

Red Rocks Community College

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

March 2025



ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Increase relevant offerings that will result in successful learners earning a sustaining wage.

Transfer Fair



RRCC hosted the Spring Transfer Fair, providing students with the opportunity to connect with advisors from colleges and universities across the region. This event supported students in exploring transfer pathways, academic programs, and scholarship opportunities, helping them navigate their transition to four-year institutions. To further encourage participation, students were eligible to win a \$500 voucher for meeting with advisors—offering additional support for future graduates as they plan their next steps in higher education. Through initiatives like the Transfer Fair, RRCC remains dedicated to expanding resources that empower students in their academic and career pursuits.

New Bachelor Degrees

RRCC has been approved to offer a Bachelor of Science for Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science for Sonography. Both programs start in the fall of 2025.

Associate Degree in Nursing

RRCC received approval from the State Board of Nursing in March and will welcome an initial cohort of 24 students this fall.

Foundation Scholarships

RRCC received over 550 applications for RRCC Foundation scholarships, demonstrating strong student demand for financial support. These scholarships, which range from \$500 to \$5,000, provide critical funding to help students reduce financial barriers and pursue their educational goals. The average award amount of \$2,000 underscores RRCC's commitment to enhancing access to higher education and supporting student success through targeted financial assistance.

EDUCATION FOR ALL

Increase equitable, learner-centered environments that support all learners meeting their goals.

It Takes a Village

During the 2023-2024 School Year, the Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools grant (CCAMPIS) helped to fund childcare for ten RRRC student parents. Seven of the ten student parents graduated during the 23-24 year with three more student parents graduating this past December. For the first time in the history of the program, all of the student parents graduated, and their average GPA was 3.37. RRCC is so proud of these student parents and the staff of the Children's Center at Red Rocks Community College who made it possible for the students to meet their education goals.

Mental Health Academy Speaker

The Mental Health Academy recently hosted a guest speaker event with Kerri Reifel, who provided an exclusive insight into the world of FBI criminal profiling. Students gained a deeper understanding of the psychological and investigative techniques used to analyze criminal behavior. During the event, Reifel shared her experiences, insights, and expertise, offering valuable perspectives on psychology, law enforcement, and forensic investigation.



Empty Bowls Fundraiser: RRCC Food Pantry & Canned Food



The Ceramics Department hosted its second annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser in support of the RRCC Student Pantry, bringing together students, faculty, and staff for a meaningful cause. Students from Ceramics 1-4 and Studio Art crafted and sold handmade bowls, with 100% of the proceeds donated to the RRCC Food Bank. Each bowl purchase was accompanied by a scoop of Little Man Ice Cream.

Beyond the bowl sales, the event also served as a donation drive, collecting canned foods and hygiene products to further support students in need. Held on the bridge from March 4-5, the fundraiser was a tremendous success, **raising \$3,700 for the food bank**. This event showcases the generosity and community spirit of RRCC, reinforcing our commitment to supporting student well-being through creative and collaborative initiatives.

EMPOWERED TALENT

Increase our ability to attract, retain, and sustain the highest quality workforce to advance our mission.

International Women's+ Day Summit



Red Rocks Community College proudly hosted the International Women's+ Day Summit on March 7, 2025, bringing together students, faculty, staff, and guest speakers to celebrate the achievements and challenges of women+ while fostering a more inclusive future.

The term Women+ recognizes and celebrates all women, including transgender women, non-binary individuals, and those in solidarity with women's experiences—with allies encouraged to participate. This collaborative event was made possible through the efforts of multiple RRCC departments, students, and student organizations.

Event Highlights:

- **Keynote speeches from influential women leaders (Sponsored by RRCC DEIB & Adult Learner's Club)**
- **Panel discussions on gender equality and empowerment – breaking barriers**
- **Workshops focused on leadership, movement, and self-care/wellness**
- **Complimentary lunch for all attendees (Sponsored by RRCC Wellness Committee)**

Library Reopening

After seven months of construction to repair the roof, our beautiful library will reopen. Despite being temporarily relocated to another space, our amazing library staff have curated books in the grand hallway and continued to provide timely and valuable services and programming. Now the hard work of facilities, IT and our librarians is complete and the library will be open for business on March 31, 2025.

In celebration of the Library's reopening, the community is invited to a (re) Grand Opening Celebration on April 7, 2025.

President's Dream Grant Fund

RRCC is proud to announce the launch of the President's Dream Grant Fund, a strategic initiative designed to empower faculty, staff, and student leadership groups to drive innovation and improvement across our campuses. This competitive grant program provides financial resources and institutional support for projects that align with our mission of enhancing student success, academic excellence, and campus development.

With grant awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$250,000, the fund aims to support initiatives that:

- **Enhance the student experience**
- **Strengthen academic programs**
- **Improve campus infrastructure and aesthetics**
- **Advance employee engagement and external partnerships**

The Dream Grant is funded from RRCC's reserves, demonstrating the college's commitment to investing in forward-thinking proposals that foster a culture of continuous improvement and collaboration. This initiative strengthens RRCC's position as a leader in innovation, student support, and community engagement.

Showcasing Student Talent: Cabaret



The Theatre Arts and Dance Department presented a captivating performance of Cabaret, a student-directed production that highlighted the creativity, dedication, and talent of RRCC's performing arts students. This production provided students with a hands-on opportunity to lead, design, and perform in a professionally staged theatrical experience.

The show received overwhelming support from the community, selling out completely before the opening performance.

PARTNER OF CHOICE

Increase capability, trust, and credibility with partners across all sectors to build shared prosperity.

Aerospace Day at the Capitol



RRCC was proud to be a sponsor and participant in Aerospace Day at the Colorado State Capitol, an event organized in collaboration with the Colorado Citizens for Space Exploration (CSE), the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), the Colorado Business Roundtable (COBRT), the Aerospace States' Association (ASA), the Colorado Space Coalition (CSC), AIAA Rocky Mountain Section, and the Colorado Space Business Roundtable (CSBR), along with numerous aerospace partner organizations.

This annual event provided a unique opportunity for networking and dialogue with Colorado legislators to discuss the state's significant contributions to the aerospace industry. Colorado ranks among the largest space economies per capita in the nation, and this event highlighted the critical role our state plays in advancing space exploration, technology, and workforce development.

As a sponsor, RRCC reinforced its commitment to supporting the growing aerospace sector through education, workforce training, and strategic partnerships. By engaging with industry leaders and policymakers, we continue to explore ways to align our academic programs with the evolving needs of this vital industry, ensuring our students are prepared for high-demand careers in aerospace.

POWER OF 13

Increase shared opportunities to grow enrollment, improve quality, and achieve cost efficiencies through consortial models and collaboration while leveraging each college's unique strengths.

CO Online

RRCC continues to robustly support CO Online, including volunteering to teach the pooled online sections. Below is a snapshot of RRCC's instructor and student participation in CO Online for Spring of 2025:

- **120 RRCC instructors taught 2,813 CCCS unduplicated students and 4,217 duplicated students in CO Online Courses.**
- **7 RRCC faculty taught a course with no RRCC students.**
- **1,644 unduplicated RRCC students took one or more CO Online Courses.**
- **842 of RRCC students (unduplicated) were taught by an RRCC online instructor. 802 RRCC online students (unduplicated) were taught by instructors from other CCCS institutions.**

Additional Information

Aerospace Day at the Capitol and the Opportunity Now Grant are prime examples of the Power of 13, showcasing our collective efforts with ACC and FRCC to strengthen support for both aerospace and quantum fields.