

## President's Report: Dr. Michele Haney February/March 2023

Transform the student experience.

- **February is Black History Month Lunch & Learn**

Join us to share a meal and learn more about the challenges and opportunities facing our Black and African American students at RRCC, in Colorado, and across the nation. Registration is required. Lunch will be provided.

**Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>** 12:00 – 1:15 pm Snowmass Room | Lakewood 4115



Theatre Arts and Dance Department will present *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*, by Bert V. Royal on February 23, 24, 25 at 7 PM at the RRCC Theater. The show is directed by Kevin Snyder. *DOG SEES GOD* is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. ([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com)(link is external)).

- Kevin Snyder had this insight about the play: “Between daily threats of physical violence, phobia of queer culture, and a constant feeling of depression and existential dread, it can feel like little has changed for the youth of America in the 20 years since *DOG SEES GOD* was written. While other comedies from the early 2000s have quickly become dated, Bert V. Royal’s unauthorized Peanuts rip-off has remained relevant all the while in an almost unfortunate sense. However, as the trials and tribulations of American school culture have found a way to cling on and even evolve, so too has the sense of hope and humor that keeps all the misfortune from making life unlivable. Though theatre rarely offers its viewers a straight answer to the complex themes it presents, *DOG SEES GOD* asks all the right questions, and offers enough comedy and moments of tenderness to distract from what life feels like when you lose your best friend.” The show contains language and content that may not be suitable for all audiences.
- ***DOG SEES GOD*** has not been authorized or approved in any manner by the Charles M. Schulz Estate or United Features Syndicate, which have no responsibility for its content. Tickets for all RRCC Theatre Department productions may be purchased via this website: <https://redrocks.cc/tickets>(link is external). RRCC Students may receive a free ticket with their student I.D. by emailing [Kelly.Eldredge@rrcc.edu](mailto:Kelly.Eldredge@rrcc.edu)

- **RRCC HOSTS CCCS STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**



Each year, a Student Leadership Conference is planned by CCCS, the State Student Advisory Council, and Student Life staff from across the System. The conference brings over 100 of our Colorado community college students together to engage in skill-building activities, leadership development exercises, and peer networking opportunities. The conference is open to any student enrolled at a CCCS college and is provided at no cost to students.

- **March is Women’s History Month!**

As the Presidential Proclamation states, “During Women’s History Month, we celebrate the countless women who have fought tirelessly and courageously for equality, justice, and opportunity in our Nation.” The proclamation further states: The full participation of women is a foundational tenet of democracy. Women — often women of color — have been on the frontlines, fighting for and securing equal rights and opportunity throughout our country’s history as abolitionists, civil rights leaders, suffragists, and labor activists. Women continue to lead as advocates for reproductive rights, champions of racial justice, and LGBTQI+ equality. Throughout history, these women have opened the doors of opportunity for subsequent generations of dreamers and doers. The theme for Women’s History Month 2023 is “Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories.” To learn more about the contributions of women in the United States, including some fantastic storytellers, check out the following resources (a federal overview of agency-sponsored events)

- Women’s History Milestones: A Timeline from the History Channel
- Learn about women in Colorado at the Center for Colorado Women's History.
- Check out the fantastic poster display in the RRCC Library, curated by our awesome librarians.
- We hope you will join us in Celebrating Women’s History Month at RRCC through the following programs and educational opportunities.
  - Highlighted Event: The Woman King
  - All College Events
  - Student Events
  - Faculty/Staff Events
- The RRCC Departments of History and Student Life, in concert with the Marvin Buckles’ Library, will be hosting a poster design contest and scavenger hunt for Women’s History Month. The posters will be on display all throughout the month of March in the Library and the scavenger hunt will go live on March first. The first 3 students to correctly complete the scavenger hunt form will receive RRCC gift bags stuffed with goodies.

