President's Report

Dr. Mordecai Brownlee

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The Community College of Aurora (CCA) provides high-quality instruction and student support services to Aurora and Denver, Colorado. With a vision to aspire to be a college where every student succeeds, CCA is the most diverse college in the State of Colorado. Focused on creating social and economic mobility for its students, the college offers courses on two (2) campuses, online, and through its high school concurrent-enrollment programs. For more information, visit www.ccaurora.edu.

Transform the student experience

- CCA's diesel program is running two cohorts for the AY 2023-2024, for the first time since 2019. The Diesel program was able to generate a great deal of interest in the program. This resulted in the accomplishment of filling both cohorts. Using Perkins funds earlier this year, the program was able to purchase many new trainers. They also received two transmission cutaways for our Power Trains classes and a new cavitation trainer to enhance our Hydraulics classes. New equipment purchased to enhance the electrical classes has proven to be effective for troubleshooting and building electrical circuits.

- This month, CCA rolled out its new fully immersive Spanish language website to the community. This 6-month project was conceptualized to lean into our HIS designation and better engage prospective and current Spanish-speaking students.

- On Monday, October 16th we celebrated the Grand Opening of CCA's Cultural Center. The event began with a blessing and dances from Grupo Tlaloc. They smudged the rooms, and then we cut the ribbon. We then hosted a celebration of cultural food and festivities in the Rotunda. A Mariachi band played, and then Mudra Dance Studio danced. We had over 116 people attend, and individuals from nine different community partners attended.

- CCA's Student Government Association awarded a total of $18,401 toward student engagement efforts at CCA for the Fall 2023 semester. Some initiatives awarded included: the Cultural Center Grand Opening, Snack Station, Black Student Association

Paint & Sip, PTK Induction Ceremony, Scholarship for Fox LEADS, Lowry Studios Audio Training, and Robotics Club.

- Institutional Research has partnered with Academic Success to develop a heatmap to provide a quick, graphical view, by program, of which courses required for the degree/certificate students have completed, failed, failed, or are currently taking.

Transform our own work experience

- We are undertaking a significant compensation review of our administrative and professional technical positions. Utilizing the rubric created with a system committee several years ago, each position will be evaluated against the factors, to determine if we remain in compliance with the Colorado Pay Equity Act in which we are paying equal wages for the same or similarly situated positions. With the growth at CCA and the market pressures to offer increased wages to fill certain positions over the past few years, we want to be sure that we have a classification system that is defensible and equitable.

- CCA continues to focus on employee wellness and is looking forward to hosting our employee health fair on November 14th. Emphasis on employee wellness and work-life balance continues to be a major focus for the college, both as a best practice, but also in response to feedback received in the most recent climate survey.

- Faculty, chairs, and deans are about to complete the AY 2022-2023 program review. New systems and processes, reflected in the updated guideline ACS 2.38, are being piloted. MS Planner is being used until a final academic program review structure can be designed in Diamond by SPOL.

- The internal Degree and Certificate Approval Process (DCAP) has been overhauled to (1) reflect procedural changes at the CCCS and CCA, (2) streamline and clarify processes and role responsibilities for each type of program and approval, and (3) adopt MS Planner as the technological platform for internal process tracking. It's currently being piloted with the Construction Management AAS.

- Visual and Performing Arts recently performed *Poe's Midnight Dreary-* in time to transport into the haunting thrill of the season! Edgar Allen Poe's life and trials were brilliantly woven together under the direction of our new Interim Chair of V&PA Julie Rada, with a series of re-imaginings of his prominent works: The Tell-Tale Heart, The Black Cat, The Raven, Annabel Lee, The Fall of the House of Usher, The Premature Burial, and The Poetic Principle. The audiences were quite impressed with the ensemble of performers – sharing an ominous pulse of a heartbeat in synchronicity - lurking in the shadows, truly providing a tantalizing display of Poe's inner demons. The effects, costumes, staging and overall lighting and set design did what theatre does best – transported all in attendance to another world, time, and the inner mind of Poe's mystery and macabre.

- We are continuing to provide professional development for Faculty and Instructors by launching two more Title V Effective Development Series (EIDS) Workshops for faculty

and instructors. *Finding your Lesson's Purpose* (10/27) will be an in-person workshop to help faculty identify and plan performance tasks that can be assessed for student understanding based on established goals and essential questions. The Second EIDS workshop is focused on Navigating Challenging Student Interactions (11/17). This workshop will be conducted by a guest facilitator, John McDermott, who is a UCD School of Education and Human Development member.

- Safe Zone Training was implemented in October. This training was provided to encourage understanding of how to support and be an ally to our LGBTQIA2S+ population at CCA. In November, we will launch Green Zone Training which will encourage understanding of veterans and military students and identify how to support them in their educational journey.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships

- The Hub is partnering with the Mathematics and English departments on a Teaching Excellence grant to support FTEIC students in gateway ENG and MAT courses. Case management, Supplemental Instruction, and other strategies will be used to increase completion rates. This initiative is part of ATD efforts.

- CCA has partnered with Career Launch to offer all students career readiness microlearning skill sessions and assessments. Microlearning will support students in building their brand and making career connections in their chosen pathway. The assessment will allow students to learn about their current skill set and areas for opportunity as they move along their journey at CCA toward career readiness. The three-year partnership will directly benefit the institutional outcome of career and transfer readiness.

- Diamond by SPOL is the data tool to support Community College of Aurora's (CCAs) new institutional effectiveness framework. The system is almost 90% to its first milestone of storing the necessary data for tracking alignment with the strategic plan for the top two tiers of the College's planning units. Once planning unit managers are oriented to the system, they can provide department updates to their direct supervisors on progress to goal completion.

- Converted Grant's tracking spreadsheet of active grants into an Access database for more efficient updating, tracking, and reporting to internal principal investigators and project managers.

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

- Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Comprehensive Evaluation. Community College of Aurora is preparing for its HLC accreditation comprehensive evaluation. The Assurance Review Argument will be submitted on February 12, 2024. The focused visit is scheduled for March 11 and March 12. The College received the names of the focused visit team members the week of October 16 and are under review. The College has been actively preparing for the comprehensive evaluation for the last two years. The assurance review argument is in its final stages of being written and shared with the college-wide community. A Mock Peer Review Team has been established. This team will read the assurance review argument, provide feedback, and do an on-campus mock one-day focused visit to assist the College in preparing for February and March.