friday, April 28th. This event will feature the following keynote address by Ed Venit, Managing Director of EAB student success research.

### 3. **Moon Shot: Change Management for Equity**

*Thursday, April 27th | 3:00 – 4:00 | Lakewood 1280 (Community Room)*

Leaders face additional challenges when institutions go through periods of change. This session with our Moon-Shot consultant, Linda Marchlewski, framed these challenges in an equity lens and discuss strategies for supporting equity-focused change. An additional invitation will go out to key stakeholder groups, but anyone is welcome to attend. Register here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/gpRvUBt7VQ>

### 4. **RRCC Moon Shot Spring Convening**

*Friday, April 28th | 9:00 – 12:00 | Lakewood 1280 (Community Room)*

All of us are excited to use this in-person time to brainstorm, learn, and connect! We encourage you to ask questions and share your own thoughts and experiences throughout today's sessions. A keynote will be provided by Ed Venit, Managing Director of EAB student success research. Register here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/rjSDJcFiA0>



### **Do you like Campy Musical Theatre?**

Do you like 90's Video Games? Do you enjoy inappropriate adult humor that occasionally steps over the line? Then have we got a show for you! Join the Red Rocks Community College Department of Theatre and Dance for our production of Starkid's *The Trail to Oregon!* At only \$10 a ticket, we're one of the most affordable date nights in town! Come laugh, dance, and even decide who dies in this rollicking historically inaccurate comedy! Higher education continues to struggle with the long-

term disruption brought on by the pandemic, with profound impact on enrollment student success, and equity. These "pandemic ripple effects" only just beginning to be felt. We need not approach these challenges with pessimism. The pandemic exposed weaknesses in the system that have existed for years. We must use this opportunity to finally address these weaknesses and create stronger institutions better able to support college completion. Register [here](https://forms.office.com/r/rjSDJcFiA0) <https://forms.office.com/r/rjSDJcFiA0> To learn more about RRCC's Moon Shot for Equity, you can always visit our website: <https://www.rrcc.edu/moon-shot/about>

### **Transform our own workforce experience.**

- **RRCC Space Grant:** The RRCC Space Grant program is part of the Colorado Space Grant Consortium (COSGC), a NASA-funded, state-wide program that provides Colorado students access to space through innovative courses, real-world hands-on satellite programs, and interactive outreach programs. Students participate in undergraduate research projects that involve a high-altitude balloon launch through the DemoSat program, and developing payloads for RockSat, where students are able to attend NASA rocket launches and gain real-world experience working with scientists and aerospace professionals.

- **RRCC hosted CoRAC (Colorado Regional Assessment Conference)** on Friday April 14 with about 120 attendees from across the state learning best practices in student learning and programmatic assessment. Dr. Clark, VP of Academic Affairs, gave the keynote address on program review.

**Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.**

- **RRCC Mines Academy:** The RRCC Mines Academy accepted its first cohort of 50 students in Fall 2022 and supports Associate of Engineering students as they plan and complete prescribed coursework designed for a smooth transition to the Colorado School of Mines to earn their bachelor's degree. Through support services like TRIO Support Services for First Generation students, Accessibility Services, Tutoring Center, RRCC scholarships, or STEM groups such as STEM Scholars or Women in STEM, students are able to pursue an economical path to a bachelor's degree at CSM.
- **RRCC High School Innovation Challenge:** Through the support of the RRCC IDEA Lab, Excel Energy Foundation, and Colorado School of Mines, RRCC hosts a spring competition that recognizes and rewards designs for sustainable change. We have invited teams of high school students, grades 9-12, to participate in a real-world STEM challenge that will propose sustainable innovations surrounding wildlife prevention, management, and impacts. Student teams can either come up with their problem related to the theme or work on one that the teacher has chosen for the team. High school participating teams will be supported by IDEA Lab students who help teams work through their design problems and solutions. This year's High School Innovation Challenge.
- **Rocky Mountain Industrial Assessment Center:** The Rocky Mountain Industrial Assessment Center at the Colorado School of Mines, in partnership with Red Rocks Community College, is part of a nationwide program sponsored by the Department of Energy's Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains. The IAC's mission is to increase energy efficiency, reduce Co2 emissions, increase productivity, and optimize water usage. Students participate in the program by attending one-day energy assessments of small and medium-sized manufacturers utilizing special equipment and data loggers to provide a report of energy-saving recommendations over 60 days. The overarching goal is to educate and train the next generation of energy and industrial audit experts while supporting the community.