- **BIPOC Faculty/Staff Meeting**  
 Join fellow faculty and staff who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color to discuss opportunities and challenges for building community at RRCC  
 Wednesday, Marcy 15<sup>th</sup>  
 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. - Red Fox Room
- **2023 VAMA Art Gallery Exhibitions**  
 Graphic Design | UI/UX  
 Foothills Art Center Golden  
 Jan 27<sup>th</sup>-Mar 26<sup>th</sup> - Photo | Video  
 40 West Gallery, Colfax  
 Opening Reception March 3<sup>rd</sup> to Apr 1<sup>st</sup> 5-9pm
- **Wednesday, March 8, 2023 - 10:30am to 11:30am**  
 MEET YOUR PEERS! THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS with any type of disability, chronic health condition, mental or emotional illness to connect with peers, talk about your experience at RRCC, support each other, and learn about resources.
- **Pi Day!**  
**Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**  
 Pi Day event on 14 March (3/14). Let's celebrate Pi Day, in honor of the irrational 3.141  
 We'll have pi-ku, guess-the next digit, and of course some pie (real pie). Join us in Great Hall for about a half-hour starting at 3:14 pm on Tue 14 March.
- **Fitness Program Series** with Joe Jennings Certified Personal Trainer  
 Thursday, March 9, 2023  
 2:00pm to 3:00pm - Fueling Fitness  
 It's National Nutrition Month! Pre and post-workout nutrition make the biggest difference in exercise performance and recovery. Bring your own pre and post-workout snacks to learn how your body uses food as fuel. No registration required. All bodies and abilities welcome!
- **Holi Celebration of Color Fun Run: Lakewood Campus**  
 Wednesday, March 8, 2023 - 4:00pm  
 Register: [src.rrcc.edu](http://src.rrcc.edu) by Wednesday, March 1  
 Location: SRC Field  
 Sign in: 4 pm; Run Begins: 4:30 pm; Post Run Snacks: 5 pm  
 In celebration of the Holi or Festival of Colors, we are hosting a color fun run on campus. Join us for our post run festivity of refreshments, music and more color to learn about this celebration of the victory of good over evil.
- **STEM Leadership Academy Open House**  
**Wednesday, 3/15/2023, room 1021**  
 Red Rocks Community College STEM Leadership Academy seeks to expose, empower, and strive for excellence in our students of color in STEM education with cutting-edge and engaging experiences in flexible learning spaces through revolutionary programming. Learners will develop critical thinking, collaboration, problem-solving, resiliency, leadership, and communication skills. We aim to foster curiosity, ingenuity, and creativity by providing growth and development opportunities at RRCC. Our programming includes:
 
  - Comprehensive support (Academic assistance, Transfer assistance to four-year STEM programs, and Financial aid and scholarship assistance)

- STEM experiential learning (Local four-year university, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), or Harvard University, STEM networking and community building, and Focus STEM internship at local STEM industries)
- Leadership development (Professional Development, Conferences, and Guest speaker series).
- **Humanities Bazaar**



**Thursday, March 16th from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Grand Foyer (main entrance) of the Lakewood Campus**

*Mythology. Film. Literature. History. Philosophy. World Languages. Geography. Religion. Education.* There will be exciting activities, music, coffee and pastries, and giveaways. At the bazaar, you can enter for the chance to win a **\$500 Tuition Voucher!** This event is for all students.



**Opening Reception for the Teen MOP Show:**

Forward Looking – Opening Reception, RRCC Library Atrium  
March 10, 2023; 6 – 8 pm

A juried high school photography exhibit hosted by Paul Weinrauch, Department Chair of Visual, Audio and Media Department at Red Rocks Community College. Organized by Denver Public School teacher Alexandra Overby for the past four MoP festivals. Jurors Mark Sink, Angela Belt, and John Kenney selected from hundreds of submissions, excepted, and awarded outstanding work which will be on view.

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

- National TRIO Day recognizes the nation’s commitment to educational equity, access and opportunity, regardless of race and economic background. Celebrated the fourth Saturday in February, TRIO was one of three programs created from the Educational Opportunity Act of 1964. TRIO SSS is one of seven Federal TRIO programs serving over 800,000 students nationwide, from middle school through adult education.
- Red Rocks Community College serves students through TRIO Student Support Services, providing higher education opportunities for first generation, income-eligible, and/or students with a documented disability. In addition, RRCC TRIO is

celebrating National TRIO Day with student participation and volunteerism in the 2023 Colorado Community College System (CCCS) Student Leadership Conference on February 24th and February 25th.

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



- Wednesday, Feb 22
- Student Life Great Hall
- To schedule a time to donate visit: [www.vitalant.org](http://www.vitalant.org) and search by Blood Drive Code 0074.
- February is Heart Health Month and a great way to celebrate is to check up on your heart health by donating blood. All donors go through a mini-physical before being allowed to donate. This exam might

turn up a condition that needs medical attention, such as high blood pressure or a heart arrhythmia. Make February your heart-healthy resolution to take care of yourself, and become a regular blood donor.

