



FRCC September 2024 Board Report

Colleen Simpson, Ed.D.

President

Transform the student experience.

FRCC student Dayton Stone has been selected as a **2024 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar**. The scholarship, sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, recognizes 200 Phi Theta Kappa members from around the country with awards totaling \$200,000. A panel of independent judges selected this year's recipients from nearly 1,500 applicants. Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholars are selected based on outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated leadership potential.

Over the summer, faculty member Jennifer Lee took her students on an unforgettable journey to explore Alaska's spectacular Copper River delta in FRCC's **ecology field class**. As program director for our [forestry, wildlife, natural resources and outdoor studies](#) programs, Lee and her team do an incredible job of giving these students the experience of a lifetime. Their trip included outdoor adventure, thrilling discoveries and lots of learning. Check out [Jennifer's blog post](#) for more stunning photos of FRCC students exploring southern Alaska.



FRCC faculty and academic leaders are incorporating Ad Astra's data analysis and data entry tools to develop the spring 2025 schedule for FRCC students. The new process contributes to a more **student-centered schedule**—one that supports timely completion of certificates and degrees for our students. FRCC faculty and leads have completed training on the new tools and the spring 2025 schedule will be completed in time for October registration dates.



As a part of our Wolf Welcome festivities to kick off the semester, the college is hosting official grand opening celebrations at our two newest **Multicultural and Identity Centers**, located at our Boulder County and Larimer campuses. The events will showcase all of the resources, supports and comforts available at the centers; they'll also invite students, staff, faculty, and allies into the spaces to encourage engagement. FRCC's longest standing Multicultural and Identity Center at the Westminster campus will also host a celebration event—but rather than a grand opening, the college is inviting allies into the center for an event to unveil a new mural, which last year's Student Government Association President, Jose Perez Alonzo, painted over the summer.

For the second year in a row, FRCC has been selected as the only college in Colorado to participate in the prestigious [Metallica Scholars Initiative](#) (MSI). FRCC will receive a generous \$50,000 grant aimed at enhancing our student experience and career readiness in several career technical education programs. The funding comes from Metallica's non-profit philanthropic foundation, All Within My Hands (AWMH), which is making a multimillion-dollar investment in critical workforce programs at community colleges nationwide. Through the grant, FRCC will be able to award \$40,000 in scholarships to 20 students in the following programs:

- [Automation & Engineering Technology](#)
- [Electronics Engineering Technology](#)
- [Optics Technology](#)
- [Precision Machining](#)
- [Welding](#)



FRCC is [installing Narcan \(naloxone\) dispensing booths](#) across its campuses to enhance the safety and well-being of students, faculty, staff and visitors. This initiative aims to provide immediate access to a lifesaving, FDA-approved medication that can reverse opioid overdoses. Nursing student Kaley Hays and faculty member Sue Mondani collaborated with the Harm Reduction Alliance and North Colorado Health Alliance to bring Narcan (naloxone) resources to the students and community at FRCC. **Preventing overdoses** has become a critical issue as opioid addiction has become a nationwide epidemic. Because of the increase in deaths due to drug overdose and accidental fentanyl poisoning, Kaley looked for ways to save lives by making the antidote readily available. FRCC leadership supported the project and the college is in the process of installing a Narcan kiosk at each of its three campuses for students and community members to anonymously pick up information and Narcan.

Transform our own workforce experience.

FRCC's Teaching Excellence Center welcomed internationally sought-after speaker and author Flower Darby to guide efforts in the design of our center through an equity lens. A component of this work was a full-day workshop—**Equity Through Teaching Excellence**—where 60 participants gathered in Loveland. This varied group of students, instructors and faculty, staff, facilitators, instructional coaches and administrators worked to reimagine what professional development for teachers might look like when we design with equity at the core of our efforts. The working groups drafted and outlined changes and ideas to implement in the coming year.



Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

The **Elevate Quantum** coalition—of which FRCC is an active partner—has [received an award](#) from the US Department of Commerce that will unlock more than \$127 million in new federal and state funding. The investment is expected to cement the Mountain West's status as a global leader for innovation in quantum technology. FRCC will support Elevate Quantum in reaching its goal of helping workers develop new skills for quantum jobs. Many of these jobs don't require advanced degrees, which means the industry offers a vast array of employment opportunities across different educational backgrounds. The average quantum job pays more than \$125,000 per year. Critical jobs in this field will include machinists, optics and soldering technicians, welders and other technical roles—and FRCC already offers high-quality programs in related fields such as:



- [Automation & engineering technology](#)
- [Electronics engineering technology](#)
- [Optics & laser technology](#)
- [Precision machining](#)
- [Welding](#)

FRCC is continuing its partnership with CU Boulder on a five-year grant through the NIH (National Institutes of Health) called the **Bridges to Baccalaureate Research Training Program** at the University of Colorado Boulder. Through the grant, four Front Range Community College students are awarded scholarships covering 12-credits per semester for their final year at FRCC before transferring to CU. Students also receive a monthly stipend to allow them to focus on their studies, and participate in a paid summer research opportunity at the university. Upon transferring to CU, the students are awarded scholarships that cover 15 credits per semester for their first year, along with the ongoing stipends and research opportunities. FRCC is also partnering with CU's MCDB Skills Center to provide our students the opportunity to gain laboratory skills that will help them be placed in labs upon transfer to the university. The Skills Center has allowed them to learn skills and gain familiarity with scientific research techniques before they start their summer NIH research experience.

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

As part of FRCC's **accreditation** timeline, the college is required to complete a quality initiative in years five through nine. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has approved FRCC's quality initiative: *Cultivating Excellence: Advancing Organizational Development*. The goal of this initiative is to centralize our current organizational development opportunities into a more cohesive package, with the goal of understanding where the college needs to implement new learning offerings or bolster those opportunities that are already occurring. The initiative brings together teams from across the college including human resources; the Teaching Excellence Center; information technology; and the learning design and technology departments.

Two of FRCC's noteworthy programs had **accreditation visits** during the spring 2024 semester. Both the [Dental Assisting](#) and [Health Information Technology](#) programs passed their visits with near perfect scores. FRCC faculty and program directors demonstrated professionalism and a true commitment to the students and industry partners they serve. FRCC's nursing program is now gearing up for an accreditation site visit with the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing in September.

FRCC was selected to be formally recognized as a **Qualified Apprenticeship Intermediary** by the Colorado State Apprenticeship Agency. The college is one of the [inaugural group of intermediaries](#) who are partnering with the state to expand apprenticeship opportunities throughout Colorado over the next two years. As an Industry Intermediary, FRCC will be publicly recognized on Apprenticeship Colorado's website, promoted to apprenticeship sponsors and career seekers, invited to exclusive trainings and events, and eligible to apply for future funding opportunities.