



VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

September 10, 2024

This regular written report presents highlights from the Academic and Student Affairs Division.

Academic Affairs

Starting with a pilot of seven courses in Spring 2023, CCCS colleges have continued to improve upon our new consortial approach to Colorado Online each semester. As of this fall, all asynchronous online courses across the system (600+) are offered through this new model, and students can complete more than 100 different degrees and certificates entirely online. Students also enjoy the ability to mix and match online courses and services with in-person courses and services offered at our 39 campus locations across the state.

As of August 21, Colorado Online had over 64,000 enrollments (up 7% from last year), demonstrating the Power of 13 in meeting the growing demand for online courses. Proactive steps taken to refine processes over the last year and a half has contributed to what was overall a very smooth fall start, in spite of many additional courses moving to Colorado Online for the first time this semester:

- All students were placed in 15-week and 7-week sections by the first day of class, and only 8 sections had students placed in teaching sections “over the cap” – with a commitment to pay instructors \$25/credit for each student above the cap at census if attrition rates were lower than anticipated.
- Internal auditing processes helped identify and correct issues with coding in Banner before they impacted students.
- State discipline chairs continue to receive compensation for the additional work associated with collaborative leadership of pooled sections, and we have added three discipline liaisons to support faculty in learning and following Colorado Online processes, addressing discipline-specific needs, and helping to fill emergency vacancies.
- Kickoff meetings each semester provide instructors in pooled section with specific information related to pooled online sections.
- Blueprint and Consortialization projects have increased the number of courses with optional teaching resources that align with the required course materials so that instructors do not need to start from scratch, and additional funding is available to pay instructors to consortialize resources for the remaining courses.
- Learning design support is available to teachers at all colleges through the Learning Design Community of Practice ticketing system.

While there were significantly fewer overall issues in the fall, we continue to identify and work to resolve more isolated and complex issues as they are identified. For instance, there is still work to do to clean up some of the back-end coding on different Banner screens, and much of the section distribution work still needs to be done manually using spreadsheets. New features are being added to the sectionizer to help automate these steps in the future. Some of the biggest challenges have resulted from difficulties with obtaining the correct online materials through the



bookstores. While these challenges extend beyond online courses, they particularly impact online courses due to the complexity of issues related to paywalls and needing to source materials from multiple bookstores and vendors. An RFP has been issued to consider options for moving to a single bookstore in the future.

Presidents on the steering committee report that revenue to the colleges is up from our previous model, providing critical funding needed to help each college fulfill its overall mission. The student's home college continues to receive credit for the FTE and the related state funding allocation, while tuition revenue from each student is shared between the teaching college (41.5%) and the student's home college (58.5%). A relatively small percentage of the total tuition revenue (12%) goes to shared services that help support all online students (e.g., access to the learning management system, online library resources, a 24x7 online help desk, online success liaisons, learning design support, and more.) An additional 4.2% of the tuition from across all online sections is redistributed to colleges as an incentive for teaching "wild card sections" (those sections where no school is expected to have a majority of the enrollment in the course).

The roles and responsibilities of individual colleges and consortial support staff at the system office are outlined in the Consortial Model Agreement that was officially signed by the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs and all of the College Presidents in June. In the coming year, the Chancellor and the Steering Committee will work to further clarify the ongoing governance structure with broad input from faculty, instructors, and staff from across colleges. The consortium will also firm up plans for ongoing roles and operating structures needed at the colleges and at the system office to support ongoing operations.

