VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT
Sarah Heath, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs
February 26, 2025

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

Academic Affairs

CCCOnline

All Colorado Community Colleges Online (CCCOnline) courses have fully transitioned to Colorado Online. CCCOnline currently has four full-time employees whose positions end on May 31, 2025. These include three Department Chairs, Jake Camp, Therese Fukuda, and Kristin Grant; and one Dean of Academic Affairs, Bill McGreevy. The Department Chairs are responsible for helping instructors transition to the home colleges, helping to set up classes, teaching, and working with home colleges to curate and share content in several subject areas for pooled classes. They have become familiar with home college processes and teaching philosophies by actively engaging with state-wide faculty and institutions. They are finishing out obligations related to CCCOnline courses and provide timely responses to student inquiries on academic matters. The Department Chairs serve on various committees, including the Online Faculty and Instructor Advisory Council and recently assisted with the systemwide professional licensure initiative. They provide representation on the Academic Affairs Subcommittee and the Colorado Online Work Group focusing on Business Processes. Dr. Grant has worked as part of a team completing a Behavioral Health course development for Workforce Solutions. McGreevy is transitioning out of CCCOnline at the end of February. He has accepted a position as Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services with Arapahoe Community College and begins this new role on March 3, 2025.

Curriculum

180 Course approvals, revisions, or deletions to the Colorado Common Course Numbering System were approved and processed in Fall 2024. 114 Career and Technical Education programs (programs include multiple degrees and certificates) were processed between August 2024 and February 2025. 46 new degrees or certificates were approved and built in January and February 2025; 4 were non-CTE certificates.

Academic Technology

The CCCS Academic Technology team has contributed to equity through accessibility. Yuja Panorama is an accessibility checker tool that scans digital documents (web pages, Word, PDF, etc.), provides an accessibility score, and shows how to remediate the document. In some situations, it auto-remediates some accessibility issues in a document. A systemwide license was purchased for faculty to use with D2L and staff to upload their documents. Yuja Panorama has been implemented for faculty in D2L for all colleges except for NJC (NJC is going live in Fall 2025). Next, Panorama will be implemented for staff. Panorama will help the colleges and system offices meet accessibility standards better.

In December 2024, Dustin Raiken was hired as the Digital Accessibility Specialist. Dustin provides several services around digital accessibility. Dustin specializes in knowing how to scan web pages and documents for accessibility and then provides guidance on how to remediate it. He has already started providing advice to the colleges and system-office staff on accessibility issues. Dustin is a subject matter expert on several accessibility software tools. Dustin supports Panorama. Based on feedback, he suggests adjusting the Panorama configuration.

Concurrent Enrollment

Concurrent enrollment (CE) continues to grow. Student headcount is up 8.8% over spring 2024 (48% of total CCCS headcount). Also, FTE up 9.1% over spring 2024 (35% of total CCCS FTE).

Marty Goldberg, Director of Concurrent Enrollment is working on several key projects including updating the CE data load software to further streamline CE registration and coding processes and partnering with CCCS Student Affairs and college admissions/recruitment directors to update the admissions application to support concurrent enrollment.

Learning Design and Professional Development

The CCCS Learning Design and Professional Development team and systemwide learning design community of practice have contributed to the ongoing effort to support faculty when developing course shells for pooled courses for CO Online. The following course shells and resources were made available to faculty and instructors for the Spring 2025:

- Complete courses   78
- CCCS/ College supplied Courses   111
- Consortium Shells   196
- Blueprints   78

Total course shells   463
Common Course Framework   (no shell)   120

Further, we have 15 Blueprints and 52 Consortium shells in development.

Library and OER Services

Jason Steagall started in December 2024 as Student Success Librarian. This role offers reference, research, and library instruction services across the system, with an emphasis on aiding less-well-staffed libraries.

The online collection has added a major resource, O'Reilly for Higher Education, a platform focused on computer science and cybersecurity but with up-to-date content supporting many other subject areas as well. The system collection development committee (comprised of library staff from across the system) is currently reviewing the first full years' worth of usage statistics to evaluate the current collection.

