

TRANSFORM THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- **ACC ADVANCES WITHIN FirstGen FORWARD NETWORK**

ACC has advanced into the Network Champion Phase (from the Network Leader Phase) of the [FirstGen Forward Network](#). The Network Champion Phase recognizes institutions demonstrating national leadership in advancing first-generation efforts and contributing to a substantial knowledge base on evidence-based practices, leadership engagement, and scaling supports. ACC's selection was based on a review of active engagement, adoption, usage of the continuous improvement cycle framework, a phase reflection and readiness/progress audit assessment, successful data submission, and demonstrated progress toward improved momentum metrics. ACC was awarded [First Generation Serving Campus Designation](#) on behalf of the CDHE in Nov. 2024.

- **SAPPINGTON NAMED AN FSF SCHOLAR**

ACC [Mortuary Science](#) student Parker Sappington has earned the Foundation '45 Scholarship and the Dennis Schoepp Memorial Scholarship (combined total of \$5,000) from the [Funeral Service Foundation](#). Each year, the Funeral Service Foundation awards academic scholarships ranging from \$2,500 - \$5,000 to students attending and actively engaged in coursework in funeral service education programs at ABSFE / Canadian accredited institutions. Awarded in two annual cycles (fall and spring) and paid directly to institutions, these academic scholarships offset the costs associated with tuition, fees, books, and supplies. [FULL STORY](#)

TRANSFORM OUR OWN WORKFORCE EXPERIENCE

- **ACC HEALTH INNOVATION CENTER FEATURED BY LEAGUE**

ACC completed Phase 1 of its new [Health Innovation Center](#) last fall and will continue expanding its healthcare programming through the development of Phase 2. The League for Innovation in the Community College highlights how ACC is paving the way for innovative & responsive educational opportunities while addressing growing healthcare workforce needs in this edition of [Member Spotlight](#). The Health Innovation Center's simulated education spaces are used across ACC's healthcare programs to improve functional collaboration between disciplines while preparing students to better serve patients. Phase 1 increased healthcare classroom sizes, allowing for larger cohorts to be admitted and increasing the pipeline of well-trained professionals into the healthcare workforce. ACC is currently pursuing approvals and funding for Phase 2, which will provide additional classroom spaces and simulation equipment, as well as the continued development of interdisciplinary healthcare and public service instructional models.

REDEFINE OUR VALUE PROPOSITION THROUGH ACCESSIBILITY, AFFORDABILITY, QUALITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- **ACC RECEIVES 2025-26 OER GRANT FUNDING**

ACC has received over \$78,700 in open educational resources ([OER](#)) [grant funding from the Colorado Department of Higher Education](#) (approved by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education) for 2025-26, including nearly \$39,700 for the Early Childhood Education Zero Textbook Cost Project (part 2), and more than \$39,000 for the Incentivizing OER Adoption Project. ACC has saved more than 25,000 students over \$3 million in textbook costs since 2019 with OER.

- **MORTUARY SCIENCE RECOGNIZED BY GATHER**

The [ACC Mortuary Science program](#) topped the list of [Best Mortuary Science Programs to Consider in 2025](#) by *Gather*.

OTHER NEWS

- **ACC HONORED BY ALL IN CAMPUS DEMOCRACY CHALLENGE**

ACC has been named to the list of 2024 Most Engaged Campuses for College Student Voting by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge empowers colleges and universities to achieve excellence in non-partisan student democratic engagement. Campuses that join the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge complete a set of action items, with the support of ALL IN staff, to institutionalize non-partisan civic learning and voter participation on their campus. The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge currently engages 10.8 million students from more than 1,075 institutions in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. [DETAILS](#)

- **NESHEIM APPOINTED TO EDUCAUSE BOARD**

ACC Senior Information Officer / Associate Vice President for Instructional Technologies [Jeff Nesheim](#) has been appointed to the [EDUCAUSE Board of Directors](#). [EDUCAUSE](#) is a non-profit association whose mission is to lead the way, advancing the strategic use of technology and data to further the promise of higher education. EDUCAUSE connects and empowers its member community through insights, advocacy, resources, and learning opportunities to anticipate trends and strengthen professional practice. [FULL STORY](#)