Equity & Inclusion

CCCS Equity Retreat 2024:

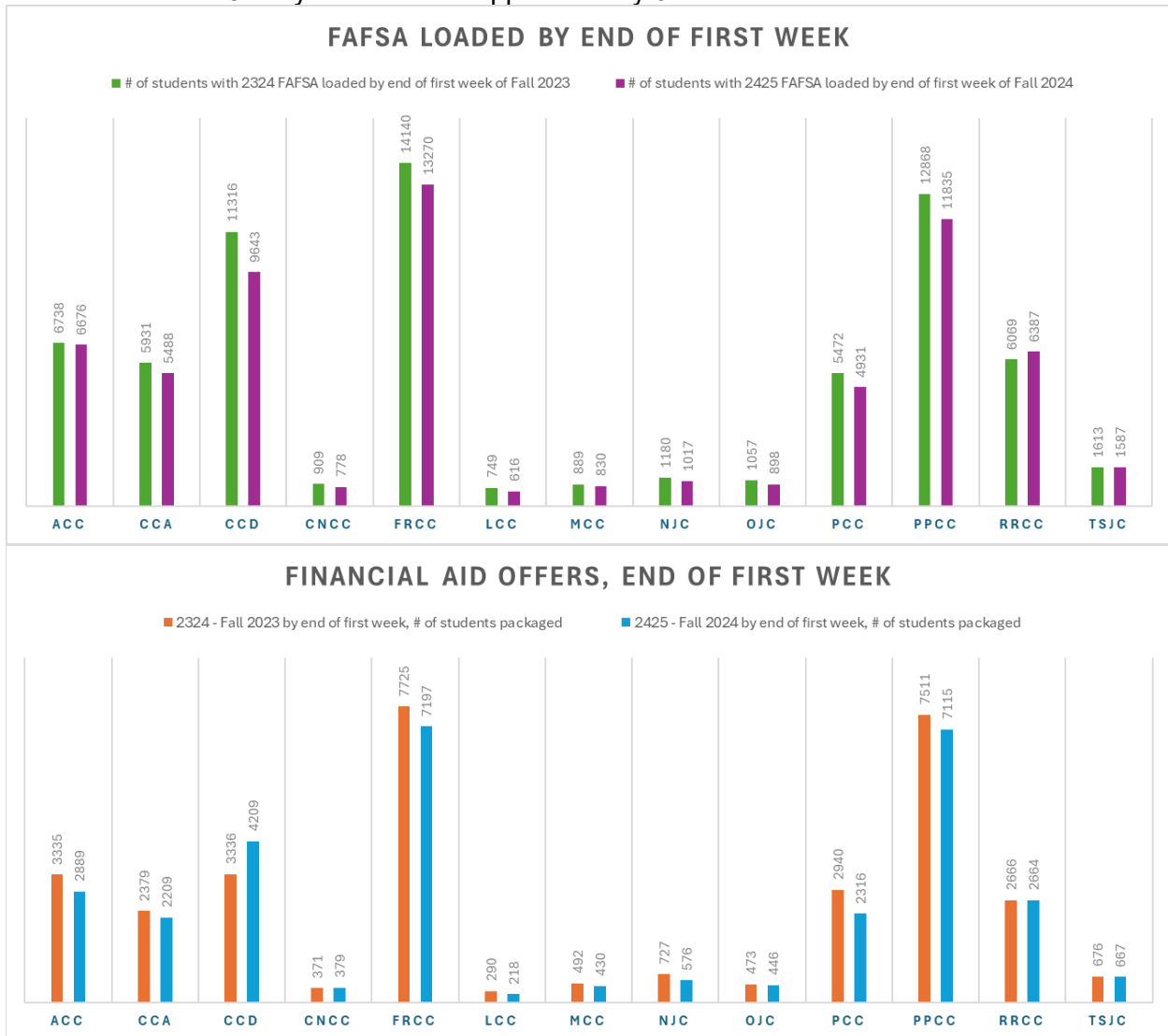
- Mark your calendars: November 12, 2024, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Location TBD
- Tentative Facilitator: Dr. Dwinita Mosby Tyler from the Equity Project, <https://theequityprojectllc.com>
- Presidents to attend with Equity & Inclusion Council Members
- Presidents to review current E&I Council Representative
- Keep representative or submit new primary representative
- Submit one additional representative to attend Retreat and E&I Council Monthly Meetings

Financial Aid

With the continuing issues at the Department of Education and the 2024-2025 FAFSAs, colleges are struggling with assisting students and their families with the endless errors as they complete their FAFSA; as well as issues with the FAFSA results being accurately processed by the Federal Processing Center (FPS). The review and updating of Financial Aid Eligibility has become a substantially manual process with individual student corrections becoming a manual one-by-one process to correct FAFSA errors.

