



FRCC April 2023 Board Report

Colleen Simpson, Ed.D.

President

Transform the student experience.

FRCC has launched a new **Teaching Excellence Center (TEC)** designed to support faculty professional development across all three campuses and online. As a collegewide department, the TEC is staffed with a faculty director, faculty assistant director and a coordinator who help instructors and faculty navigate and access professional development opportunities. Having this umbrella organization to manage, market, organize and support all of the great professional development opportunities at FRCC will ensure that faculty and instructors are able to find the right training and continue to improve our students' educational experience.

FRCC's Student Veterans Organization (SVO) participated in a Veterans Community Project (VCP) Build Day in Longmont this semester. The project's mission is to end **veteran homelessness** by providing a community of "tiny" homes—equipped with case managers, counseling, mentoring and connections to additional support services and programs. The goal of the community is to help military veterans transition into permanent housing. This VCP Village is being built by veterans and community volunteers—including FRCC students—and has already proven to be a powerful community resource. During the fall 2022 term, FRCC Veterans Services staff referred a new student veteran who was experiencing homelessness to VCP, which assisted them in transitioning from a local shelter to permanent housing.



Just before spring break, students from FRCC's Sociology Club—with assistance from their faculty advisors—opened a **free store** for everyone on campus. The club coordinated and gathered donations of items like: coats and clothing, pots and pans, hand tools, home décor and COVID rapid tests, just to name a few. The activity was especially impactful as members of the campus community continue to struggle with the increased cost of living in our region. Donations came from students and college employees alike. The event gave our campus community a great opportunity to come together and support each other, while helping reduce the stigma associated with needing, asking for and receiving assistance.

FRCC student Mitchell Hartcroft wrote a play that has just won two **regional playwriting awards** at the [Kennedy Center's American College Theater Festival](#) in Spokane. This powerful play is about a transgender man haunted by his past—in the form of the female identity he tried to be when he was young to appease his family (and society). The story helps audiences understand what it's like to be transgender. Read the [story of Mitch's "life changing" experience](#) on the FRCC blog (and please subscribe, if you haven't already)!



Transform our own workforce experience.

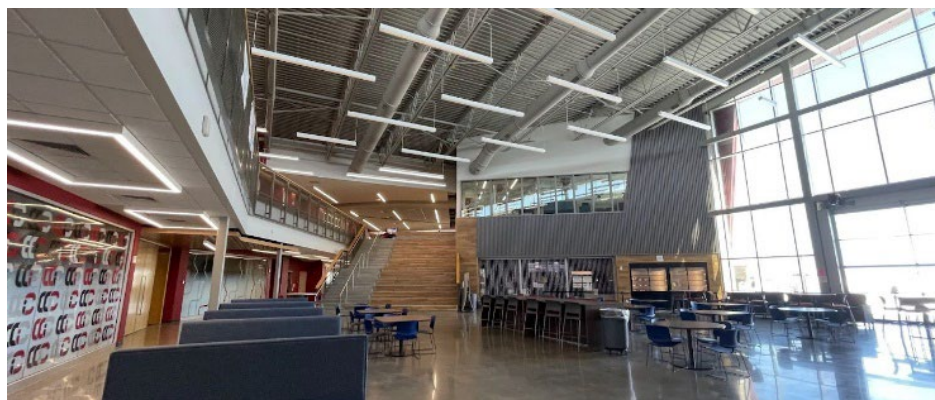
FRCC's Boulder County Campus was recently awarded the Longmont Chamber of Commerce's **Legacy Business award**—an honor that recognizes the college's lasting and meaningful contributions in the community. Once a year, the chamber celebrates the accomplishments of local businesses with its Best of Business awards. The Legacy Business award is the pinnacle of the award categories—kind of like a Lifetime Achievement award at the Oscars. The award is a testament to many years of hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff—and to the college's commitment to serving the Boulder County community.



Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

FRCC, along with our sister schools Red Rocks Community College and the Community College of Denver, is partnering with Westminster Public Schools in their [Ranum Reimagined](#) project. WPS has broken ground on the transformation of one of their middle schools into a **career technical education** campus. Unlike other CTE schools, Ranum will bring in community, higher education and industry partners to create an opportunity for students to pursue careers while earning their high school diploma. Students will graduate with both a diploma and a professional certificate. Additionally, adult learners will be welcome on the Ranum campus to pursue new skills. FRCC has submitted a concurrent enrollment proposal that includes several pathways such as:

- Healthcare
- Cybersecurity
- Manufacturing
- Engineering
- Geospatial science



FRCC's **automotive technology** program has partnered with Stang Auto Tech in Broomfield to design and implement our first **apprenticeship** program focusing on careers in that industry. The partnership comes as a result of conversations between program faculty and industry representatives about addressing workforce shortages. After learning about FRCC's work with [apprenticeship training](#), the business owner—who has been a strong advocate for the college's [automotive technology program](#)—signed up to be our newest apprenticeship partner.



FRCC houses two Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs)—one on our Larimer Campus and one on our Westminster Campus. The North Metro Denver SBDC has just opened a new 12-week **food entrepreneurship** bootcamp course. In collaboration with several other SBDCs, the bootcamp is run by Food Venture Programs. Participants are referrals from supporting city partners who get live (not pre-recorded) programming led by successful entrepreneurs and food industry experts—including chefs, product developers and retail/food service buyers. The Larimer County SBDC has also just launched a new **Online Restaurant Academy** for aspiring restaurateurs. These online coaching programs are designed to help restaurant owners become more knowledgeable, establish efficient and effective operation strategies and maximize profitability. Whether participants are about to open a restaurant—or are veteran restaurant owners—they'll get a better understanding of all aspects of restaurant ownership and business operations to become better leaders and improve their bottom line.

The college held its 2nd annual **Health Care Careers** Job Fair at our new Gray's Peak [health care careers center](#) in Fort Collins. This was a great chance to connect students in a very real way with our community partners and to promote employment in health care fields in the Northern Colorado community. The event helped students who will graduate this spring to practice their interviewing skills—and to create and foster connections with local employers. More than 150 students participated in the event from programs like [nursing](#), [nurse aide](#) (CNA), [medical assisting](#), [phlebotomy](#) and [EMS](#). Community partners included two hospitals, long-term care facilities, home health care agencies, hospice care organizations, mental health & recovery programs, fire departments and ambulance companies from around the region. These partner agencies have now connected with many students and will share information with them about current job opportunities.

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



The **Care Forward Colorado** program provides funding to cover all tuition, fees and course materials for [13 of FRCC's short-term health care certificate programs](#). The program is helping students get certified—in a year or less—in some of the fastest growing and highest demand in jobs in Colorado, which provide a solid wage to support their families. Within the first two terms of the program (fall 2022 and spring 2023), the college has funded 700 students... and counting. Of the recipients, 41% are students of color (30% Latinx) and 61% are first generation.

Here are FRCC's latest Care Forward stats:

Program	Students	Awarded	Disbursed
Emergency Medical Technician	131	\$389,696	\$344,129
Medical Assisting	116	\$334,049	\$279,311
Clinical EMT	82	\$218,665	\$180,444
Phlebotomy	80	\$135,315	\$123,658
Practical Nursing	66	\$231,526	\$206,694
Integrative Health and Wellness Coaching	58	\$137,269	\$109,701
Medical Coding	40	\$100,057	\$82,451
Dental Assisting	29	\$140,998	\$105,126
Massage Therapy	27	\$60,311	\$47,350
Advanced Pharm Tech	26	\$104,921	\$76,844
Nurse Aide	23	\$38,907	\$32,805
Medical Office Administrative Assistant	11	\$13,620	\$11,928
Sterile Processing	11	\$25,624	\$25,624
Grand Total	700	\$1,930,958	\$1,626,065

In collaboration with Colorado State University, FRCC's **Computing Technologies** Department has been awarded a national Transfer Pathways Grant in partnership with the Center for Inclusive Computing at Northeastern University. The \$500,000 grant focuses on smoothing the transition of students in our [computer science program](#) who complete an Associate of Science degree and transfer into the computer science program at CSU—by providing a variety of additional academic and advising support interventions.

