

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2024

1. President's Updates



- **Dr. Pirius Appointed to the Board of Directors of Complete College America**

We are thrilled to announce that RRCC President Dr. Landon K. Pirius has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Complete College America. This prestigious role will allow Dr. Pirius to contribute his expertise in higher education leadership to advance student success and equity initiatives on a national scale. Congratulations, Dr. Pirius!

2. Campus Developments



- **Serenity Ridge Park Officially Opens**

Serenity Ridge Park, RRCC's newest park, officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Arvada residents Jordan and Anthony Bateson, who proposed the park's name, participated in the event. Public remarks were provided by Arvada Mayor Lauren Simpson, Senior Landscape Architect Maki Boyle, Park and Urban Design Manager Darin DeLay, and RRCC President Dr. Landon Pirius. The celebration also featured a tai chi and singing bowls demonstration from Tom and Barb Fletcher.

- **Astronomy Classroom to Feature a Portable Planetarium**

RRCC is in the process of constructing a portable planetarium in the Astronomy classroom. This innovative space will serve as a hub for educational collaboration and community engagement. The planetarium is expected to be operational by winter 2024 and open to the community by fall 2025.

3. Academic and Program Highlights

- **STEM Program Updates**

1. Transfer Partnership with Iron Range Engineering Bell: RRCC is entering into a transfer partnership with Iron Range Engineering Bell. This partnership articulates our Associate of Engineering Science (AES) with their Integrated Engineering Bachelor of Science program.

2. Reevaluation of Science Programs: In the upcoming academic year, the STEM team will reevaluate traditional science programs and explore new tracks that align with high demand fields.

3. Lab Space Improvements: Christine Delgado and Claire Guzinski have implemented significant space organization and process improvements in our chemical stockroom and science labs across both campuses.



- **Celebrating the 2025 Physician Assistant Cohort**

We proudly honored the 2025 Physician Assistant cohort during the White Coat Ceremony, symbolizing their commitment to healthcare excellence. This milestone marks the beginning of their journey in medicine, and we celebrate their dedication, hard work, and commitment.

- **Early Childhood Education Program Launches EC Degreed Apprenticeship Pathway**

In collaboration with RRCC Workforce Development Services and Child Care Innovations, the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program launched its EC Degreed Apprenticeship pathway. This initiative allows apprentices to earn college credit towards EC Certificates and associate degrees.

4. Grants and Funding

- **The Colorado Health Foundation Awards RRCC's Physician Assistant Program \$425,000**
RRCC was awarded \$425,000 in funding over three years from The Colorado Health Foundation. This grant will support the expansion of the representation of Physician Assistants of Color in primary care.

5. Community Engagement



- **Participates in Denver Pride Parade**
Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) participated in the 50th anniversary of the Denver Pride Parade, proudly represented by 27 members of our staff, faculty, and student body.



- **Honoring Our Heroes: Vietnam Veterans Pinning Ceremony**
RRCC hosted a moving Vietnam Veterans Pinning Ceremony in our Community Room. We were honored by the presence of U.S. Representative Brittany Pettersen, among others. This event was a heartfelt tribute to our Vietnam veterans.



- Annual Cornhole Tournament Brings Community Together**

RRCC's Annual Cornhole Tournament, hosted by the Human Resources Department, was a resounding success. The event featured intense competition, enthusiastic cheering, and a strong sense of community.



- Fall Festival**

Students enjoyed a fantastic time at the Fall Festival, held outside the Main Entrance on the Lakewood campus and on the patio of the Arvada campus. The event attracted over 150 students and featured funnel cakes, food, prizes, games, music, caricature artists, and provided an opportunity for students to discover a variety of student resources.

6. Special Events and Achievements



- **NASA Wallops Launched Sounding Rocket with Red Rocks Community College Experiments**
On Tuesday, August 13th, NASA's Wallops Flight Facility successfully launched a sounding rocket as part of their RockSatX mission. RRCC played a significant role in the mission, focusing on evaluating how microgravity affects lunar regolith simulants during suborbital flight.



- **RRCC Fall Kickoff**
On Monday, August 12, 2024, Red Rocks Community College held its Fall KickOff, marking the beginning of a new academic year. The event featured divisional updates and Civility Training to reinforce our commitment to a respectful and inclusive campus environment.
- **Q&A with Former NASA Astronaut Chris Ferguson**
RRCC hosted a Q&A session with former NASA astronaut Chris Ferguson. Attendees had the opportunity to gain inspiration and ask questions about STEM and space exploration.

7. Workforce and Training Updates

- **RRCC Workforce Updates**

1. Finalizing subaward agreements for our Opportunity Now grants: Pathways in Aerospace Manufacturing and EV Workforce.
2. Comcast highlighted the Digital Navigator program in partnership with the Learning Source.
3. Our Prison Training Program graduated the first cohort of students in the Adult Basic Education Credential program