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

- This upcoming summer, the RRCC Department of Theatre and Dance is participating in a collaboration with the North Dakota Shakespeare Festival to bring Shakespeare's *The Tempest* to Colorado! This special collaboration will involve Professional and Apprentice (college-aged) Actors from all over the U.S. coming together to create a professional Shakespeare in the Park performance! The production will rehearse and perform here at RRCC, then travel to North Dakota to perform for an additional two weeks!
- **Here is where you can help!** We need host families to house our non-local artists during their time in Colorado. We have used this model for years in

North Dakota- many of our artists stay in touch with their host families for years! The dates this season are July 8<sup>th</sup>-July 25<sup>th</sup>.

- We ask that each actor have a private bedroom and access to a bathroom and kitchen space (these can be shared spaces). If you have a guest bedroom you might be willing to “donate” we would be so grateful! We do check all artists references and try to hire kind humans who do well in shared housing situations. If you are interested in hosting an artist, please email: [stephanie@northdakotashakespeare.com](mailto:stephanie@northdakotashakespeare.com) and [Kelly.Eldredge@rrcc.edu](mailto:Kelly.Eldredge@rrcc.edu). We appreciate your support and consideration!
- On Tuesday April 18, all RRCC employees came together for an all college development day. Sessions included Inclusivity in the Workplace and Best Assessment Practices in both Student Affairs and Academic Affairs.

- **Other News:**



- **Red Rocks Community College 2022-23 Employees of The Year**
- Congratulations to **Brandon English, Pat Bolton, and Frank Barnes** on being named 2022-23 Employees of the Year at RRCC. They will each be recognized at the upcoming Employee Excellence Awards on April 12th.
- Administrator, **Patricia Bolton** - Director, Child Care Innovations
- Classified, **Frank Barnes** - Structural Trades I
- Faculty, **Brandon English** - Chemistry Instructor
- The Colorado Community College System (CCCS) held its fifth annual Commitment Excellence Awards ceremony today, celebrating 54 employees from across the System for their contributions to the overall success of their college, students, and communities.

Adjunct Instructor of the Year is **Jeremy Savage, (PSY)**; Full-time Instructor of the Year is **Andrew Jensen (MAT), Jeralyn Price (EMT)** and Arvada's Instructor of the Year is **Lynne Albert (BIO)**. RRCC's 2022-23 Outstanding Graduate of the Year is **Mark Irby-Gill**.



- **Community College Students Celebrate at Annual Awards Ceremony!**

Mickey Schieferecke, Nico Gambone, Cassandra Cevering, Billie Betit, Mark Irby-Gill, Elizabeth Kornowski, Titus Smith, Shaydie Boyd, Erin Newton  
The Colorado Community College System (CCCS), Aims Community College, and Colorado Mountain



College gathered at the Arvada Center for the 2023 Student Excellence Awards, an annual event hosted by CCCS in partnership with the Credit Union of Colorado and the State Student Advisory Council (SSAC). The ceremony honors students who have demonstrated academic and leadership achievement over the last year.

- **The Inclusive Excellence Champion Award**, sponsored by SSAC, recognizes students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion on their campus;
- **The Rising Star Award, sponsored by SSAC**, recognizes students who have increased the level and quality of student engagement on campus; and
- **The Phi Theta Kappa All-Colorado Academic Team Award** recognizes high-achieving community college students.



**MARLENE ADZEMA was named as the 23-24 Swede Johnson/Coors Endowed Teaching Chair** - Recipients of this award through the RRCC Foundation are selected from full-time Faculty following a portfolio review and initial screening by a panel of faculty representatives. The panel then forwards a list

of finalists to the Foundation Board of Directors for final selection. The selected recipient is awarded a three-year salary enhancement of \$5000 per year in addition to \$2500 per year for professional development. Congratulations to both Valerie Paulson and Sally Stablein who were semi-finalists and will also receive \$2500 each from the Foundation for Professional Development.



### **INTRODUCING COPPER!**

Red Rocks Marketing/Communications team in partnership with Student Life introduced the staff and students to RRCC's mascot, Copper!