



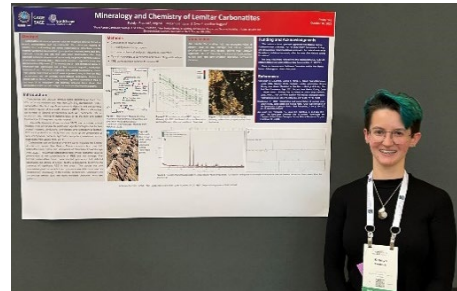
## FRCC November 2023 Board Report

Colleen Simpson, Ed.D.

President

### Transform the student experience.

Five FRCC students participated in the Geological Society of America's annual conference in Pittsburgh in October—and two of them presented on their scientific research projects. The students are part of the FRCC-led [Geo-Launchpad program](#), which is designed to provide two-year students early introduction to careers and research in the geosciences. Participants in the program get real-world experience and develop the research skills they need for careers as future scientists. Geo-Launchpad is a multidisciplinary collaboration supported by multiple grants from the NSF. The students attending the conference were part of an 11-member cohort from four community colleges in Colorado and New Mexico. FRCC faculty member Patrick Shabram—who is the principal investigator of the primary NSF grant—led the group along with faculty member Amy Filipiak from Pikes Peak State College. Six of the students presented posters at the GSA conference on projects they completed during their [Geo-Launchpad summer internships](#). Their projects supported research at the University of Colorado Boulder, the University of Northern Colorado, New Mexico Tech, the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, and the United States Geological Survey. FRCC student Katelyn Fredrick presented on her work determining the geochemistry of Lemitar carbonatites in Socorro County, New Mexico. Her classmate Nick Shepherd presented on his work testing the effects of natural acid rock drainage in forest stands in Colorado's Handcart Gulch.



Student Katelyn Fredrick



Student Nick Shepherd

As the college works to center student voices in our equity and inclusion efforts, we're piloting a **Student Equity Liaison program** across all of FRCC's campuses. The initial team of six current students brings diverse perspectives around equity, inclusion, identity and culture—and they serve as ambassadors between the student body and the college's Division of Equity & Inclusion. These liaisons are members of our E&I Council and are helping recruit more students to be involved, while innovating their own equity and inclusion projects related to their areas of study and career interests.

The Division of Equity & Inclusion has consulted with the FRCC facilities team to **increase access to menstrual hygiene products** by installing free dispensers in all restrooms regardless of gender. This is an important move toward strengthening our commitment to equity, inclusion and access—and to creating a sense of belonging—for all members of our FRCC community.

FRCC recently formed a **Transitional Commencement Committee** to enhance our students' experience at the college's graduation celebrations—and to ensure that all students from every campus get to participate in a consistent, high-quality celebration of their achievements. This work underscores the importance of our students' transition to becoming alumni. The committee aims to blend successful elements from our three existing campus-based ceremonies to ensure a cohesive commencement experience for all involved. The committee, which includes students, faculty and staff, is engaging diverse perspectives to craft comprehensive recommendations for upcoming ceremonies.



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

This semester, FRCC's Division of Equity & Inclusion convened its first official **collegewide Equity & Inclusion Council** meeting. (The college previously had smaller campus-based groups, which are now joining forces.) The council consists of 60 stakeholders—students, staff members, faculty members and instructors—who serve across five committees that meet monthly. In addition to the work of the council's Hispanic-Serving Institution Task Force, the group is now focusing on action-based projects related to:

- Events and awareness
- Student support and resources
- Instructional support and resources
- Employee affinity groups
- Professional development

FRCC offers an **Equity Academy** for our part-time instructors, and we have now developed an asynchronous version of the program to be launched through the college's new Teaching Excellence Center (TEC) in spring 2024. This is an important expansion of access for faculty and instructors whose schedules could not accommodate in-person or hybrid formats. The TEC is also partnering with the Division of Equity & Inclusion to assess curricula for existing professional development programs for faculty and instructors to ensure that all learning experiences center equity and inclusion.

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

FRCC continues to support the needs of our students, community and partners with the creation of **new programs**. The college's Engineering Department has led the work to create [three new Associate of Engineering Science \(AES\) degrees](#). These are all degrees that will transfer to either CU or CSU. In addition to our general, mechanical and civil engineering degrees, we will now have electrical, computing and architectural engineering. In addition, FRCC will soon add three new articulation agreements with CSU in other disciplines:

- Two new Associate of Arts degrees in exercise science that will feed into two different CSU programs
- An Associate of Arts in nutrition and dietetics

FRCC has developed a **new partnership with Colorado School of Mines** to offer conditional admission to Mines for FRCC students. Students will apply for the Mines Academy at FRCC and, if accepted, will spend two years completing their Associate in Engineering Science (AES) degree. Throughout this time, they will meet regularly with advisors from both schools. They will have to maintain a 3.5 GPA and attend co-curricular events held at both colleges—and Mines will offer conditional acceptance to those who meet all the requirements. More than 200 FRCC students

are currently majoring in one of our AES programs. This academy is the second of its kind and is modeled after an existing Mines Academy at Red Rocks Community College. FRCC President Simpson and Mines President Johnson signed the agreement in mid-October and a public announcement is forthcoming.

FRCC is one of four colleges in the US partnering with IBM to develop and deliver a new IBM SkillsBuild **data analytics**

IBM SkillsBuild ↻

**certificate program.** Business faculty member Kishore Menezes, PhD, served as a design consultant on the project to ensure the appropriate depth, clarity and pacing of the course content. The new employer-verified credential is designed to prepare community college learners for data analytics careers across multiple industry sectors. The program includes badges, applied learning and a capstone project based on a real-world industry problem. FRCC's pilot implementation of the credential program launched October 9 with 28 students, most of whom are FRCC alumni. (There are also several current students and faculty members in the cohort.)

In October the Larimer Small Business Development Center—which is housed at FRCC's campus in Fort Collins—hosted the [Unstoppable Women's Conference](#) in Greeley. More than 350 women entrepreneurs and business owners from around northern Colorado attended this year's event for a day of discovery, connection and a chance to listen to more than 16 inspirational women presenters explore what makes an entrepreneur unstoppable.

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

In September FRCC hosted Colorado Governor Jared Polis for a [discussion with students on work-based learning](#). Eleven students from a number of different academic disciplines joined the **governor's roundtable** to describe their experiences with these FRCC programs. All of the students have participated in **work-based learning** and/or have received [Care Forward funding at FRCC](#). They talked about challenges they've overcome—and how state financial support for their education has impacted their lives and helped them succeed. They also explained how their FRCC internships, apprenticeships and clinicals have contributed to engagement in their programs and have helped them find jobs. The panel discussion took place one day after Governor Polis had issued an [Executive Order](#) building on successful apprenticeship programs and expanding work-based learning opportunities for in-demand fields.

