

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JANUARY 2025

Academic and Program Highlights



EMS/Fire Academy/LEA Graduations:

We celebrated the dedication and achievements of our graduates from the Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Fire Science, and Law Enforcement Academy (LEA) programs. These ceremonies honored the hard work, perseverance, and commitment of students who have completed rigorous training to prepare for careers in public safety and emergency response.



Spring Kick-Off:

The Spring Semester began with our Spring Kick-Off event, bringing faculty and staff together for a week of meetings, professional development, and trainings. A highlight was the workshop, “Moving Forward: Strategies to Strengthen RRCC's Culture & (Re)Build Relationships,” which set the tone for collaboration and growth across the RRCC community.



The RRCC Space Grant team wins at the Institute of Competition Sciences “2024 Moon Grow Competition”:

For the 2024-2025 season, RRCC’s Astrobiology team explored the possibility of growing radishes in moon dust. Specifically, the team tested the utilization of fertilizing lunar regolith simulants using cyanobacteria to improve plant growth. The team won “most innovative” best in show award with the Institute of Competition Sciences “2024 Moon Grow Competition”. Future lunar missions for humanity will require many things, food included. The team aims to contribute valuable research and data to this objective.

Community Engagement



New Police Chief Pinning:

Congratulations to our newly appointed Police Chief, Anthony Schaller, who was officially sworn in and pinned during a special ceremony. This milestone reflects our continued dedication to campus safety and strengthens collaboration within our community. We are excited about Chief Schaller's promotion, as he leads our efforts to ensure a secure and supportive environment for all.



New Fitness Center at Arvada Campus:

Our Arvada campus celebrated the soft opening of its new Fitness Center, located in the former bookstore space. This inviting facility was requested by Arvada students, faculty, and staff and is designed to promote health and wellness for students, faculty, and staff. While still evolving, the center features modern equipment and a welcoming atmosphere, providing the campus community with an accessible space to prioritize physical well-being.



Chili Cook-Off and Cookie Contest:

In December, RRCC hosted a Chili Cook-Off and Cookie Contest to celebrate the end of the semester, bringing the community together for fun and connection. Participants showcased their culinary skills in chili and cookie categories, with individuals, duos, and teams entering the friendly competition. The RRCC community voted on their top three favorites from each category, and winners earned themed prizes and bragging rights.

Special Events and Achievements



First Day of Spring Semester:

Students, faculty, and staff enthusiastically kicked off the first day of the spring semester. The campus buzzed with energy and anticipation for a productive and engaging academic term.



Fabrications Art Installation:

“Fabrications - Immersive Photographic Installations” by Melanie Walker is now on view in the ART Gallery at RRCC. Melanie is a lens-based artist invested in ideas, and her work lies at the intersection of photography, installation, sculpture, textiles, and puppets. This exhibition is part of the Month of Photography Denver festival, a biennial celebration of fine art photography with hundreds of collaborative public events and exhibitions throughout Denver and along the Front Range.



Employees of the Year:

Classified Employee of the Year – Matt Sanchez. Matt has been at the college since September 2001 and serves on our facilities team as a Grounds and Nursery II. Matt was selected by a vote of his classified peers.

APT Employee of the Year – Robert Vaughn. Robert has been at Red Rocks since June 2023 and serves as our Library Services Director. Robert was selected by a vote of his APT peers.

Instructor of the Year – Felix Wohlfahrt. Felix has been with the college since September 2023 and is a Computer Science instructor and tutor. Felix was selected by a vote of students.

Faculty of the Year – Amy Buckingham. Amy has been at Red Rocks since August 2008 and became a full time Professor in Psychology in August 2010. Amy was selected by a vote of her faculty peers.

Congratulations to all four individuals! They will also be recognized by the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education and Chancellor Garcia on April 8, 2025.



New Hires: Erika Hollis, Lin Browning, and Jane Marsh:

We are thrilled to welcome Erika Hollis, Lin Browning, and Jane Marsh to the Red Rocks Community College family. Erika joins us as Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff, Lin takes on the role of Director of Grants Development, and Jane is the Foundation Executive Director. Their expertise and enthusiasm will greatly enhance our institution.