



# 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](http://www.ccaurora.edu).*

## **Transform the student experience**

- A team of five Higher Learning Commission (HLC) peer reviewers, comprised of faculty, staff, and administrators from other HLC colleges and universities, descended upon the Community College of Aurora (CCA) to complete the 10-year annual accreditation reaffirmation focused visit on Monday, March 11, 2024, and Tuesday, March 12, 2024. The HLC Peer Review team held several in-person sessions with students, instructors, faculty, staff, and administrators to verify information provided in the assurance argument and federal compliance documents. Over 380 combined students, instructors, faculty, staff, and administrators attended the sessions with most open forums averaging 50-70 attendees. The Peer Review team was impressed and complimentary with organization, structure, and attention to detail of the two days, attendance turnout, and thoughtful and quality responses to questions from attendees confirming information contained within the assurance argument and federal compliance document.
- CCA hosted the [CCCS Strategic Listening Sessions](#) on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. There were two sessions where participants could provide information and feedback either in person or virtual. 60 individuals attended online and 41 people attended in person.
- CCA's STEM Department held their annual Pi Day event to promote mathematics education and the mathematics department. 2ft of snow did not stop the team from throwing a fun party, even if they had to move it out by a week. 145 individuals stopped by for pizza pie and pie. They also took advantage of the opportunity to spin the wheel offering various challenges including the opportunity to Pi a Professor, which Collier Gaiser from the Math department and David Atlee from CTEP volunteered to do.

Everyone had a great time, and enjoyed watching students solve math puzzles with a Pi theme.

- The Office of Student Advocacy is working with community partners to provide a resource-rich experience at Foxy's Mobile Market. Students can come and receive groceries for their household for 7-10 days, and we average 700-900 people fed from the food of each market. At our CentreTech locations, we now have SNAP/WIC enrollments on sight through the Food Bank of the Rockies and breast and cervical cancer screening information on sight through the Colorado Council for Black Nurses.
- Student engagement continues to be on the rise at CCA in the Spring 2024 semester. This March the Division of Student Success announced Student Government Association elections and received an overwhelming interest in executive and senator leadership positions. We currently have 17 students running to serve on Student Government Association: President- 3 student candidates, Vice President- 3 student candidates, Secretary- 1 student candidate, Treasurer-1 student candidate, State Student Advisory Council Representative- 2 student candidate, Senator of STEM- 2 student candidates, Senator of CTE- 2 student candidates, Senator of Innovative Arts- 1 student candidate, and Senator for Student Success- 2 student candidates. Each of the student candidates were provide the opportunity to campaign for their position, and some of our candidates really showed up to inform their student peers about their platform and plans for student initiatives in 2024-2025. Here is one our candidates campaign tables.

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### **Transform our own work experience**

- HR has launched trainings for a revised talent recruitment process which prioritizes closing out searches within 30 business days as well as trainings for APT and Faculty year-end evaluation cycles
- CCA's Chief Human Resources and personnel Success Officer position was posted this month and interviews for the position will be taking place with a goal of selecting a candidate by the end of next week (April 5).
- CCA Advisor, Tania Rodriguez, recognized by CU Boulder as a 2024 Outstanding Colorado Community College Educator

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### **Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships**

- Our Model United Nations team is in New York now representing the country of Samoa and were fortunate enough to meet with the UN Ambassador from Samoa, Luteru, as well as the Deputy Representative, Bartley at the Samoan Permanent Mission to the United Nations. Earlier in March, the delegates had lunch with CCA leadership who provided valuable tips and feedback for their speeches as they prepared for the conference. They have a demanding schedule ahead and are ready for the challenge.