Data Snapshot
Source: compiled 23-24 IPEDS reporting

Usage

1,278,683 database searches
509,762 scholarly articles retrieved
99,973 e-books accessed
27,513 pieces of streaming media accessed

Collection
685,584 e-books
611,007 journals
106 separate databases (subscribed/licensed)

Services
2,082 chat references sessions

Open Education Resources (OER)

Grants
Current 2025 CDHE OER Grant
CCCS received a $18,825 OER grant from the Colorado Department of Higher Education for colleges participating in the Rural College Consortium. Funds will be managed by CCCS and provided to faculty and instructors to create/remix OER texts and to fully develop course shells for four RCC courses. The system office will partner with Annessa Stagner, the Rural College Consortium (RCC) Coordinator, to select courses for development.

Previous 2024 CDHE OER Grant
In 2024, the CCCS Learning Resources Coordinator partnered with the OER Coordinator at PPSC and received a grant for $45,562 to develop, redevelop, and update CO Online pooled OER courses. Funds were managed by CCCS and provided to faculty and instructors for course development. In fall 2024, 13 courses were developed, redeveloped, or updated, and three new OER texts were published in the CCCS Pressbooks platform. All 13 courses are using developed or updated course shells and the three new OER texts are being used in SP25 pooled courses

Systemwide OER Committee
The systemwide OER Committee was developed in 2024 by the Rachel Meisner, CCCS Learning Resources Coordinator and has 19 members from 9 colleges and the system office. The committee meets every other week to discuss OER news, events, conferences, professional development opportunities, and collaborative opportunities between the colleges. In 2024, the OER committee built a new OER website that was shared with all colleges that contains grant information, Top 40 curation guides, and professional development opportunities for all staff in the system. The committee also records OER webinars on various topics, presented by members, which are posted on the new OER website. In November 2024, the systemwide OER committee created a self- paced *Introduction to OER* course in D2L with a certificate of completion; 65 staff and instructors have enrolled in the course, and as of February 19, three certificates have been issued.

Student OER Advocacy

The Learning Resources Coordinator is working with OER representatives from ACC and PPSC to develop student OER advocacy clubs on campus. The intention is to create a student OER advocacy club model that other colleges in the system can adopt and implement on their campuses. Student OER clubs will support OER adoption on campus, OER advocacy work for leadership and legislators, and OER sustainability work. PPSC will be the first college to start a club, and will promote the club at their OER kickoff, which will be held on the Rampart Range Campus on March 21, 2025. After the event, PPSC OER representatives will share their experiences with the systemwide OER committee and work with ACC representatives to create a club on their campus. The LRC has partnered with the OER Coordinator at PPSC to create a student advocacy in OER presentation with a framework to develop clubs that will be shared with all colleges.

Presentations

Dr. Tina Parscal, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs served as an invited panelist for the National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA) Winter 2025 Virtual CLE Workshop on AI and Higher Education Law. Tina joined a panel of university attorneys to discuss "Generative Pedagogy and Cheating: Managing Student (Mis)Use of AI."

The Director of Library and OER Services, Brittany Dudek, will present on Effective Uses and Governance at the 2025 WCET Virtual Summit on February 27, 2025.

Student Affairs

Student Affairs is working on many personnel changes. The Director of Student Affairs position was successfully filled by Caitlan Cameron on February 17, 2025. The CCCOnline Dean of Student Affairs moved from Academic Affairs to Student Affairs on February 1, 2025, and was welcomed to the SA team. Finally, SA has hired a system Director of Accessibility Services, who started on February 10, 2025, to guide all 13 colleges, assist colleges as needed, and work to help us better serve our learners.

Student Affairs is also working to invigorate Study Abroad, many of our colleges already participate and SA is meeting with foreign embassies to explore options and re-forming the Study Abroad functional group to help ensure our rural students also have access to Study Abroad.

Student Affairs and IT have partnered to create a process for the new Adult HS Diplomas as authorized under Senate Bill 24-051, Board Policy (BP) 9-30, Approval of Academic Programs, and SP 9-30e – High School Diplomas. This process is being piloted with CCD and expected to Launch on Feb 10.

Equity & Inclusion

The Equity and Inclusion Council is preparing for the Equity Retreat with the Presidents on January 28th , 2025. All College Presidents have confirmed attendance, and the total count is at 45 participants including key senior leaders from the System Office. The teams will work on developing Equity objectives, goals and key equity measures for the year. The day will be facilitated by Dr. Dwinita Mosby Tyler from the Equity Project, LLC.

