

RED ROCKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

FEBRUARY 2025

## President's Updates



### Day at the Capitol

On January 29, RRCC participated in Community College System Day at the Capitol, an event officially proclaimed by Governor Jared Polis to recognize the impact of Colorado's 13 community colleges. CCCS leaders, faculty, and students engaged with state legislators to discuss the importance of affordable, career-focused education and workforce development. Thank you to our legislators for their time and continued support in advancing higher education opportunities for all Coloradans.



### New Hire: Dr. Chris Juarez

We are excited to welcome Dr. Chris Juarez as the new Vice President of Academic Affairs and Workforce Innovations. His leadership and expertise will play a crucial role in strengthening our programs and supporting student success.

# **Institutional Accomplishments**

## **Enrollment Growth**

Red Rocks Spring 2025 enrollment has grown 9.6% over last year with 2,346 FTE. This is the largest spring enrollment we have had in over five years.

## **Cyber Security Program**

HLC and the State of Colorado have approved RRCC's Cyber Security BAS program. Upper-level classes are available to students now via CCCS Online and promotions for fall enrollment will begin soon.

## **Business Administration Program**

HLC and the State of Colorado recently approved RRCC's Business Administration BAS program, creating new opportunities for students pursuing advanced business education and career advancement.

## **Nursing**

The Board of Nursing has conditionally approved our Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN). We are in the midst of hiring faculty and will welcome our first nursing cohort at the Arvada campus in the Fall of 2025.

## **New Grants**

\$1,219,365.00 Opportunity Now Aerospace Grant from the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) – to develop aerospace manufacturing curriculum and pathways.

\$58,540 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Skills Instructor Grant from the CCCS Foundation—which will connect ECE students to industry-based mentors to guide and enhance their education.

## Community Engagement and Outreach



### Saige Chapin and CCCS on 9News

RRCC student Saige Chapin joined CCCS State Board Chair Dr. Landon Mascareñaz on *Colorado & Company* on 9News to discuss how community colleges create accessible pathways to education. Dr. Mascareñaz emphasized that CCCS welcomes all Coloradans, regardless of background, to achieve their dreams. Saige shared her personal experience, highlighting the opportunities and support she has received at RRCC. We are proud to see her advocating for community college students and the impact of CCCS in expanding access to education.

Saige, who is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in computer science, shared her personal experience, highlighting the opportunities and support she has received at RRCC. As the Student Representative on the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education, as well as the Chair of the State Student Advisory Council, she continues to advocate for community college students and the impact of CCCS in expanding access to education.





## Student Community Resource Panel

RRCC recently hosted the Student Community Resource Panel, sponsored by Student Government and the Leadership Team, to support students and their families in light of recent federal government changes. The event brought together representatives from local community organizations who shared valuable information about available services. In addition, RRCC staff were on hand to address questions regarding student privacy and financial aid, ensuring that attendees had access to the resources and support they needed.



## Black History Month

RRCC celebrated Black History Month with a series of events throughout February, highlighting Black excellence, resilience, and culture. The month featured film screenings, community discussions, art exhibits, and musical celebrations, fostering meaningful conversations and connections across campus.

# RRCC EMPLOYEE BOOK SWAP

**BRING AT LEAST ONE BOOK  
TO PASS ALONG TO OTHER  
READERS**

<b>FEB 6</b>	11am-12pm - Council Conference Room 1527
<b>FEB 11</b>	11am-12pm - Arvada 7159
<b>MAR 5</b>	3-4pm - Red Fox Room 1105
<b>MAR 11</b>	3-4pm - Arvada 7159
<b>APR 17</b>	9-10am - Hub 1241
<b>APR 22</b>	11am-12pm - Arvada 7159

## Employee Book Swap

Sponsored by the Employee Wellness Committee, the Book Swap invited employees to bring at least one book and take home up to two new reads. Leftover books are donated or included in the next swap. This initiative is open to all RRCC employees throughout the Spring semester.



## RRCC Club Fair

Student clubs came together to showcase their organizations and encourage new students to get involved. These clubs play a vital role in enhancing the student experience by fostering leadership, building connections, and promoting campus engagement.



## RTD Advertisements

The RRCC Marketing and Communications team launched a six-month brand awareness campaign across RTD transit systems. This campaign features ads on two light rails, 15 buses, 10 flagpoles, and three shelters, creating a Federal Center domination that reaches thousands of commuters daily. By increasing RRCC's visibility in high-traffic areas, we are strengthening our presence in the community and connecting with prospective students where they are.