- In partnership with Congressman Crow and Senators Hickenlooper and Bennet, CCA will receive \$850,000 in support of the construction of CCA's new Center for STEM, Power Mechanics and Applied Technologies. This award is part of the 2024 Congressionally Directed Spending process. Through the 2025 Congressionally Directed Spending process, CCA will apply for support of its 3<sup>rd</sup> campus that will house CCA's nursing, health sciences and public service programs.
- A long-time CCA Foundation board member gave a \$100,000 gift in March. \$75,000 will create an endowed engineering scholarship for COSI eligible students. The other \$25,000 will serve as a matching grant for CCA's new Aurora Police Department loan forgiveness partnership that allows 100% of a student's out-of-pocket costs for their associate degree to be forgiven upon three years of service with the Aurora Police Department (APD). Currently, CCA has secured a total of \$137,157 from 15 donors toward its goal of \$225,000 for the APD partnership initiative. The APD partnership program launches in Fall 2024.
- The CCA Foundation will host its annual College Beyond Wall Luncheon on April 19, 2024. With over \$123,000 in sponsorship confirmed, a \$60,000 matching gift for the paddle raise, and \$35,000 in confirmed paddle raise gifts from board members and other key partners, the 2024 Luncheon is on target to exceed its \$240,000 fundraising goal.
- CCA is excited to announce a partnership with [LinkedIn®](#) as an officially designated [LinkedIn Learning® Site](#). This collaboration gives CCA students, faculty and staff the opportunity to develop and refine and grow their professional skills, making them more impactful leaders on and off campus. LinkedIn® Learning is an online learning platform that focuses on four categories including Business, Creative, Technology and Certifications. Through expert-led video courses, attendees grow their skills in courses that are related to their field of studies. Upon completing the courses, these skills can be added to their LinkedIn® profiles. Dr. Mordecai Brownlee praised the program as yet another tool students can leverage for their future, in the pursuit of an education that enhances their social and economic mobility. "LinkedIn Learning® will provide the Community College of Aurora with a deeper array of supplementary academic resources supporting instructional learning any time and any day suitable for students. Furthermore, CCA will leverage these resources to offer comprehensive career services to students, helping them transition into the workforce successfully," Dr. Brownlee said. The partnership was spearheaded by several CCA departments in conjunction with LinkedIn® including IT, Human Resources, Student Success and Student Government Association. Leaders said they shared a common goal as they worked toward achieving the designation: That the workforce landscape is changing, and today more than ever it's important to have a professional resume that employers can reference through a professional social media platform.

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

- CCA's Summer and Fall enrollment is trending 2% ahead in FTE.

- SPOL continues to shine in its potential as an institutional effectiveness tracking tool. Staff has worked to update how data are organized in the Credential module. By adding more specific faculty/instructor designations and employee status markers, staff can more quickly and accurately identify information for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. Staff can now identify who teaches CTE, if they are instructor, faculty, or hourly, what kind of credential, and when the credential expires. Chairs now have access to their faculty and instructor document repositories to upload and track transcripts.
- From a \$100,000 endowed STEM scholarship, to a \$75,000 endowed engineering scholarship, to a Molson Coors scholarship to support students who do not qualify for financial aid, to a scholarship created to honor a CCA cinematic arts alumna, to a scholarship created by retired Aurora Public Schools (APS) elementary principals to support recent APS graduates, CCA Foundation has raised nearly \$300,000 in new scholarship dollars this fiscal year to better support students during the 2024-2025 academic year. As part of its Board of Directors' FY 2024 strategic priorities, CCA Foundation nearly tripled its scholarships to student parents, doubled its student emergency assistance fund, and significantly increased scholarships for Latinx students and English as a Second Language (ESL) students.
- \$1.05 million has been awarded to CCA for Opportunity Next Scholarships
- CCA secured our Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Federal Designation on March 19, 2024 and begins or is effective July 1, 2024 through July 1, 2025. It means that we are eligible to apply for Title III and Title V grants and are eligible for a waiver of the non-Federal Share matching requirements under the Federal Work Study Program (FWS), the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program (FSEOG) and the TRIO Student Support Services Program under Title IV of HEA. (basically, it means that we don't have to pay half of the award from general fund like everyone else does who is not an HSI). It also allows us to receive preference points in other grants. Our current Title V grant ends September of this year, so if we choose to, we will be eligible to apply for a Title III Federal grant.