Financial Aid

Carolee Goldsmith, Dean Wilson, and Tim Spahn led the Gainful Employment and Financial Value Transparency (GE/FVT) reporting initiative, facilitating system-wide interdepartmental and interinstitutional collaboration. Workgroups were established with department leaders from various colleges. As these groups faced technological challenges posed by National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS), National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) and Ellucian, multiple pivots and team restructurings took place to overcome reporting obstacles and resolve data errors. Webex chat groups were created to allow colleges real-time direct access to the System Office and other institutions for help navigating issues. Collectively harnessing the Power of 13, all colleges successfully met the reporting deadline of January 15.

The vacant Financial Aid Specialist position was filled on January 6. The financial aid team is fully staffed at this time.

Colorado State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training

Per our annual Cooperative Agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), our agency has conducted the following Supervisory and Risk-Based visits:
Supervisory Visits:
· Sage Truck Driving School – Denver
· IBMC College – Fort Collins
· IBMC College – Longmont
· IBMC College – Greeley
· William Howard Taft University

Risk Based Surveys/Supervisory Visits

· Arizona College of Nursing - Aurora

Please find below two pieces of legislation that will have an impact on veterans and our agency role:

Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act (Public Law 118210 This law was signed into law by President Biden on January 2, 2025. This new legislation will have an impact on our agency. I have highlighted a few sections below that will impact our role.

Section 204: Risk-Based Surveys Notice to Educational Institutions. Requires VA, or State Approving Agency to provide no more than two business days of notice to an educational institution before conducting a targeted, risk-based survey of the institution.

Section 205: Title IV Participation. Amends title 38 U.S.C. § 3675(b)(4) to clarify that the State Approving Agency (SAA) or Secretary of VA when acting in the role of an SAA, must ensure that the educational institution is approved and participates in a program under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 or, if it does not participate, VA has waived the requirement.

Changes VA administration of Section 1015 of Isakson Roe. Now VA can provide a waiver to schools more liberally for three reasons including they cannot participate, or they simply choose not to participate or is in the process of making a good-faith effort to submit an initial application for approval to participate in program.

A waiver under this clause may not to be provided for a period longer than 36 months.

Sections 206 (a-c) and Section (d): Oversight of Educational Institutions: Approval Requirements and Risk-Based Surveys.

Sections 206(a) and 206(b) amend 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) §§ 3675(b) and 3676(c), to add an additional approval requirement that requires an educational institution to agree to notify the State Approving Agency (SAA), or VA when acting in the role of an SAA, if the institution becomes subject to a government action or event in 38 U.S.C. 3673(e)(3). The educational institution must notify VA or the SAA not later than 30 days after the date the institution becomes subject to such action or event.

Section 206(c) amends 38 U.S.C. § 3679(f)(1) to add a new paragraph (I), that would require an SAA or VA to take certain actions against educational institutions that do not comply with the new requirements in 38 U.S.C. §§ 3675(b) and 3676(c)(14), as added by sections 2(a) and 2(b) of the proposed legislation. Specifically, the SAA or VA could take action to submit a recommendation that VA publish a warning on the VA website about the school; suspend the school approval by disapproving new enrollments; or revoke the school approval by disapproving all enrollments.

Section 206(d) establishes a deadline for VA to develop a database for collecting risk-based survey data no later than 180 days from the date of enactment.

Section 207: Digital Transcripts. Amends Title 38 U.S.C. 3674(b) by requiring educational institutions to make available to each eligible person or Veteran a copy of their official transcript in a digital format.

Section 209: Commercial Driver Programs. Amends section 3680A(e) of title 38, United States Code, to create an exemption the 2-year rule as it applies to approval of commercial driver education programs.

There is no waiting period if the branch is located in a state in which the same commercial driver education program is offered by the same educational institution at another branch of that educational institution in the same state that is approved.

There is a one-year waiting period if the branch is using the same curriculum as a commercial driver education program offered by the educational institution at another location in a different state that is approved under 38 U.S.C. chapter 36 by a State Approving Agency (SAA) or the Secretary when acting in the role of an SAA.

Transfer

Reisher Bridge Scholarship Navigators are working with the system Financial Aid team to disburse scholarships for the spring 2025 semester. Collaboration with the 13 colleges across the system has begun to identify 2025-26 Bridge scholars through an interest form. It was created to be able to include all students planning to transfer regardless of Bridge to Bachelor's school identification or participation. Planning for spring semester recruitment trips around the state are underway.