- TAX HELP Colorado - Saturday, February 11, 2023 - 9:00am to Saturday, March 11, 2023 - If your household income was \$60,000 or less in 2022, you are eligible for FREE, trustworthy tax filing services from an IRS-certified preparer!
  - Get in-person help at our physical locations during filing season. For a list of locations, visit <https://taxhelpco.org/find-a-free-tax-site/>(link is external).
  - File your own taxes for free, online, if you made less than \$72,000 at [myfreetaxes.com](http://myfreetaxes.com)
  - Red Rocks Community College 13300 W. 6th Avenue Lakewood, CO 80228
  - Saturdays February 11-March 11, 2023 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
  - By appointment 9am – noon, first come first served 1 –3 pm
  - Schedule appointments at [taxhelpcolorado.as.me/RRCC](http://taxhelpcolorado.as.me/RRCC).
  - Red Rocks Community College Student Named a 2023 New Century Transfer Scholar
- LAKEWOOD, CO – (March 15, 2023) – **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.”
- Workforce Services met w/ Colorado Department of Corrections to discuss

contract training courses. Also leading a Prison Education Taskforce for the college to explore what it might take (meeting #2 is next week).

- Workforce Services is halfway through the EDU course (non-credit) for staff and incarcerated persons to prepare peers for the GED test and earn the ABEA credential from CDE – been meeting with CDE about this and a digital literacy project
- Workforce Services submitted their budget to Denver Workforce Services for an Electric Vehicle Charging station Opportunity Now grant. Also working on another planning grant in Opportunity Now in partnership with CCD and others. Grants are due April 16.
- Workforce Services hired a new Entrepreneurship Center Coordinator and been meeting with entrepreneurs in the community.
- Workforce Services is delivering (completed, occurring, or scheduled) off-site corporate trainings for Colorado Rockies, Rocky Mountain National Park, Denali National Park, Corden Pharmaceuticals and
- Attended sector partnership meetings for manufacturing, IT and Aerospace



- **Trefny Honors students are currently working hard on their projects.** First year students are learning how to write literature reviews and plan their capstone projects—skills that they say are already paying off in other RRCC classes. Second year students are completing their capstone projects in the coming weeks. They will be presenting at this year’s Student Research, Art, and Design Expo. This year we are encouraging submissions of student research, but also student art and design projects. That’s because those subject areas are often research-like in the ways faculty and students explore and reflect on knowledge, skills, and abilities specific to their specialized field of study. Transfer acceptances are starting to roll in and we have heard very positive news about possible transfers to Mines and elsewhere. Everyone is looking forward to graduation, where Trefny Honors students will wear medals and cords signifying their special achievements in the program.

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



The Art Gallery at RRCC is pleased to present ***Some Assembly Required*** in conjunction with the Month of Photography (MOP). This exhibit is a glimpse into the construction of a photograph. Curated by Tiana Graves, *Some Assembly Required* features numerous photographic works ranging in medium and

process. From cyanotypes and wet plates, to constructed still lifes and projected videos, this exhibition illuminates the rarely seen effort and process that goes into creating a final composition.

- **Colorado Concurrent Enrollment Week!** RRCC has a robust Concurrent Enrollment program which continues to grow and enhance each year. Feel free to reach out to the RRCC Concurrent Enrollment team if you would like to learn more and spread the word to students and the community of this great opportunity for high school students while in high school. Top enrolled courses include English, math, literature, psychology, business, communications, and history

### **Other News:**

- **LUNAR NEW YEAR**

January 22nd, marked Lunar New Year – a time of celebration for many people from within the East Asian cultural sphere. The celebrations occur on the same date across regions: the new moon that falls between 21 January and 20 February. Originated from the Spring Festival, celebrations outside China take various forms, each with its own interpretations of the Chinese zodiac, allowing for a variety of customs and traditions. This year is the year of the rabbit.

- To learn more about the ways people celebrate Lunar New Year, see: [The Year of the Rabbit: An illustrated guide to Lunar New Year](#)  
[What is Lunar New Year and How Can We Celebrate \(1:10 video\)](#)  
[Check out the planned events by Student Life to celebrate!](#)

## OUR VERY OWN RRCC JACK KENT COOKE SEMI-FINALIST



**Shaydie Boyd** and **Mark Irby-Gil** named semi-finalist for the JKC Under-graduate Transfer Scholarship. Both are now waiting for the final announcement in mid-late April. Fingers crossed that they receive the potential \$220k BA/BS to MA/MS scholarship.

- This year's 459 semifinalists were chosen

from a pool of more than 1,700 applicants, and attend 215 community colleges in 38 states. Some of the latest research from the American Talent Initiative estimates that roughly 50,000 high-achieving students from low income backgrounds could transfer to four-year colleges each year but don't, often due to cost. The Cooke Transfer Scholarship is designed to create a clear pathway to a four-year degree by offering up to \$55,000 per year along with academic advising and access to a network of peers.