Systemwide, based on comparisons from the 2324 aid year to the 2425 aid year, for the end of the first week of classes:

- The number of students who have submitted FAFSAs is down approximately 7%.
- The number of students who have been reviewed and have received financial aid offers for the 2425 aid year are down approximately 5%.



Colleges are overwhelmed with the number of student/family questions and the processes that now require manual review. In an effort to better serve the students at the colleges, the CCCS Financial Aid Office has taken on additional responsibilities such as state reporting. The CDHE data issues have been resolved resulting in colleges being required to report the 22/23 and the 23/24 financial aid periods by September 1. All colleges are now on target for meeting these deadlines.

CCCS Financial Aid Office is the Program Lead for the implementation of the new federally mandated Gainful Employment/Financial Value Transparency reporting due by October 1st.



Staff turnover in financial aid offices across the country have reached crisis levels. CCCS Financial Aid has been working in partnership with the Financial Aid Directors at all colleges to identify their needs. At the August 23, 2024 meeting, Chancellor Garcia, Vice Chancellor Dr. Sarah Heath, and Interim Associate Vice Chancellor Dr. Michael Schulman attended the Financial Aid Director meeting to listen to concerns and to begin identifying areas where using the Power of 13 may be beneficial to address our colleges' needs.

Colorado State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training

As we approach the end of our federal Fiscal Year 2024, we have met all our cooperative agreements requirements for this reporting year.

Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office (VACO) issued a new cooperative agreement for Fiscal Year 2025 to CCCS. Chancellor Garcia signed the cooperative agreement on August 22, 2024. I have submitted the cooperative agreement to VACO for review and acceptance. Mr. Joseph Garcia, Executive Director of Education Service within the VA will sign the agreement by the end of September 2024.

The key differences between the cooperative agreement from Fiscal Year 2024 to 2025 are:

- Our active approved schools for the GI Bill® increased from 238 to 251 which is a nice increase with all the schools that closed during COVID.
- The cooperative agreement budget increased from Fiscal Year 2024 (\$436,223.00) to Fiscal Year 2025 (\$482,318.00).
- Risk Based Surveys decreased from Fiscal Year 2024 (five) to Fiscal Year 2025 (3).
- Supervisory Visits increased from Fiscal Year 2024 (14) to Fiscal Year 2025 (24).

Student Affairs

System SA has been collaborating with the Colorado Office of Refugee Resettlement and a local non-profit to create a community of practice to support educational pathways for refugees. This group held their first in-person meeting at MSU Denver, and hosted Maine's department of HE as well as World Education services. The event not only broadened educational access for Refugees, but also created new ways for CCCS to partner with non-profits supporting workforce development with CCCS as an educational provider.

The new SSAC members have been elected, and Saige Chapin has been elected the Chair and will begin joining the SBCCOE!

SA has been working on multiple projects to provide student support for Colorado Online including central tutoring, disability services, early alerts, and automated alerts in Navigate as well as working with the liaisons to identify gaps in on-line services and key contacts for services at home colleges.

SA is working with CDHE, JBC, and other IHE governing boards to help develop a college affordability message in Colorado, as well as what a potential statewide promise program will



COLORADO
COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

look like, and cost. SA is advocating that for Community Colleges and low cost IHEs where students with full Pell already have tuition covered, students who would qualify for the promise program receive a stipend of \$1,000 for books and cost of living, similar to the Michigan Community College Guarantee. There is substantial resistance to this approach from higher cost Universities and the state. All IHEs are asking the state to fund this program should it come to fruition.

Reisher Scholarship Navigators are currently working on finalizing their 2024-25 scholar cohort. They have launched a program through D2L where they are enrolling scholars to keep track of requirements for the scholarship.