Workforce Solutions

Grants and Resources

Throughout January and February, updates on federal grant announcements made through Executive Orders and OMB memos were diligently researched and communicated to colleges and grant subrecipients. Fiscal and ASA leaders have been proactive in discussing risk mitigation and contingency plans to address potential pauses in federal grant funding. As of February 18, 2024, CCCS continues to

have access to draw-down or be reimbursed for current federal grants. We anticipate further updates and changes at the federal level and are closely monitoring the situation. Skill Advance Colorado has approved 52 CF (Colorado First) or EI (Existing Industry) grants through February 18, 2025, reflecting a significant increase of 23 grants (almost double) compared to the same period last year. The total award amount for these 52 grants is $2,653,860.23, also an increase over last year.

Workforce Development Programming

- **Emerging Industries:** Faculty professional development training sessions for energy and quantum sectors have been solidified. The SPARC mini-grant application for college-level energy-related programming is open and will close on March 3, 2025.
- **Credit for Prior Learning & Badging:** The VP Council completed a CPL and Badging presentation, with an update conversation planned for March. Progress is being made in discussions on badging policy, taxonomy, and re-design, including exploring D2L and Credly integrations. Planning for a summer CPL convening is underway, and pilot testing for the Credit Predictor Standard is in progress.
- **Behavioral Health:** The Behavioral Health team is promoting its work and supporting students at the HOSA conference. The Rural Mental Health Development Project annual report has been completed.
- **CampusCE and Colorado Skills Institute:** A steering committee convening has been held, testing continues for CSI technology integrations, and marketing efforts have been launched to promote CSI.

CTE Programming

The Colorado Association of Career and Technical Education Administrators held its annual conference in Loveland, Colorado, from January 27th to 30th. CTE was well represented, with Dr. Sarah Heath delivering the CTE State of the State address. Many of our team members led workshops on topics such as apprenticeships, career cluster redesign, and career conversations.

The CTE Programming area hosted an online workshop to introduce updates to the middle school cluster areas, aimed at enhancing the quality of middle school CTE by aligning programs with high school pathways and providing structured guidance on scope and sequence from the state level. A new Social Capital curriculum was introduced, with select districts and schools invited to pilot this curriculum developed by ESG for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation scholarship program.

Cluster Area Highlights:

- **Business, Marketing, Entrepreneurship & Finance:** Hosted the Winter New Teacher Day, where approximately 20 new business teachers received support on work-based learning, CTSOs, advisory committees, and curriculum development.
- **Engineering, Technology & Media Arts:** Held a Technical Theatre Advisory Committee meeting, resulting in the addition of Costume Design and Lighting Design courses to the secondary pathway. Red Rocks Community College removed the "within so many years" CTE requirement for Concurrent Enrollment (CE) teachers in Technical Theatre, expanding opportunities for secondary teachers to offer CE courses. Additional advisory committees were held in Unmanned Safety Institute, Media Arts, and Engineering.

o **Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources:** The National Western Stock Show on January 22nd highlighted Agricultural Education, with Associate Vice Chancellor Mike Macklin celebrating the importance of agricultural learning in Colorado. More than $72,000 in grants were awarded to students pursuing agricultural opportunities. The reinstatement of the Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Credential in late January provides an additional pathway for individuals to enter the agricultural education profession. The Colorado Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association held its Midwinter Conference at the Colorado Farm Show in Greeley and the CoBank Center for Agricultural Education in Fort Collins.

CTE Accountability

The CTE team submitted its annual report to the U.S. Department of Education on Perkins grants at the end of January. Key data points include a 97% graduation rate for CTE learners in the 23-24 academic year who participated in CTE for 2+ years in high school, compared to the state's 84% high school graduation rate. Additionally, 30% of CTE learners graduated having participated in a work-based learning experience, and approximately 97-99% of CTE concentrators (secondary) or completers (postsecondary) contacted found employment or continued their education six months after exiting their program.

Colorado launched a pilot of a CTE goal-setting tool to help districts and colleges identify gaps in serving CTE learners. The tool allows entities to set performance goals and identify the number of learners needed to accomplish the target. Feedback from the field was positive, and the CTE team will provide data dashboards to every district and college with CTE programs by early March.

In early February, the CTE team supported the state CTE association's administrative division (CACTA) by providing various sessions at their state conference, attended by nearly 300 CTE administrators from throughout Colorado. Sessions presented covered topics such as work-based learning and apprenticeship, social capital, data and performance, federal and state CTE funding, and the nationally modernized career clusters framework. Dr. Sarah Heath provided a state of the state address for CTE, and program directors shared key updates.